

Find more news from Stetson University at [Stetson Today](#).

STETSON UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stetson Theatre Arts presents Wilde Comedy 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

DELAND, Florida, April 3, 2019 – [Stetson University](#) will end its 113th season with Oscar Wilde's final comic masterpiece, "The Importance of Being Earnest," directed by guest artist Walter Kmiec. The play, which features mistaken identity, hilarious snobbery and forbidden love, will run from April 11-14 at Stetson University's Second Stage Theatre in the [Museum of Art – DeLand](#), 600 N. Woodland Blvd.

Oscar Wilde's farcical comedy of manners revolves around Ernest Worthing, a young, eligible bachelor and man about town. Ernest is in love with the charming Gwendolen Fairfax and wants her to be his wife. Gwendolen has waited all her life to marry a man named "Ernest" and joyfully accepts his proposal, so they can live happily ever after.

There's just one problem: "Ernest" isn't being very earnest at all. His real name is Jack and he lives in the country. Plus, he is the guardian of his beautiful 18-year-old ward Cecily Cardew. Whenever country life becomes boring, Jack sneaks into town during the weekends and pretends to be the wild and crazy guy Ernest in order to let off some steam. His alibi? He tells Cecily that Ernest is his rebellious younger brother who he must visit in order to save him from getting into trouble all the while pretending to be the very same brother in town.

When Jack's best friend, Algernon Moncrieff, discovers Jack's secret life, he decides to raise the stakes by visiting the countryside and pretending to be Ernest in order to meet the lovely Cecily, who secretly fantasizes about Jack's younger, bad-boy brother Ernest. When Jack returns to the country to legally change his name, he encounters the shock of a lifetime.

Directing "The Importance of Being Earnest" has been a gratifying experience.

"It's been a blast collaborating with Stetson University's wonderful [theater program](#) on this project," said Kmiec, who hails from Orlando. "This play is a masterpiece and everyone has really risen to the challenge of infusing life into the fantastical world that Oscar Wilde created. No doubt, if Oscar Wilde were alive today, he'd be blowing people up on Twitter to come see it!"

Production alert: The play contains mature subject matter and language, and may not be suitable for all ages.

Cast: Joseph Dallas (Jack Worthing), Steven Kalicharan (Algernon Moncrieff), Lillian Desenberg (Gwendolen Fairfax), Anieszka Wojcik (Cecily Cardew), Cori LaPinsky (Lady Bracknell), Caroline "Reed" Barkowitz (Miss Prism), Drew Winokur (Dr. Chasuble) and Drake Cunningham (the butlers, Lane and Merriman)

Where: Second Stage Theatre at the Museum of Art – DeLand, 600 N. Woodland Blvd., DeLand (adjacent to the DeLand campus)

When: 8 p.m. Thursday, April 11, Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14

Admission: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and non-Stetson students. Stetson faculty, staff and students receive free admission with a valid ID

Parking: Free

Box office, reservations and more information: 386-822-8700

Tickets will be available at the door and reserved tickets must be picked up 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. The box office will be open one hour prior to curtain.

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 384 Best Colleges, 2019 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

Contact: Sandra Carr
Media Relations,
P: 407-256-5090
scarr3@stetson.edu