

A vibrant, pink-themed collage. At the top left, the text "Oscar Wilde" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font. Below it, a large, multi-colored rainbow arches across the upper portion of the image. In the center, a black and white portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair and a serious expression is visible. The portrait is surrounded by various elements: a red butterfly, a pink masquerade mask with a feather, a sword, a large pink flower, a yellow flower, and a small pink flower. There are also smaller, less distinct elements like a star, a feather, and some text fragments. At the bottom, the word "ERNEST" is written in large, bold, black, serif capital letters. A large, thick, red 'X' is drawn over the word "ERNEST". The background is a solid, bright pink color with some faint, darker pink lines and textures.

book by Justin Elizabeth Sayre lyrics by Kait Kerrigan music by Bree Lowdermilk

STUDIO CAST RECORDING

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. BECOME YOURSELF SLOUCH, WINCE, ENSEMBLE
2. THE SOCIALS TODAY JAX, ALGY
3. WIDER SPECTRUM JAX
4. EARNEST LOVE..... GWYN, JAX
5. BORN WITH IT LADY BRACKNELL
6. OUT HERE CECILE
7. WILD CECILE, ALGY
8. TEA FIGHT CECILE, GWYN, SLOUCH, WINCE
9. TELL ME GWYN, JAX
10. BORN WITH IT (REPRISE) LADY BRACKNELL
11. WHAT A SHAME SLOUCH, LADY BRACKNELL
12. WIDER SPECTRUM (REPRISE) JAX, SLOUCH, ENSEMBLE
13. WORTHY JAX, GWYN, CECILE, ALGY, SLOUCH, WINCE, ENSEMBLE
14. X MARKS THE SPOT JAX, GWYN, CECILE, ALGY, SLOUCH, WINCE, ENSMBLE

15. WIDER SPECTRUM (BONUS TRACK) ARI NOTARTOMASO
16. WILD (BONUS TRACK) JESSE JAMES ROSE & ANANIA
17. TELL ME (BONUS TRACK) KRYSTA RODRIGUEZ & ANDY MIENTUS
18. BORN WITH IT (BONUS TRACK) JAY ARMSTRONG JOHNSON
19. OUT HERE (BONUS TRACK) RYAN MCCARTAN



LINER NOTE

As Wilde wrote, “To love oneself is to begin a lifelong romance,” and in creating this new version of *Ernest*, we’re hoping to help everyone who steps into this space to begin that journey for themselves. By opening Wilde’s original up to gender expansive casting, we’ve made it possible for any actor to play the role that best suits them. On its face, it doesn’t sound like all that revolutionary of an idea, does it? And yet, in the very gendered world of musical theatre, it’s extremely rare to have a single role not written on the binary, let alone an entire cast. We’re writing an *Ernst* for our modern day.

Yet we don’t leave Wilde behind. You’ll still hear the signature wit, and you’ll also hear about Wilde himself. In one of our early workshops, this became poignantly evident. In the summer of 2022, we went to the International Thespian Festival to work with a truly talented group of young actors. Over the course of one week, we workshoped the show. On our last day, right before we were to perform, I spoke to the cast about what the show, their work, and Wilde meant to me. I told the cast that when *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuted on Valentine’s Day in 1895, it was immediately hailed as a masterpiece, but a week later, Wilde found himself in court defending his life. Homosexuality was illegal in the United Kingdom in the 19th Century, and after three disastrous trials, Wilde was eventually found guilty of “Gross Indecency,” and sentenced to two years hard labor. At the height of his powers, Wilde had gone from the most celebrated writer of his day to a reviled figure hated by the society he so ruthlessly skewered in his play. Wilde’s fall reminds me of the sacrifice and bravery so many queer people have faced to give me the life that I enjoy today. When I told the cast about Wilde, many seemed genuinely shocked. They hadn’t known about Wilde’s trial, or what he had suffered. Suddenly the importance of the piece came into view, and Bree and Kait both urged me to make this speech part of the show. In making a space that was open to all, we were also making space for Oscar.

Now we’re presenting the thrilling score of this piece to the wider world for the first time, highlighting a whole host of Broadway’s best and brightest. From J. Harrison Ghee to the show-stopping Beth Leavel, we’re releasing our *Ernst*, a work which celebrates Wilde, but also celebrates every actor, singer, and dancer who steps into these roles. We’re creating a space where everyone can be seen, heard, and even fall in love. Because we writers knew each other back then, when we were young and the world felt too small to contain all our multitudes. Now, thanks to Concord’s initiative, we have created a gift from a bunch of older bigger theatre kids to a whole host of new ones. We hope you find the funny, the joy, and the love in this piece, and to know that no matter how or who you show up as, Wilde and the rest of us are standing beside you, cheering you on to be exactly and brilliantly who you are.

— JUSTIN ELIZABETH SAYRE

CAST

Jax..... J. HARRISON GHEE
Algy.....BONNIE MILLIGAN
Cecile..... JOY WOODS
Gwyn..... ANNA ZAVELSON
Lady Bracknell..... BETH LEAVEL
Wince.....JEFF HILLER
Slouch..... WREN RIVERA

“Wider Spectrum” Bonus Track..... ARI NOTARTOMASO
“Wild” Bonus Track JESSE JAMES ROSE & ANANIA
“Tell Me” Bonus TrackKRYSTA RODRIGUEZ & ANDY MIENTUS
“Born With It” Bonus Track..... JAY ARMSTRONG JOHNSON
“Out Here” Bonus Track RYAN MCCARTAN

“WILDES” ENSEMBLE

ANSON BAGLEY • AMANDA BAUGH • MICHELLE BOOTHE • ROSS BOOTHE
HANNAH DALLEY • LIBBY FERGUSON • KYLE HARPER • KAYLEE KARLSVEN
ALEC POWELL • DAN VANORMER • HALEY WAWRO
SEAN PATRICK FLAHAVEN • ZACHARY ORTS • ALI TESLUK CASE
KAIT KERRIGAN • BREE LOWDERMILK • JUSTIN ELIZABETH SAYRE
ARI NOTARTOMASO • KRYSTA RODRIGUEZ • ANDY MIENTUS • JAY ARMSTRONG JOHNSON

Ensemble Vocal Direction ROSS BOOTHE

MUSICIANS

Drums.....	SHANE JONES
Keys.....	JEREMY SHOWGREN
Guitar.....	CHRIS HALES
Bass.....	CRAIG NIELSON
Violin.....	HUGH PALMER
Cello.....	AUSTIN HOKE
Music Supervisor	ZACHARY ORTS
Arrangements, Vocal Arrangements, and Orchestrations	BREE LOWDERMILK
Additional Orchestrations	DÉA THATCHER
Electronic Music Production.....	BREE LOWDERMILK
Music Preparation	JEREMY ROBIN LYONS & DÉA THATCHER
Additional Music Preparation.....	VAHEED TALEBIAN



1. BECOME YOURSELF

WILLS

"I am not young enough to know everything."

O'FLAHERTIE

"True friends stab you in the front."

WILDE

"I can resist everything except temptation."

FINGAL

"The only difference between a sinner and a saint is...

...Every saint has a past

WILLS

...And every sinner has a future."

O'FLAHERTIE

"We are all of us in the gutter..."

SPERANZA

...But some of us are looking up at the stars."

WINCE

Good evening, gentles all.

SLOUCH

Welcome to the theat-RE.

WINCE

Excuse me?

SLOUCH

I say it with the R-E to be more sophisticated.

WINCE

Tonight, we celebrate the work of –

OSCAR

Oscar

FINGAL

Fingal

O'FLAHERTIE

O'Flahertie

WILLS

Wills

WILDE

Wilde.

OSCAR

The poet,

FINGAL

Playwright,

O'FLAHERTIE

Novelist, and

WILLS

Lover of...

WINCE

Green carnations.

SLOUCH

Green carnations? That's a little queer, isn't it?

WINCE

You have no idea.

SLOUCH

WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE LOW
AND THE DOOR'S SHUT TIGHT
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR SPACE
YOU CAN FIND YOUR LIGHT

WINCE

Slouch!

