



HONG KONG
PLAYERS

PRESENTS

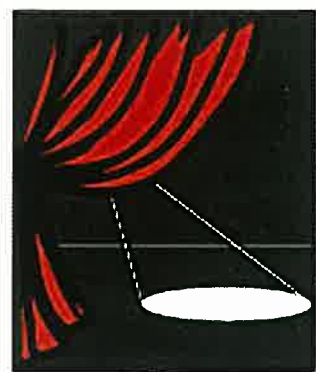
THE IMPORTANCE
OF BEING EARNEST

BY
OSCAR WILDE

DIRECTED BY
STEPHEN BOLTON



ABOUT HONG KONG PLAYERS



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Hong Kong Players has been the SAR's foremost community theatre group since 1844, although known by other names. In its current guise, the group began life on 1 January 1991 as the successor to the Garrison Players and Hong Kong Stage Club. Maintaining the spirit of these predecessors we put on a rich diversity of shows, from Shakespeare to contemporary drama. Today, Players mounts three or four productions a year, most significantly the annual pantomime. And it's not just about acting! Many members remain happily backstage, contributing in areas such as set design, make-up and crewing. If you would like to join us, please complete the membership form on the back page.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME / DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Welcome to the first production of the Hong Kong Players 2002-3 season. The show you are here to see is the result of three months' very hard work by a number of committed and talented people who endured the nightmare of a Hong Kong summer to attend rehearsals, design sets, costumes and lighting, distribute flyers, deal with thankless but essential administration tasks... and all in their spare time, and all working for free.

"What fools!" Wilde might say, but he would certainly understand the motivation: camaraderie, the satisfaction of bringing something to life and the pleasure of entertaining people. Speaking as Chairman, I encourage you to join Players (note the Membership Form in this programme). My own time in Hong Kong has been enriched immeasurably by belonging to this group, and I know many people who feel the same.

Speaking now as director of the show, I feel privileged, if sometimes daunted, to be directing such a brilliant piece of work. That task has been made easier and great fun by a fantastic cast, who have brought to every rehearsal their commitment, their talent and their enthusiasm. I thank them all very much, not least for their willingness to support me in the process of learning the little I know about

how to direct! Their input has been invaluable, and this show has been a genuinely collaborative effort.

My thanks also go out to Roberto, for his beautiful sets and costumes, which he designed at a time when his very full-time job was putting huge demands on him – I only wish he had been able to remain in the cast. Thanks also to Dilip, for his tireless work as producer and promoter of the show; Ernesto for his creative light and sound input; Ali for managing the nuts and bolts of stage management with grace and ease; to Margaret for her skills with a make-up brush; Bob, for transforming several bits of very un-Wildean furniture; Tony, for seeking out hard-to-find props; and Brian, for going far beyond the call of duty in handling the business side of the production. Anyone who has ever been involved in putting together a show will know how taxing it can be, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who worked with such skill and good humour.

Enjoy the show, and we look forward to seeing you again, whether it be in the audience, on stage or behind the scenes.

Stephen Bolton

CAST

Canon Chasuble Stephen Bolton

Cecily Chloe Davis

Lane/Merriman Clive Harrison

Gwendolyn Angharad James

Lady Bracknell Priscilla Jones

Algernon Siddarth Kapur

Jack Tony Sabine

Miss Prism Emily Wilson

Act One - The morning-room in Algernon's flat, Half-Moon Street, London

Act Two - The garden at the Manor House, Woolton, Hertfordshire

Act Three - The morning-room at the Manor House

There will be a fifteen-minute interval between Acts Two and Three.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Stephen Bolton
Producer	Dilip Vaswani
Set Designer	Roberto Conte
Costume Designer	Roberto Conte
Stage Manager	Ali Aitken
Lighting Designer	Ernesto Maurice Corpus
Sound	Ernesto Maurice Corpus
Backstage Crew	Camilla Arnold, Judi Bolton, Nick Jeffries, Steven Lewis, Brian Schwarze
Props	Tony Sabine
Programme Designer	Peter Espina
Print Production	Neerja Sujanani
Cast Photographs	Stephen Bolton
Publicity Photographs	Stephen Bolton
Front of House	Jackie Huke



Stephen Bolton – Canon Chasuble

In all the Players productions in which he has appeared, Stephen has been cast for one of two reasons: someone already in the show was forced to drop out, or no one else auditioned for the part. He highly recommends this technique to all aspiring actors.



