

It is of Vital Importance to Attend St. Margaret's Production of "The Importance of Being Earnest"

written by Robert Troyan, a junior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School

St. Margaret's "The Importance of Being Earnest" satirically tells of Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrief as they both undertake romantic endeavors by utilizing the fake persona of Earnest. As Gwendolyn falls for Jack under the impression that his name is Earnest, and Cecily falls for Algernon with the same impression, societal chaos ensues involving a very stringent aunt, an incredibly sarcastic butler, and a dastardly plot twist that is sure to shock.

Gigi Policicchio (Cecily Cardew) plays the young Cecily with exquisite comedic timing and physicality. As Policicchio balances Cecily's change between adult and girlish teenager, she utilizes numerous physical signs to convey her shifting identity. At one moment, she is a naïve teenager, playing with her hair with a wide smile. Suddenly, however, she shifts to a mature and intellectual adult, dictating her philosophies with a straightened back and a stern facial impression that guarantees a laugh when complemented by her comedic delivery.

Additionally, Malcolm Matthew (Algernon Moncrieff) plays an excellent scene partner to Policicchio as he also uses a wide range of facial expressions to convey Moncrieff's everchanging moods. At one minute, the man is scandalized by a statement made by either Worthing (Jack Klausner) or Cecily with wide eyes and a dropped jaw. The next minute he is overtly smirking and strutting across the stage, vividly displaying how Algernon marvels at his own wit.

Jack Justus (Lighting Designer) brilliantly captures the satirical romanticism of the show. Justus diligently attended rehearsals to understand the specific locations of the actors and worked with the set to accent all the right aspects of the production. His result powerfully reinforces the entire play. Through the placement of colorful hues on the stage floor, Justus helps emphasize the presence of love along with the play's light-hearted humor.

Additionally, by setting the lights on the background wall to produce the impression that the painted roses were three-dimensional, Justus's work immerses the audience into the satirical world. Sophie Kistler (Stage Manager) complements this lighting design through her well-timed light cues and sharp attention to the pacing of the play, allowing the story to begin and end with attentive precision.

St. Margaret's "The Importance of Being Earnest," through expressive performances and diligent technicians, cleverly reinvigorates Wilde's play with charm, humor, and romanticism.