SLOUCH

I'm sorry, but it's all so wonderful!

WINCE

As it's meant to be. Stop gawping and come along.

SLOUCH

OH OH.

WILDE

WITH ITS STYLE GENTILE

FINGAL

AND ITS MANNERS MILD

WILLS

COMES THE GAYEST LARK

WILDES

FROM THE PEN OF WILDE

SLOUCH

I feel like that's meant to say something.

WINCE

It did. But you aren't.

OH OH.

SLOUCH

LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT.
IF THE SHOE FITS,
BREAK IT IN

WILDES

NO ONE WILL KNOW IF IT'S YOUR MAKEUP OR
YOUR NATURAL GLOW.

WINCE

Let's go!

WILDES

BECOME, BECOME, BECOME YOURSELF.

SLOUCH

THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOUR SELF.
YOU'RE MAKING RAINBOWS FROM YOURSELF.

WILDES

BECOME, BECOME
YEAH, EV'RYONE,
BECOME, BECOME,
BECOME YOURSELF.

WINCE

Tonight, we present Wilde's masterwork.
The Importance of Being...
SLOUCH!

SLOUCH

What did I do?

WINCE

The sign reads "The importance of being
'Ernixt'"?"Ernext"? One barely knows how to
pronounce the thing without succumbing to the
guttural. Why was I not alerted to this error?

SLOUCH

Oh, because I did it on purpose. You know, X?
The unknown. X marks the spot. Who's Ernest? I
don't know. Spooky.

WINCE

I shall deal with you later.

O'FLAHERTIE

WHEN THE TEA IS POURED
IN THE PARLOR ROOM,

WILLS

THOUGH THE TONE IS LIGHT

SLOUCH

FEEL THE TENSION LOOM

WINCE

The year is 1893, in a fashionable part of London.
In the sitting room of Algy Moncrieff.

OSCAR & SPERANZA

OH, OH.

SLOUCH

SUCH A FASHION PLATE

WINCE

OH SO DIGNIFIED

SLOUCH

HIDING GAMBLING DEBTS

WINCE

WITH A BOAST OF PRIDE.

ALGY

Oh, I'm so naughty!

WILDES

OH, OH!
LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT.
IF THE SHOE FITS,
BREAK IT IN.
NO ONE WILL KNOW

WINCE

WHAT'S BEHIND THE MASK –

SLOUCH

OR SCENIC TABLEAU.

ALL

OH!

ALGY

HEIGH HO!

ALL

BECOME, BECOME, BECOME YOURSELF.
THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOUR SELF.
YOU'RE MAKING RAINBOWS FROM YOURSELF.

SLOUCH

BECOME BECOME
BECOME.

ALL (EXCEPT SLOUCH)

EV'RYONE, BECOME.
BECOME, YEAH BECOME.

JAX

BECOME YOURSELF.

WINCE

Enter Ernest Worthing, a young person of
excellent character...if slightly faulty pedigree.

SLOUCH

But oh so dreamy.

JAX

That's very sweet, but I'm merely myself.

WINCE

Or that's what you'd like us to think. Come along,
Slouch

ALL

A COSTUME DRAMA SET
IN EIGHTEEN NINETY-THREE
OPENS UP THE WORLD
OF WHO WE USED TO BE.
THE DRESSES AND THE SUITS,
VICTORIAN AND QUEER.
OUR LIES BELIE A TRUTH
THAT'S HIDING
UNDER THE VENEER.

WINCE

We present this paragon of wit, satire...

SLOUCH

And the course of true love!

ALL

TIME FOR THE SHOW TO START.

WINCE

Places, everyone!

ALL

PLAY YOUR PART

SLOUCH

LIGHTS UP! LOOK SMART!

ALL

BECOME, BECOME, BECOME YOURSELF.
THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOUR SELF.
YOU'RE MAKING RAINBOWS FROM YOURSELF.
BECOME, BECOME
NOW, EV'RYONE –

WINCE

WELL, NOT EV'RYONE –

ALL
OH YES! EV'RYONE!

**OSCAR, FINGAL
& SPERANZA**
BECOME, BECOME
OH, BECOME YOURSELF.
FOR YOUR SELF.

WILDES
BECOME, BECOME
BECOME, YOURSELF
THE WORLD IS WAITING

ALL
YOU'RE MAKING RAINBOWS FROM YOURSELF
BECOME,

WINCE
SMILES ALWAYS BRIGHT.

ALGY
OH!

WINCE
PINKIES ALWAYS OUT.

ALGY & JAX
OH!

SLOUCH
SANDWHICHES ALWAYS... CUCMBER?

ALL
BECOME,
BECOME,
BECOME...

WINCE
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING...

ALL
YOURSELF!
OH OH.

WINCE
And scene!

2. THE SOCIALS TODAY

ALGY
Nothing will induce me to part with Bunbury!
They're some of the most fun I have!
SEE I DROPPED BY A DANCE LAST NIGHT,
LEFT MY CARD
WITH A NOTE
FOR THE HOST
STOLE A GLANCE,
STOLE A DANCE,
I DO FANCY A CHAMPAGNE TOAST.

THEN THE NIGHT
COULD BEGIN.
AUREVOIR.
HELLO SIN.
I'M A KNAVE.
SO I'LL SAVE ALL THE REST FOR MY MEMOIR.
THE RUMOR MILL STARTS CHURNING

SPERANZA
SO YOU NEED A PROPER COVER.

ALGY
THE SOCIAL SET IS YEARNING
FOR THE SCANDAL
OF A LIFE OR LOVER

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS
THROW YOUR HANDS UP
THE WORLD'LL HANG ON
CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS.

BANG ON!
FLAGRANTLY FLOUT
THE RULES ON DISPLAY.

ALGY
CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS.

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS
HEY, HEY,
UH-UH-UH-OH,
UH-UH-UH-OH,

ALGY
CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS TODAY
You see, with Bunbury, I can maintain the good
graces of society while allowing myself the
freedom to do anything I please!

JAX
I am a serious person, Algy. And serious people
don't need a Bunbury. Especially when they plan
to marry.

ALGY
Marriage is the perfect time for a Bunbury! You
don't seem to realize that in married life, three is
company and two is none.

JAX
What's four?

ALGY
Just getting started!

WHEN THE WORLD TRIES TO PIN YOU DOWN
ON THE HOOK

JAX
YOUR BLACK BOOK
IS TOO THICK?

ALGY
YOU DEMUR

JAX
YOU FLÂNEUR?

ALGY
I DEFER TO MY FAKE SIDEKICK.

BUNBURYING PALS
IT'S THE TRICK.

ALGY

HAVE AN OUT,
HAVE SOME FUN

BUNBURYING PALS

HIT AND RUN.

ALGY

EXIT GAME.

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

GOTTA BLAME YOUR
FAREWELL ON SOMEONE.

JAX

THE RUMOR MILL STARTS CHURNING

ALGY

TIME TO MAKE AN IRISH EXIT?

JAX

THE SOCIAL SET IS YEARNING

ALGY

AND A LITTLE TOO MUCH CANDOR WRECKS IT.

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

THROW YOUR HANDS UP,
THE WORLD'LL HANG ON

JAX

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS.

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

BANG ON,
FLAGRANTLY FLOUT
THE RULES ON DISPLAY.

ALGY & JAX

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS.

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

HEY, HEY,
UH-UH-UH-OH,
UH-UH-UH-OH,

ALGY, JAX & BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS
TODAY.

BUNBURYING PALS

HEY, HEY, HEY,
HEY, HEY, HEY

OSCAR

FANCY HIGH TEA AT FIVE?

ALGY

BUT MY FRIEND'S JUST ARRIVED!

BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP!

WILLS

I'VE A BOX AT THE OP'RA

ALGY

MY FRIEND'S IN THE VODKA.

BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP!

FINGAL

CAN WE MEET FOR CROQUET?

ALGY

MY FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY'S TODAY!

