

**PLAYBILL**



**THE IMPORTANCE  
OF BEING**

***EARNEST***



**OSCAR WILDE**

[www.upstageartists.com](http://www.upstageartists.com)

**MARCH 6, 7, 13 & 14 AT 7:30 PM**

**MARCH 8 & 15 AT 2:00 PM**

**EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
11416 CEDAR LANE BELTSVILLE, MD 20705**

UPSTAGE ARTISTS PRESENTS *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*  
BY OSCAR WILDE

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

**Director** — Anna Fitzmaurice

**Stage Manager** — Joanne Breen

**Set Design** — Anna Fitzmaurice

**Set Construction** — Rick Bergmann, Joanne Breen, John Cusumano, Anna Fitzmaurice, Stacey Saunders, Melvin Smith

**Costumes** — Anna Fitzmaurice, Joanne Breen & Cast

**Props** — Joanne Breen

**Sound and Light Design** — Rick Bergmann

**Light Technician** — Melvin Smith

**Sound Technician** — Stacey Saunders

**Stagehand** — Izadora “Izzy” Morris

**Headshots** — Rick Bergmann



**CAST**

**Becky Goldberg** — Gwendolen Fairfax

**Trenor Gould** — Algernon Moncrieff

**Dylan Hernandez** — Jack Worthing

**Beatrice Ieronimo** — Cecily Cardew

**Jeanne Louise** — Lady Bracknell

**Peter Rouleau** — Dr. Chasuble

**Peter Schultz** — Lane/Merriman

**Nancy Somers** — Miss Prism

**SETTING: THE PRESENT**

**Act I Scene 1:** Algernon Moncrieff's flat

**Act I Scene 2:** The Garden at Manor House

**Act II Scene 1:** The Garden at Manor House

**Act II Scene 2:** The Drawing Room at Manor House

*There will be one 10-minute intermission*

**SPECIAL THANKS**

- Thank you to Emmanuel United Methodist Church for providing UpStage Artists with a space to perform. Thank you to Pastor Andrea M. King, the Board of Trustees, and the Congregation for being so accommodating.
- Prince George's Federal Credit Union
- Beltsville Community Cats

We would like to thank you for attending today's performance and hope you are as delighted as we are by what our community theatre has come together to create. Please contact us at [info@upstageartists.com](mailto:info@upstageartists.com) if you have ideas or questions about how you can become part of the UpStage Crew!

## ABOUT UPSTAGE ARTISTS

### Board of Directors

**President:** John Cusumano  
**Vice President:** Stacey Saunders  
**Treasurer:** Rick Bergmann  
**Secretary:** Anna Fitzmaurice  
**Member At Large:** Joanne Breen  
**Member At Large:** Michael Safko  
**Member At Large:** Melvin Smith

UpStage Artists was formed in July 2019 when a group of artists and friends decided they wanted to create a community theatre program for anyone who wanted to give it a try. Our goal was always to remind those who work with us and those who attend our shows that theater is fun. UpStage Artists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community theater program dedicated to providing affordable theater experiences for everyone.

## OUR MISSION

- ~To bring high quality theatre and arts programs to the residents of Maryland.
- ~To produce innovative and approachable theatre, classics, as well as new works.
- ~To provide professional level training for actors and lovers of theatre.



## FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.upstageartists.com](http://www.upstageartists.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpStageArtists>  
**Instagram/Threads:** upstage\_art  
**YouTube:** UpStage Artists  
**TikTok:** upstage.artists  
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## BECOME A PATRON

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Fans: any amount between \$1.00 and \$9.00

Critic: \$10.00

Stagehand: \$25.00

Director: \$50.00

Producer: \$100.00 or more



UpStage Artists is a proud Member of



## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“A trivial comedy for serious people.”

I’ve always considered myself more of a dramatic actor/director than a comedic one. And yet, comedies seem to be the only thing I’ve directed for Upstage Artists so far. While our 2024 production of Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* had plenty of dramatic scenes within it to make me feel comfortable, *The Importance of Being Earnest* presented itself as a particular challenge to me.

