THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Character Breakdown

**John “Jack” Worthing, J.P., aka Ernest, early 30’s,** is a wealthy young gentleman who takes life seriously. He’s a friend of Algernon whose behavior he sometimes deplores. John is Cecily’s guardian and is in love with Gwendolen Fairfax.

**Algernon Moncrieff, early 30’s,** is the brilliantly witty and blithely selfish nephew of Lady Bracknell and cousin to Gwendolen Fairfax. He’s Ernest’s (John/Jack’s) best friend. He’s in love with Cecily Cardew.

**Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax, early 20’s,** is Algernon’s young, aristocratic and charmingly superficial cousin and Lady Bracknell’s daughter. She’s in love with John/Jack/Ernest.

**Lady Bracknell, 55 +,** is domineering, cunning, mercenary and snobbish. She’s Gwendolen’s mother, and she means to see her daughter well-married. A formidable woman, Lady Bracknell is used to having her own way in all ways. (This role has been cast)

**Cecily Cardew, early 20’s,** is a young woman given to romantic fantasies and intrigued by the wickedness of Jack’s brother. She is the simpler, more innocent country girl to Gwendolyn’s sophisticated city girl.

**Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. (Doctor of Divinity), 55 +,** is the pleasant rector on John/Jack’s estate and has a crush on Miss Prism.

**Miss Prism, 50 +,** is Cecily’s pedantic governess. She’s somewhat puritanical, but her softer side leans toward Dr. Chasuble. She once wrote an important novel.

**Merriman, 30 – 50’s,** is the butler at Jack’s country estate.

**Lane, 30 – 40’s,** is Algernon’s manservant.