

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2025

Westport Country Playhouse Presents Sunday Symposium on “The Importance of Oscar Wilde”

Westport Country Playhouse will present a Sunday Symposium on “The Importance of Oscar Wilde,” on Sunday, November 2, following the 3 p.m. performance of Oscar Wilde’s comedy classic, “The Importance of Being Earnest,” a sparkling satire gleefully skewers love, marriage, and high society. Sunday Symposium guest will be John Waters, New York University professor. Moderator will be Mark Shanahan, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director. The discussion will be followed by an interactive dialogue with the audience. The Playhouse Sunday Symposium program is free and open to the public.

“As we open our wonderful production of ‘The Importance of Being Earnest,’ I’m excited to invite John Waters to speak with our audience about the legacy of Oscar Wilde and the ways in which his masterwork speaks to us today,” said Shanahan.

John Waters taught at Wake Forest University, the University of Notre Dame, and Louisiana State University before taking up a joint appointment in the English Department and the Irish Studies Program based at Glucksman Ireland House, New York University, where he was the founding director of the interdisciplinary MA in Irish and Irish-American studies. He currently teaches courses in Irish writing from the 17th century to the present, with a special emphasis on Irish modernism, Joyce, and Beckett, contemporary poetry, and Irish drama, as well as courses on exile and migration for the NYU College Core Program.

“The Importance of Being Earnest” runs from October 28 through November 15. Melissa Rain Anderson directs a cast of eight: Kristen Hahn as Cecily Cardew, Anthony Michael Martinez as Algernon Moncrieff, Jan Neuberger as Miss Prism, Christine Pedit as Lady Bracknell, Michael Raver as Jack Worthing, J.P., Triney Sandoval as Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D., Mark Silence as Merriman, Lane, and Katy Tang as Gwendolyn Fairfax.

The Sunday Symposium Series is supported, in part, by the White Barn Program of the Lucille Lortel Foundation. “The Importance of Being Earnest” Production Sponsors are Athena and Daniel Adamson, and Sunny and Jim Neff. Corporate Production Sponsor is Cohen and Wolf, P.C. Corporate Production Patron is RBC Wealth Management. Corporate Production Supporter is 3030 Park as Senior Living Hospitality Group. 2025 Opening Night Post-Show Reception Sponsor is RDM Financial Group at Hightower. 2025 Together at the Table Sponsors are Paige and Jodi Couture. 2025 Programming and Season Sponsor is Barbara Streicker. 2025 Media sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio.

For full details on “The Importance of Being Earnest,” visit: <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/show/the-importance-of-being-earnest/>

A complete schedule of Playhouse events is available at westportplayhouse.org. All play titles, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

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25 POWERS COURT WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE T (203) 227-5137 | BOX OFFICE T (203) 227-4177

westportplayhouse.org

For Westport Country Playhouse information and tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram (wcplayhouse), and YouTube (WestportPlayhouse). Westport Country Playhouse is located at 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport.

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