

PRESS RELEASE

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MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE marylandensemble.org

MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*

Press Night: Sunday, October 20 @ 7pm (Reception @ 6pm)
RSVP to dbrick@marylandensemble.org or 301.694.4744

FREDERICK, MD (October 2, 2013) - Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is bringing one of the most acclaimed comedies ever to the stage this fall with a hilarious new production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. **Oscar Wilde's** comic masterpiece of witty wordplay will run every Thursday through Sunday at Maryland Ensemble Theatre from October 18 through November 10.

In 1890s **England**, Jack and Algy both use the name "Ernest" when they want to instill a little excitement into their lives. All goes as planned until the two use the pseudonym while falling in love with Gwendolyn and Cecily, threatening their romantic ventures. Paths cross and hilarity ensues in what is considered Wilde's wittiest and finest comedy. "Still one of the funniest plays in the English language" (*The Hollywood Reporter*), *The Importance of Being Earnest* premiered at **London's St. James Theatre** in 1895 and has since received countless theatrical productions and numerous film adaptations. The Irish born Wilde's other prominent works include *An Ideal Husband*, *A Woman of No Importance* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

The comedy of mistaken identities will be directed by **Joe Brady**, who last year made his MET directorial debut with *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Joe is a director, actor, writer, and comedian who holds an MFA in Directing from **CUNY** and is a graduate of **Second City, Chicago**. Joe is an Associate Professor of Theater at **HOOD College** and previously served as **Artistic Director** of **Mother Lode Productions** in **Baltimore**. Brady's talented cast includes **Nancy Blum, Steve Custer, Shea-Mikal Green, Matt Kline** and MET ensemble members **Julie Herber, Tad Janes, Courtney McLaughlin, Reiner Prochaska** and **Tim Seltzer**. They will be ably assisted by a design team including **Tirza Fogle** (Costume Design), **Devin Gaither** (Properties Design), **Tad Janes** (Scenic Design), **Tabetha White** (Lighting Design) and **Steve Younkins** (Sound Design).

The Importance of Being Earnest will run from October 18 through November 10 every Thursday through Sunday at the MET, located in the historic **FSK Hotel** at 31 W Patrick Street. Thursday, October 17 there will be preview performances at 8pm and tickets to that show are \$5 (cash only at door). The opening weekend will also include a meet and greet with the cast following Saturdays' performance and the first Sunday performance will be preceded with a reception hosted by MET Board Members **Hilda Staples** and **Abby Zanger Sievers** and will be sponsored by **Juice Plate**.

Tickets to *The Importance of Being Earnest* are \$15 (Thursdays) through \$24 and can be purchased at 301.694.4744, **marylandensemble.org** or in person at the Maryland Ensemble Theatre box office. This show is made possible in part through the support of MET's season sponsors including **Comcast, The Frederick Gorilla, Key 103, Eagle 106.9, Ausherman Family Foundatoin, Mark A Pitts Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, The Frederick News Post** and both the **Frederick and Maryland Arts Councils**.

Now in it's sixteenth season the Maryland Ensemble Theatre produces thought-provoking theatre, fun family entertainment, artist residency programs for public schools, theatre camps, challenging classes and side-splitting comedy.

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TICKETS/LOCATION/DATES INFORMATION

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Joe Brady

Cast:

Tim Seltzer (Merriman/Lane), Reiner Prochaska (Rev. Chausable), Courtney McLaughlin (Gwendolyn), Matt Kline (John Worthing), Tad Janes (Merriman/Lane), Julie Herber (Lady Bracknell), Shea-Mikal Green (Cecily), Steve Custer (Algernon Moncrieff), Nancy Blum (Miss Prism)

Production Team:

Tabetha White (Lighting Design), Tirza Fogle (Costume Design), Bethanie Herman (Stage Manager), Tad Janes (Scenic Design), Steve Younkens (Sound Design), Devin Gaither (Properties), Katie Woods (Assistant Stage Manager)

Where: Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 West Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dates: October 18 - November 17, Every Thursday through Sunday

Performances: Thursday - Saturday at 8pm, first and last Sundays at 7pm, middle two Sundays at 2pm

Ticket Prices: Adults \$25.50, Students/Seniors \$21.50, Thursdays \$16.50 (includes \$1.50 ticketing fee)

\$5 Preview tickets - No Reservations/Cash Only - The first Thursday.

Box Office: 301-694-4744 or marylandensemble.org or at the MET (Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 11am - 3pm and 1 hour before each show.)

PRESS INFORMATION

Press Photos & Press Releases: Dan Brick at dbrick@marylandensemble.org or 301-694-4744 x303