

**Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest***  
**Orientations bibliographiques**

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**1. Éditions et traductions du texte ; œuvres de Wilde**

**Édition au programme :** Gillespie, Michael Patrick, ed. *The Importance of Being Earnest: Authoritative text, Backgrounds, Criticism*. New York: Norton, A Norton Critical Edition, 2006. [désormais Norton]

**Éditions du texte :**

Berggren, Ruth, ed. *The Definitive Four-Act Version of The Importance of Being Earnest*. New York: Vanguard, 1987.

Berggren, Ruth and Joseph Donohue, eds. *The Importance of Being Earnest. A Reconstructive Critical Edition of the Text of the first Production, St James's Theatre, London, 1895, annotated and illustrated from contemporary sources and edited with introductory essays on the play and its text by Joseph Donohue and Ruth Berggren*. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smythe, 1995.

Bristow, Joseph, ed. *The Importance of Being Earnest and Related Writings*. London: Routledge, 1992.

Jackson, Russell, ed. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. London: E. Benn, New Mermaids, 1980. [Introduction, p. xi-xli, appareil de notes très complet].

Raby, Peter, ed. *The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995. [contient également Salomé, A Woman of No Importance, Lady Windermere's Fan et An Ideal Husband].

**Traductions françaises :**

*L'importance d'être constant*. Trad. Jean-Michel Déprats. Oscar Wilde. Œuvres. Ed. Jean Gattégno. Paris : Gallimard, coll. « Bibliothèque de la Pléiade », 1996. p. 1435-1525 [Notice et notes de Marie-Claire Pasquier, p. 1861-1876].

*L'importance d'être constant*. Traduction, présentation, notes, dossier chronologique, bibliographie par Pascal Aquien. Édition bilingue. Paris: Flammarion, coll. « GF », 2000.

*L'importance d'être constant*. Trad. Jean-Michel Déprats. Édition d'Alain Jumeau. Paris : Gallimard, coll. « Folio théâtre », 2012.

**Œuvres de Wilde :**

*Complete Works of Oscar Wilde*. [1948]. Ed. Merlin Holland. Glasgow: HarperCollins, 2003.

*Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde*. Ed. Merlin Holland and Rupert Hart-Davis. New York: Holt, 2000 and London: Fourth Estate, 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> Cette bibliographie s'appuie en partie sur celle fournie par Charles A. Carpenter, <http://oscholars-oscholars.com/bibliographies/carpenter/carpenter-13/>

*Oeuvres*. Ed. Jean Gattégno. Introduction de Pascal Aquien. Paris : Gallimard, coll. « Bibliothèque de la Pléiade », 1996.

[Il est recommandé de lire les autres comédies de Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* et certains essais, surtout “The Decay of Lying” et “The Truth of Masks”].

## 2. Biographies et contextes

**Angel-Pérez**, Élisabeth. *Le Théâtre anglais*. Paris : Hachette, 1997.

**\*\*Aquien**, Pascal. *Oscar Wilde. Les mots et les songes*. Croissy-Beaubourg : Aden, 2006.

**\*Beckson**, Karl. *London in the 1890s. A Cultural History*. New York: Norton, 1992.

**Beckson**, Karl. *The Oscar Wilde Encyclopedia*. New York: AMS Press, 1998.

**Booth**, Michael R. *Theatre in the Victorian Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991.

**\*Bristow**, Joseph. *Wilde Writings: Contextual Conditions*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2003. [désormais **Bristow**]

**Canning**, Richard. *Oscar Wilde*. London: Hesperus Press, coll. *Brief Lives*, 2008.

**Cohen**, Ed. *Talk on the Wilde Side. Towards a Genealogy of Discourse on Male Sexuality*. New York, London: Routledge, 1993.

**\*\*\*Ellmann**, Richard. *Oscar Wilde*. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1987.

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**Henkle**, Roger B. *Comedy and Culture. England 1820-1900*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1980.

