

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: A BRILLIANT SATIRE OF VICTORIAN SOCIETY

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST STANDS AS ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED COMEDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, RENOWNED FOR ITS WIT, HUMOR, AND SHARP SOCIAL COMMENTARY. FIRST PERFORMED IN 1895, THIS PLAY BRILLIANTLY CAPTURES THE ABSURDITIES OF VICTORIAN SOCIETY THROUGH A CLEVER PLOT REVOLVING AROUND MISTAKEN IDENTITIES, SECRET ENGAGEMENTS, AND THE PURSUIT OF LOVE. WILDE'S UNIQUE STYLE AND PLAYFUL LANGUAGE TRANSFORM WHAT COULD BE A SIMPLE FARCE INTO A TIMELESS MASTERPIECE THAT CONTINUES TO ENTERTAIN AND PROVOKE THOUGHT MORE THAN A CENTURY LATER.

THE GENIUS BEHIND OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

OSCAR WILDE WAS A MASTER OF SATIRE AND WORDPLAY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST IS OFTEN CONSIDERED HIS CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT IN DRAMATIC WRITING. THE PLAY SHOWCASES WILDE'S ABILITY TO TURN SOCIAL NORMS ON THEIR HEAD AND EXPOSE THE CONTRADICTIONS OF THE UPPER CLASS WITH BITING HUMOR AND ELEGANCE. THROUGH SHARP DIALOGUE AND MEMORABLE CHARACTERS, WILDE EXPLORES THEMES SUCH AS IDENTITY, MARRIAGE, AND SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS.

WILDE'S USE OF SATIRE AND PARODY

ONE OF THE STANDOUT FEATURES OF THE OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST IS ITS USE OF SATIRE TO CRITIQUE VICTORIAN VALUES. WILDE MOCKS THE OBSESSION WITH SOCIAL STATUS AND THE HYPOCRISY OF THE ARISTOCRACY BY EXAGGERATING THEIR MANNERS AND PRIORITIES. FOR INSTANCE, THE CHARACTERS' FIXATION ON TRIVIALITIES—LIKE THE IMPORTANCE OF A NAME OR THE RIDICULOUS RULES GOVERNING COURTSHIP—HIGHLIGHTS HOW SUPERFICIAL AND ARBITRARY SOCIETAL CONVENTIONS CAN BE.

THE PLAY ALSO PARODIES THE MELODRAMATIC STYLES POPULAR IN THE ERA'S THEATER, BLENDING FARCE WITH CLEVER DIALOGUE TO KEEP AUDIENCES BOTH LAUGHING AND THINKING. WILDE'S WITTY EPIGRAMS AND PARADOXES HAVE BECOME SOME OF THE MOST QUOTED LINES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, MAKING THE PLAY A TREASURE TROVE OF LINGUISTIC DELIGHT.

PLOT OVERVIEW: A COMEDY OF ERRORS AND IDENTITY

AT ITS CORE, OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST REVOLVES AROUND TWO YOUNG MEN, JACK WORTHING AND ALGERNON MONCRIEFF, WHO BOTH LEAD DOUBLE LIVES TO ESCAPE SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS. JACK INVENTS A FICTITIOUS BROTHER NAMED ERNEST TO ENJOY CITY LIFE, WHILE ALGERNON CREATES AN IMAGINARY INVALID FRIEND NAMED BUNBURY TO AVOID UNWANTED SOCIAL DUTIES.

KEY CHARACTERS AND THEIR ROLES

- **JACK WORTHING:** A RESPONSIBLE GENTLEMAN WHO PRETENDS TO HAVE A BROTHER NAMED ERNEST TO ESCAPE HIS COUNTRY LIFE.
- **ALGERNON MONCRIEFF:** JACK'S FRIEND WHO ALSO LEADS A DOUBLE LIFE BY INVENTING BUNBURY.
- **GWENDOLEN FAIRFAX:** ALGERNON'S COUSIN, WHO IS OBSESSED WITH THE NAME ERNEST AND IDEALIZES IT AS A SYMBOL OF EARNESTNESS.
- **CECILY CARDEW:** JACK'S WARD, WHO BECOMES INFATUATED WITH THE IDEA OF ERNEST BEFORE MEETING ALGERNON

PRETENDING TO BE HIM.