I like to think that *Earnest* was a bit of a challenge to Oscar Wilde as well, since his playwriting career seems to mirror my own journey from the realm of the dramatic into the comedic. He began his career writing tragedies and even when he made the transition into comedy, his plays still involved genuine conflict and serious themes. Only *Earnest*, his final play, retains its lighthearted tone the whole way through. I think perhaps that’s one of the reasons we still enjoy it so much.

I hope this play also helps you to take yourself a little less seriously, as it did for me and for Wilde. Setting our production in the modern day, with characters inspired by the people I see on social media, I wanted to take time to laugh at the way we continue to create personas for ourselves, thinking they will help us fit in better with society. After all, how different are we really from those Victorian fuddy-duddies? Aren’t we still altering our clothes, personalities, and lifestyles with the hope of gaining someone else’s approval? What silly people we are!

So, for all those serious people like me, I hope the next couple of hours can be a lesson in levity or maybe even delightful self-deprecation. The dramatic problems of the world will always be there. Perhaps just as important as solving our problems is laughing about them.

*Anna Fitzmaurice*

## MEET THE CAST AND CREW



### **Joanne Breen (Stage Manager)**

Joanne Breen was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she quickly earned the nickname “The Jumping Bean.” From an early age, gymnastics, dance, and theater have been central to her life. At 17, she discovered her love for tap dancing, a passion that has carried her through countless performances across the places she has called home. While living in Portland, Oregon, Joanne performed with The Skylark Tappers, The Portland Tap Connection, and Northwest Senior Theatre. She even had the unique opportunity to dance in a pre-show performance for the Radio City Rockettes with the Stellar Dancers Jr. Rockettes. A lifelong theater enthusiast and Broadway devotee, Joanne is thrilled to be a member of UpStage Artists Community Theatre. She believes that theater is for everyone—whether in the audience, behind the scenes, on stage, or supporting as a patron—and invites all to share in the joy and magic it creates.



### **Anna Fitzmaurice (Director)**

Anna Fitzmaurice grew up in Bowie, MD where she got her start in theater through the St. Pius X Youth Players’ summer musicals and her Destination Imagination team where she dabbled in improv. At The Catholic University of America, where she graduated with a BS in Physics and Math, Anna continued to perform in school productions of *Macbeth* (Macduff’s Child) and *Antigone* (Chorus). Anna is currently a Ph.D. student in the University of Maryland Physics Department, where her research focuses on particle acceleration in solar flares. This is her third time in the director’s chair at UpStage Artists, having previously directed *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *Much Ado About Nothing*!



**Rebecca Goldberg (Gwendolen Fairfax)**

Rebecca Goldberg is thrilled to be working with UpStage Artists again as Gwendolen in "The Importance of Being Earnest". Recent roles include Leila Arden ("Rope", UpStage Artists), Love is Love (an RLT/RMT/VLOC/Kentlands collab), Elinor ("Sense and Sensibility", Goose Creek Players), Vera Claythorne ("And Then There Were None", UpStage Artists) and Frau Blucher ("Young Frankenstein", Denver Center for the Performing Arts). She truly appreciates this hilarious cast and crew and can't wait to share this fun, timeless show with you all!



**Trenor Gould (Algernon Moncrieff)**

Trenor Gould is thrilled to make his theatrical debut with UpStage Artists. He has understudied before, but this is his first time appearing in a full-length play. Trenor is a graduate of the Studio Acting Conservatory. He especially enjoys playwrights from the UK and Ireland—like Oscar Wilde. In fact, his name is of Irish origin and is pronounced TRE-ner. Trenor loves to act, direct, and write. Instagram: @trenorgould.



**Dylan Hernandez (Jack Worthing)**

Since he was little, Dylan always reveled in the world of make-believe and was naturally drawn to the theater as a result. He trained at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in the Experimental Theater Wing, and in addition to theater, performs as a voice actor for independent video games such as Project: Eden's Garden and The Uzujigoku Massacre. Dylan is so excited and grateful for the opportunity to perform with UpStage Artists and would like to thank the cast and crew of Earnest, as well as everyone coming out to see the result of our efforts over the past two months—hope you enjoy the show!



