



April 2021

## MAD Play-Reading Group: Second Production Audition Information

MAD's first play-reading was a rousing success with nearly 500 people viewing it on YouTube. (If you missed it, the link is still available on the MAD site.) So, we're planning a second play-reading.



### *Lady Windermere's Fan*

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Randy Barth – Produced by Jon Gardner

To participate (including Sherlock participants), fill in [the audition form](#) no later than Monday, April 26.

Public reading will be Saturday, May 22 at 8pm, viewable via YouTube.

“Lady Windermere’s Fan” is similar in style to Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest.” Once again the goal is on having fun participating though, given the popularity of Sherlock, we may encourage donations.

Casting for the play will be done through an online Google form. Auditionees are also asked to submit a video audition, selecting from the excerpts on the MAD site. Once the form is submitted, we will send you a link in an email you can use to upload your video. There will be about seven rehearsals (as was for Sherlock) during May leading up to the final public reading. All participation will be virtual over Zoom. Participation will count toward MAD non-voting member status.

To participate, please fill in the form online as soon as you can, but no later than Monday April 26. If you would like to participate in an offstage role or direct future play readings, you can indicate that on the form. The script is available from Amazon as either paperback or digital at [https://amazon.com/Lady-Windermere-Fan-Oscar-Wilde/dp/B08S9NB8HG/ref=sr\\_1\\_15?crid=2JW2L9B11G08M&dchild=1](https://amazon.com/Lady-Windermere-Fan-Oscar-Wilde/dp/B08S9NB8HG/ref=sr_1_15?crid=2JW2L9B11G08M&dchild=1). They also have a digital version of the complete works of Oscar Wilde (over 2000 pages) for \$1.99 at [https://amazon.com/Oscar-Wilde-Complete-Works-ebook/dp/B07HH94ZBH/ref=sr\\_1\\_4](https://amazon.com/Oscar-Wilde-Complete-Works-ebook/dp/B07HH94ZBH/ref=sr_1_4).

The story concerns Lady Windermere, who suspects that her husband is having an affair with another woman. She confronts him with it but although he denies it, he invites the other woman, Mrs. Erlynne, to his wife's birthday ball. Angered by her husband's supposed unfaithfulness, Lady Windermere decides to leave her husband for another lover. After discovering what has transpired, Mrs. Erlynne follows Lady Windermere and attempts to persuade her to return to her husband and in the course of this, Mrs. Erlynne is discovered in a compromising position. It is after that that her identity is revealed.

The play is witty, much like Earnest. We would do the reading as a period piece (turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), though will probably forego costuming attempts. There are 7 men and 7 women of a variety of ages. People of all races and ethnicities are welcome to audition. If you have questions contact [Randy.Barth@comcast.net](mailto:Randy.Barth@comcast.net).

**CHARACTERS** (age and gender of the actors will not necessarily match the characters)

**Lady Windermere** is 21 years old and has been married for two years to Lord Windermere, with whom she has a six-month-old son.

**Lord Windermere** is Lady Windermere's husband.

**Mrs. Erlynne** is a mysterious woman and there are all kinds of scandalous rumors about her past.

**Lord Darlington** is a gentleman who is generally believed to behave wickedly, though Lady Windermere thinks he's only pretending to be bad.

The **Duchess of Berwick** is a respectable older woman and friend of Lady Windermere's.

**Augustus** (nicknamed Tuppy) is an older gentleman and the brother of The Duchess of Berwick.

**Cecil Graham** is a young gentleman who attends the party and who seems to be a friend of Lord Windermere and the other men.

**Dumby** is another young gentleman who attends the party.

**Lady Plymdale** is a guest at the party. Though she's married, it's implied that Dumby is her lover.

**Agatha** is The Duchess of Berwick's daughter.

**Mr. Hopper** is a young Australian man who pursues Agatha.

**Parker** is Lord Windermere and Lady Windermere's butler.

**Lady Jedburgh** is Cecil Graham's aunt.

**Rosalie** is Lady Windermere's maid.

Other party guests: Lady Stutfield and Mrs. Cowper-Cowper and may be doubled with above characters.

More complete descriptions are available on the MAD site or at <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/lady-windermere-s-fan/characters>

## **MAD History Zoom Chat – April 23**

Please join us on Friday, April 23 at 7:30 pm for our next MAD history chat covering the decade of the 1970s. Randy Barth will host this Zoom session where we will share memories of MAD's founding decade through stories, photos, and videos. Contact Randy ([Randy.Barth@comcast.net](mailto:Randy.Barth@comcast.net)) by 7:00 to receive the Zoom link if you don't receive it earlier in the day.

## **MAD Board Adds New NVM Significant Participation Opportunities**

To obtain or renew Non-Voting Member (NVM) status, a guest or current NVM must show two instances of "significant participation" within the last 24 months according to MAD Bylaws. The Board is given some flexibility in considering what constitutes "significant participation," but our standing rules say "effort in support of a production, workshop, or other club activity on more than a single day" are clear examples. In light of the limited opportunities in 2020, the Board has moved that "participation in three virtual events (including Town Halls, MAD History Sessions, and other events designated by the EC)" will count as a single significant participation. NVM status allows individuals not qualified to be voting member to participate equally in all ways but voting on club business. NVM status expires on June 30 of the year following application. Applications can be made online on the member site at <https://madtheater.org/mem>.

## **Call for Participants of New MAD Team to Identify Scripts of Interest**

The MAD Board is looking for participants interested in searching for future play offerings. The plays may be used for future iterations of the Play Reading Group, live performances (post-COVID), or other opportunities not yet identified. The search should include a focus on diverse characters, diverse writers, and/or topics of cultural significance in current society. The participants can perform the search individually or can form their own sub-teams. If you are interested, please contact Tiffany ([tiffany.heyd@gmail.com](mailto:tiffany.heyd@gmail.com)).

## **MAD Board Meeting**

The next MAD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM via Zoom. All club members are welcome to attend. We plan to hold our board meetings in 2021 regularly on the second Thursday of the month. Please email [madboard@googlegroups.com](mailto:madboard@googlegroups.com) if you would like the Zoom link to attend.

## **MAD About Town**

**Dave Buckingham** will be appearing in Greenbelt Arts Center's Old Time Radio Series, in an episode of "The Black Ace." "A mysterious adventure hero with a colorful secret identity. Add in a sidekick for him to talk to. Make them defenders of justice. Give them a special weapon – a flying pal Whistler who only responds by whistling." Perhaps director Rikki Howie found a trombone player that could whistle? Tune in to find out! Coming April 25, 2021: <http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org/>

## **MAD Updates**

From **Bill Struthers**: Bill has some of Priscilla's soprano operatic audition books with cassettes containing the music (remember "Music Minus One"????). He would love to give them free to a good home! If anyone is interested, please email Bill at [billstruthers@verizon.net](mailto:billstruthers@verizon.net).

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