- **LADY BRACKNELL:** GWENDOLEN'S MOTHER, THE EMBODIMENT OF VICTORIAN SOCIAL RIGIDITY AND SNOBBERY.

THE CONFUSION ESCALATES WHEN BOTH MEN PROPOSE TO WOMEN WHO INSIST ON MARRYING SOMEONE NAMED ERNEST, UNAWARE OF THE DECEPTION. THE COMEDIC TENSION BUILDS AS IDENTITIES ARE MISTAKEN, LIES UNRAVEL, AND SOCIAL CONVENTIONS ARE CHALLENGED.

EXPLORING THEMES IN OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

BEYOND THE LAUGHS AND WITTY BANTER, THE PLAY DELVES INTO SERIOUS THEMES THAT RESONATE EVEN TODAY. UNDERSTANDING THESE THEMES ENHANCES APPRECIATION FOR WILDE'S CRAFTSMANSHIP AND THE PLAY'S ENDURING RELEVANCE.

IDENTITY AND DUALITY

THE CONCEPT OF "EARNESTNESS" IN THE PLAY IS A CLEVER PUN ON THE NAME ERNEST AND THE QUALITY OF SINCERITY. THE CHARACTERS' DOUBLE LIVES RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT AUTHENTICITY AND THE MASKS PEOPLE WEAR TO FIT SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS. WILDE SUGGESTS THAT IDENTITY CAN BE FLUID AND THAT STRICT SOCIAL CODES OFTEN FORCE INDIVIDUALS INTO INAUTHENTIC ROLES.

MARRIAGE AND SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS

MARRIAGE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST IS PORTRAYED WITH IRONY. RATHER THAN A ROMANTIC UNION, IT IS OFTEN DEPICTED AS A TRANSACTION INFLUENCED BY WEALTH, STATUS, AND CONVENIENCE. LADY BRACKNELL'S INTERROGATION OF JACK'S SUITABILITY AS A SUITOR SATIRIZES THE MERCENARY ATTITUDE TOWARD MARRIAGE PREVALENT IN WILDE'S TIME.

CLASS AND SOCIAL CRITIQUE

THE PLAY POKES FUN AT THE RIGID CLASS STRUCTURE OF VICTORIAN ENGLAND. CHARACTERS LIKE LADY BRACKNELL SYMBOLIZE THE GATEKEEPERS OF SOCIAL STATUS, WHILE OTHERS USE DECEPTION TO NAVIGATE OR ESCAPE THESE CONSTRAINTS. WILDE'S SUBTLE CRITIQUE INVITES AUDIENCES TO QUESTION THE FAIRNESS AND LOGIC BEHIND SOCIAL HIERARCHIES.

WHY OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST STILL MATTERS

OVER A CENTURY AFTER ITS DEBUT, THIS PLAY REMAINS EXTRAORDINARILY RELEVANT AND POPULAR. ITS HUMOR TRANSCENDS TIME, AND ITS CRITIQUE OF SOCIETAL NORMS CONTINUES TO RESONATE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT IDENTITY, CLASS, AND THE ABSURDITIES OF SOCIAL CONVENTIONS.

TIMELESS HUMOR AND LANGUAGE

WILDE'S SPARKLING DIALOGUE AND MEMORABLE QUOTES KEEP THE PLAY FRESH AND ENGAGING FOR MODERN AUDIENCES. LINES

SUCH AS “THE TRUTH IS RARELY PURE AND NEVER SIMPLE” AND “TO LOSE ONE PARENT MAY BE REGARDED AS A MISFORTUNE; TO LOSE BOTH LOOKS LIKE CARELESSNESS” SHOWCASE WILDE’S MASTERY OF LANGUAGE AND HIS ABILITY TO BLEND HUMOR WITH INSIGHT.

ADAPTATIONS AND CULTURAL IMPACT

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST HAS INSPIRED NUMEROUS ADAPTATIONS ACROSS STAGE, FILM, AND TELEVISION. ITS THEMES AND CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN REINTERPRETED AND CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE, MAKING IT A STAPLE IN THEATRICAL REPERTOIRES AND LITERATURE COURSES ALIKE. THE PLAY’S ABILITY TO PROVOKE LAUGHTER WHILE ENCOURAGING CRITICAL REFLECTION CEMENTS ITS PLACE IN CULTURAL HISTORY.