Chloe Davis - Cecily

The character of Cecily requires a diverse performer with a great deal of integrity. Having failed to find any such, Players settled for a dizzy blonde of around Cecily's age who hopes that her poise as a dancer helps her pass as a lady in training.



Clive Harrison – Lane/Merriman

Clive has seriously moved up in the world since his last stage appearance. From being an impoverished drug dealer (last year's Romeo and Juliet) Clive is now playing a man with two jobs (both butlers) who has a habit of drinking his employer's wine. All jobs that Clive has played are far above his real life persona as a tax consultant, which unfortunately does not allow him the opportunity to drink very much of his employer's wine.



Angharad James – Gwendolyn

This is Angharad's first outing with Hong Kong Players but she promises she has

done this kind of thing before. She is relieved to say that her mother is nothing like Lady Bracknell.



Priscilla Jones – Lady Bracknell

Wishing to demonstrate that she knew “everything or nothing”, Priscilla joined a Players-hosted team exhibition of triviality at the Caledonia last spring. The euphoria engendered by pub quiz victory led ineluctably to her auditioning for Lady Bracknell, of whose character she entirely disapproves, except for their common fondness for polysyllables.



Siddharth Kapur - Algernon

Siddharth Roy Kapur, a half Hindu half Jewish Indian migrant to Hong Kong via the Middle East plays a rakish British aristocrat who assumes a false identity. He is currently undergoing comprehensive therapy for an identity crisis and will be let out for performances only.



Tony Sabine

Seven years ago, in another production, Tony took the part of Ernest very seriously. Not quite satisfied with the outcome, he left room for development and now feels able to jack the part up to a frivolous level. Although a serious guy by nature, Tony is nonetheless earnest in his desire to be as trivial as possible and acquire a decent taste in neckties.



Emily Wilson – Miss Prism

As a drama workshop leader, Emily thought it only fair to go through the same torture and suffering she normally inflicts on her young students. (N.B. Miss Prism is a totally fictional character and any resemblance to the actress is totally coincidental and unintentional.)



Ali Aitken (Stage Manager)

After wearing herself out in a multitude of guises during *Wind in the Willows*, Ali decided to stay out of the limelight for this production and up in the box where, some might say, she belongs. She has had great fun working on this production, and in case anyone is wondering what happened to all those cucumber sandwiches, thanks very much!

PRESENT COMMITTEE 2002 - 03

Chairman	Stephen Bolton
Honorary Secretary	Margaret Wright
Honorary Treasurer	Jackie Huke
Business Manager	Brian Schwarze
Publicity Manager	Interested?
Workshop Director	Interested ?
Technical Director	Bob Seary
Wardrobe Manager	Christine Baldwin
Social Secretary	Mini Elliot
House Member	Bob Seary
Members' Secretary	Julie Horne

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Natalie Haughton and RTHK

Mr Liu (set construction)

Bob Seary

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Hong Kong Players

"Aladdin" (The Christmas Panto)

December 5-14

Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre

Hong Kong Singers

"La Cage aux Folles" based on the play by Jean Poiret

October 9-15

City Hall Theatre

American Community Theatre

"Wit" by Margaret Edson

October 17-26

Fringe Club



HONG KONG PLAYERS

Membership Form 2002—2003

Membership runs until June 30, 2003

Benefits: Regular workshops, productions, advanced bookings for shows and social activities, plus the *Hong Kong Players Newsletter*. Please complete the form in block letters.

_____ I wish to RENEW my membership for 2002—2003

_____ I wish to JOIN as a new member

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: (H.) _____ FAX: (H.) _____

TEL: (OFF.) _____ FAX: (OFF.) _____

EMAIL: _____ MOBILE: _____

Please tick the club activities that interest you; mark with an *E* if you have experience in that area:

_____ Directing	_____ Stage Management	_____ Acting
_____ Producing	_____ Technical Crew	_____ Dancing
_____ Costumes	_____ Lighting	_____ Singing/Musicals
_____ Publicity	_____ Sound	_____ Play Reading
_____ Design	_____ Set Construction	_____ Prompting
_____ Set Painting	_____ Make-Up	

_____ Other (please specify) _____

I enclose a cheque (made payable to "Hong Kong Players") for:

_____ HK\$100: Annual individual subscription for one adult

_____ HK\$50: Annual individual subscription for one student/child, aged _____ years (must be 21 years or under)

_____ HK\$150: Annual family subscription

Send to:

**Members Secretary, Hong Kong Players,
GPO Box 8218, Hong Kong**

Signed: _____ Date: _____