WILDE

WE COULD GRILL

ALGY

MY FRIEND'S ILL.

SPERANZA

POKER GAME?

ALGY

HE'S GONE LAME!

BUNBURYING PALS

YOU'RE TOO KIND!

ALGY

I'M RESIGNED.

BUNBURYING PALS

OH

ALGY

PLUS IT GETS ME OUT OF EV'RY

BUNBURYING PALS

OH

ALGY

BIND!

BUNBURYING PALS

THE RUMOR MILL STARTS CHURNING

ALGY

LITTLE BIRDIES HAVE TO TWITTER.

BUNBURYING PALS

THE SOCIAL SET IS TURNING

ALGY

BOTTOM'S UP BEFORE THEIR SWILL GETS
BITTER.

Why be so many people, when there's so much
fun to be had as yourself!

ALGY

THROW YOUR HANDS UP,
THE WORLD'LL HANG ON

BUNBURYING PALS

OH

BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS.

ALGY

CRACK ON,

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

FAFFING ABOUT,
GET CARRIED AWAY.

JAX

CAN'T KEEP UP!

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP

CAN'T KEEP –

WILDES

THROW YOUR HANDS UP

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

THE WORLD'LL HANG ON

BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SOCIALS.

ALGY

BANG ON!

BUNBURYING PALS

FLAGRANTLY FLOUT

THE RULES ON DISPLAY.

HEY, HEY, HEY.

ALGY

HEY, HEY, HEY.

BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE.

SOCIALS.

HEY, HEY,

UH-UH-UH-OH

UH-UH-UH-OH,

OH

ALGY

CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE.

SOCIALS.

BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP UP

ALGY & BUNBURYING PALS

CAN'T KEEP CAN'T KEEP UP

TODAY!

3. WIDER SPECTRUM

JAX

SOME WOULD SAY

A MAN'S FACE IS THEIR AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A WOMAN'S FACE IS THEIR WORK OF FICTION

AND MY FACE – MY FACE – MY FACE IS...

ON A WIDER SPECTRUM

NEITHER EITHER OR

CHASING SOMETHING TRUE

BARELY SHINING THROUGH

FOLLOWING AN INSTINCT TO AN UNMARKED

DOOR,

TO A WIDER SPECTRUM

HARDLY EVEN SEEN

SLINKING IN SO THIN

WARMING UP THE SKIN

PROVING THERE'S A WORLD WITHIN WHAT'S IN

BETWEEN

WILDES

WHAT IF YOU OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW?

COME ON AND OPEN

LIKE A RAINBOW

JAX

SOME WOULD SAY

A MAN'S LIFE IS THEIR

TOTAL AUTONOMY

A WOMAN'S LIFE IS A CONTRADICTION

AND MY LIFE – MY LIFE –

MY LIFE IS...

ON A WIDER SPECTRUM

STRETCHING OUT A HAND

REACHING FOR A SKY

DREAMING I CAN FLY

SOMEWHERE I CAN MEET SOMEONE WHO'LL

UNDERSTAND.

WILDES

AND IF I OPEN LIKE A

RAINBOW

JAX

AND IF I OPEN LIKE A

RAINBOW

WILDES

IF I COULD OPEN LIKE A

RAINBOW

JAX

IF I COULD OPEN LIKE A

RAINBOW

WILDES

WILL SOMEONE OPEN

LIKE A RAINBOW

JAX

WILL SOMEONE OPEN

LIKE A RAINBOW

WILDES

COME ON AND

OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW –

TO ME

WITH ME

JAX

OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW –

TO LAUGH, TO LEAP,

TO RUSH IN LIKE A TIDE

TO BRACE, TO BREATHE,

TO BLUSH IN THE

EVER EXPANDING

EVER WIDER SPECTRUM

WHAT A WORLD TO SEE!

WHAT COULD BE MAY BE.

EVERY PEDIGREE

ALL OF US STILL ACHING

STRETCHING OUT AND WAKING

ALL SET FREE

WILDES

AND WE CAN OPEN LIKE
A RAINBOW
THE WORLD CAN OPEN
LIKE A RAINBOW
AND WE CAN OPEN LIKE
LIKE A RAINBOW
THE WORLD CAN OPEN
IKE A RAINBOW
OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW
OH

JAX

WILL SOMEONE OPEN LIKE
A RAINBOW WITH ME?
WILL SOMEONE OPEN LIKE
A RAINBOW WITH ME?
SOMEONE OPEN LIKE A
RAINBOW
OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW
OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW

4. EARNEST LOVE

JAX

You don't really mean to say you couldn't love me
if my name wasn't Ernest?

GWYN

LOVE BY ANY OTHER NAME, DEAR ONE, IS IT
EVEN LOVE AT ALL?

WILDES

WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

GWYN

LIKE A MOTH DRAWN TO A FLAME, DEAR ONE,
WHEN I SAY YOUR NAME, I FALL.

WILDES

WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

GWYN & WILDES

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

GWYN

I WAS MEANT TO FIND YOU.

GWYN & WILDES

ANYWHERE YOU ARE,
I'LL BE THERE BY YOU.

GWYN

I FEEL NEW

GWYN & WILDES

VIBRATIONS UNDER MY SKIN.

GWYN

I FEEL

GWYN & WILDES

A NEW HEAT SETTLIN' IN
I'M IN

GWYN

EARNEST, EARNEST

GWYN & WILDES

EARNEST LOVE.

JAX

WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

GWYN

EARNEST EARNEST

GWYN & WILDES

EARNEST LOVE

JAX

WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

But what of the name Jax?

GWYN & WILDES

Jax?

GWYN

No, there is very little music in the name Jax. The
only really safe name is Ernest.

JAX

CALL ME ANYTHING YOU WANT, SWEETHEART.
I'M A JACK OF ANY TRADE

WILDES

WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

GWYN

ONLY ONE NAME FOR MY LOVE, SWEETHEART
EVERY OTHER'S A CHARADE.

WILDES

WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

JAX & GWYN

WRITTEN IN THE STARS.
I WAS MEANT TO FIND YOU.
ANYWHERE YOU ARE
I'LL BE THERE BY YOU.

JAX

I FEEL NEW

WILDES

OH

JAX & WILDES

VIBRATIONS UNDER MY SKIN.

GWYN

I FEEL

JAX, GWYN & WILDES

A NEW HEAT SETTLIN' IN.
I'M IN

JAX
EARNEST, EARNEST,

JAX, GWYN & WILDES
EARNEST LOVE.

GWYN
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

JAX & GWYN
EARNEST, EARNEST,

JAX, GWYN & WILDES
EARNEST LOVE.

JAX
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.
WHOA-OH-OH-OH.

GWYN
TAKE MY HAND,

JAX & WILDES
EARNEST, EARNEST,
EARNEST LOVE.

GWYN
AND GET DOWN ON ONE KNEE WHEN YOU
PROPOSE!

JAX
YOU MEAN NOW?
JUST PROPOSE TO YOU RIGHT NOW?

GWYN
ONLY IF YOU WANT A PERFECT ROSE.

WILDES
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!
THIS IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!
RING?

JAX
YES!

WILDES
FLOWERS?

JAX
YES!

WILDES
READY?

GWYN
YES!

JAX
WILL YOU?

GWYN
YES!

JAX
MARRY ME?

ALL (EXCEPT JAX)
YES! YES! YES!

ALL
WRITTEN IN THE STARS.
I WAS MEANT TO FIND YOU.
ANYWHERE YOU ARE
I'LL BE THERE BY YOU

GWYN
I FEEL NEW
VIBRATIONS UNDER MY SKIN.

JAX
I FEEL
THE NEW HEAT SETTLIN' IN.

GWYN, JAX & WILDES
WE'RE IN
EARNEST, EARNEST, EARNEST LOVE

GWYN
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.

JAX
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.

GWYN, JAX & WILDES
EARNEST, EARNEST, EARNEST LOVE

GWYN
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.

JAX
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.

WILDES
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.

JAX
LOVE BY ANY OTHER NAME, DEAR ONE.

