

# STAGE NOTES

JANUARY 2022

PHOTO:  
J STUBBS PHOTOGRAPHY

1

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People  
,a play by Oscar Wilde.

2

## GIVE AND GET CAMPAIGN

The results are in! Thank you to everyone who donated! Read more on the campaign!

3

## BOX OFFICE TIPS!

Important box office tips for our Season Subscribers!

## JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 6, 2022

DIRECTED BY  
JAMES BRYAN

You are cordially invited to a comedy of manners, sophistication, and frivolity that could only come from the mind of Oscar Wilde! Meet two dashing bachelors and dear friends, Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, who each created an alter ego in order to escape the humdrum of gentlemanly life and the boring trappings of respectability that go along with it. Enter the Honorable Gwendolen and the fair Cecily, who are determined to marry a man named Ernest. Add to the mix a domineering and society focused matriarch, a missing heir, and a battered handbag, and you have Oscar Wilde's classic drawing room comedy.

4

## AUDITIONS!

Auditions for *The Miss Firecracker Contest* coming up January 17!

# LTVB WILL STAGE OSCAR WILDE'S MOST ENDURINGLY POPULAR PLAY

## JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 6

Muffins vs. cakes. A handbag doubling as a bassinet and the importance of being Earnest. Some of the farcical things that take place in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. More importantly, Oscar Wilde wrote this piece as a parody to the importance of class in society. A bonus to this piece of theater that it is flat out hysterical. This is accomplished through Wilde's inventive wit and wisdom. Wit and wisdom that was bittersweet for Wilde. Not long after the show's original premiere, he was tried and convicted for "gross indecency". For that reason, I find this show isn't so much a passion project but a project of necessity. This show should be seen by masses as much as possible for its genius and relevancy and humor. This show may be over a century old, but it is far from outdated. Current undertones of society and class remain as real now as they did back in the 1890's.

The cast assembled for this project is stellar. Each of the nine people on stage have created their own versions of their characters instead of caricatures. You probably noticed that the role of Lady Bracknell is played by a man. Why would I do this? It was not to take any role away from the talented pool of women. This is not a "drag" performance either. Lady Bracknell has a tradition of being played by a man. The character is first and foremost a symbol of Victorian earnestness. Bracknell represents Wilde's opinion of Victorian upper-class negativity, conservative and repressive values, and power. Bracknell is not the only character to represent a certain class as you will see in this performance.

Finally I will say this. Prepare to laugh and bask in the absurdity and satire to Victorian manners and celebration of style over substance. This expertly constructed farce combined with the actors and designers at the top of their game have created a ravishing and silly evening of fun. I know you'll love what they've done.

"I love acting. It's so much more than real life" - Oscar Wilde

**-JAMES BRYAN**  
DIRECTOR



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# GIVE AND GET CAMPAIGN

In October of 2021, the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach's executive committee was approached by Ted Kaufman (aka our anonymous donor) to discuss a matching donation campaign of \$20,000. The executive committee quickly sought the board's approval to agree to this campaign and in a matter of weeks, the theatre was sending out letters to our patrons and collecting money.

We are proud to say that in just over 2 months, we collected \$19,925 from you, our friends and theatre-lovers. And even though we were \$75 short of our matching contributions goal, Ted graciously agreed to match the original \$20,000 goal.

With this money, we will be able to pay back the loan we took to pave the parking lot, one of the many projects we accomplished during the theatre's down time during the worst of the pandemic.

It is with the deepest gratitude that we acknowledge your generosity in helping us reach this goal. With this money and your support in attending our shows and purchasing season passes, the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach is financially stable and will continue to bring you quality shows at affordable prices.

And for those of you who gave during this campaign, your gifts have been ordered and will be here soon. We will contact you for delivery as soon as they arrive.

## BOX OFFICE TIPS FOR OUR SEASON SUBSCRIBERS

First of all, thank you for rolling with our first season with reserved seats! We've had a few hiccups along the way, but we are learning as we go.

Here are a few "tips" to help you navigate the ticketing process:

- If you try to redeem your passes online, do not stop because there is a price on the tickets in your cart! Follow the prompts to the final checkout screen. If you have logged in with your email to your account, that screen includes a blue "Apply" button to apply your passes to your cart. (You may need to scroll down.) Click it, you will view the history of your pass use, then click to continue, and the price on the tickets should now be zero! Complete the transaction, and you will be good to go!
- If you book online, be sure to select your delivery method (Print at home or Will Call). If you print at home, you do not need to stand in line at the box office.
- If you need to contact the box office, please leave a message at (757) 428-9233 OR email [boxoffice@ltvb.com](mailto:boxoffice@ltvb.com). When you do both, it creates extra work for us.

Thank you again for your patronage! Hope this was helpful

# FIRECRACKER AUDITIONS

## THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST

by Beth Henley

Directed by Ann Heywood

**PRODUCTION DATES: MARCH 11 - APRIL 3, 2022**

**AUDITION DATES: JAN. 17 & 18 AT THE LTVB FROM 7-10PM**

**CALLBACKS: JAN. 19 AT 7PM, AS NEEDED**

Auditions are open to fully-vaccinated individuals. Proof of vaccination will be required, if cast.

Furthermore, in an abundance of caution to protect both our patrons and our volunteers during the COVID-19 Omicron Variant surge, we request that all auditionees, cast, and crew members wear masks.

**ALL ROLES ARE OPEN AND ALL ETHNICITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO AUDITION!**

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script in small groups.

**THE STORY:** The place is the small Mississippi town of Brookhaven, the time a few days before the Fourth of July. Carnelle Scott (known locally as "Miss Hot Tamale") is rehearsing furiously for the Miss Firecracker Contest—hoping that a victory will salvage her tarnished reputation and allow her to leave town in a blaze of glory. The unexpected arrival of her cousin Elain, a former Miss Firecracker winner, (who has walked out on her rich but boring husband and her two small children) complicates matters a bit, as does the repeated threat of Elain's eccentric brother, Delmount, (recently released from a mental institution) to sell the family homestead and decamp for New Orleans. But, aided by a touchingly awkward seamstress named Popeye (who is hopelessly smitten by Delmount) and several other cheerfully nutty characters, Carnelle perseveres—leading to a denouement of unparalleled hilarity, compassion and moving lyricism as all concerned finally escape their unhappy pasts and turn hopefully toward what must surely be a better future.

Roles:

CARNELLE SCOTT: 20s, the beauty contestant

POPEYE JACKSON: 20s-30s, Carnelle's seamstress

ELAIN RUTLEDGE: 30s, Carnelle's first cousin; a beauty

DELMOUNT WILLIAMS: 20s-30s, Carnelle's first cousin; Elain's brother

MAC SAM: 20s-30s, the balloon man

TESSY MAHONEY: 20s-30s, the beauty contest coordinator

Little Theatre of  
**VIRGINIA BEACH**  
*The Beach's Playhouse since 1948*

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