

FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS



OSCAR

A musical based on the life of Oscar Wilde
By James Clutton and Damian Landi

THE COURT THEATRE, PENDLEY, TRING

**17TH - 20TH
FEBRUARY, 2016**

PROGRAMME



“
I can resist everything
except temptation.”

“
Women are made
to be loved, not
understood.”

“
We are all in the gutter,
but some of us are
looking at the stars.”

“
Some cause happiness
wherever they go; others
whenever they go.”

“
By giving us the opinions
of the uneducated,
journalism keeps us in
touch with the ignorance
of the community.”

“
Beauty is the only thing
that time cannot harm.
Philosophies fall away
like sand, creeds follow
one another, but what is
beautiful is a joy for all
seasons, a possession for
all eternity.”

“
Man is least himself when
he talks in his own person.
Give him a mask, and he
will tell you the truth.”

“
Education is an
admirable thing,
but it is well to
remember from
time to time that
nothing that is
worth knowing
can be taught.”

OSCAR

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

In an occasional departure from the norm, **Frayed Knot** is delighted to present its third musical play. We have been privileged to work closely with the writers, **Damian Landi** and **James Clutton**, to adapt the show for the needs of the company. **OSCAR** was first produced some twenty five years ago.

In many ways, it was ahead of its time, but the climate of social acceptance is greatly different now and, therefore, it seems an appropriate age to give **OSCAR** another outing ... so to speak!

This production has benefitted from the expertise of performers and production staff who come to us from **The Artfully Reliable Theatre Society (TARTS)** and keen followers from previous **TARTS** productions will spot a number of their favourite actors, along with seasoned performers from the **Frayed Knot** stable, plus a few newcomers.

On behalf of the production team, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to making **OSCAR** a successful and enjoyable production.

Rebecca Taylor



OSCAR - THE MUSICAL

ACT ONE



The Musical opens with a reflective look by an old Lord Alfred Douglas (Bosie), *The Dead Poet*, then a glimpse into the future, with a snippet of *The Ballad Of Reading Gaol*.

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin on 16 October 1854, the younger son of Jane Francesca Wilde (Speranza) and Sir William Wilde. Oscar excelled as a student and arrived in London via Trinity College Dublin and Oxford University.

To the backdrop of a society ball in *To Be Seen*, Oscar prepares for an evening in the company of his mother and socialites such as Lillie Langtry and the artist James Whistler. Oscar and Whistler's competition for the attention of their peers becomes personal in *The Gentle Art* and Whistler cannot contain his envy of Oscar's popularity: *Whistler's Song*.

Despite his fame, Oscar had no income. He accepts D'Oyly Carte's offer of a lecture tour of the United States in *Patience* and uses the opportunity to espouse his philosophy that life is art; *Declaring His Genius*. Returning with his reputation enhanced, Oscar courts Constance Lloyd. She returns his affections in *Constance's Song* and the couple marry in 1884.

In the following years, Oscar becomes a father to two sons and his reputation increases, particularly with the publication of *A Picture of Dorian Gray*: *Centre Of Attention*. At the same time he spends more time in the company of young men and Bosie in particular: *The Café*.

Bosie gives an indication of his hedonistic life in *The High Life*. Oscar ignores the warnings of a devoted friend, Robert Ross, in *1895* and Constance and Speranza when they lament *He Used To Bring Me Flowers*. Rumours reach Bosie's father, The Marquess of Queensbury and he confronts Oscar in *Oscar And The Marquess*.

Oscar reflects on his personal life in *Love Under Pressure* while his public life hits a new height with the opening of *The Importance Of Being Earnest*. The Marquess continues to challenge Oscar's life style and leaves him a note "To Oscar Wilde - posing as a somdomite [sic]". In *Oscar's Choice*, he considers whether or not to sue the Marquess for libel.