JAX & GWYN
IS IT REALLY LOVE AT ALL?

WILDES
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.
WOAH-OH-OH-OH.

5. BORN WITH IT

LADY BRACKNELL
You may be seated, Ernest Worthing.
I shall sit amongst my antecedents. Family being
the only true wealth in this world.

JAX
So I have been told, Lady Bracknell.

LADY BRACKNELL
Yes, by myself. Just now.
BORN TO BE
ENVIED.

YOU KNOW THIS GRADE OF SASS WON'T QUIT.
I LOVE IT.
I NEED THE DRAMA OF IT.
I'M A CLASSIC.
I GOT MORE STOCK THAN MY ESTATE.
YOU WANTED TOTAL CANDOR,
MY STYLE IS MORE MEANDER.
MAKE. YOU. WAIT.
LEISURE'S MY SUIT,
TIME IS NO OBJECT.
STILL AT THE ROOT
YOU HAVE NO PROSPECTS.
CHARMED THOUGH I AM,
YOUR UNBRIDLED HOPE IS QUAIN'T.

PORTRAITS
CUZ HONEY YOU AIN'T

LADY BRACKNELL
BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS
SING IT AGAIN.

LADY BRACKNELL
BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS
CUZ WE KNOW WHEN

ALL
YOU'RE
BORN WITH IT.

LADY BRACKNELL
I GOT MY GRANDMOTHER'S NOSE
FOR THE STENCH OF THE CLIMB.
YOU GOT A NOBODY NOSE
FROM AN UNKNOWN LINE.

PORTRAITS
SURVEY SAYS:

LADY BRACKNELL
"NOT BORN WITH IT."

PORTRAITS
LOUDER FOR THE MEZZ.

LADY BRACKNELL
"YOU'RE NOT BORN WITH IT."

PORTRAITS
NO-NO-NO NO

LADY BRACKNELL
YOU GOT A NOBODY NOSE.

PORTRAITS
NO-NO-NO NOSE

LADY BRACKNELL
NOBODY KNOWS

So, Worthing, I have always been of the opinion
that one who desires to get married should know
either everything or nothing. Which do you know?

JAX
I know nothing, Lady Bracknell.

LADY BRACKNELL
Good. Ignorance is like a delicate exotic fruit, touch
it and the bloom is gone. Tell me of your parents.

JAX
I have lost both my parents.

LADY BRACKNELL
To lose one parent, Ernest Worthing, may be
regarded as a misfortune to lose both looks like
carelessness.
YOUR PAST IS
BAGGAGE.
NO DOUBT THE BRAND IS COUNTERFEIT.
NO MERIT.
THE MEEK WILL NOT INHERIT
ANY DIAMONDS.
YOU CAN'T TURN WATER INTO WINE.
AND NOW YOU WANT TO SELL IT?
WELL COME IN CLOSE I'LL TELL IT:
YOU'RE MOONSHINE.

PORTRAITS
WE'RE READIN' THE SIGN!

LADY BRACKNELL
"NOT BORN WITH IT."

PORTRAITS
SING IT IN FRENCH.

LADY BRACKNELL
NE ENFANT AISE!

PORTRAITS
BACK ON THE BENCH!

LADY BRACKNELL
I'M BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS
SHE'S GOT HER GRANDMOTHER'S TASTE
FOR THE FAMILY WINE.
YOU GOT A NOBODY FACE
FROM AN UNKNOWN LINE.

LADY BRACKNELL
NEVER DOUBT

PORTRAITS
SHE'S BORN WITH IT

LADY BRACKNELL
THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT

ALL
I'M BORN WITH IT

LADY BRACKNELL
Thank you.

PORTRAITS
NO-NO-NO NO

JAX
The fact is, Lady Bracknell, I said I had lost my
parents. I would be nearer the truth to say my
parents seem to have lost me... I was...well found.
In a handbag.

LADY BRACKNELL
A HANDBAG??

JAX
Yes, Lady Bracknell. A somewhat large, black,
ordinary handbag –

LADY BRACKNELL
In what locality was this “ordinary handbag” to be
found?

JAX
At the cloak room of Victoria Station.

LADY BRACKNELL
Ernest Worthing, how could you imagine that I
would ever allow my dearest Gwyn to be joined
in matrimony to nothing more than a parcel?

LADY BRACKNELL
YOUR RATTY BAG
IS YOUR OWN BUS'NESS
RICHES TO RAGS
WILL NOT BUY KISSES
THOUGH TO BE FAIR,
I'M MOVED BY YOUR HEARTFELT BID...

PORTRAITS
BUT HEAVEN FORBID!

LADY BRACKNELL
NOT BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS
BREAKIN' IT DOWN!

LADY BRACKNELL
YOU'RE NOT BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS
GET OUT OF TOWN!

LADY BRACKNELL
I'M BORN WITH IT!

PORTRAITS
SHE'S GOT HER
GRANDMOTHER'S NOSE
FOR THE STENCH OF
THE CLIMB.
YOU GOT A –

LADY BRACKNELL.
Actually, could you just come a little bit closer –
well. Hm. Interesting. Yes...
YOU GOT A NOBODY NOSE?

PORTRAITS
NOBODY NOSE!

LADY BRACKNELL
NOBODY KNOWS

PORTRAITS
MAYBE SHE'S,
MAYBE SHE'S,
MAYBE SHE'S,
MAYBE SHE'S,

LADY BRACKNELL
BORN WITH IT.

6. OUT HERE

CECILE
RUN OUT TO THE WILDS OF THESE
UNCHARTED WOODS,
OUT WHERE YOU CAN HIDE FROM THESE
UNHOLY RULES.
BRAND SPANKING NEW, BABE,
BREATHE IN THAT COLD AIR.
HEAD TO THE FOREST,
SEE WHAT YOU FIND THERE
WRITING DOWN THE CERTAIN TRUTH THAT
SPINS FROM LIES.
SCRIBBLE DOWN THE WORDS MOST SURE TO
SCANDALIZE.
DARE LIKE A DEVIL
AND MAKE AN ART OF IT.

SHOOT LIKE AN ARROW
STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF IT.
WRITE IT ALL DOWN
SO YOU NEVER FORGET,
NEVER FORGET. MM
WRITE IT ALL DOWN
SO YOU NEVER FORGET,
NEVER FORGET.
LIFE COULD START RIGHT NOW.
OUT HERE, OUT HERE, OUT HERE
THE FIELDS ARE ENDLESS,
THE TREES ARE ENDLESS.
OUT HERE, OUT HERE, OUT HERE
YOU'RE RUNNING BREATHLESS,
EVER-RESTLESS
PRAYING THAT SOMETHING WILL APPEAR.
IS ANYONE ELSE OUT HERE?

BREAK OUT FROM THE TIES THAT BIND BEHIND
FOUR WALLS
FREEING UP THE MIND THAT WINDS IN SUDDEN
SQUALLS.
SHINE LIKE YOU'RE BURNING
TO LIGHT A BONFIRE.
CHASING A VISION
THAT SETS YOUR SIGHTS HIGHER.
WRITE IT ALL DOWN
SO YOU NEVER FORGET,
NEVER FORGET. AHH.
WRITE IT ALL DOWN
SO YOU NEVER FORGET,
NEVER FORGET.
SECURE YOUR FATE RIGHT NOW.
OUT HERE, OUT HERE, OUT HERE
THE WORDS ARE ENDLESS,
THE PAGES ENDLESS.
OUT HERE, OUT HERE, OUT HERE
YOU'RE RUNNING BREATHLESS,
EVER-RESTLESS
PRAYING THAT SOMETHING WILL APPEAR.
IS ANYONE ELSE OUT HERE?
READY, SET, GO
DONE WITH DAYDREAMING.
READY TO KNOW
WHO CAN HEAR ME SCREAMING.
OUT HERE, OUT HERE, OUT HERE

THE HOURS ARE ENDLESS.
THE DAYS ARE ENDLESS
OUT HERE, OUT HERE, OUT HERE
I'M RUNNING BREATHLESS
EVER-RESTLESS
WONDERS NEVER CEASE.
DAYDREAMS CAN APPEAR.
SOMETHING WILL RELEASE.
THIS WILL BE MY YEAR.
LIFE WILL FIND ME WAY OUT HERE.