TIPS FOR ENJOYING OR STUDYING THE PLAY

- **FOCUS ON THE LANGUAGE:** PAY ATTENTION TO WILDE’S WITTY EPIGRAMS AND PUNS, WHICH ARE KEY TO APPRECIATING THE HUMOR FULLY.
- **UNDERSTAND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** LEARNING ABOUT VICTORIAN SOCIETY’S VALUES AND RESTRICTIONS ENRICHES YOUR GRASP OF THE SATIRE.
- **WATCH PERFORMANCES:** THE PLAY’S COMEDIC TIMING AND CHARACTER INTERACTIONS COME ALIVE BEST ON STAGE OR SCREEN.
- **EXPLORE CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS:** CONSIDER HOW EACH CHARACTER EMBODIES OR CHALLENGES SOCIAL NORMS, ADDING DEPTH TO THE COMEDY.

ENGAGING WITH THESE ASPECTS CAN TRANSFORM A CASUAL READING OR VIEWING INTO A RICHER EXPERIENCE OF WILDE’S ARTISTIC GENIUS.

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST IS MORE THAN JUST A HUMOROUS STORY OF MISTAKEN IDENTITIES; IT IS A BRILLIANT COMMENTARY ON SOCIAL MORES WRAPPED IN DELIGHTFUL COMEDY. ITS CHARM LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO ENTERTAIN WHILE ENCOURAGING AUDIENCES TO QUESTION THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH SOCIETY TREATS ISSUES OF IDENTITY, CLASS, AND LOVE. WHETHER YOU’RE A LITERATURE LOVER, A THEATER ENTHUSIAST, OR SIMPLY SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A WITTY AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING PLAY, WILDE’S WORK OFFERS ENDLESS ENJOYMENT AND INSIGHT.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF OSCAR WILDE’S PLAY ‘THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST’?

THE MAIN THEME OF ‘THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST’ IS THE SATIRE OF VICTORIAN SOCIETY’S EMPHASIS ON SUPERFICIALITY, SOCIAL STATUS, AND THE TRIVIALITY OF EARNESTNESS AND IDENTITY.

WHO ARE THE TWO MAIN PROTAGONISTS IN ‘THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST’?

THE TWO MAIN PROTAGONISTS ARE JACK WORTHING AND ALGERNON MONCRIEFF, WHO BOTH LEAD DOUBLE LIVES TO ESCAPE SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS.

How does Oscar Wilde use humor in 'The Importance of Being Earnest'?

Wilde uses wit, irony, and absurd situations to create humor, often mocking Victorian social conventions and the seriousness with which people approach trivial matters.

What role does the concept of identity play in 'The Importance of Being Earnest'?

Identity is central to the play, as characters create fake personas ('Ernest') to pursue love and freedom, highlighting the fluidity and performative nature of social identity.

Why is the play titled 'The Importance of Being Earnest'?

The title is a pun on the name 'Ernest' and the adjective 'earnest,' emphasizing the play's exploration of sincerity versus hypocrisy and the comedic confusion arising from mistaken identities.

How does the character Lady Bracknell contribute to the play's critique of Victorian society?

Lady Bracknell embodies Victorian aristocratic values, often delivering absurd and rigid judgments on social status and marriage, thus exposing the hypocrisy and superficiality of societal norms.

Additional Resources

Oscar Wilde Play The Importance of Being Earnest: A Timeless Satire of Victorian Society

Oscar Wilde Play The Importance of Being Earnest stands as one of the most celebrated works in the canon of English literature, renowned for its sharp wit, social satire, and enduring commentary on identity and societal norms. Premiering in London in 1895, this play encapsulates Wilde's genius for blending humor with incisive critique, making it a staple in theatrical repertoires and literary studies alike. As an intricate comedy of manners, it dissects the pretensions and hypocrisies of Victorian society with a lightness that belies its profound observations.

Oscar Wilde Play The Importance of Being Earnest operates on multiple levels — from the surface entertainment of farcical situations and clever dialogue to a broader cultural examination of class, marriage, and identity. The play's sustained popularity and influence warrant a detailed exploration of its themes, characters, and stylistic features, as well as its place within Wilde's oeuvre and the wider context of late 19th-century literature.