**Beatrice Ieronimo (Cecily Cardew)**

Beatrice is happy to be performing in her first show with UpStage Artists. Outside of theatre, Beatrice enjoys writing, singing, and traveling. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and she thanks the cast and crew for making this wonderful opportunity such a great experience!



**Jeanne Louise (Lady Bracknell)**

Jeanne Louise majored in Theatre Arts and French at Simpson, a small midwestern college south of Des Moines. Following that came the 2-year professional actors training program at Circle in the Square theatre in New York, then surviving 20-something years as a struggling NYC actor, before marrying the "Henry Higgins" from her first turn as "Eliza" in MY FAIR LADY, and relocating to Maryland. She has performed in 40 of the 50 states, as well as touring for 10 months in ALICE IN WONDERLAND and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE with the bilingual company OZ in Paris, France. Some favorite roles through the years include Juliet and Lady Capulet, Guenevere, Marian the Librarian, Ebenezer Scrooge, Lady Macbeth, Charlotte the Spider, and Marjorie Prime with the Colonial Players. Jeanne was nominated by WATCH for her portrayal of multiple roles, both male and female, in A TUNA CHRISTMAS at Bowie Community Theatre in 2017. She makes her UpStage Artists debut with Wilde's classic grande dame.



### **Izadora Morris (Stagehand)**

Izzy is excited to be back with UpStage. She has previously acted in 3 shows at UpStage Artists, worked lights for Kong's Night Out and in total has been a part of 8 shows. She enjoys UpStage Artists and meeting new people, as well as seeing the same familiar faces in shows. Her hobbies outside of theatre productions consist of art-related activities and cross country.



### **Peter Rouleau (Dr. Chasuble)**

Peter Rouleau got his first community theatre role in 2010, playing two footmen in Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband." He had about six lines and was on stage for about three minutes, mostly carrying drinks, but even so, he fell in love with the world of community theatre. Life circumstances did not permit him to pursue that interest for some time hence, but in recent years, he has had several memorable theatre roles, the majority of which have been with UpStage Artists. He returns to his Wilde roots for his sixth show with UpStage, and is deeply grateful to Rick, Anna, John, Melvin, Michael, Joanne, and Stacey for creating this community. Peter is a college English professor, a reviewer for Broadway World, and the author of the books *Masquerade Ball* and *Connectivity*. His next project, the scripted podcast *The Hidden Realm*, will be released later this year.



### **Stacey Saunders (Sound Technician)**

Stacey Saunders is a native of Wild, Wonderful West Virginia, and has made Howard County, MD her home. By day, this Chemical Engineering graduate from the University of Cincinnati is a Project Manager for a manufacturing company in Owings Mills, but in her spare time she has a life-long love affair for the stage, geocaching and crocheting without the use of a hook. Locally, she has performed in several musicals at Baltimore's Arena Players, the oldest continuously operating African American community theater in the United States. Some of her favorite stage productions include *Ain't Misbehavin*, *Purlie*, and *Soulmates: The Music of Ashford and Simpson*. Stacey was also part of the ensemble for Baltimore Center Stage's 2017 production of *The Christians*. Most recently, she was seen in the original production *Save My Black Soul* at Laurel Mill Playhouse.



### **Peter Schultz (Lane/Merriman)**

Starting from a starring role in a 2nd-grade school play in 1948 (written by the nuns), this is only Peter's third stage experience, and his first in the current century. His most recent major roles were 43 years ago, with the Hellenic Amateur Musical Society (H.A.M.S.) productions of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe" (in which he played Strephon, an Arcadian shepherd), and a children's Christmas pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe" (in which he played Davy Jones), while living in Athens, Greece. Peter is an admirer and consumer of live music and drama, and has been active in several local choral societies.