7. WILD

ALGY

How strange, that having just met, we know each other so well.

CECILE

IF I SAY I NEED A VILLAIN FOR MY LATEST PASSION PLAY.

ALGY

IF I SAY I'LL NEED A TWIRLY MOUSTACHE AND AN ATTACHÉ

CECILE

IF I SAY I'M DOWN FOR THAT –

ALGY

I'LL MEET YOUR DREAMS HALFWAY.

CECILE

WILL YOU GO WILD

ALGY

WILD?

CECILE

WILD WITH ME?

ALGY

IF I SAY A SUDDEN BIT OF SCANDAL LEAVES ME INDISPOSED –

CECILE

THEN I SAY A LITTLE BIT OF DRAMA KEEPS US ON OUR TOES –

ALGY

IF I SWEAR TO SPEAK IN COUPLETS

CECILE

DARLING, I'LL PROPOSE.

ALGY

THEN I'LL GO WILD

CECILE

WILD,

ALGY & CECILE

WILD

CECILE

FOR YOU.
FOLLOW MY LEAD

ALGY

YOU FOLLOW MINE

CECILE

MAKE A BIG SCENE.

ALGY

FEED ME MY LINE.

ALGY & CECILE

AND WHERE IT ENDS
NO ONE CAN SAY

ALGY

BUT I'LL CHOOSE YOU EVERY DAY.

CECILE

IF I SAY I'M HOT TO TANGO, WILL YOU GLIDE ME 'CROSS THE FLOOR?

ALGY

IF I SAY THE THRILL IS IN THE CHASE, WILL YOU RUN FOR THE DOOR?

CECILE

IF I SAY I CRAVE ADVENTURE –

ALGY

SIGN ME UP FOR MORE
OF GOING WILD.

CECILE

WILD

ALGY & CECILE

WILD
WITH YOU.

ALGY

This is all moving so quickly.

CECILE

Oh, I don't think so considering we've been engaged since last February –

ALGY

We have? But we've only just met today.

CECILE

Yes, yes, in life. But in my diary, we have been engaged for months.

ALGY

You're a little kooky, aren't you?

CECILE

Li'l bit.

ALGY & CECILE

IF I SAY I NEVER KNEW ANOTHER SOUL WOULD SEE MY CHARMS.

CECILE

IF I SAY I'LL ALWAYS ASK CONSENT 'CAUSE ASKING NEVER HARMS.

ALGY

IF YOU SAY YOU'D LIKE TO HOLD ME,

ALGY & CECILE
I'LL FALL IN YOUR ARMS

ALGY
THAT WOULD BE WILD

CECILE
WILD

ALGY & CECILE
WILD

CECILE
IT'S TRUE.

ALGY
STILL WE BEGIN

CECILE
ON WITH THE DANCE,

ALGY & CECILE
DON'T CALL IT LOVE
DON'T CALL IT ROMANCE
CALL IT
WILD

ALGY
WILD

CECILE
WILD

ALGY & CECILE
ME AND YOU

8. TEA FIGHT

WINCE
And now, we come to the main event. Wildes! To your stations!

SLOUCH
What's happening? I haven't read this bit yet.

WINCE
We come, gentles all, to the crowning achievement of a civil and polite society. The High English Tea.

SLOUCH
Oh wait, they're having tea together, but they both think they're in love with...

WINCE
Oh enough, Slouch. This is all a comedic farce, and one of its hallmarks is mistaken identities.

SLOUCH
But we all know who they are.

WINCE
Yes, but they don't. And that's half the fun.

SLOUCH
Sounds like a fight to me

WILDES
TEA FIGHT! TEA FIGHT!
HMM.
TEA FIGHT! TEA FIGHT!
HMM.

WINCE
No, no, NO! You have all taken liberties enough! This is the pinnacle of comedic style from our dear Oscar Wilde.
COMPOSE YOURSELVES AS
I PRESENT AT ONCE
M. CECILE CARDEW,
SUCH AN ENGLISH ROSE.

SLOUCH
JUST AS THORNY.

WINCE
HERE, WE HAVE THE MILD
GWYN FAIRFAX

SLOUCH
WILL IT COME EVER TO BLOWS?

WINCE
DON'T BE ORN'RY.

GWYN
MAY I CALL YOU CECILE?

CECILE
YES, MAY I CALL YOU GWYN?

WILDES
MM-MM-MM

WINCE
THIS IS GOING SWIMMINGLY.

SLOUCH
BUT NEITHER WILL WIN.

WILDES
MM-MM-MM

GWYN
You are here on a visit, one imagines.

CECILE
Oh, no, I live here.

GWYN
With your mother or some other relative of advanced years, one hopes?

CECILE
Well, there is Prism, my tutor, but it's mostly just myself and my dear guardian Worthing.

GWYN
What?

CECILE
I'M DEAR WORTHING'S WARD.

GWYN
I WILL EAT MY HAT.

SLOUCH
CECILE SCORED ONE FOR THAT

SLOUCH & WILDES

THAT THAT
THAT'S THE TEA.

WILDES

THAT'S THE TEA
THAT'S A HOT
POT OF TEA
LET IT SPILL
WHERE IT WILL.

HIGH VOICES

WE GOTTA
TEA FIGHT

OSCAR

SUBTLE DOUBT
AND THEY CRACK.

WILLS & SPERANZA

FIRST THEY POUT
THEN ATTACK

WILDES

COME ON AND
TEA FIGHT! TEA FIGHT!
HMM.
TEA FIGHT! TEA FIGHT!
HMM

GWYN

So dear Ernest is your guardian. I can't imagine
why they didn't mention that. Or you...

CECILE

I beg your pardon, but did you say Ernest? Oh, but
it is not Ernest Worthing who is my guardian.

GWYN

Oh, that is a relief.

CECILE

Ernest Worthing is my fiancée!

WILDES

Ernest.

GWYN

MY DEAREST CECILE,
YOU MAKE SOME MISTAKE

GWYN

FOR ERNEST WORTHING
IS ENGAGED TO ME

WINCE

KINDLY STAY SEATED.

CECILE

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WRONG,
M. FAIRFAX,
FOR I AM HIS SPOUSE TO BE.

SLOUCH

IT'S GETTING HEATED!

GWYN

THAT IS VERY CURIOUS.

CECILE

MY JOURNAL CONFIRMS.

WILDES

HMM.

GWYN

I TOO KEEP A JOURNAL.

GWYN & CECILE

THERE! IN BLACK AND WHITE TERMS!

WILDES

HMM!

GWYN

I HAVE PRIOR CLAIM!

CECILE

DARLING, DON'T GET SHRILL!

WINCE

KEEP IT TAME OR YOU'LL

WINCE & WILDES

SPILL! SPILL!
SPILL THE TEA

WILDES

THAT'S THE TEA

SLOUCH

THAT COULD SCALD.
THIRD DEGREE.

WILDES

LET IT SPILL
WHERE IT WILL.

HIGH VOICES

WE GOTTA
TEA FIGHT

O'FLAHERTIE

HAIR'S UNCOIFFED.

WILDE

WE ARE RAPT.

OSCAR

GLOVES ARE OFF.

OSCAR, O'FLAHERTIE & WILDE

NERVES HAVE SNAPPED.

WILDES

COME ON AND
TEA FIGHT! TEA FIGHT!

WINCE

More tea?

GWYN

Yes. Please.

WILDES

TEA FIGHT! TEA FIGHT!

CECILE

Sugar?

GWYN

Sugar is not fashionable any longer. Perhaps, if you lived in town you would know that.

WILDES

HMM

CECILE

Some cake?

GWYN

Bread and butter. Cake is rarely seen at the best houses in town.

CECILE

No cake and no manners, I must write that down. I WAS NOT RAISED IN A GUTTER.

