

Compères

Good evening to you, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this show. Tonight, you are going to see great comedy by the greatest talent of English comedy. You are going to see **us**, the great English class. – And, oh yes, the play is by Oscar Wilde who you may have heard of before. I have never met him personally. He has been dead for years. You are going to see a few scenes from his comedy “The Importance of Being Earnest”. We have here three couples: **Ms Prism** (N.N.) and **Dr Chasuble** (N.N.), **Jack** (N.N.) and **Gwendolen** (N.N.), **Algernon** (N.N.) and **Cecily** (N.N.)

So far, so good. But there is also **Lady Bracknell** (N.N.), Algernon’s aunt.

But this, you must know, is the ending of the play. No, you must not go home now. Wait! – We will tell you a bit about the beginning!

Imagine two friends, Algernon (*points left [of stage]*) and Jack (*points right*). Algernon lives in the town, in London (*Algernon takes a sip from a glass of bubbly*) and Jack lives in the country (*Jack smells a rose and smiles*).

In Jack’s country-house there is Miss Prism (*wags finger at Cecily*), a teacher, and Dr Chasuble (*tries to catch Miss Prism’s eye*), a minister. They both look after young and beautiful Cecily, who Jack is in charge of (*Cecily pretends to listen to Miss Prism*). Jack pretends he has a brother of the name of **Ernest** to get away from this boring scene and have fun in town (*Jack moves*

centre and l.) In town he calls himself Ernest. He really lives a double life. Just to enjoy himself, just for fun. – Good idea, is it not?

Algernon, the young man in London, is often visited by his aunt, Lady Bracknell (*looks fierce*) and her charming daughter Gwendolen (*looks elegant*), Algernon’s cousin. He likes going to the country and having fun there. So he tells everybody he must visit a friend called **Bunbury** who lives in the countryside and is going to die soon. (*moves right*)

So, both of the young men are liars. And Algernon would like to meet Cecily (*amorous [‘ - - -] looks*), but Jack won’t let him. And Jack would like to marry Gwendolen (*kisses are blown across stage*), but this seems “extremely problematic”.

Enough said. Let us look at the difficulties the lovers have to overcome before “all ends well”. First: Jack has come to town to tell Gwendolen he wants to marry her.

1 Jack (N.N.) – Gwendolen (N.N.)

Now then. Looks good, does it not? Maybe Jack will want to get his name right soon. And that means, his fictitious brother will have to die soon. – But there is Gwendolen’s mother, Lady Bracknell, and she is going to interview the young man who wants to marry her daughter. (*Jack bows*).

2 Lady Bracknell (N.N.) – Jack (N.N.)

Oh dear, that is not what Jack wanted. What can he do now?

Meanwhile, back in the country.
Pretty young Cecily does not seem
to like lessons! How strange.

3 Cecily (N.N.) – Miss Prism (N.N.)

[immediately followed by]

4 Miss Prism – Dr. Chasuble

While the two oldies are flirting in the
park, young Cecily is at home. Quite
alone. What an opportunity for Al-
gernon! *(Algernon bows to audi-
ence, Cecily pretends not to see
him.)*

5 Algy (N.N.) meets Cecily (N.N.)

So that seems to be going rather
smoothly. Just fine for the young
lovers. But then something happens.
(Jack bows to audience). Jack has
decided to put an end to his
brother's life. He wants the name of
Ernest for himself. So, he does not
need his "bad" younger brother
anymore.

6 Jack mourns too early (N.N., N.N., N.N., N.N., N.N.)

Of course, Jack wants Algernon to
leave. But Algernon does not want
to leave – at all. He has seen Cecily.
And he is madly in love with her. He
wants to marry her. Wanting to
marry is easy. But asking someone
the simple question "Will you marry
me?" is sometimes a bit hard. – See
for yourselves.

7 Algy (N.N.) proposes to Cecily (N.N.)

Now wait a minute. Algernon's name
is still **Algernon**. And Jack's name is
still **Jack**. The two young ladies
STILL think they are engaged to a
charming young man whose name is
ERNEST. – Guess what happens
when Gwendolen, the town girl,
goes to visit the countryside. She

wants to find out about Cecily, the
young lady Jack has told her about.

(Gwen gives audience a smile.)

And Cecily does not suspect any-
body else to be in love with
ERNEST!

(Cecily gives audience a smile.)

8 Gwendolen (N.N.) and Cecily (N.N.)

So, there have been a few prob-
lems, and there will be even more.
But not tonight. We are just showing
you the ending of the play, again:

Chs (N.N.) Laetitia!

MPr (N.N.) Frederick! At last!

Jk (N.N.) Gwendolen! At last!

Alg ((N.N. to N.N.) Cecily! At last!

Brk (N.N.) My nephew, you seem to
be displaying signs of triviality.

On the contrary, I've now realized
for the first time in my life the vital
Importance of Being Earnest.

Reihenfolge Verbeugung:

Mrs. Prism

Dr. Chasuble

Algernon

Gwendolen

Jack

Lady Bracknell