**Melvin Smith (Light Technician)**

Melvin Smith is a North Carolina native who now resides in Prince George’s County, Maryland. He has performed in several productions in the DMV area, including productions with UpStage Artists, Silver Spring Stage, Dominion Stage, and The Gaithersburg Arts Barn with the Kentland Community Players, Laurel Mill Playhouse and Greenbelt Arts Center. He is an award winner, having captured the 2021 Broadway Regional Award as Best Performance, for his role as Harold Wilson in *A Black and White Cookie*. Melvin has recently been seen in *Laughing Stock* at Laurel Mill Playhouse, as well as *Hot “L” Baltimore* and *Romeo and Juliet A Comedy* at the Greenbelt Arts Center.



**Nancy Somers (Miss Prism)**

This is Nancy’s third show with UpStage Artists. Recent credits include *The Woman in The Woman in Black* (Rockville Little Theater) *Greta in Murder on the Orient Express* (Rockville Little Theater), *The Grey Lady in Abdication* (Silver Spring Stage), *Miss Shields in A Christmas Story* (Silver Spring Stage) *Mrs. Hardcastle in She Stoops to Conquer* (Rockville Little Theater), *Christina in Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner* (UpStage Artists), *Catherine in Boston Marriage* (Dominion Stage), *Margo in Dial M for Murder* (Laurel Mill Playhouse) and *The 39 Steps* (UpStage Artists). Nancy enjoys international travel (42 countries so far), writing, and spending time with her German Shepherds and 4 adult children. She is an English teacher/ team leader at Wood Middle School in Rockville.

# UpStage Artists

## Thanks Our Community Partners

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**PRINCE GEORGE'S  
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CREDIT UNION**



**BELTSVILLE  
COMMUNITY  
CATS**

# UpStage Artists Auditions

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# AMERICAN SON

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by Christopher Demos-Brown



## Auditions

**Wednesday, March 18 — 7:00 PM**

## Callbacks

**Thursday, March 19 — 7:00 PM**

**\*Actors must be available for callbacks\***

Interested? Go to [www.upstageartists.com/auditions](http://www.upstageartists.com/auditions)  
or scan the QR Code. Have Questions? Email  
[rick.bergmann@upstageartists.com](mailto:rick.bergmann@upstageartists.com)



## AUDITIONS FOR SHOWS LATER THIS SEASON

### *THE MALTESE FALCON*

July 9 and 10 at 7 pm

### *BABES IN TOYLAND THE MUSICAL*

Auditions For Adults: October 3 at 7 pm

Auditions For Children: October 4 at 11 am



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*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"*



### *Upcoming Events*



**March 6-15:** UpStage Artists presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**March 18: 7pm** UpStage Artists Auditions for *American Son*

**March 21: 10am-2pm** The United Women in Faith present  
*A Call To Prayer and Self Denial*

**March 22:** Monthly Potluck following worship

**March 28: 8am-11am** Free Food Distribution - all are welcome

*"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done." ~PROVERBS 19:17*

Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor  
(301)937-7114 † [office@eumcbeltsville.com](mailto:office@eumcbeltsville.com)  
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Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) partners with residents and businesses to humanely reduce the number of free-roaming cats in the 20705 area through low-cost spay/neuter programs and responsible adoption.

Learn more at

[www.beltsvillecats.net](http://www.beltsvillecats.net)



# Why a Credit Union Is a Smart Partner for Your Financial Planning

Financial planning isn't just about numbers on a spreadsheet. It's about building a life—funding milestones, managing debt wisely, protecting your family, and creating long-term stability. Where you choose to bank plays a powerful role in how effectively you can reach those goals. Choosing a credit union can make a meaningful difference in your financial journey.



## The Power of a Member-First Financial Partnership

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives. That means they are owned by their members—not shareholders. Earnings are typically returned to members through lower loan rates, reduced fees, and competitive deposit products.

This structure supports a relationship-based approach to financial planning. Instead of focusing on quarterly profits, credit unions focus on helping members strengthen their financial health over time.

## Smarter Rates That Strengthen Your Debt Strategy

One of the biggest barriers to

effective financial planning is high-interest debt. When interest rates are high, more of your payment goes toward finance charges rather than principal reduction.