GWYN

CAKE MAKES MY WHOLE BODY SHUDDER.

CECILE

SINCE YOU SO LOVE BREAD AND BUTTER!

WINCE

Oh dear. This has gotten intensely out of hand.

GWYN

SINCE CAKE SETS YOUR HEART AFLUTTER

WILDES

HMM-YA!
THAT'S THE TEA!
THAT'S THE TEA!
THAT'S AS HOT
AS CAN BE.
LET IT SPILL
WHERE IT WILL.

CECILE & GWYN

WE GOT
A

CECILE, GWYN & WILDES

TEA FIGHT

CECILE & GWYN

NOW!

WILDES

THAT'S THE TEA.
THAT'S THE TEA
THAT'S AS HOT
AS CAN BE
LET IT SPILL
WHERE IT WILL.

ALL

WE GOTTA
TEA FIGHT
WHY BE NICE?
WHY PRETEND?
WHY NOT SLICE
AND OFFEND?
LET ALL THAT RAGE OUT.
LET THE BOURGEOISIE FIGHT WAGE OUT.
NEVER LET THE TEA FIGHT –
END

CECILE & GWYN

OOH

9. TELL ME

WILDES

THE WORDS I SPOKE,
CLEVER TO A FAULT,
PUSHED YOU INTO LIES.
ABSURD DEMANDS,
RUBBING IN LIKE SALT,
STINGING AS I CLUNG TO YOUR DISGUISE.

GWYN

So there's no Ernest at all?

JAX

None. Just me. I'd thought I needed to be your Ernest. And Cecile's Jax. And whoever else's anyone so I could be of use to everyone.

GWYN

And what of you? What use can you be to anyone, when you aren't honest about who you are?
I SEE YOU NOW
MULTITUDES OF YOU,
BEAUTIFUL AND BRAVE.
DON'T PUSH ME OUT
LET ME STAY WITH YOU.
LET'S READ THE WRITING IN THE CAVE.

GWYN & WILDES

I'M WAITING,
LISTENING
FOR ANYTHING THAT NEEDS CHRISTENING

GWYN

AS PATIENT AS A PRINCE
UNDER A SPELL.
TELL ME WHAT TO CALL YOU.

WILDES

LOVE LOVE
LOVE

WILDES

TELL ME WHAT TO CALL YOU.

GWYN

WHISPER IF YOU LIKE.

WILDES

LOVE
LEAVE THE DOOR CRACKED OPEN

GWYN

LEAVE THE DOOR CRACKED OPEN

GWYN & WILDES

QUIETER THAN NIGHT

GWYN

LET ME HOLD WHAT'S HEAVY,

WILDES

LET ME HOLD WHAT'S HEAVY.

GWYN & WILDES
WARM ME WITH YOUR FLAME.

GWYN
TELL ME WHAT TO CALL YOU,
LOVE.
BY ANY NAME.

WILDES
TELL ME,
LOVE.

JAX
I want to be your Ernest.

GWYN
You already are.

JAX
AFRAID TO BREAK
BOUNDARIES I SET.

JAX & WILDES
WALK OUTSIDE THE LINES.

GWYN
YOU'RE SAFE WITH ME,
NEVER NEED TO FRET.

GWYN
LEAVE WHAT YOU NEED
TO UNDEFINED

WILDES
LEAVE LOVE UNDEFINED

JAX
Dearest Gwyn, please know that my deception
was only meant...

GWYN
To protect me from the truth. I assure you, I need
no protection.

WILDES
LOVE, LOVE

LOVE, LOVE
LOVE, LOVE

JAX
COULD YOU BE WHAT I NEED?
COULD THE SPELL BE BROKEN
NO MORE LIES, NO DISGUISE.
LOVE OUT IN THE OPEN

WILDES
LOVE

GWYN
TELL ME WHAT TO CALL YOU

WILDES
LOVE

WILDES
TELL ME WHAT TO CALL YOU.

GWYN
WHISPER IF YOU LIKE.

JAX & WILDES
LOVE

GWYN & WILDES
LEAVE THE DOOR CRACKED OPEN

JAX
NO MORE LIES, NO DISGUISE.

GWYN & WILDES
QUIETER THAN NIGHT.

JAX
LOVE OUT IN THE OPEN.

GWYN
LET ME HOLD WHAT'S HEAVY

JAX
ALL MY FEARS NEED TENDING

GWN & WILDES
WARM ME WITH YOUR FLAME.

JAX
IN A HAPPY ENDING

GWYN
TELL ME WHATTO CALL YOU,
LOVE

WILDES
TELL ME
LOVE
LOVE

JAX
IF I TRUST THIS BLUSH OF
LOVE
LOVE

ALL
LOVE BY ANY NAME

10. BORN WITH IT (REPRISE)

LADY BRACKNELL
HELL OR HIGH WATER...
A MOTHER'S LOVE CANNOT BE MATCHED.
DEVOTION.
ENOUGH TO FILL AN OCEAN.
DO NOT CROSS ME.
MY PROGENY WILL NOT BE SNATCHED.
YOU THINK YOU'LL MARRY?
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
YOU'RE NO CATCH.

PORTRAITS
WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT

LADY BRACKNELL
BORN WITH IT

PORTRAITS
YOU GOT DIDDLY-SQUAT

LADY BRACKNELL
NOT BORN WITH IT

GWYN

I am engaged, Mamma. To Jax Worthing!

LADY BRACKNELL & PORTRAITS

NO NO NO NO

GWYN

But Mamma!

LADY BRACKNELL

Gwyn, sit!

PORTRAITS

FACE THE FACTS!

LADY BRACKNELL

NOT BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS

GETTING THE AXE!

LADY BRACKNELL

NOT BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS

SHE'S GOT HER GRANDMOTHER'S TASTE
FOR THE FAMILY WINE.
YOU GOT A NOBODY FACE.

LADY BRACKNELL

AND I GOT A KICK-LINE!

PORTRAITS

BRING OUT THE CAKE

LADY BRACKNELL

BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS

SHIMMY AND SHAKE!
BORN WITH IT.

PORTRAITS

BORN –

LADY BRACKNELL

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE

DOING HERE???

I'M RIFFING.

II. WHAT A SHAME

LADY BRACKNELL

Where is the baby?

ALL

THE BABY!

THE BABY!

THE BABY!

SLOUCH

WHAT?!

ALL

THE BABY!

THE BABY!

THE BABY!

LADY BRACKNELL

Twenty-five years ago you left Lord Bracknell's
house in charge of a perambulator that contained
a very precious babe. With this child, you never
returned. Prism, where is that child?

SLOUCH

Oh yes –

THE BABY.

WHAT A –

WILDES

SHHH-SHAME!

SLOUCH

WHAT A –

WILDES

SHHH-SHAME!

SLOUCH

The one I lost. Twenty-five years ago, on my way
to the park.

WHAT A –

WILDES

SHHH...

LADY BRACKNELL

Well, Prism, elucidate.

SLOUCH

No thanks, I'm not hungry. But I will sing.
Bb Major, please.

LADY BRACKNELL

Oh for heaven's sake.

SLOUCH

IN MY YOUNGER DAYS, I LIVED-IN
AS A NURSEMAID TO THE RICH.
I RECALL THAT LONDON MORNING.
IT WAS SUNNY FOR A SWITCH.
I GOT OUT THE BABY BUGGY
AND A BITTY BABY STOLE
AND I TOOK MY BONNY BABY
FOR A BITTY BABY STROLL.

WILLS

Allo, Governor!

OSCAR

Pip-Pip! Cheerio!

WILDES

THE BABY

THE BABY

THE BA-A-ABY

SLOUCH

WHAT A –

WILDES

SHHH ...

SLOUCH

WHAT A –

WILDES.

SHHH...



SLOUCH
WHAT A –

WILDES
SHHHHHHHHH...

WILDE SOLOIST
Fancy a spotted dick?

WILDES
SHAME...