ACT TWO

Oscar prosecutes the Marquess, but his initial flippancy in *The Trial* does not withstand Sir Edward Carson's cross-examination and Oscar is compelled to withdraw his case when witnesses testify to his lifestyle. The evidence leads to Oscar's prosecution for 'gross indecency' and he is once again the *Centre Of Attention*. He reflects with Constance that he is *Ahead Of My Time* before being found guilty in *The Sentence: Justice And Moderation* and being sentenced to two years hard labour. Constance and Speranza again offer a lamentation through a reprise of *He Used To Bring Me Flowers*.

The Ballad Of Reading Gaol charts Oscar's time in prison, including the hanging of a fellow inmate, news of his mother's death and a visit from Constance.

Upon his release, Oscar finds himself alone, unwelcome in England and estranged from Constance and Bosie: *The Letters*. Ross, tries to comfort Oscar in *Sign Of The Times* whilst Constance reflects on *The Best Years Of My Life* before her death in 1898. Meanwhile, Bosie revels in succeeding to his father's title in *The High Life*.

Oscar's last days in Paris are spent alone. Former associates are surprised by his appearance and avoid him: In *Remember*, Oscar struggles to recall his former glory.

Oscar Wilde died on 30 November 1900; *The Finale*.

Oscar

MESSAGE FROM THE WRITERS

As school friends, drinking partners and committed Spurs fans, we did not tread the traditional path to musical theatre. However, the tragic life of Oscar Wilde is such a compelling story that writing **OSCAR** was as natural for us as seeing England get knocked out of another world cup.

Once completed, we were overwhelmed by the support of family and friends who helped us produce an amateur performance at the Intimate Theatre, London N13 in 1990. Subsequent productions included shows at the UK Festival of Musicals and the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn which generated great interest but no cash.

In 1995, James went into the recording studio to produce an **OSCAR** CD as a coda to our work and we returned to our day jobs.

Over 15 years later, following the invention of the Internet and with the stock of CDs dwindling, the soundtrack was uploaded to Facebook and it was from here that Rebecca Taylor made contact and started the ball rolling for the current production.

Notwithstanding our dream that we would now be returning from the Caribbean to celebrate the 25th anniversary of **OSCAR** in the West End, we would like to thank Rebecca, Nina, Bryn and everyone at Frayed Knot for their enthusiasm and hard work and to wish them all the very best for this production of **OSCAR**.

Damian Landi & James Clutton

OSCAR CAST LIST

Oscar Wilde	Andy Faber
Constance Lloyd (Oscar's wife)	Rachel O'Mahoney
Robbie Ross (Oscar's friend)	Mark Lawrance
Speranza, Lady Wilde (Oscar's mother)	Rebecca Taylor
'Bosie', Lord Alfred Douglas Prisoner 1] Bryn Jones
Marquess of Queensbury (Bosie's father) Prisoner 2	
Lillie Langtry	Niki Dixon or Felicity McCourt
James Whistler (the artist) Frank Walsh (reporter) Warder 2] Charles Davey
Richard D'Oyly Carte (theatrical impresario) Sir Edward Carson (trial prosecutor)	
] John Dilks
Reporter Waitress Lady] Leigh Batson
Lady Holland Waitress US lady	
Phipps (Oscar's butler) Warder 1 Policeman Customs officer] Stephen Gregory
Lord Caversham Sir Edward Clarke (trial defence) US man Prisoner Man in café	
] Philip Donnelly
Judge Lady	Rob Farrow Eva Raebel



OSCAR MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Prologue

	The Dead Poet/ The Ballad of Reading Gaol	Bosie, Oscar
1	To Be Seen	Ensemble
2	The Gentle Art	Oscar, Whistler, Lillie, Ensemble
3	Whistler's Song	Whistler
4	Patience	Oscar, D'Oyly Carte, Ensemble
5	Declaring His Genius	Oscar, Ensemble
6	Constance's Song	Constance
7	Centre Of Attention	Oscar, Constance, Speranza, Lillie, Reporters, Ensemble
8	The Cafe	Oscar, Ross, Bosie, Waiters, Ensemble
9	The Highlife (prelude)	Bosie
10	1895	Oscar, Ross
11	He Used To Bring Me Flowers	Constance, Speranza
12	Oscar And The Marquess	Oscar, Marquess
13	Love Under Pressure	Oscar
14	Oscar's Choice	Oscar, Bosie, Ross, Constance, Speranza, Marquess, Ensemble

