

Mimes Start In 'Earnest' Tonight

by Carol Coyne

The Mimes and Mummies will present their production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, one of the greatest farces in the English language, on November 29 and 30, and December 1, 6, 7, and 8. This highly stylized comedy pokes fun at conventional values and celebrates Wilde's own ideas about life.

The Mimes will stage *The Importance of Being Earnest* keeping the importance of style in mind. "Our interpretation attempts to bring out the basic element of Wilde's wit and his sense of elegance," commented Steve Love, who plays the lead role in the Mimes' production. "Wilde brings his wit through in dialogue rather than in action."

Rather than attempt to recreate perfectly an elegant drawing room of a nineteenth-century manor house, the set of this production will be impressionistic. The suggested elegance of the set serves as a backdrop for

Wilde's elegant words.

Players will speak with British accents and imitate the formal posture characteristic of plays of the period—the nineteenth century.

Wilde originally wrote *The Importance of Being Earnest* as a four-act play, although he cut the play to three acts before its original performance. The Mimes will perform the three-act version, although the director, Terry Bronckbank, has added some excerpts from the longer version to make the plot more comprehensible.

Bronckbank, a Briton with considerable experience in the theater, also directed the Mimes' *Five Finger Exercise* two years ago.

Steve Love will play Jack. Love has played in other Mimes productions, including *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Pippin*, and *Five Finger Exercise*, in which he played Clyde. Michael Healy, who played *Gildenstern* in *Rosencrantz and Gildenstern Are Dead*, will play Algernon. Mary Ellen Gordon will make her debut with the Mimes as Lady Bracknell. Also in the production are: Gabrielle Sorapure as Gwendolyn, Julie Scott as Cecily, Mary Dunne as Miss Prism, Barry Welter as Dr. Chasbule, Mitch Chimenti as Lane, and Andy Stefany as Merriman.

All performances begin at 8 P.M. in Collins Auditorium. Admission is \$1.50 for students, \$2 for all others. Martyrs' Houses D, E, and F, as well as Spellman and 555, will be admitted without charge.