In-Depth Analysis of Oscar Wilde Play The Importance of Being Earnest

At its core, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is a comedy of errors revolving around mistaken identities and fabricated personas. The narrative centers on two protagonists, Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, who invent alter egos named "Ernest" to escape their social obligations and pursue romantic interests. This duplicity leads to a cascade of misunderstandings, exposing the absurdities of rigid social codes and the superficiality embedded in aristocratic values.

Wilde's mastery is evident in how he uses humor not merely for amusement but as a tool of social commentary. The play's dialogue is peppered with paradoxes and epigrams, many of which have become iconic lines illustrating Wilde's unique voice. For example, Algernon's quip, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple," encapsulates the central motif of deception and the fluid nature of truth within the social milieu.

THEMATIC EXPLORATION: IDENTITY, MARRIAGE, AND SOCIETY

ONE OF THE DOMINANT THEMES IN OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST IS THE EXPLORATION OF IDENTITY AND THE PERFORMATIVE ASPECTS OF SOCIAL ROLES. THE CHARACTERS' ADOPTION OF FALSE IDENTITIES UNDERSCORES THE TENSION BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL DESIRES AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS. JACK'S FABRICATED BROTHER "ERNEST" SERVES AS A CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE, HIGHLIGHTING THE RESTRICTIVE NATURE OF VICTORIAN MORALITY.

MARRIAGE, A KEY SOCIAL INSTITUTION IN THE PERIOD, IS TREATED WITH BOTH REVERENCE AND RIDICULE. WILDE SATIRIZES THE TRANSACTIONAL AND OFTEN SUPERFICIAL NATURE OF MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCES, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE UPPER CLASSES. THE CHARACTER OF LADY BRACKNELL EPITOMIZES THIS ATTITUDE, WITH HER FAMOUS INTERROGATION OF JACK'S SUITABILITY AS A SUITOR FOCUSING ON WEALTH, LINEAGE, AND SOCIAL STANDING RATHER THAN PERSONAL MERIT OR AFFECTION.

FURTHERMORE, WILDE CRITIQUES THE VICTORIAN OBSESSION WITH APPEARANCES AND PROPRIETY. THE PLAY'S SETTING ALTERNATES BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE COUNTRY, SYMBOLIZING THE CONTRAST BETWEEN PUBLIC FACADES AND PRIVATE REALITIES. THIS DUALITY IS REFLECTED IN THE CHARACTERS' BEHAVIOR AND THE PLOT'S UNFOLDING, REVEALING THE PERFORMATIVE DIMENSION OF SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.

STRUCTURAL AND STYLISTIC FEATURES

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST SHOWCASES HIS FLAIR FOR LINGUISTIC PRECISION AND THEATRICAL CRAFTSMANSHIP. STRUCTURED IN THREE ACTS, THE PLAY MAINTAINS A BRISK PACE, BALANCING COMEDIC TIMING WITH MOMENTS OF REVELATION. WILDE'S USE OF IRONY PERMEATES THE TEXT, OFTEN SUBVERTING THE AUDIENCE'S EXPECTATIONS AND REINFORCING THE ABSURDITY OF SOCIAL CONVENTIONS.

THE DIALOGUE IS CHARACTERIZED BY ITS EPIGRAMMATIC STYLE—CONCISE, WITTY STATEMENTS THAT OFTEN CARRY LAYERED MEANINGS. THIS LINGUISTIC ECONOMY ENHANCES THE PLAY'S MEMORABILITY AND IMPACT. FOR INSTANCE, THE RECURRING PUN ON THE NAME "ERNEST" SERVES BOTH AS A LITERAL IDENTIFIER AND A SYMBOL OF EARNESTNESS, SINCERITY, AND SOCIAL RESPECTABILITY, THEMES THAT THE CHARACTERS IRONICALLY FAIL TO EMBODY.

WILDE'S CHARACTERS ARE DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATED ARCHETYPES, ENABLING A SATIRICAL EXAMINATION WITHOUT THE CONSTRAINTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM. LADY BRACKNELL'S IMPERIOUS DEMEANOR AND RIGID WORLDVIEW CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH THE YOUNGER CHARACTERS' ROMANTIC IDEALISM AND REBELLION AGAINST CONVENTION, CREATING DRAMATIC TENSION AND COMEDIC EFFECT.

