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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 10, 2013

**Mauckingbird Theatre Company presents**  
***The Importance of Being Earnest***

By **Oscar Wilde**

Directed by **Peter Reynolds**

August 7-25, at the Off-Broad Street Theater

PHILADELPHIA – *July 10, 2013* – **Mauckingbird Theatre Company** presents a gender-bent interpretation of Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*, directed by Mauckingbird Artistic Director **Peter Reynolds**, August 7-25. This production marks the company’s most ambitious production to date, and, keeping true to its acclaimed reputation, will deliver a “post-gay” performance that looks beyond gay pairings to the relationships and emotional connections of the story.

Predominately a language play, Mauckingbird’s approach to Wilde’s classic Comedy of Manners focuses on the subtleties of the text. “What is really intriguing to me is that this play is all about class and status,” says Reynolds. “What works in this version is that it doesn’t matter to Lady Bracknell if her son wants to marry a man or marry a woman, as long as their class and status are up to her standards.”

Under his pseudonym Ernest, Jack Worthing (**Chancellor Dean**) falls in love with Gwendolyn Fairfax (**Brent Knobloch**) who unfortunately fixates on his assumed name. When his fellow playboy cousin Algernon Moncrief (**James Ijames**) discovers this falsehood, he adopts the name Ernest to woo Jack’s ward Cecily Cardew (**David Hutchison**), who will only marry a man named Ernest. Mauckingbird’s collision of class and status features an accomplished cast, including **Nancy Boykin** as the status-obsessed Lady Bracknell, **Lindsay Mauck**, **Sarah Doherty**, **Mitchell Bloom** and **Darryl Gene Daughtry, Jr.**

To fully realize the social status of the characters, Mauckingbird turned to Kickstarter to raise additional funds to support the vision of nationally recognized designer Marie Anne Chiment. “The play is about people of means—it really needs to look a certain way,” said Reynolds. The multiple locales of the production will be created by scenic designer Andrew Laine, focusing on simple yet classy and elegant environments.

*The Importance of Being Earnest* runs **August 7-25, 2013** (*press opening is Friday, August 9, at 8 p.m.*), at the **Off-Broad Street Theater** at First Baptist Church, located at 1636 Sansom St. in Philadelphia. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students and are available by calling the Mauckingbird Theatre Company box office at **(215) 923-8909** or online at [www.mauckingbird.org](http://www.mauckingbird.org).

**ABOUT THE CAST**

**Nancy Boykin** (Lady Bracknell) was last seen at the Arden Theater, sitting in the trashcan, as Nell in *Endgame*. She recently created the role of Mrs. Pard in a new play by Davey White. Other Philadelphia credits include *Superior Donuts*, *The Dead* and *Twelfth Night* at the Arden, the Wilma (*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Raw Boys*), Interact (*Silverhill*), Act II Playhouse, Temple Repertory Theater. She has performed elsewhere with the Interact Theater in Los Angeles (LA Drama Critics Circle Award), The Arena Stage, The Long Wharf, Cincinnati Playhouse, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival to name a few. She is dedicated to the development of new plays and teaches acting at Temple University and Villanova.

**Chancellor Dean** (Jack Worthing), a California native, was previously seen in last year's Mauckingbird production of *Much Ado About Nothing* as Don Pedro and in the stage reading of *Bad Seed*. Most recently, Chance performed with Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre as Benedick in *Much Ado* and Cassio in *Othello*. Regional theater performances include Actors Theater Phoenix: Luke in *Next Fall*; The Old Globe: Johnson in *Anna Christie*; South Coast Repertory: Ethan in *Jesus Hates Me*. Previous Philadelphia appearances include Hedgerow Theater: Sherlock Holmes in *The Crucifer of Blood*; Arden Theater: Dennis in *Loot*; Azuka Theater Company: Dexter in *Four*. He received a BA in Theater from USC and a MFA in Acting from Temple University.

Philadelphia actor **James Ijames** (Algernon Moncrief) is known for his work in productions with People's Light and Theatre Company, Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Mauckingbird Theatre Company and Gloucester Stage Company. He received two Barrymore Awards for Supporting Actor in a Play for *Superior Donuts* with the Arden Theatre Company and *Angels in America* at the Wilma Theater, and was the 2011 recipient of the F. Otto Haas Emerging Artist Award.

**David Hutchison** (Cecily Cardew) is a University of the Arts graduate recently seen in Mauckingbird's remount of *R&J* during Philadelphia's Equality Forum 2013. Temple graduate **Brent Knobloch** (Gwendolyn Fairfax) is a member of the PHIT team Asteriod! This will be Brent's fourth production with Mauckingbird, most recently in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2010, Puck). Elsewhere, Brent has performed in *High School Musical*, *Sweet Charity* (Oscar Lindquist), *Damn Yankees*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo) and *The Devils*. He has also worked previously with Philadelphia Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia Young Playwrights and the Broadway Dreams Foundation.