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**\*\*McKenna**, Neil. *The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde*. London: Century, 2003. [voir notamment p. 308-312 et p. 331-335].

**Jenkins**, Anthony. *The Making of Victorian Drama*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991. [p. 220-224 consacrées à *The Importance of Being Earnest*].

**Powell**, Kerry. *Oscar Wilde and the Theatre of the 1890s*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990. [voir en particulier p. 108-123, “The Importance of Being at Terry’s” ; p. 124-139, “Algernon’s Other Brothers”, ce dernier chapitre est repris p. 138-154 dans *Critical Essays on Oscar Wilde*. Ed. Regenia Gagnier. New York: G. K. Hall, 1991].

**Powell**, Kerry and Peter Raby, ed. *Oscar Wilde in Context*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2014.

**\*\*Raby**, Peter, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1997.

[désormais **Cambridge Companion**]

**Sinfield**, Alan. *The Wilde Century. Effeminacy, Oscar Wilde and the Queer Moment*. London: Cassell, 1994.

**\*Sloan**, John. *Authors in Context. Oscar Wilde*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.

## 3. Sélection d’ouvrages consacrés à l’œuvre d’Oscar Wilde

### 3. 1. Ouvrages entièrement consacrés à *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**\*\*\*Bloom**, Harold, ed. *Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest: Modern Critical Interpretations*. New York: Chelsea House, 1988. [désormais **Bloom**]

**\*\*\*Raby**, Peter. *The Importance of Being Earnest: A Reader’s Companion*. New York: Twayne, 1995. [désormais **Raby**]

### 3. 2. Ouvrages contenant des passages sur *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**\*Bird**, Alan. *The Plays of Oscar Wilde*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1977. [p. 160-183 consacrées à *The Importance of Being Earnest*].

**\*Drugeon**, Marianne, ed. *Cahiers victoriens et édouardiens 72. Studies in the Theatre of Oscar Wilde*. Montpellier : P U de la Méditerranée, 2010. [désormais **Drugeon**]

- \*\*\***Eltis**, Sos. *Revising Wilde: Society and Subversion in the Plays of Oscar Wilde*. Oxford: Clarendon P, 1996. [p. 170-200 consacrées à *The Importance of Being Earnest*].
- \*\*\***Gagnier**, Regenia. *Idylls of the Marketplace: Oscar Wilde and the Victorian Public*. Stanford, California: Stanford UP, 1986. [p. 111-117 sur *The Importance of Being Earnest*, repris dans **Bloom** p. 109-118].
- , ed. *Critical Essays on Oscar Wilde*. New York: G. K. Hall, 1991. [désormais **Gagnier**]
- \*\***Gillespie**, Michael Patrick. *Oscar Wilde and the Poetics of Ambiguity*. Gainesville: UP of Florida, 1996. [p. 100-114, “The Victorian Impulse in Contemporary Audiences: the Regularization of *The Importance of Being Earnest*” et p. 115-132, “From Beau Brummel to Lady Bracknell: Reviewing the Dandy in *The Importance of Being Earnest*”, repris p. 166-182 dans **Norton**].
- \***Kohl**, Norbert. *Oscar Wilde. The Works of a Conformist Rebel*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1989 [en particulier p. 255-274, “Propriety and Parody: *The Importance of Being Earnest*”].
- MacCormack**, Jerusha, ed. *Wilde the Irishman*. New Haven, London: Yale UP, 1998. [désormais **MacCormack**]
- Merle**, Robert. *Oscar Wilde*. [1948]. Paris : Éditions de Fallois, 1995. [p. 341-377 consacrées au théâtre de Wilde].
- \*\***Nassaar**, Christopher. *Into the Demon Universe: a Literary Exploration of Oscar Wilde*. New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 1974. [p. 129-145 consacrées à *The Importance of Being Earnest*].
- \***Powell**, Kerry. *Acting Wilde: Victorian Sexuality, Theatre, and Oscar Wilde*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2009 [voir en particulier p. 101-122, “Performativity and History: Oscar Wilde and *The Importance of Being Earnest*”; p. 102-105, “Jack Worthing and the Anthropology of Performance”; p. 105-113, “Historicizing *Earnest*’s ‘Social drama’”; p. 114-122, “Performing *Earnest*”].
- Raby**, Peter. *Oscar Wilde*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1988. [p. 129-131].
- Roden**, Frederick S, ed. *Oscar Wilde Studies*. Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
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- Sandulescu**, C. George, ed. *Rediscovering Oscar Wilde*. Princess Grace Irish Library Series 8. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smythe, 1994. [désormais **Sandulescu**]
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- \*\*\***Tydeman**, William. *Wilde, Comedies: A Casebook*. London: Macmillan, 1982. [désormais **Tydeman**]
- \***Varty**, Anne. *A Preface to Oscar Wilde*. Harlow: Longman, 1998. [p. 192-206 consacrées à *The Importance of Being Earnest*].
- Worth**, Katherine. *Oscar Wilde*. London: Macmillan, “Macmillan Modern Dramatists”, 1983. [p. 152-182 ; repris p. 57-75, sous le titre “The Triumph of the Pleasure Principle”, dans **Bloom**].

