The Importance of Being Earnest

Character List

Please note: ages are only meant as guidelines for the playing age, not as a requirement for the actor's age.

John (Jack) Worthing Age: 29. In the city he goes by the name Ernest, a fun-loving bachelor, and in the country he is Jack, a land-owner and guardian of Cecily. He is about to take his place in society by proposing to Gwendolyn Fairfax.

Algernon Moncrieff Age: 21-25. A languid poser of the leisure class, bored by conventions and looking for excitement. Algernon, unlike Jack, is not serious and is generally out for his own gratification.

Lady Augusta Bracknell Age: 50-65. The perfect symbol of Victorian earnestness — the belief that style is more important than substance and that social and class barriers are to be enforced. She is a strongly opinionated matriarch, who bullies everyone in her path.

The Honorable Gwendolen Fairfax Age: 25-29. Lady Bracknell's daughter, believes style to be more important than sincerity. Romantic, hardheaded and opinionated, much like her mother.

Cecily Cardew Age: 18. Jack Worthing's ward, grand-daughter of his adopted father, Sir Thomas Cardew. She is romantic and imaginative, and able to wrap men around her little finger before they know what happened.

Miss Prism Age: 50-65. Cecily's governess. She is educating Cecily to have no imagination or sensationalism in her life. Outwardly a symbol of Victorian morality, she reveals a secret life of passion, including having written a three volume sensational novel.

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. Age: 50-65. Local vicar, and a source of moral judgments, but easy-going and pleasure seeking nonetheless. His proudest achievement is the all-purpose sermon that can be used for christenings, weddings and funerals alike.

Lane and Merriman Age: 30-65. Servants in the households of Algernon and Jack. Both solemnly watch the follies of their "betters", and save them from embarrassment. They are the pillars upon which the easy-going lifestyle of their employers rest.