



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Chloe Woodward, [chloew@taproottheatre.org](mailto:chloew@taproottheatre.org)

## Oscar Wilde's hit romantic comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest* returns for the first time since 2007

**Director Bretteney Beverly takes a fresh, vibrant approach to this witty masterpiece**

**SEATTLE, WA—June 2, 2025—**Taproot Theatre presents Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, returning to Taproot for the first time in nearly 20 years. Directed by Associate Artistic Director Bretteney Beverly, this satirical masterpiece runs **September 17–October 18** at Taproot's **Jewell Mainstage Theatre** (204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103).

A play of love and snacks, indulge in the delightful absurdity of Oscar Wilde's comedic masterpiece! In this dazzling display of deception and desire, two charming bachelors bumble through a maze of mistaken identities and appetites. Sharp, smart, and satirical, Wilde called his most popular work "A trivial comedy for serious people."

Taproot has produced a slate of other Wilde classics, including *A Woman of No Importance* in 2023, *Lady Windemere's Fan* in 2018, and *An Ideal Husband* in 2011. "We have an excellent history of producing the works of Oscar Wilde and we always enjoy bringing them to our stage" said Associate Artistic Director **Bretteney Beverly**. "Building on this legacy, audiences can expect a typical evening of Wilde entertainment, but with a fresh, diverse, and vibrant approach to *The Importance of Being Earnest*."

The production stars **Calder Shilling** as Jack Worthing, a respected young man who leads a double life, and **Chris Clark** as Algernon Moncrief, Jack's sharp and charismatic friend. **Kelly Karcher** plays Jack's love interest Gwendolen Fairfax and **Alegria Batara** plays Cecily Cardew, a romantic young woman who falls for Algernon. Rounding out the cast is **Shaunyce Omar**, who makes her Taproot debut as Lady Bracknell, as well as **Jonelle Jordan** who plays Miss Prism, **Nik Doner** who plays Reverend Chasuble, and **Tim Gouran** who plays Lane/Merriman. Understudies include **Jeremy Steckler**, **Sebastian Wang**, **Marena Kleinpeter**, and **Candace Vance**.

**Performance Information:**

Run time: Approximately two hours and 30 minutes.

Age recommendation: 12+ (children under 5 are not allowed, including babes in arms).

**Special Dates:**

Previews: Wednesday, September 17 at 7:30 PM and Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 PM

Opening Night: Friday, September 19 at 7:30 PM

Weekend Matinees: Saturday, September 20, 27; October 4, 11, 18 at 2:00 PM

Weekday Matinees: Tuesday, September 23 at 2:00 PM; Wednesday, September 24 at 10:30 AM; Tuesday, October 7 at 10:30 AM; Wednesday, October 8 at 2:00 PM

Pay What You Can: Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 PM

Closed Captioned: Saturday, October 11 at 7:30 PM

**Ticket Information:**

Online at [taproottheatre.org/earnest](https://taproottheatre.org/earnest)

By phone at 206.781.9707

By email at [box@taproottheatre.org](mailto:box@taproottheatre.org)

In-person at 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

Price: \$25–62, dependent on performance date and time; fees may apply.

Discounts available for students, seniors, military, 25 & under, and TeenTix members.

*For a full list of performance dates and more information, please visit [taproottheatre.org/earnest](https://taproottheatre.org/earnest).*

**Taproot Theatre Company** is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Jewell Mainstage, Isaac Studio Theatre, touring productions, as well as Acting Studio camps, classes, and programs for youth and adults. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Puget Sound, and the Phinney Neighborhood Association.

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