

A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a man in profile, wearing a top hat and a tuxedo. He is smoking a cigarette. A microphone is positioned in the foreground, pointing towards him. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the cigarette.

The
IMPORTANCE
of being
EARNEST
by OSCAR WILDE

NOVEMBER 8, 9, 10, 11, 2018



Welcome to **THE ALLEY THEATRE**

THE ALLEY THEATRE is a part of all that is Central Christian Church, which has an almost 160-year tradition of hosting Arts events in Anderson.

Central believes that *all good gifts come from God*, and believes it is important to celebrate the Arts, no matter who God has used as His brush, pen, or instrument. In doing so, we celebrate and honor the very essence of a God whose first mention in the scripture is one of "Artist/Creator".

This quote from Shakespeare's "AS YOU LIKE IT" echoes the truth of scripture: ***"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts..."*** Sometimes those "roles" and "entrances" can be frustrating and difficult, especially since we are (as "players") improvising most of the time. But the "Director-Author" of our Faith is kind and good (*despite what many "players" believe*), **He knows the script from beginning to end, and how each of us within the story of life fit into the whole.**

It's easy to believe that you could be confused, disenchanted and perhaps even angry at others who label themselves, "Christian", and a Church that may seem to run contrary to the Voice of God within YOU (*according to the Scripture, EVERYONE has access to that Voice, if they listen*).

At CENTRAL, we work to know Jesus. We look for Him "on the page" and off. We seek for THE truth, not just OUR truth. **And when we follow HIS voice, we are led to do ministry in the way that may not be like other congregations (forming a theatre company as part of our outreach ministries, for example).** We do these things because God has placed in Central Christian specific gifts and personalities to be used accordingly, and not according to what others may do. We believe that God is bigger than our collective imaginations, more merciful than we may be comfortable with, and more loving than the combination of all the kindness and love the world contains.

If you're looking for a home where your HEART & SOUL can find a HOUSE & HOME, and where you will be accepted, fed, protected, and loved...you may just find it here, at Central Christian Church.

Rick Vale

The IMPORTANCE of being EARNEST

"A Trivial Comedy for Serious People"

by OSCAR WILDE

First performed on February 14, 1895

at the St. James's Theatre in London.

THE CAST

John Worthing J.P.....Josh Wilkinson
Algernon Moncrieff.....Tyler Marx
Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.....Jay Wile
Merriman.....David Whicker
Lane.....Jeff Barranco
Lady Bracknell.....Julia Bratton
Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax.....Leah Hodson
Cecily Cardew.....Pia Desideria
Miss Prism.....Caity Withers

THE PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Director.....Cheryl Fesmire
Stage Manager.....Michele Mullins
Costumer.....Michele Mullins
Hair.....Sharon Zimmer
Props.....Michele Mullins, Cheryl Fesmire
Set, Sound, & Light Design.....Rick Vale
Light Tech.....Whitney Morgan
Box Office.....Cammie Slaven
House Managers.....Sandy Leslie & Pam Mullen
Concessions.....Penny Dyer



Act I: Algernon Moncrieff's flat in Half Moon Street, W

Act II: The Manor House, Woolton

Act III: The Manor House, Woolton

There will be a short INTERMISSION between each ACT.



Please silence your phones.



Since the 2018-2019 Season is referred to as “works of art for the stage”, each of this season’s posters feature art by a select group of well-known artists.

THIS PRODUCTION’S FEATURED POSTER ART is

“Illustration for **FATIMA CIGARETTES**”
by J.C. Leyendecker (1874-1951)

INCIDENTAL MUSIC used in this production is from
the **Soundtrack of the film,**
“**GOSFORD PARK**”
composed by Patrick Doyle

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THANKS

to our Jewels

DIAMOND - Craig & Marsha Dunkin

EMERALD - Rick Vale & Cito Wyatt

RUBY - Dr. Vidya Bettagere, BDS, DDS, MSD
Farm Society Eatery

SAPPHIRE - Cathy Orebaugh

PEARL - Paula Bivens • Sandy Leslie • Jill O'Malia
Cynthia White • Jay & Kathleen Wile

ABOUT THE CAST



JEFF BARRANCO (*Lane*) is making his ALLEY THEATRE debut in this role. Jeff lives in Anderson where he is an I.T. Business Analyst and member of the School Board.



