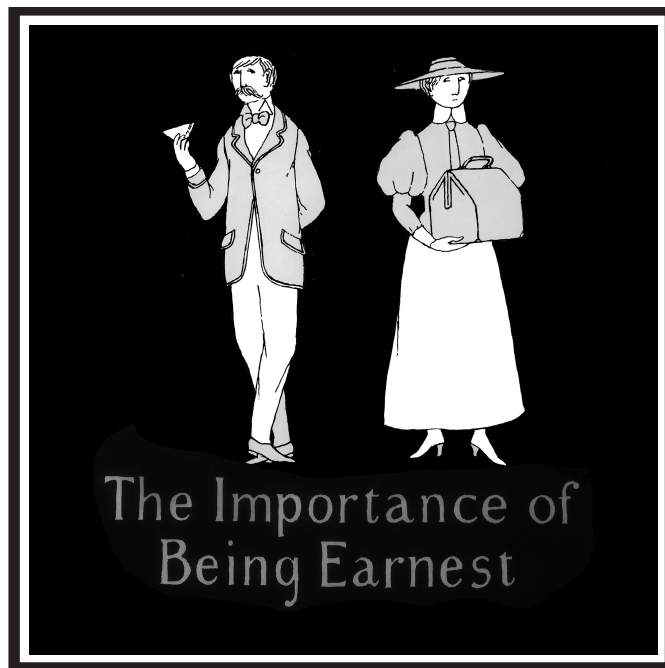


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Waterman's Community Center honors award-winning Broadway impresario John Wulp (1928-2018) with restaging of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.**

**Wulp's original performance of this timeless classic sparked an artistic revival on the island, leading to the founding of the Community Center.**

**North Haven, ME** –Waterman's Community Center is excited to announce the presentation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* from August 1 – 4, 2019. This witty and rollicking play was the first full-length production directed by John Wulp on North Haven island in 1996, sparking a renewed enthusiasm for the arts on the island.

John Wulp first arrived on the Fox Islands six-years after winning a Tony award in 1978 for his Broadway Production of *Dracula*. Wulp's remarkable drama program challenged, inspired, and enriched the lives of both year-round and summer communities on North Haven. Audiences were bewitched by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, charmed by *The Wind in the Willows*, and intrigued by *Waiting for Godot*. In 2002, Wulp and two-time Grammy nominee Cidny Bullens created *Islands: The Musical*, setting the poetry of island life to music. Wulp organized a one-night benefit performance on Broadway shortly after September 11<sup>th</sup>, sharing the message of the power of community with another island in need of hope. In an interview with PBS Wulp remarked, "Whoever thought that at the age of 70 on a little island off the coast of Maine I would find the company of my dreams?"

"Waterman's Community Center exists, in large part, thanks to John Wulp," says Executive Director Christie Hollowell. "John's early dramatic work on the island planted the seed that drama was something that could flourish on North Haven. Though the idea of building a Community Center which included a small theater wasn't John's alone, he was the driving force that brought the dream to fruition and the community of North Haven can be eternally thankful."

The 2019 reprisal of *The Importance of Being Earnest* will feature a cast of year round and summer residents] including original cast member Asa Pingree in a revival role as Jack Worthing. Stage Manager Meredith Perry and Costume Designer Kevin Koski join the production team from The Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor, ME. The original production included a playbill designed by Wulp's collaborator and friend Edward Gorey, which will be once again be used for this summer's production.

Island resident Adam Alexander will direct the play. Alexander worked with Wulp on over thirteen productions, including *Red Eye of Love*, by playwright Arnold Weinstein. Wulp won an Obie Award for his direction of the original production of *Red Eye*, staged in New York City in 1961. Alexander worked with Wulp on the musical adaptation, with lyrics and libretto by Wulp and Weinstein, and music by Sam Davis, which first premiered on North Haven before opening at the O'Neill Center in 2007 and eventually opening Off-Broadway in 2014 at the Amas Musical Theater in New York City. Alexander has also directed nine of his own productions at Waterman's Community Center.

John Wulp's remarkable career included numerous accolades and awards, including a Rockefeller Grant for his first play, *The Saintliness of Margery Kemp*, produced at the Poets' Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts on February 19, 1957. In addition to his Obie Award for *Red Eye of Love*, he also won a Tony Award for Best Revival for his production of *Dracula* in 1978, which starred Frank Langella, with set designs by Edward Gorey and opened at the Martin Beck Theatre on October 20, 1977. He received a Tony Award nomination and also won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Set Design for the 1979 production of *The Crucifer of Blood*. Wulp later went on to win an Outer Circle Critics Award and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award when the play was performed at the Royal Haymarket Theatre in London and at the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles. His other Broadway credits include *Passione*, *Bosoms and Neglect*, and *Gorey Stories*.

Waterman's Community Center owes John Wulp a debt for his passionate advocacy of the power of performance. He was—and is—an inspiration.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.watermans.org](http://www.watermans.org).

### **About Waterman's Community Center**

Waterman's Community Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on the beautiful island of North Haven, ME located 12 miles out in Penobscot Bay. The organization offers a wide range of programs and events for all ages serving the North Haven community, including after school programs, concerts, art exhibits, theater/dance productions, presentations, film screenings, Laugh & Learn preschool, summer camps, adult and teen workshops, and more.

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