

Press Release

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For immediate release:

**Aquila Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest* plays at Young Auditorium**

Young Auditorium and Cultural Affairs present Aquila Theatre's delightful and tantalizing production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:30 pm. Sound Bites will be held prior to the performance beginning at 6:30 pm in the main lobby featuring desserts and beverages available for purchase and a free lecture discussion with a member of Aquila Theatre.

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* promises to overflow with humor, elegance and romantic comedy. Since its first performance on February 14th 1895, Wilde's masterpiece has become a respected piece of literature and has delighted audiences with its wit and wisdom.

The Importance of Being Earnest tells the tale of Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, both young men who have taken to bending the truth to add a dash of excitement to their lives. Jack has invented an imaginary brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to escape from his dull home in the country in order to frolic in town. Algernon has an imaginary friend, Bunbury, who provides a convenient and frequently used method of taking adventures in the country. However, their deceptions eventually cross paths, resulting in a series of hilarious discoveries that threaten to spoil their romantic pursuits. Earnest is full of insights into the flamboyant lifestyle of the fashionable British upper classes and as Algernon admits, "If I am occasionally over dressed, I make up for it by being always immensely over educated." The New York Times has described Aquila's productions as "Gleefully engaging...almost unbearable fun...directed with inspiration and a beautiful use of physical humor" while The New Yorker has raved "Beautifully spoken, dramatically revealing and crystalline in effect. Crammed full of larger than life characters and memorable satirical humor, Aquila's creative staging and sparkling flare for language make this production one not to be missed."

Aquila Theatre's mission is to make classical works accessible to the greatest number. A play becomes 'classical' because we recognize that after a time it transcends the original culture it was created for. It retains the power to provoke the central question of what it means to be human. As a company dedicated to the classics, they feel a responsibility to acknowledge and explore newfound classical works. Founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck, Aquila is now based in New York City. "A classically trained, modernly hip troupe." The New York Times

Don't miss *The Importance of Being Earnest* tickets are \$29/\$26/\$19 for the general public and \$14.25 for UW-Whitewater students and available by calling 262-472-2222 or on -line at [www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium)

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