

OCTOBER 2024

# greet EAGLE

## INJURIES DO HAPPEN

ANA MAMANI-CHADD  
TREASURE VALLEY ROLLER DERBY



BY RESIDENT WRITER, FRANK NALEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LESLIE SCOTT (SCOTT STUDIOS)

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# What? Season Three?

## HOW CAN IT BE?!

BY RESIDENT, KATHRYN HENDRICKSEN



New Cast: L - R Dave Meadows (Lane), Jordan Bjorkman (Algernon), Jesse Bauder (Jack), Kimberly Bjorkman (Gwendolen), Sarah Wright (Lady Bracknell), Elaine Ambrose (Miss Prism), George Patterson (Rev. Chasuble), Melissa Brodhead (Cecily), Tim Schmidt (Merriman).

A whirlwind of creative energy has gone into producing 5 shows for Eagle Theatre Company (ETC) since January 2023. So much has been learned, and we continue the thrilling ride to bring you live entertainment! A small contingent of theatre enthusiasts, *everyone a volunteer*, plays a part in the success of each performance. That may sound dramatic, but it's true! From the directors and actors to the set crews, concession sellers, ushers, and greeters, every detail matters. Your experience matters. And it goes without saying, this theatre is for YOU!

Deborah Hertzog, President of the ETC Board of Directors, shared, "Many of us have been involved in theatre organizations across the country, and know the contribution theatre brings to the cultural arts of a city. We set out to make this happen for Eagle by starting the first community theatre. We have received generous support from the community through donors, sponsors, patrons, and volunteers, without whom the show would not go on!"

Our first production of the 2024/2025 season opens on November 1, with Oscar Wilde's classic farce "The Importance of Being Earnest". In January, we'll bring you a true story about the radium girls in "These Shining Lives." The season wraps up in April with a big-hearted show about family in "Southern Fried Funeral."

We sat down with Joseph Wright, the director of "The Importance of Being Earnest," and spoke to him about the play and his perspective on this classic.

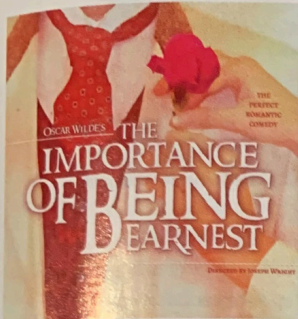
"It is an intriguing challenge directing such a well-known play as 'The Importance of Being Earnest.' The key, I believe, is that all these characters take themselves very seriously, even though they are in shallow and trivial circumstances. They must be played, well, *earnestly*, and not go for easy giggles. Wilde provides all the humor needed, and it works best when the actors portray these personalities as absolutely real. Some 48 years ago, when just a sprout at I.S.U., I played the role of Dr. Chasuble. If I knew then what I know now! There are secrets and foibles to be discovered in every character on stage."



What about a treasured character? Care to give us your thoughts without forcing you to divulge what you may feel is like naming your favorite child?

"The easy favorite is Lady Bracknell, thanks to Dame Edith Evans (English actor who played the role on stage) and her "A HAND-bag?" quip, but her appearances are actually rather brief. I like the journey that John "Jack"

Worthing undertakes, living a wealthy life but always in doubt of his origins and perhaps overcompensating for lack of true peerage of the realm (possibly thinking he's not aristocratically "worthy"). When he discovers he is not the orphan he believed himself to be, he steps fully into the dignity and circumstance that he always longed for."



This is your second time directing for Eagle Theatre Company. What brings you back?

"ETC is a black box venue, which for a director means the challenge to simplify, simplify, simplify. Why have 3 chairs on stage when two will do? Why plant a garden when a whimsical flowerpot will represent all flowers and all gardens? It gives the actors a chance to shine in telling the story, and I grew up with stories! In black box, the purity of narrative takes center stage, and if I've done my encouragement as a director with success, the actors will take the audience right along with them, whichever fantastical tale must be told."



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- John Paul J.

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