### 3. 3. Sélection d’articles et de chapitres d’ouvrages spécifiquement consacrés à *The Importance of Being Earnest*

- Ackerman**, Alan. “Form and Freedom in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.” *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Oscar Wilde*. Ed. Philip E. Smith II. New York: MLA Press, 2008. p. 142-150.
- Baselga**, Mariano. “Oscar Wilde and the Semantic Mechanisms of Humour: the Satire of Social Habits.” **Sandulescu**. p. 13-20.
- Beckson**, Karl. “Oscar Wilde and the Importance of not Being Earnest”. *Oscar Wilde. The Man, his Writings and his World*. Ed. Robert N. Keane. New York: AMS Press, 2003. p. 1-14.
- Bastiat**, Brigitte. “*The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895) by Oscar Wilde: Conformity and Resistance in Victorian society.” **Drugeon**. p. 53-63.
- Bennett**, Michael Y. “Victorian Ideals: Wilde Performances in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Salomé*.” *Words, Space, and the Audience: the Theatrical Tension between Empiricism and Rationalism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. p. 27-56.

- Bentley**, Eric. *The Playwright as Thinker: a Study of Drama in Modern Times*. New York: Reynal, 1946. p. 172-177 [repris p. 111-115 dans *Oscar Wilde: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Ed. Richard Ellmann. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1969].
- Cohen**, Ed. "Laughing in Earnest: the Trying Context of Wilde's 'Trivial' Comedy." *Lit: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* 3 i 1991. p. 57-64.
- \*\***Craft**, Christopher. "Alias Bunbury: Desire and Termination in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Another Kind of Love: Male Homosexual Desire in English Discourse, 1850-1920*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1994. p. 106-139. [repris p. 119-137 dans **Gagnier**].
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- Foster**, Richard. "Wilde as Parodist: a Second Look at *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *College English* 18 1956. p. 18-23 [repris p. 159-166 dans **Tyde曼**].
- Francoise-Chabin**, Valérie. « La subversion du modèle : de *The Importance of Being Earnest* d'Oscar Wilde à *Travesties* de Tom Stoppard. Hommage et dévoiement ». *Coup de Théâtre*, n° 13, juin 1996. [repris dans *The Importance of Being Earnest* d'Oscar Wilde. Ed. Pascal Aquien et Xavier Giudicelli. Paris : PUPS, coll. « mondes anglophones », 2014, désormais **Aquien et Giudicelli**]
- Fromonot**, Jacqueline. "Forms, Functions and Figures of Negation in Oscar Wilde's Society Comedies." **Drugeon**. p. 21-36.
- Garland**, Tony W. "The Contest of Meaning in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Explicator* 70 2012. p. 272-274.
- Giudicelli**, Xavier. « *Handbag* de Mark Ravenhill (1999) : réincarnation de *The Importance of Being Earnest* à la fin des années 1990. » **Drugeon**. p. 99-114.
- Gregor**, Ian. "Comedy and Oscar Wilde." *Sewanee Review* 74 1966: 501-521 [repris p. 11-26 dans **Bloom**].
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- \***Kiberd**, Declan. "Oscar Wilde: the Artist as Irishman." *Inventing Ireland*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1996. p. 33-50 [repris p. 9-23 dans **MacCormack**].
- \***Killeen**, Jarlath. "Art and life: the Politics of Ritualism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *The Faiths of Oscar Wilde: Catholicism, Folklore and Ireland*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. p. 138-161.
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- \***Marcovitch**, Heather. "The Dialectic of Persona and Stereotypes in the Society Comedies." *The Art of the Pose: Oscar Wilde's Performance Theory*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2010. p. 151-184.
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- Pankratz**, Annette. "Playing with Oscar—Camp as Textual Strategy in Adaptations of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Orton, Fleming and Ravenhill." *The Importance of Reinventing*