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST IN CONTEXT

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST REQUIRES SITUATING IT WITHIN THE BROADER CULTURAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT OF THE LATE VICTORIAN ERA. THE PLAY EMERGED AT A TIME WHEN ENGLAND GRAPPLED WITH SHIFTING SOCIAL VALUES, INCLUDING CHALLENGES TO CLASS HIERARCHIES, GENDER ROLES, AND MORAL CODES. WILDE'S WORK REFLECTS AND CRITIQUES THESE TENSIONS THROUGH ITS INCISIVE HUMOR AND SOCIAL OBSERVATION.

COMPARATIVELY, UNLIKE THE MORE SOMBER REALIST DRAMAS OF CONTEMPORARIES SUCH AS GEORGE BERNARD SHAW OR HENRIK IBSEN, WILDE'S PLAY EMBRACES THE AESTHETICS OF THE "COMEDY OF MANNERS," FOCUSING ON STYLE, WIT, AND SATIRE RATHER THAN SOCIAL REFORM OR PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH. THIS APPROACH ALLOWED WILDE TO VEIL HIS CRITIQUE WITHIN HUMOR, MAKING IT BOTH PALATABLE AND PROVOCATIVE.

THE PLAY'S INITIAL RECEPTION WAS MIXED; WHILE AUDIENCES DELIGHTED IN ITS HUMOR, SOME CRITICS VIEWED IT AS TRIVIAL OR FRIVOLOUS. HOWEVER, ITS ENDURING APPEAL LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO RESONATE ACROSS DIFFERENT ERAS, WITH MODERN PRODUCTIONS OFTEN HIGHLIGHTING ITS SUBVERSIVE UNDERTONES RELATED TO IDENTITY, SEXUALITY, AND SOCIAL HYPOCRISY.

LEGACY AND INFLUENCE

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST HAS INFLUENCED COUNTLESS PLAYWRIGHTS, FILMMAKERS, AND WRITERS. ITS THEMES OF IDENTITY PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL SATIRE FIND ECHOES IN MODERN WORKS ADDRESSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SELF AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS. THE PLAY'S CONTINUED STAGING WORLDWIDE ATTESTS TO ITS UNIVERSAL RELEVANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT VALUE.

IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS, IT SERVES AS A RICH TEXT FOR ANALYZING VICTORIAN CULTURE, LITERARY TECHNIQUES, AND THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN HUMOR AND CRITIQUE. THE PLAY'S ADAPTABILITY ALSO ALLOWS FOR INNOVATIVE INTERPRETATIONS, INCLUDING GENDER-BENDING PRODUCTIONS AND CONTEMPORARY REIMAGININGS THAT UNDERScore ITS THEMATIC FLEXIBILITY.

PROS AND CONS OF WILDE'S APPROACH IN THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

- **PROS:** THE PLAY'S SHARP WIT AND MEMORABLE DIALOGUE MAKE IT HIGHLY ENGAGING AND ACCESSIBLE. ITS SATIRICAL LENS PROVIDES INSIGHTFUL COMMENTARY ON SOCIETAL NORMS WITHOUT DIDACTICISM. THE BREVITY AND STRUCTURE MAINTAIN DRAMATIC TENSION AND HUMOR EFFECTIVELY.
- **CONS:** THE RELIANCE ON STEREOTYPES AND ARCHETYPES MAY LIMIT CHARACTER DEPTH FOR SOME AUDIENCES SEEKING PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM. SOME OF THE SOCIAL COMMENTARY MIGHT BE LESS IMPACTFUL TO CONTEMPORARY VIEWERS UNFAMILIAR WITH VICTORIAN CONTEXTS. ADDITIONALLY, THE PLAY'S HUMOR CAN OCCASIONALLY APPEAR DATED OR RELIANT ON PERIOD-SPECIFIC SOCIAL MORES.

