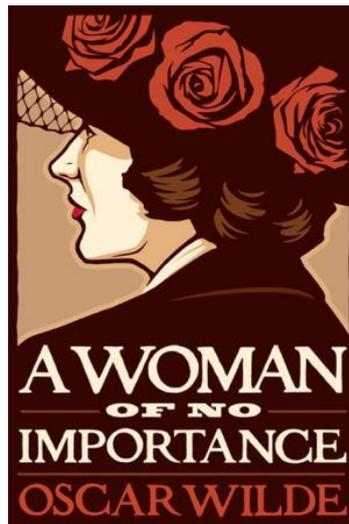




## AUDITION NOTICE

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February in Room H10,  
Chichester High School (meet at reception  
promptly at 7.30)**



A youthful illicit liaison between a now successful diplomat and a woman known for her charitable works come back to bite them both with a vengeance, and threatens to create a society scandal.

This sparkingly witty play by Oscar Wilde was given added relevance to modern audiences with the emergence of the *#metoo* campaign in Hollywood and the West End. A country house weekend is the setting and the play is peppered with Wildean quips and humour.

The play is directed by Richard Kinder. Copies of the play are available for quick reading. Please contact [pammieh@talktalk.net](mailto:pammieh@talktalk.net) for script.

Performance dates: 18-20 July in the Centenary Theatre, Chichester High School.

Please see below for character details.

If you would like to audition for a part but cannot attend on the 6<sup>th</sup>, please email or text Richard at [richardkinder08@aol.com](mailto:richardkinder08@aol.com) or 07712 614183 who will arrange an alternate date which will be prior to the main audition.

## WHO'S WHO

### **Lord Illingworth**

Playing age 40s-50s. He is witty and clever and a practised flirt, who knows how to make himself agreeable to women. His accidental acquaintance with Gerald Arbuthnot sets in motion the chain of events that form the main plot of the play.

### **Mrs. Arbuthnot**

Apparently widowed she does good work among the poor and is a regular churchgoer. She declines invitations to dinner parties, although she is often invited by her neighbour Lady Hunstanton, who is anxious to assist her and her son, Gerald. 40s-50s.

### **Gerald Arbuthnot**

Gerald's young and rather inexperienced character is keen to find a place in society and gain high social standing. His naivety allows him to accept uncritically what society deems as proper, and he holds a strong belief in honour and duty. Playing age early 20s.

### **Mrs. Allonby**

A flirtatious woman with a reputation for controversy, and who is never averse to gossip and scandal. She is more than a match for Lord Illingworth. Playing age late 20s- 30s.

### **Miss Hester Worsley**

As an outsider to the British society in the play, Hester is in an ideal position to witness its faults and shortcomings more clearly than those who are part of it. Hester is both an orphan and an heiress and comes to realise that not everything in the world is either black or white. The part calls for an American accent. Playing age 17-25

### **Lady Hunstanton**

The hostess of the party. Means well but is quite ignorant, shown in her conversation and lack of knowledge. Could be portraying the typical Victorian aristocrat. 50s+

### **Lady Caroline Pontefract**

Friend of Lady Hunstanton, whose traditionalist views are in direct contrast to Mrs Allonby. Lots of wonderful put-downs! 50s+

### **Sir John Pontefract**

Husband to Lady Caroline Pontefract, he is a quiet man who allows his wife to control their relationship. Behind her back, however, he remains ever-hopeful of amorous success outside matrimony. Definitely old enough to know better! 50s+

### **The Ven. Archdeacon Daubeny, D.D.**

Seen as the 'ultimate priest' he is completely under the thumb of his invalid and unseen wife. Similar cleric to Canon Chasuble in the Importance of Being Earnest 40s+

### **Lady Stutfield**

A naive gullible and intellectually restricted character who shows her lack of vocabulary with constant repetitions. 20s-40s

### **Mr. Kelvil, M.P.**

A stuffy and thoroughly modern progressive moralist. He earnestly wishes to improve society and in particular the lot of the lower classes. He is completely of his depth with the company he is keeping. Age 30s upwards

### **Lord Alfred Rufford**

A stereotypically lazy and feckless aristocrat who is constantly in debt with no intentions of paying back his debtors. Any age

**Farquhar**, Butler. Any age, probably over 50

**Francis**, Footman. Any age, but ideally with shapely calves!

**Alice**, Mrs Arbuthnot's maid, 16+.