SLOUCH
BITTY BABY WAS SO HAPPY
JUST TO LIE IN BUGGY BLISS.
GOO GOO GA GA
OFF TO SLEEPY TIME
WITH NO MORE THAN A KISS
SO I SAT DOWN WITH MY HANDBAG
AND MY EYE UPON THE CHILD
AND I OPENED UP THE FAIRY TALES –
OF DEAR OL' OSCAR WILDE.

OH OH.
OH OH.

WILDES
“ABOVE THE CITY STOOD
A STATUE OF A PRINCE
CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN
PLAY BENEATH THE QUINCE.”

SLOUCH
BECOME...

WILDES
THE LANGUAGE SET APART
VICTORIAN AND QUEER,
EXPOSED A BEATING HEART
THAT ECHOED
A VOICE RINGING CLEAR

SLOUCH
THE CASTLES AND THE ROSES

WILDES
HERE

SLOUCH
THE GIANTS AND THE NOSES

WILDES
HERE...

SLOUCH
THE HIJINKS AND THE
SLY WINKS

WILDES
AH

SLOUCH
AND THE WILDNESS WILDE EXPOSES –

LADY BRACKNELL
Slouch!!
THE BABY!

SLOUCH
THE BABY????

WILDES
THE BABY!!!
WHAT A

SLOUCH
NO NEED FOR YOU

WILDES
SHHH...

SLOUCH
YELLING IT
I'M GETTING TO THE
TELLING IT!

WILDES
SHAME!

SLOUCH
THE FAIRY TALES HAD SPUN THEIR WEB
AND TIME BEGAN TO SLIP.
AS THE THUNDER CLOUDS EXPLODED
INTO DRIBBLE DRIBBLE DRIP

ENSEMBLE
DRIP, DRIP, DRIP, DRIP,
DRIP, DRIP.
DRIP, DRIP, DRIP, DRIP,
DRIP, DRIP.

WILDE SOLOIST
Raining in England?!

FINGAL
Who could believe it?

SLOUCH
IN THE MELEE OF THE RAIN DAY
I WAS WAYLAID FROM THE PRAM
AS THE DELUGE AND THE CHAOS SPREAD
FROM HERE TO BUCKINGHAM!

SLOUCH & WILDES
WHAT A SHHH–
SHAME
WHAT A SHHH–
SHAME
WHAT A –

WILDE SOLOIST
WAHHHH!

WILDES
SHHH...
WHAT A –

WILDE SOLOIST
WAHHHH!

WILDES
WHAT A SHAME

SLOUCH
BITTY BABY! WHERE WAS BABY?!
AND WHERE WAS THE MISSING PRAM?

LADY BRACKNELL
THE BABY...

SLOUCH
I COULD NEVER FACE M' LADY,



SO THIS NURSEMAID BETTER SCRAM.

LADY BRACKNELL
THE BABY...

SLOUCH
FOR SOMEHOW THE BABY
IS LOST IN THE SHUFFLE
THE RUFFLES OF FABRIC
WERE LOST IN THE SEA.
OF RUBBER GALOSHES
THAT SLOSH AND
UMBRELLAS
THAT HUSTLE AND BUSTLE DRIP
TO AFTERNOON TEA
I HURRIED MYSELF
TO VICTORIA STATION
I PURCHASED A TICKET
ONE-WAY TO THE MOORS.
DONNED THE FACADE OF A
CRANKY OLD TUTOR
WHO HATES ALL THE
DRAMA HER TUTEE
EXPLORES

WILDES
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
OH
OH

WHAT?
WHAT A –

SLOUCH
SUCH IS THE BUS'NESS
OF STORY DEVICES
WHILE PLOTTING A FARCE
THAT DEPENDS ON A
NAME.
HIJINKS AND HOODWINKS
AND ALL KINDS OF VICES
FOR BREAKING WITH NORMS
IS A DANGEROUS GAME

WILDES
SHAME
SHAME!

SLOUCH & WILDES
ASK OSCAR WILDE
AND HE'LL TELL YOU SAME!

SLOUCH
FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS
DASHING AND
DANGEROUS
WHAT AN UNBEARABLE
TALE OF TERRIBLE
SHAME!

WILDES
WHAT.
A.
SHAME!

12. WIDER SPECTRUM (REPRISE)

WINCE
Oscar Wilde does not need your help. This man
was a genius. This man was ahead of his time.
We can't perform this crowning achievement of
Oscar Wilde's with all this nincompoopery!

SLOUCH
We're trying to honor the man but also honor
ourselves. Why can't we do both?

WILDES
ON A WIDER SPECTRUM

JAX
We've been doing both this whole time. I thought
to please all, I had to be all. But we cannot be all,
we must be only ourselves.

WINCE
But you cannot alter this work. This masterpiece.
The author would never approve.

SLOUCH
Well, why don't we ask them?

OSCAR
We're Oscar

FINGAL
Fingal

O'FLAHERTIE
O'Flahertie

WILLS
Wills.

WILDE
Wilde. The author of this charming play.

WINCE
All of you?

WILDES
YES.

ALGY & WINCE
ON A WIDE–

CECILE & GWYN
ON A WIDE–

SLOUCH
ON A WIDE–

OSCAR & FINGAL
ON A WIDE–

O'FLAHERTIE & WILLS
ON A WIDE–

WILDE & SPERANZA
ON A WIDE–

ALL
–ER SPECTRUM

JAX

NOTHING'S OUT OF RANGE.

SLOUCH

This is the complete works of Oscar Wilde. And so much more happens.

WINCE

Yes, to the author, but not in the play!

JAX

TRUTHS CAN COEXIST.

SLOUCH

FAIRYTALES CAN SHIFT.

JAX & SLOUCH

WE CAN PLAY IT BY THE BOOK AND MAKE IT STRANGE.

WILDES

WHAT IF IT OPENS LIKE A RAINBOW?

WINCE

Surely we can separate one's life away from one's art?

JAX

That seems a little difficult, Wince, when one's art is one's life at the present.

SLOUCH

My dear Wince, the great appeal of theatre is that it is a living breathing thing.

WILDES

OH THE PLAY CAN OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW –

JAX

THE PLAY CAN OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW –

WINCE

But we are doing this specific play.

SLOUCH

Yes, but in our specific way. In our specific time. Honoring both the play, and the person who wrote it.

O'FLAHERTIE

He'd be so surprised to know we'd been doing the play at all.

SLOUCH

Just a few weeks after his play opened, Oscar Wilde was arrested.

WILDE

SSHHH...

SLOUCH

For the great sin of being exactly who he was.

GWYN

And loving exactly who he loved.

WILDES

SHHH...

WINCE

Yes, and that is a tragedy. But this play is not a tragedy. The play is...

WILDES

SHHH...

SLOUCH

A masterwork as you say, Wince. One of the greatest plays the world has ever known, and yet, poor dear Oscar never got to know any of that success.

ALGY

Oh my dear, why?

WILDES

SHHH...

...SHAME

SLOUCH

He was sentenced to two years hard labor.

FINGAL

Prisoner: C. 33.

OSCAR

"In Reading jaol (jail) by Reading Town, there is a pit of..."

WILDES

SHHH...

OSCAR

Two years later, he was dead in a rented room in Paris.

WILDE

"Either that wallpaper goes, or I do."

SLOUCH

We're not destroying the world of Oscar Wilde, we're opening him up to ours.

WILDES

THERE'S A WIDER SPECTRUM

SLOUCH

Wince, we live in a world beyond Wilde's dreams.

WILDES

WIDER THAN WE KNEW.

WILDE

You lose nothing in my being me, but perhaps gain the freedom to know you can be you as well.

WINCE

Is that Wilde?

SLOUCH

No, but it sounds like them, doesn't it?

WILDES

LIES SOMETIMES REVEAL
SOMETHING THAT'S MORE REAL,

JAX
SOMETHING YOU DON'T DARE ADMIT

JAX & WILDES
UNTIL IT'S TRUE.

WILDES
THE PLAY CAN OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW

WINCE
Yes. I see –

WILDES
THE PLAY CAN OPEN LIKE A RAINBOW

LADY BRACKNELL
What?? What does everyone see???