OSCAR WILDE PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF ENGLISH COMEDIC THEATRE, OFFERING A UNIQUE BLEND OF ENTERTAINMENT AND INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT. ITS DEFT INTERPLAY OF THEMES, STYLE, AND SOCIAL CRITIQUE ENSURES THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO CAPTIVATE SCHOLARS, THEATRE PRACTITIONERS, AND AUDIENCES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Oscar Wilde Play The Importance Of Being Earnest

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde, 1899 Subtitled "A Trivial Comedy for Serious People," Wilde's play is a brilliantly satirical comedy of manners, sending up the absurdity of Victorian social mores and cleverly critiquing the conventions of love and marriage. The tale of two gentlemen who adopt fictitious identities in order to woo the objects of their affections is Wilde's most beloved work, considered to be one of the wittiest plays ever written in English. The glowing critical reception in London on opening night at the St. James Theater in 1895 marked the high point of Wilde's career as a writer.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: *The Importance of Being Earnest* Oscar Wilde, 1994 Theatre program.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays Oscar Wilde, 1998 Oscar Wilde was already one of the best known literary figures in Britain when he was persuaded to turn his extraordinary talents to the theatre. Between 1891 and 1895 he produced a sequence of distinctive plays which spearheaded the dramatic renaissance of the 1890s and retain their power today. The social comedies, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance*, and *An Ideal Husband*, offer a moving as well as witty dissection of society and its morals, with a sharp focus on sexual politics. By contrast, the experimental, symbolist *Salome*, written originally in French, was banned for public performance by the English censor. His final dramatic triumph was his 'trivial' comedy for serious people, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

arguably the greatest farcical comedy in English. Under the General Editorship of Dr Michael Corder of the University of York, the texts of the plays have been newly edited and are presented with modernized spelling and punctuation. In addition, there is a scholarly introduction and detailed annotation.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy For Serious People Oscar Wilde, 2021-01-01 The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde, 2015-10-11 A farce, one of the best ever written, cleverly constructed and delightfully amusing. There is only the slightest attempt at the sketching of character, while most of the personages are at best but caricatures; the Wilde's skill is brought to bear chiefly upon the situations and the lines. It so happens that this farce contains more clever lines, puns, epigrams, and deft repartees than any other of modern times, but these are after all accessory. A farce may be written without these additions--it might well be pure pantomime. Wilde has thrown them in for full measure.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (Humorous Play) Annotated Oscar Wilde, 2020-05-17 This lighthearted play tells the farcical tale of Jack Worthing and Algernon Montcrieff--two men who falsely claim to be named Ernest when they fall in love with two women whose affections are illogically but irrevocably tied to the name. The Importance of Being Earnest was popular upon its debut in 1895. It was not until the twentieth century that Wilde's work was once again recognized both for its literary worth and comedic genius, and subsequently The Importance of Being Earnest has been adapted many times for film and theatre, most recently in the 2002 film starring Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Reese Witherspoon, and Dame Judy Dench.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde, 2018-08-08 The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by: Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde "The Annotated Edition" Oscar Wilde, 2020-06-23 The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde This lighthearted play tells the farcical tale of Jack Worthing and Algernon Montcrieff--two men who falsely claim to be named Ernest when they fall in love with two women whose affections are illogically but irrevocably tied to the name. The Importance of Being Earnest was popular upon its debut in 1895. It was not until the twentieth century that Wilde's work was once again recognized both for its literary worth and comedic genius, and subsequently The Importance of Being Earnest has been adapted many times for film and theatre, most recently in the 2002 film starring Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Reese Witherspoon, and Dame Judy Dench.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (Humorous Play) Annotated Classic Volume Oscar Wilde, 2020-05-17 This lighthearted play tells the farcical tale of Jack Worthing and Algernon Montcrieff--two men who falsely claim to be named Ernest when they fall in love with two women whose affections are illogically but irrevocably tied to the name. The Importance of Being Earnest was popular upon its debut in 1895. It was not until the twentieth century that Wilde's work was once again recognized both for its literary worth and comedic genius, and subsequently The Importance of Being Earnest has been adapted many times for film and theatre, most recently in the 2002 film starring Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Reese Witherspoon, and Dame Judy Dench.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde, 2015-03-30 The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed in 1895, the play is a satire of Victorian culture and social obligations. This play is witty and funny and is the most popular and enduring of Oscar Wilde's plays. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This

