

Coming soon to the streets
of old Balcombe the
Victory Players bring you

Aladdin



17th to 20th November 2010

If you wish to find out further details you can
email Aladdin himself at:
Aladdin@victoryplayers.co.uk



The Victory Players in association with Balcombe Social club present Oscar Wilde's

The Importance of Being Earnest



Wednesday 14th April to
Saturday 17th April 2010 7.30pm





The Victory Players
in association with Balcombe Social Club
present an amateur production of

The Importance of Being Earnest

A play by Oscar Wilde

Cast List

In order of appearance

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lane, Valet to Mr Moncrieff | Rodney Saunders |
| Mr Algernon Moncrieff | Rhys Whiteside |
| Mr John Worthing, J.P. | Greg Field |
| Lady Augusta Bracknell | Shirley Michell |
| The Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax | Helen Savage-Butcher |
| Miss Prism, Governess | Nicola Preston Bell |
| Miss Cecily Cardew | Hannah Tullett |
| The Reverend Dr Chasuble | Douglas Wragg |
| Merriman, Butler at Woolton Manor | John Bunn |
| The Housemaid at Woolton Manor | Helen Sweetman |



be impossible to thank everyone by name, let me say that as a newcomer I have been heartily welcomed to the company, and I thank everyone who has had even the remotest involvement in the play since November. Everyone has a role to play in the group, and they all know it well.

To the people I need to thank by name:

Martin Allitt; for being the producer to a director who knew no one in the Village, and for putting up with my "panic attacks", **Isabel Gordon**; for all the many things she's been responsible for or involved in with this show, whether that be box office, costumes, props, prompting, you name it, **Jacqueline Wiginton**; who seemed to know what props I needed before we discussed it, or had even met, Douglas Wragg; who must be equally praised for the appearance of Lady Bracknell, and others, in this show (he'll know what I mean!), and **Shirley Michell**; for giving me her spare bed when I was stranded in Balcombe during the heavy snow!

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank and praise a great cast, who have performed and rehearsed with energy and passion refreshing to watch and direct. I thank you for coming, and I trust you will enjoy watching this show as much I have enjoyed being part of it.

We hope to see you all supporting the Victory Players' next show, Aladdin. To paraphrase Lady Bracknell, to watch this show would be fortunate, but to then miss the next would seem like carelessness!

Ronnie Whitehead





Director's Note

I first became aware of the Victory Players last year when I happened to be enjoying a piece of the delicious home-made Battenberg in the Balcombe Tea Rooms, and there was a My Fair Lady poster on display. The performance was only two weeks away, and my plan was to join the group to see if there was anything I could do to help backstage. That same Sunday afternoon, I remember standing at the Victory Hall door, listening to the cast rehearsing on the other side, not quite having the courage to go in. Hence, I came along to see the show on the Wednesday instead, and was impressed to see two things; the scope of talent on display from the Village, plus the pull with which this comparatively new group seemed to have on other talent from other local societies. Shortly afterwards, I was in contact with Douglas, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Having stepped into the abyss that is the role of Director, what show could I possibly direct? The Importance of Being Earnest, or "TIOBE", as it has affectionately become known in emails since last November, was a show I'd been dying to be involved in for years. I never imagined I'd be directing it at my first attempt.

The play itself is nothing but a satirical masterpiece. First performed in 1895, at the St. James Theatre, London, the text manages to subtly poke fun at Victorian social hypocrisies. It is a farce in all but name, using the ruse of the main characters maintaining fictitious identities whilst not employing the modern "in-one-door-and-out-the-other" style we all expect a farce to present. The challenge in this performance has not been to just master the lengthy speeches, but to research and understand the multi-level characters which Wilde so expertly created.

There are several people that I must thank. Firstly, as it would



The Importance of Being Earnest

Scene List

Act One

Late Afternoon, the Rooms of Mr Algernon Moncrieff, Half Moon Street, London, W

Interval of 20 Minutes

Act Two

Early Afternoon, the Garden at the Manor House, Woolton, Hertfordshire

Interval of 15 Minutes

Act Three

Late Afternoon, the Drawing Room at the Manor House, Woolton, Hertfordshire



 **Forest Players Present** 

Kindertransport



By Diane Samuels

Tuesday 20th April
to
Saturday 24th April
at **Freshfield Hall, Forest Row**
at 7.45 pm. (Doors & Bar open from 7.15 pm.)

Box office: Foresta Travel, Forest Row Tel: 01342 822607
& Bullfrog Music, East Grinstead Tel: 01342 315602

Tickets £7.50

Wednesday Night only - Senior Citizens & Students up to 18 concession £6

Charity Night

Tuesday 20th April in aid of the Holy Trinity Church Clock Appeal
For tickets please ring Tel: 01342 823070



Production Team

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Director</i> | Ronnie Whitehead |
| <i>Stage Manager</i> | Martin Allitt |
| <i>Lighting</i> | Keith Major & Brian Couchy |
| <i>Set Construction</i> | John Randell, Richard Harris |
| <i>Wardrobe</i> | Manuela Warburton, Isabel Gordon, |
| <i>Props</i> | Isabel Gordon & Jacqueline Wiginton |
| <i>Make-up</i> | Penny Jennings & Christine Needham |
| <i>Prompt</i> | Isabel Gordon |
| <i>Front of House Manager</i> | Robin Willaimson |
| <i>Front of House Team</i> | Nancy & Botts Bottomley, Maria & Steven Daultrey, Alan Dearden, Sue Etheridge, Margaret Hartman, Norman Howard, Martin Nee, Julie & Chris Walker, Chloe Warburton, Priscilla Williamson |
| <i>Publicity</i> | Martin Allitt, Isabel Gordon |
| <i>Poster Design</i> | Carol Rogerson |
| <i>Box Office Manager</i> | Isabel Gordon |
| <i>Producer</i> | Martin Allitt |

If you are interested in joining The Victory Players please contact us on info@victoryplayers.co.uk