A promotional 2.99% Visa® Credit Card Balance Transfer can be a powerful strategic tool when used responsibly. Lower rates can help members:

- Reduce interest paid over time
- Accelerate debt payoff
- Consolidate higher-rate balances
- Improve monthly cash flow

When interest costs decrease, your money can work harder for you—whether that means building emergency savings, investing for

retirement, or funding life goals.

## Building or Rebuilding Credit with Intention

Strong credit is foundational to effective financial planning. It influences loan approvals, interest rates, housing options, and even insurance premiums.

A Credit Enhancer Loan with Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union—available to members after one year—can serve as a structured, disciplined way to build or strengthen credit. These types of loans typically:

- Establish a positive payment history
- Encourage consistent savings habits

- Demonstrate responsible borrowing behavior

For members working to improve their credit profile, this can be a practical step toward qualifying for better loan terms in the future—whether for a vehicle, mortgage, or other major purchase.

Homeownership can be one of the most powerful wealth-building tools available. Over time, as you pay down your mortgage and property values grow, you build equity.

Home Equity Lending Options can allow members to responsibly tap into that equity for strategic purposes, such as:

- Home improvements that increase property value
- Debt consolidation at potentially lower rates
- Education expenses
- Major life investments

Used wisely, home equity can become part of a broader financial strategy rather than an emergency fallback.

## Personalized Financial Guidance That Moves You Forward

Financial planning is not one-size-fits-all. A credit union's relationship-driven model allows for:

- Personalized conversations about your goals
- Education on products and strategies
- A long-term partnership approach

Whether you are focused on eliminating debt, building credit, funding a renovation, or preparing for retirement, having access to the right financial tools, paired with guidance, creates a stronger foundation.

## Final Thoughts

Your financial institution should be more than a place to deposit checks or swipe a card. It should be a partner in your financial journey.

A credit union's member-first philosophy, competitive rates, and personalized approach can provide both the tools and the support needed to move from short-term decisions to long-term financial confidence.

Financial planning is about intention—and having the right partner can make all the difference.

## HOME EQUITY LOANS & LINES OF CREDIT (HELOC)

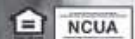
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## THIS SEASON AT UPSTAGE ARTISTS



### **American Son by Christopher Demos-Brown**

**Director Rick Bergmann**

The award-winning play about an estranged biracial couple who must confront their feelings about race and bias after their son is detained by the local police following a traffic stop incident. Their disparate histories and backgrounds inform their assumptions as they try to find out what happened to their son.

**AUDITIONS:** March 18 at 7 pm

**CALLBACKS:** March 19 at 7 pm

**REHEARSALS BEGIN:** April 13

**SHOW DATES:** June 5-7 and 12-14

DASHIELL HAMMETT'S  
**THE MALTESE FALCON**



### **The Maltese Falcon**

**Director John Cusumano**

Based on Dashiell Hammett's noir classic about private investigator Sam Spade as he gets entangled in a dangerous hunt for a priceless statuette, the titular Maltese Falcon. Spade's partner is murdered, and he's drawn into a web of deceit, betrayal, and greed involving a cast of ruthless criminals all vying for the Falcon.

**AUDITIONS:** July 9 and 10 at 7 pm

**REHEARSALS BEGIN:** July 27

**SHOW DATES:** September 18-20 and 25-27



### **Babes In Toyland: The Musical**

**Director Rick Bergmann**

**Music Director Stacey Saunders**

*This is our annual family show and will have a mixture of children, teens, and adults*

Villainous Barnaby schemes to marry Mary Quite Contrary, threatening her mother when wealth fails to win her over. But Mary loves Alan, Barnaby's nephew, who returns in triumph after Barnaby's plot against him fails. Mary flees to magical Toyland, where she and Alan encounter the whimsical Toymaker and his helpers in a delightful musical adventure.

**AUDITIONS FOR ADULTS:** October 3 at 7 pm

**AUDITIONS FOR CHILDREN:** October 4 at 11 am

**REHEARSALS BEGIN:** October 12

**SHOW DATES:** December 4-6 and 11-13



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