JULIA BRATTON (*Lady Bracknell*) was last seen onstage in BRIGADOON on the stage at Anderson's Mainstage Theatre. ALLEY THEATRE audiences will remember her as "Clairee" in STEEL MAGNOLIAS, and "Mother Miriam Ruth" in AGNES OF GOD. She lives in Alexandria where she is the Minister at First Christian Church.



PIA DESIDERIA (*Cecily Cardew*) is a Senior at ANDERSON UNIVERSITY where she performed in THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) and DEATHTRAP. She was last seen at THE ALLEY as "Ermengarde" in THE MATCHMAKER.



LEAH HODSON (*Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax*) lives in Indianapolis, where she works at the Indianapolis Children's Museum as a Facilitator. She was recently seen as "Margaret" in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING at the Indy Bardfest...this is her ALLEY THEATRE debut.



TYLER MARX (*Algernon Moncrief*) is an Educator who lives in Anderson. He was last seen as "Bernard" in DEATH OF A SALESMAN at Anderson's Mainstage Theatre, and was seen as "Richard Hannay" in THE ALLEY'S 39 STEPS last season.



DAVID WHICKER (*Merriman*) is a retired educator from Anderson. He was last seen at THE BARDFEST (Indianapolis) as "Antonio" in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. ALLEY THEATRE audiences know him as the Director of THE LION IN WINTER and "McDuff" in MACBETH.



Dr. JAY WILE (*Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.*), Adjunct Professor at Anderson University and Nationally-Known Author, was last seen at THE ALLEY as "Don Quixote" in MAN OF LA MANCHA. He was also seen as "Van Helsing" in the Anderson Mainstage Production of DRACULA. Jay lives in Anderson.

ABOUT THE CAST



JOSH WILKINSON (*John Worthing J.P.*) lives in Noblesville, where he works as a Financial Counselor. He was last seen as "Jeff Douglas" in *BRIGADOON* at Anderson's Mainstage Theatre. He was also seen at both THE ALLEY THEATRE and MAINSTAGE THEATRE in *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*, *HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING*, and *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*.



CAITY WITHERS (*Miss Prism*) is making her ALLEY THEATRE debut, with this role. She was last seen as "Brooke/Vicki" in *NOISES OFF* at The Westfield Playhouse. She received an ENCORE nomination for that role. She lives in Indianapolis where she is the Development Officer for the Indianapolis Public Library Foundation.



from the DIRECTOR

It has been a pleasure to direct *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST* here at THE ALLEY THEATRE. This play has been described as Oscar Wilde's most trivial play and as one of the funniest if not the funniest comedy ever written. First performed in 1895, the play's themes are the triviality with which it treats social institutions such as marriage and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. The play is full of allusion as it repeatedly mocks these ways. The act of *Bunburying* is a strategy used by people who need an excuse to avoid social obligations in daily life. The popularity of *EARNEST* has resulted in it being translated into many languages. Because it treats so many social norms as trivial the result is hilarious. **Thank you for coming out to support live theatre and for taking time to laugh.**



Cheryl Fesmire (*Stage Director*) grew up in obscurity in Markleville, Indiana and learned much about theatre through summers spent at *Geeting Summer Theatre* (now, Anderson's Mainstage Theatre). She is delighted to be working with THE ALLEY THEATRE. She remains an obscure presence, working as an interpreter of history at the Indiana Historical Society. She has worked at several community theatres as a director and actor and currently serves as president of the board at Center Stage Community Theatre in Lebanon. *Thanks to Rick Vale for this opportunity!*



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for Submissions (*digital only*) is February 15, 2019.
Please submit manuscripts to thealleytheatremail@gmail.com

AGE-GROUP CATEGORIES (1 winner in each category):

- 1) Middle School/6th - 8th Grade • 2) High School/9th-12th Grade
3) College Age/18-26 years • 4) Post-College Age Adult 27 +

Winners will be announced at the opening night of "THE TAMING OF THE SHREW" (March 14, 2019 at the Anderson Museum of Art). THE ALLEY THEATRE will present all for scripts on September 21st & 22nd, 2019.

Details are available at www.thealleytheatre.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Anna Barnett, Katie Berndt,
Central Christian Church,
Julie Hughes, Dan Shockley
& THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
and Rick Vale



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