**Lindsay Mauck** (Dr. Chausuble), co-founder and managing director of the company, will be making her Mauckingbird debut in this production. Lindsay has performed with Act II Playhouse, New Candlelight Theatre, Ritz Theatre and Philadelphia Theatre Company. She is also the Development and Communications Manager with Philadelphia Young Playwrights. **Sarah Doherty** (Miss Prism) Sarah Doherty is a local actor, originally from Ireland. She has worked with theatre companies such as Brat Productions, Pig Iron, Act 2 Playhouse, Arden Theatre Co., People's Light, Delaware Theatre Co., Walnut St. Theatre and Theatre Exile. She is a three-time Barrymore Award nominee and one time winner. She was also voted Best Actress in a Musical by Philadelphia Theatre Magazine in 2006. She earned her MFA in Acting from Temple University in 2009.

Playing Merriman is **Mitchell Bloom**, recently seen in Mauckingbird's *Much Ado About Nothing* as Borachio and crowned Mr. Mauckingbird in 2012, and making his Mauckingbird and professional stage debut is **Darryl Gene Daughtry Jr** as Lane. Darryl is Pittsburgh native currently in his junior year at Temple University.

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

**Peter Reynolds** (Artistic Director) currently serves as the Head of Musical Theater for the Department of Theater at Temple University. In Philadelphia, he has worked at Media Theatre, Act II Playhouse, Walnut Street Theatre, Hedgerow Theatre, Villanova Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Philadelphia Young Playwrights and the Lenape Regional Performing Arts Center in New Jersey. Reynolds spent six years as Artistic Director of the award-winning HealthWorks Theatre in Chicago and has also worked at the Oregon

Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Building Chicago, Apollo Theatre Chicago, St. Louis' HotCity Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and Maples Repertory.

### **ABOUT MAUCKINGBIRD THEATRE COMPANY**

Founded by Artistic Director **Peter Reynolds** and Managing Director **Lindsay Mauck**, Mauckingbird Theatre Company is committed to producing professional gay-themed theatre, while also exploring classic literature and musical genres and providing affordable productions of infrequently produced works. Past productions include the critically acclaimed all-male versions of *The Misanthrope* (2008) and *Shakespeare's R & J* (2008, and remounted in 2013); the lesbian adaptation of *Hedda Gabler* (2009); the dark crime drama *Never the Sinner: The Leopold and Loeb Story* (2009); *TRU* and *The Threshing Floor* (2010), a repertory of two one-man shows about influential gay writers Truman Capote and James Baldwin; an original modern interpretation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2010); the regional premiere of Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell's musical [*title of show*] (2011); the Philadelphia premiere of Jon Maran's *The Temperamentals* (2012); a reading of Maxwell Anderson's *Bad Seed* (2013). Mauckingbird Theatre Company is a proud member of the **Off-Broad Street Consortium of Independent Theatres**.

# The Importance of Being Earnest

## FACTS

<p><b>Performances:</b></p> <p>Wed., 8/7                      7:30 p.m.          Thu., 8/8                      7:30 p.m.          Fri., 8/9*                      8:00 p.m.          Sat., 8/10                      8:00 p.m.          Sun., 8/11                      2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wed., 8/14                      7:30 p.m.          Thu., 8/15                      7:30 p.m.          Fri., 8/16                      8:00 p.m.          Sat., 8/17                      8:00 p.m.          Sun., 8/18                      2:00 p.m.          Sun., 8/18                      7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wed., 8/21                      7:30 p.m.          Thu., 8/22                      7:30 p.m.          Fri., 8/23                      8:00 p.m.          Sat., 8/24                      8:00 p.m.          Sun., 8/25                      2:00 p.m.          Sun., 8/25                      7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Dates:</b> August 7-25, 2013  <b>Preview:</b> August 7 &amp; 8  <b>Opening: Friday, August 9 at 8:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Presented by:</b> Mauckingbird Theatre Company</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Off-Broad Street Theater          at First Baptist Church          1636 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103</p> <p><b>Prices:</b> \$25 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$15 Students</p> <p><b>Mauckingbird Box Office: (215) 923-8909</b></p> <p><i>*Please do not publish the phone number for The Off-Broad Street Theater. All ticket reservations and questions about Mauckingbird must be directed to (215) 923-8909. *</i></p> <p><b>Web:</b> <a href="http://www.mauckingbird.org">www.mauckingbird.org</a></p>
<p><b>*Opening Night</b></p>	<p><b>The Importance of Being Earnest</b>          By <b>Oscar Wilde</b>          Directed by <b>Peter Reynolds</b></p> <p><b>Cast</b> (in alphabetical order)  <b>Mitchell Bloom</b>                      Merriman  <b>Nancy Boykin</b>                      Lady Bracknell  <b>Darryl Gene Daughtry, Jr</b>                      Lane  <b>Chancellor Dean</b>                      Jack Worthing  <b>Sarah Doherty</b>                      Miss Prism  <b>David Hutchison</b>                      Cecily Cardew  <b>James Ijames</b>                      Algernon Moncrieff  <b>Brent Knobloch</b>                      Gwendolyn Fairfax  <b>Lindsay Mauck</b>                      Dr. Chasuble</p> <p><b>Production Team</b></p> <p><b>Andrew Laine</b>                      Set Design  <b>Marie Anne Chiment</b>                      Costume Design  <b>Jessica Wallace</b>                      Lighting Design  <b>Michael Ambler</b>                      Stage Manager</p>

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To request more information, photos, interviews and press tickets, please contact:  
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