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oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: *The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde The New Annotated Edition* Oscar Wilde, 2020-04-24 The Importance of Being Earnest was popular upon its debut in 1895. It was not until the twentieth century that Wilde's work was once again recognized both for its literary worth and comedic genius, and subsequently The Importance of Being Earnest has been adapted many times for film and theatre, most recently in the 2002 film starring Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Reese Witherspoon, and Dame Judy Dench.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: *The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde Comedy Play (Annotated)* Oscar Wilde, 2020-04-23 This lighthearted play tells the farcical tale of Jack Worthing and Algernon Montcrieff--two men who falsely claim to be named Ernest when they fall in love with two women whose affections are illogically but irrevocably tied to the name. The Importance of Being Earnest was popular upon its debut in 1895. It was not until the twentieth century that Wilde's work was once again recognized both for its literary worth and comedic genius, and subsequently The Importance of Being Earnest has been adapted many times for film and theatre, most recently in the 2002 film starring Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Reese Witherspoon, and Dame Judy Dench.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde, 2018-01-09 The controversial comedic play from a master dramatist that shattered social conventions in England. Oscar Wilde's most brilliant tour de force, a witty and buoyant comedy of manners, has delighted millions with countless productions since its first performance at London's St. James' Theatre in 1895. The Importance of Being Earnest is celebrated not only for the lighthearted ingenuity of its plot, but also for its inspired dialogue, rich with scintillating epigrams still savored by all who enjoy artful conversation. From the play's effervescent beginnings in Algernon Moncrieff's London flat to its hilarious denouement in the drawing room of Jack Worthing's country manor in Hertfordshire, this comic masterpiece keeps audiences breathlessly anticipating new bons mots and fresh plot twists from moment to moment. This ebook has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest - Oscar Wilde Harold Bloom, 2013 Provides a collection of critical essays on Wilde's comedic play The Importance of Being Earnest arranged in chronological order of publication.

oscar wilde play the importance of being earnest: The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde Oscar Wilde, 2021-05-11 Here is Oscar Wilde's most brilliant tour de force, a witty and buoyant comedy of manners that has delighted millions in countless productions since its first performance in London's St. James' Theatre on February 14, 1895. The Importance of Being Earnest is celebrated not only for the lighthearted ingenuity of its plot, but for its inspired dialogue, rich with scintillating epigrams still savored by all who enjoy artful conversation. From the play's effervescent beginnings in Algernon Moncrieff's London flat to its hilarious denouement in the drawing room of Jack Worthing's country manor in Hertfordshire, this comic masterpiece keeps audiences

breathlessly anticipating a new bon mot or a fresh twist of plot moment to moment.

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Oscar Wilde, 2016-12-09 Why buy our paperbacks? Standard Font size of 10 for all books High Quality Paper Fulfilled by Amazon Expedited shipping 30 Days Money Back Guarantee BEWARE of Low-quality sellers Don't buy cheap paperbacks just to save a few dollars. Most of them use low-quality papers & binding. Their pages fall off easily. Some of them even use very small font size of 6 or less to increase their profit margin. It makes their books completely unreadable. How is this book unique? Unabridged (100% Original content) Font adjustments & biography included Illustrated About The Importance Of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personae to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humour, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make The Importance of Being Earnest Wilde's most enduringly popular play. The successful opening night marked the climax of Wilde's career but also heralded his downfall. The Marquess of Queensberry, whose son Lord Alfred Douglas was Wilde's lover, planned to present the writer with a bouquet of rotten vegetables and disrupt the show. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was refused admission. Soon afterwards their feud came to a climax in court, where Wilde's homosexual double life was revealed to the Victorian public and he was eventually sentenced to imprisonment. His notoriety caused the play, despite its early success, to be closed after 86 performances. After his release, he published the play from exile in Paris, but he wrote no further comic or dramatic work. The Importance of Being Earnest has been revived many times since its premiere. It has been adapted for the cinema on three occasions. In The Importance of Being Earnest (1952), Dame Edith Evans reprised her celebrated interpretation of Lady Bracknell; The Importance of Being Earnest (1992) by Kurt Baker used an all-black cast; and Oliver Parker's The Importance of Being Earnest (2002) incorporated some of Wilde's original material cut during the preparation of the original stage production.

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