ACT TWO

15	The Trial	Oscar, Carson, Clarke, Judge
16	Centre Of Attention (reprise)	Constance, Speranza, Lillie, Ross, Reporters
17	Ahead Of My Time	Oscar, Constance
18	The Sentence	Oscar, Judge
19	He Used To Bring Me Flowers (reprise)	Constance, Speranza
20	The Ballad Of Reading Gaol	Oscar, Constance, Prisoners, Warders
21	The Letters	Oscar, Ross, Constance, Bosie

22	Sign Of The Times	Oscar, Ross
23	The Best Years Of My Life	Constance
24	The High Life	Bosie
25	Remember	Oscar
26	Finale	Full Company

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Producer & Vocal Coach	Rebecca Taylor
Director	Nina Gregory
Musical Director	Andrew Dimond
Producer	Jackie Farrow
Assistant Executive Producer	Bryn Jones
Stage Manager	Mark Price
Assistant Stage Manager	Stuart Taylor
Lighting	Chris Cooper
Sound	Nick Cooper
Rehearsal Pianists	Chris Beattie, Rebecca Taylor, Andrew Dimond, Colin Arney
Music Assistant	Rebecca Byrom



Conductor	Andrew Dimond
Piano	Chris Beattie
Keyboard	Rob Schafer
Drums	Paul Ramsell
Bass	Mike Stroud



Special thanks to the following:

Phil Donnelly (for artwork)
Sue Batson (for performance photographs)
Paint By Numbers (for makeup and hair)
The Court Theatre
All Front of House staff

FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY – OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS



- 1991 Marreau And The Chocolate Policeman
 1992 Marreau And The African Moon
 1993 Marreau And The Curse Of Cardiff & D.F.C./Moby Dick: *Double Bill*
 1994 Marreau And The Bloody Carpet & Blithe Spirit
 1995 Marreau And The Sword Of Carthage & Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber
 1996 Farndale Avenue ... Macbeth & Marreau And The Clouds Of Death
 1997 The Importance Of Being Earnest & Knightsbridge/Never The Twain/
 Pastiche: *Treble Bill*
 & Farndale Avenue ... Christmas Carol
 1998 Arsenic And Old Lace & A Murder Has Been Arranged
 & Marreau And The Chocolate Policeman
 1999 How The Other Half Loves & Trivial Pursuits
 2000 Habeas Corpus & Farndale Avenue ... They Came
 From Mars
 2001 Requiem For Marreau
 2002 Lady Windemere's Fan & Marreau And The Tregalleon
 Inheritance
 2003 Saving Ardley & Fish Out Of Water
 2004 Marreau And The Terror Of Tring & A Tomb With A View
 2005 Lend Me A Tenor
 2006 The Full Monty & Neville's Island
 2007 An Inspector Calls & See How They Run
 2008 Black Comedy/Darlings, & Guards, Guards
 You Were Wonderful!: *Double Bill*
 2009 The History Boys & The Titfield Thunderbolt
 2010 Glengarry Glen Ross & Marreau And The Grey Dagger
 & Damages
 2011 The 39 Steps & The Rise & Fall Of Little Voice
 & Hang On A Minute Lad's I've
 Got A Great Idea
 2012 Talking Heads & Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell
 2013 Jerusalem
 2014 Marreau And The Killer Rabbit & Journey's End
 2015 The Ladykillers & Dirty Dusting

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS

BY RICHARD BEAN



Frayed Knot Theatre Company is proud to present an amateur production of
ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS
 by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

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