13. WORTHY

JAX
BEFORE YOU SAY IT
BEFORE WE TIE THE LOOSE ENDS.
HANG IN THE BALANCE,
BEFORE WE MAKE AMENDS.
WE ARE, I AM, YOU ARE WORTHY –

LADY BRACKNELL
We are here to discuss marriage and respectability,
love has nothing to do with it, whatsoever.

ALGY
I think that's where you're wrong, Lady Bracknell...
Love is at the root of it all.

GWYN
MAYBE WE'LL MARRY

CECILE
OH

JAX
MAYBE WE'RE GONNA LIVE THAT BLISS.

GWYN
MAYBE WE PART WAYS

ALGY
OH.

GWYN & JAX
BUT LET'S HOLD ON TO THIS

JAX
WE ARE, I AM, YOU ARE WORTHY.

GWYN & JAX
WE ARE

JAX
I AM

GWYN
YOU ARE

GWYN & JAX
WORTHY

JAX
WORTHY OF LOVE.

GWYN & JAX
WORTHY OF LOVE.

ALGY, GWYN, SLOUCH & WINCE
OH

JAX & CECILE
KEEP YOUR CONFESSION

ALGY, GWYN, SLOUCH & WINCE
OH

JAX & CECILE
TIED IN A TIDY BOW.

ALGY, GWYN, SLOUCH & WINCE
OH

JAX & CECILE
THERE'S NO CONFESSION

ALGY, CECILE, SLOUCH & WINCE
OH

JAX & CECILE
THAT TAKES IN WHAT I KNOW

WINCE
WE ARE

CECILE
I AM

ALGY
YOU ARE WORTHY

JAX & CECILE
WE ARE

SLOUCH
I AM

**JAX, GWYN, ALGY, CECILE,
SLOUCH & WINCE**
YOU ARE
WORTHY
WORTHY OF LOVE.

JAX & SLOUCH
WORTHY

**JAX, GWYN, ALGY, CECILE,
SLOUCH & WINCE**
WORTHY OF LOVE.

CECILE, GWYN, JAX & SLOUCH
WE'RE ALL MADE OF THE BAGGAGE WE
CARRY.
BURDENED BY OUR BURIED SECRETS,
BUT MAYBE

GWYN & CECILE
WE ARE



WINCE
I AM

**JAX, GWYN, ALGY, CECILE,
SLOUCH & WINCE**
YOU ARE WORTHY
WORTHY OF LOVE.

CECILE
OH,

**JAX, GWYN, ALGY, CECILE,
SLOUCH & WINCE**
WORTHY OF LOVE.
WORTHY OF LOVE.

JAX
WE'RE ALL JUST SOULS TRYING TO SURVIVE

WILDES
OOH

JAX, CECILE & WILDES
LYING

JAX & CECILE
ILL AT EASE,

WILDES
OOH

ALL
UNTIL WE FLING OUR ARMS WIDE
AND WE ARRIVE
WE ARE, I AM, YOU ARE WORTHY

CECILE, GWYN, JAX & SLOUCH
WE ARE ALL MADE OF BAGGAGE WE CARRY.
BURDENED BY OUR BURIED SECRETS, BUT

ALL
MAYBE
WE ARE, I AM, YOU ARE WORTHY,
WORTHY OF LOVE.
WORTHY OF LOVE.
WORTHY OF LOVE.

OH, OH,
OH, OH,

WILDES
WE ARE

JAX
I AM

GWYN
YOU ARE

ALL
WORTHY.

14. X MARKS THE SPOT

WINCE
I beg your pardon, but may I borrow your E? To
correct the sign.

JAX
I should think you'd leave it. X is the great
unknown, is it not? Let each who seek it, find
their own way to whatever sort of Ernest they
would like to be.

ALL
X!

WILDES
YOU ARE THE ANSWER YOU NEEDED

ALL
X!

WILDES
YOU KNOW THE UNIVERSE YOU HOLD.
INSIDE, AROUND PLANETS OF GRIEF
IN RELIEF,
YOU ARE STARDUST,

ALL
BRIGHT AND BOLD.

SLOUCH
YOU KNOW
WHERE YOU STAND

SLOUD
YOU HOLD THE MAP
CHARTING WHERE
YOU'LL LAND.

WILDES
OH

ALL
X MARKS THE SPOT,
YOU STAND HERE TODAY,
THE PATH IS UNKNOWN
BUT X MARKS THE WAY BACK.
X HOLDS YOUR GROUND
THE ROOT WHERE YOU START TO GROW.
YOU CAN GO AND RETURN
BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS KNOW

SOLO VOICE
X

SOLO VOICE
X

SOLO VOICE
X

ALL
X MARKS THE SPOT.

LADY BRACKNELL
Now that I look at you, I see so clearly your father's
nose. My Gwyn is a very lucky person. Now all
that remains is to get you on the right side of
Belgrave Square.

ALL
X!

CECILE
YOUR DEEPEST SECRETS ARE SACRED.

ALL
X!

GWYN
YOU HONOR WHO YOU CHOOSE TO TELL.

JAX
AND THEN, WHEN YOU'RE READY TO SHINE

ALGY
YOU'LL BE FINE.

WILDES
YOU GOT STARDUST
THAT'S YOUR SPELL.

GWYN
WHO KNOWS WHERE YOU'LL LAND?

ALL
YOU HOLD THE MAP.
SO IT'S IN YOUR HANDS.
X MARKS THE SPOT,
YOU STAND HERE TODAY,
THE PATH IS UNKNOWN
BUT X MARKS THE WAY BACK.
X HOLDS YOUR GROUND
THE ROOT WHERE YOU START TO GROW.
YOU CAN GO AND RETURN
TO THE TRUTH THAT YOU KNOW

SOLO VOICE
X

SOLO VOICE
X

SOLO VOICE
X

ALL
X MARKS X MARKS

GWYN
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU STAND.
DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND.

THIS IS HEALING.

ALL
YOU'RE STILL SHAKEN FROM HOW IT'S
REVEALING THE LESSON YOU NEARLY FORGOT.
THAT NO, DEAR, YOU ARE NOT
THE ONLY, THE LONELY, THE SILO YOU
THOUGHT.

'CAUSE SURPRISE,
WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR EYES –
LOOK! SEE!
YOU NEVER HAVE BEEN,
NEVER WILL BE AGAIN.
YOU HAVE BRETHREN.
KIN, TIGHT-KNIT AND SEWN.
TURNS OUT – NO LIES –
TURNS OUT – JUST WIDE SKIES!
TURNS OUT –
TURNS OUT – YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
X MARKS THE SPOT,
THE STAND THAT YOU TAKE.
THE CHOICE TO GO ON.
THE SPACE THAT YOU'RE MAKING.
X HOLDS YOUR GROUND
IT'S WORN LIKE A BATTLE SCAR.
YOU CAN GO AND RETURN
'CAUSE YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

ALGY
YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE

ALGY & JAX
YEA!
YEA!

ALL
X MARKS X MARKS
OH

ALL
X MARKS THE SPOT,
YOU STAND HERE TODAY,
THE PATH IS UNKNOWN
BUT
X MARKS THE WAY BACK.

X MARKS THE SPOT,
YOU STAND HERE TODAY,

JAX & CECILE
BECOME
OH BECOME
X MARKS THE WAY
BECOME
BECOME YOUR SELF.

ALL
THE PATH IS UNKNOWN
BUT X MARKS THE WAY BACK.
X MARKS THE SPOT,
X MARKS THE SPOT,

JAX & CECILE
BECOME
BECOME YOUR SELF.
BECOME

ALL
WE ARE
I AM
YOU ARE WORTHY

SLOUCH
We did a very good play, Wince.

WINCE
Thanks to you, Slouch.

SLOUCH
Please, call me Wren.

WINCE
Call me, Jeff.

ENSEMBLE
WE ARE WORTHY OF LOVE

PRODUCTION CREDITS

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