

Director's Notes

Lord Arthur Savile is engaged to be married to the lovely Sybil Merton. The wedding is just days away when his future mother-in-law sets him the ultimate challenge of having his hand read by the infallible Mr Podgers. Podgers foretells that Arthur will commit a murder and so the scene is set for a series of hilarious events, as Arthur enlists first the help of his loyal butler Baines and then the cheery anarchist, Winkelkopf. Just one little murder to commit and then all will be well. What could be simpler?!

When choosing a play for Wychwood Players there are all sorts of issues to consider, not least that the play needs to appeal to our regular audiences and members alike. For my second directorial outing with the group we sought something light hearted enough to lift the November gloom. When I realised that the Players had yet to do anything by Oscar Wilde, a look at his repertoire was called for. Aside from the much performed favourites *The Importance of being Earnest* and *An Ideal Husband*, I remembered Constance Cox's adaptation of one of his short stories, brilliantly done and capturing all his style and wit. Rehearsing this farcical comedy has been a joy in itself.

There is always even more pleasure when we can welcome new members to our cast, especially younger ones. This time it is Kelly Shaw and Dan Wilks who first tread the Wychwood Boards with us. They have each made a great contribution to our production, entering into the spirit of the whole event and playing their full part in team 'Arthur'.

Enjoy your evening of old fashioned British humour, general silliness and plenty of laughter!



Our next production, 'The Vicar of Dibley,' will be on 27th, 28th and 29th April 2017

For further information please visit:

www.wychwoodplayers.com

WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

Oscar Wilde's LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME

a comedy by
Constance Cox

24th, 25th, 26th November
2016

The New Beaconsfield Hall
Shipton-u-Wychwood OX7 6BQ

PROGRAMME

For which a donation would be very much appreciated



Oscar Wilde's Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

A comedy by Constance Cox

Directed by Julie Downing



CAST (in order of appearance)

Baines, the butler

Lord Arthur Savile

Sybil Merton, his fiancée

The Dean of Paddington, his uncle

Lady Windermere, his aunt

Lady Clementina Beauchamp, his great-aunt

Lady Julia Merton, Sybil's mother

Mr Podgers, a cheiromantist

Thomas, a manservant

Herr Winkelkopf, an anarchist

Aram Gregory

Richard J Hartley

Kelly Shaw

Ralph Wears

Anne Hilling

Rose Hartley

Rachel Read

Richard Dreyer

Dan Wilks

Dudley Thompson

CREW

Set Conception and Construction

Set Painting & Finishing

Stage Manager

Props

Lighting and Sound

Effects

Costumes, Hair and Make-up

Thanks also to the Oxford Drama Wardrobe

Front of House

Box Office

Ben Curran

Ed Reynolds

Amanda Keighley

Katy White

Members of the Players

Richard S Hartley

Katy White

Members of the Players

Frank O'Neill

Amanda Keighley

Dudley Thompson

Members of the Players

Sue Mellerick

Rose Hartley

The cast

Phillip Croxson

Sally Elderfield

Sharon Light

Posters/Programme Cover

Publicity

Photography

Programme

Rehearsal Prompt

Amanda Keighley

Ralph Wears

Members of the Players

David Trollope

Kate Lister

Sally Lewis

ACT I

Scene 1

Early evening

Scene 2

The following morning

ACT II

Scene 1

Morning, three days later

Scene 2

Early evening, several days later

Scene 3

The following morning

There will be an interval of 20 minutes

The action takes place in the drawing room of Lord Arthur's house in Edwardian London

None of our productions would be possible without an array of volunteers who master a myriad of tasks just to get the show on the road. The Wychwood Players have been a local institution for decades and there is always a warm welcome to any new members, especially those with relevant practical skills. Why not find out more?

These days we are inevitably competing with all the modern offerings in the entertainment world, which makes it even more important that our marketing efforts count. It costs approximately £2500 to stage a play and we need to focus on what works best. Please help us by completing our short questionnaire so we can learn more about what brings you here.

Thank you in anticipation!