



**Audition Notice**

**Wilde in the City:  
The Importance of Being Earnest**  
by Oscar Wilde

Performances Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
**AND**  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November

at various City venues including a public show at **The Stock Exchange**

Directors: Emma Knott & Daniel West  
Producer: Jacqui Adams

**Auditions: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. 10am-6pm. Ocean House**

**To register for the auditions, please email: [sedos.earnest@gmail.com](mailto:sedos.earnest@gmail.com)**

**What is the 'In The City' Tour?**

Each year, since 2005, Sedos has taken a well known Shakespeare play and performed it in venues across the City. Previously we've brought *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* and *The Taming of the Shrew* to life in a modern adaptation. This year we've decided to turn our attention to Oscar Wilde and give *The Importance of Being Earnest* a modern makeover.

We'll be giving a public performance at the London Stock Exchange but on the other nights we really will be in City offices; auditoriums; big (or small) meeting rooms, cafeterias – we're not fussy! This means that every night we have about an hour to set the venue up and get used to the space. For that reason we don't have huge amounts of set, lights or props – we just make the most of what each venue has to offer. That means we need flexible actors who can really bring the play to life for our audiences.

As well as providing entertainment for a broad range of companies, and an interesting challenge for actors, the 'In The City' tour is a charity venture which has raised over £30,000 in the past 6 years.

## **The play**

By and large we've stuck to the original script with a few tweaks here and there to fit our modern setting, and a few cuts to make sure we fit the time constraints of the various venues. We have though kept in all the famous lines!

Our version of the play is set in the City and country offices of a small business. Algy and Jack work in these offices beside their long-suffering secretaries Lane and Merriman. Gwendolen and Mrs Bracknell are ladies of leisure who stop by the offices when the mood takes them. In the country office work Cecily and Miss Prism – the Head of HR. To complete the set, Dr Chasuble becomes Mr Chasuble, Head of Security in the country office.

The script is widely available on the internet so if you're not familiar with the story it's worth having a look at it. To save you looking, here's a good site to go to <http://www.hoboes.com/FireBlade/Fiction/Wilde/earnest/>

As mentioned above we have very limited set and costume options because we're at a different venue every night. We'll therefore be using music (each office will have a radio) to create a bit of atmosphere. You don't need to be a dancer or a singer for this play - if you can walk in time to a beat you'll be fine! To give you an idea of the way we'll be using music head to You Tube and have a look at the Morecambe and Wise breakfast sketch or Hugh Grant 'dancing' round the halls of Number 10 in *Love Actually* (links to both below).

Morecambe and Wise - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFgdhZGLJrY>  
Hugh Grant - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUm2K6eDuMU>

## **Casting**

*The Importance of Being Earnest* has been performed on stage and screen countless times so there's plenty of inspiration out there to be had. All we'd ask is that you try and bring something original to the auditions. For that reason the cast breakdown below is deliberately pretty vague – we've given you a few of our thoughts but we really want to see what you can bring to the show.

Please note that accents are not a problem – we're not looking for perfect cut glass English accents.

### **Algernon Moncrieff**

Male. Late twenties/early thirties. Laid back man about town. He might have an office but one suspects he does very little work. Boisterous and charming.

### **John (Jack) Worthing**

Male. Late twenties/early thirties. Constantly in Algy's shadow and not entirely happy about it. Easily, and frequently, frustrated.

**Mr Chasuble**

Male. Any age. Head of Security at the country office. Terribly well meaning but often confused by life. In love with Miss Prism but has no idea what to do about it.

**Mrs Bracknell**

Female. Over forty. A formidable woman who likes to be centre of attention and dole out advice. Very concerned with status and the financial benefits of a marriage – probably carries a pocket calculator.

**Gwendolen Fairfax**

Female. Early twenties. Knows what she wants and is impatient to get it. Fed up with her mother interfering all the time.

**Cecily Cardew**

Female. Eighteen. A great keeper of diaries. Not as sweet as she seems but a romantic dreamer at heart.

**Miss Prism**

Female. Over thirty five. Head of HR in the country office. Prim and proper with a wild side that's dying to get out. Not so secretly in love in Mr Chasuble.

**Lane/Merriman**

Male/Female. Any age. These long suffering secretaries of Algy and Jack will be played by the same person so we need someone who can convincingly take on two roles – we might give you a wig to help!

**Location**

The auditions, recalls and rehearsals will take place at:  
Ocean House, 10 Little Trinity Ln, City of London, London, EC4V 2AR.  
Nearest tube is Mansion House or St. Paul's.  
A map can be found at [www.sedos.co.uk](http://www.sedos.co.uk)

**Auditions**

To book an audition slot, please email: [sedos.earnest@gmail.com](mailto:sedos.earnest@gmail.com)

Auditions and recalls will be held on the same day – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. First round auditions will be in the morning and those we'd like to recall will be asked to return after lunch so please be aware that you may be needed all day. If you are unable to attend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> please let us know and we'll do what we can to see you in the week before.

Auditions will be in workshop format and you don't need to prepare anything in advance or bring along a headshot. You will though need to fill out and bring an audition form, which will be supplied in response to your audition email.

In summary, please bring:

- Your completed audition form.
- Your £5 audition fee if you are not a Sedos member (see “Audition, Participation, and Membership fees” below).

### **Audition, participation and membership fees**

To perform in *The Importance of Being Earnest* you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members. If you are cast in the show, your audition fee will be deducted from your participation fee.

For more information, please see [www.sedos.co.uk](http://www.sedos.co.uk)

### **Notifications**

We'll let everyone know if they've been successful or not. Anyone cast will be called by one of the directors. We'll ask you on your audition form how you'd like to be contacted if you're not cast. We will be happy to provide feedback if requested.

### **Rehearsals**

We will begin rehearsals in early September. From mid-October everyone will be needed at all rehearsals but before then we can work around any conflicts you have. Please be sure to state any potential conflicts on your audition form to help us with our planning. We will rehearse Monday evenings and Wednesday evenings (typically 7-9.30pm), and Saturday or Sunday mornings (typically 10-1). We've deliberately gone for earlier slots at the weekend so that we don't take up your whole day!

**If you've got any questions at all just send an e-mail to [sedos.earnest@gmail.com](mailto:sedos.earnest@gmail.com) and Emma, Dan or Jacqui will send you a reply.**