



Spring 4-1-2013

Department of Theatre to Stage Comedic Play The Importance of Being Earnest

Winthrop University

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Recommended Citation

Winthrop University, "Department of Theatre to Stage Comedic Play The Importance of Being Earnest" (2013). *Winthrop News 2013*. 76.

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Department of Theatre to Stage Comedic Play The Importance of Being Earnest

Quick Facts

- Winthrop University's Department of Theatre and Dance will present the comedic play about mistaken identities and good manners on April 3-7 in Johnson Theatre.



Student actors J.T. Rider, from left, Briana Parks, Michelle McMurray and Kashaad Kraus.

ROCK HILL, S.C. -- Does the name "Earnest" make a person more credible and loveable?

John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, the two main male characters in **Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest,"** certainly think so. **Winthrop University's Department of Theatre and Dance** will present the comedic play about **mistaken identities and good manners** on Wednesday, April 3 at 8 p.m. in **Johnson Theatre**.

The trouble with "Earnest" begins when Jack, played by **Kashaad Kraus**, invents a fake brother named Earnest as a cover for his secret rendezvous in London. He sets his eyes and heart on Gwendolen Fairfax (**Michelle McMurray**), cousin of his friend Algernon, played by **J.T. Rider**. Gwendolen decides she could never marry a man named Earnest, which causes Jack to keep up the charade. Meanwhile, Algernon discovers Jack's secret and presents himself to Jack's ward Cecily Cardew (**Briana Parks**) as Earnest, the wayward brother. Hilarity ensues as the identities begin to collide.

Other students in the production are **Erik Brower** as Merriman; **Jed Cockerill** as Lane; **Shareef Elkady** as Lady Bracknell; **Haley Phillips** as Miss Prism; and **Ted Patterson** as Dr. Causable.

"It has been a pleasure to work with such a talented design team and talented actors," said Russell Luke, professor of theatre. "The actors have all given 100 percent and have worked extra-hard in short period of time. I believe that the audience would love this comedy. It is a classic, lighthearted satire full of witty, memorable lines."

Show times are 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 3-Saturday, April 6 with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, April 7.

Tickets are \$5 on Thursday, April 4 with a Winthrop ID; \$8 for all other show times with a Winthrop ID; and \$15 to the public for all show times. Tickets are general admission.

For tickets call the box office at 803/323-4014 or e-mail them at boxoffice@winthrop.edu.

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