

## GENTRAIN SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENT



*"The Importance of Being Earnest"*

*By Oscar Wilde*

*Sunday, April 28, 2019*

*Aurora Theater*

*Berkeley, California*

The final Gentrain Society Regional Theater trip this academic year will take us to the Aurora Theater in Berkeley on **Sunday**, April 28 for Oscar Wilde's evergreen comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. It's one of the most sparkling plays in the English language; as Wilde himself said of it, "it is [a play] by a butterfly and for butterflies." It has a stunning cast of comic characters—the inimitable Lady Bracknell, Miss Prism, the Rev. Chasuble, two very droll butlers, and of course the four lovers, who discover during the course of the play the importance of being earnest. The editors of the *Oxford Anthology of English Literature* say about it that it is "the perfect realization of innocence, of harmlessness, [in a] social world in which it is impossible to hurt or be hurt." It is in fact as free of evil and of principles as is a flotilla of butterflies. The most intense emotions in the play are reserved for cucumber sandwiches and muffins. It will provide us with a break from our very messy world to float free for a few hours in a place where, like Humpty Dumpty in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, people can make words mean anything they want them to—they just have to pay them extra. And to top it all off, every character in the play talks like Oscar Wilde, whom William Butler Yeats said was the most brilliant and witty conversationalist he had encountered in his long and storied life. It is the most perfect play of its kind in our language.

Grant Voth, former Gentrain Coordinator, will provide a class on **Friday afternoon, April 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Lecture Forum 101**, designed to enhance understanding and enjoyment of this marvelous piece.

The bus will leave MPC Parking Lot B on Fishnet Road (behind the Music Building) at 9:30 a.m. for arrival in Berkeley around 11:30 a.m. The play begins at 2:00 p.m. You will be dropped off near the theater where there are numerous restaurants for lunch prior to the play as well as a number of interesting shops and books stores. The bus will pick you up in front of the theater for our return to Monterey. We should be back in Monterey about 7:00 p.m.

The cost is **\$85.00 per person** which includes bus transportation, play tickets, and the class given by Grant Voth. **Please make your check payable to the "MPC Gentrain Society"** and mail to Wayne Cruzan, 75 Via Chualar, Monterey, CA 93940-2528. **Please put your telephone number and/or your email address on your check.** Questions? Call Wayne at 831-375-2371 or 831-917-0511.