



MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS



*under the direction of Mrs. Henrietta Branwell
proudly present for your delectation:*

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

by Mr. Oscar Wilde

Mr. Algernon Moncrieff played by Mr. Tennison

Lane, his valet, by Mr. Leeds

Augusta, Lady Bracknell, his aunt, by Ms. Miller

Miss Gwendolen Fairfax, her daughter, by Ms. Quley

Mr. Jack Worthing, J.P., by Mr. Powell

Miss Cecily Cardew, his ward, by Ms. Rowland

Miss Laetitia Prism, her governess, by Ms. MacLeay

Canon Frederick Chasuble, D.D., by Mr. Branwell

Merriman, butler to Mr. Worthing, by Mr. Caswell

The play prompted by Mrs. Caswell

The properties assembled by Mrs. Hodgson

The ladies' costumes designed and made by Mrs. Branwell

The settings by Mr. Regeli and Mrs. Beenson

*The electric lighting rigged, designed & operated
by Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Branwell & Mrs. Branwell*

*The pianoforte played in the style of Mr. Moncrieff
by Mr. Redman*

The trees kindly loaned by Harlow Garden Centre

Miss Cardew's bracelet by Thalia Jewellery Designs

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

The Importance of Being Earnest is, without doubt, Oscar Wilde's most famous and popular play. It was written at the end of his very creative and prolific period from 1888 - when he published *The Little Prince*, a collection of short stories for children which we can reasonably presume he wrote for the entertainment of his two sons - to 1895. This was a year of great triumph and even greater disaster. The performances of *Earnest* were, undoubtedly, an enormous success and, following these, he met his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, but he later made the mistake of suing Alfred's father, the Marquis of Queensbury, for slander. He famously lost the case, was convicted of gross indecency and imprisoned in Reading Goal for two years. He emerged from this ordeal without money or friends and went into exile in France, dying in 1900 at the age of only 46. It is idle to speculate how many more wonderful plays, poems and stories he might have written had he lived only a century later - it is certain that we are fortunate to have the opportunity of performing *Earnest* once again.

The story of how two young girls agree to marry two young men who are both named Ernest though neither, apparently, was christened thus, is one of misunderstandings and confusions. Victorian manners and style are integral to the plot and are performed by the cast with attention to detail which has been drilled into them by their Director! They have all taken beautifully to the patterns of speech and movement - so alien to modern ways - and have, in the process, learned a lot about the social history and behaviour of that period.

The rehearsal period has been a particularly happy one. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved in the production for their efforts and I hope the enjoyment we have all experienced will communicate itself to you, the audience, and that you will have as delightful a time as we have had. Many lines in the play are famous quotations which you will recognise and there are plenty of opportunities for laughter - please don't be shy!

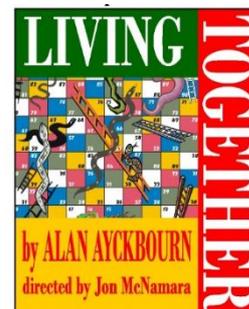
Henrietta Branwell

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

May 8th - 10th

LIVING TOGETHER by Alan Ayckbourn

2014 sees the celebration of Alan Ayckbourn's 75th birthday and the Players are thrilled to have been given permission to perform his early play *Living Together*, produced by **Jon McNamara**

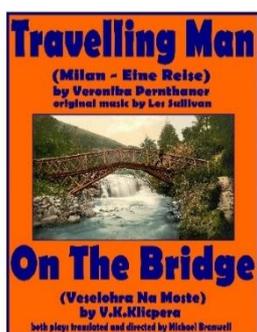


July 10th - 12th

TRAVELLING MAN by Veronika Pernthaner and ON THE BRIDGE by Vaclav Kliment Klicpera

Travelling Man is a moving, tragic and, at times, very amusing one act play, with original music by **Les Sullivan**.

On The Bridge is a fast moving farce about human relationships.
An evening of contrasts translated and directed by **Michael Branwell**



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Moot House Players acknowledge,
with thanks, the help of their parent
organisation

**THE MARK HALL & NETTESWELL
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**



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