- Oscar: Versions of Wilde during the Last Hundred Years.** Ed. Uwe Böker, Richard Corballis, Julie A. Hibbard. Amsterdam : Rodopi, 2002. p. 229-236.
- Parker**, David. "Oscar Wilde's Great Farce: *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Modern Language Quarterly* 35 1974. p. 173-86 [repris p. 166-179 dans **Tyde man** et p. 35-47 dans **Bloom**].
- Pham-Thanh**, Gilbert. "Dandiacal Conversations in Oscar Wilde's Comedies of Manners: Conventions, Conversions and Reconfigurations of Phallogocentrism." **Drugeon**. p. 37-52.
- Raby**, Peter. "The Origins of *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Modern Drama* 37 1994. p. 139-147.
- . "The Persons of the Play": some Reflections on Wilde's Choice of Names in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Nineteenth Century Theatre* 23 1995. p. 67-75
- . "Wilde, and How to be Modern: or, Bags of Red Gold." **Bristow**. p. 147-162.
- . "The Genesis of the Play" dans **Raby** p. 125-140; repris dans **Norton**, p. 183-195
- Ramos Gay**, Ignacio. "Hunger, Dandyism and Compulsive Consumption in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Hunger on the Stage*. Ed. Élisabeth Angel-Pérez et Alexandra Poulain. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2008. p. 115-130. [désormais **Angel-Pérez et Poulain**] [repris dans **Aquien et Giudicelli**].
- Reinert**, Otto. "Satiric Strategy in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *College English* 18 1956. p. 14-18 [repris p. 153-159 dans **Tyde man**].
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- Rohmann**, Gerd. "Re-discovering Wilde in Travesties by Joyce and Stoppard." **Sandulescu**. p. 338-347.
- Rose**, D. C. "Calling things by their Proper Names." *Wildean* 33 2008. p. 34-43.
- Rustin**, Margaret, & Michael Rustin. "Oscar Wilde's Glittering Surface." *Mirror to Nature: Drama, Psychoanalysis, and Society*. London: Karnac, 2002. p. 160-189.
- \*\***Sedgwick**, Eve Kosofsky. "Tales of the Avuncular: Queer Tutelage in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Professions of Desire: Lesbian and Gay Studies in Literature*. Ed. George E. Haggerty & Bonnie Zimmerman. New York: Modern Language Association, 1995. p. 191-209.
- Senelick**, Laurence. "Master Wood's Profession: Wilde and the Subculture of Homosexual Blackmail in the Victorian Theatre." **Bristow**. p. 162-182.
- Siegel**, Maxwell E. "On Losing Both one's Parents: Carelessness or Tampering?" *OSCHOLARS* 30 Oct 2003-Oct 2006 <[www.irishdiaspora.net/ids/exhibits/253/And-I-May-I-Say-Nothing.doc](http://www.irishdiaspora.net/ids/exhibits/253/And-I-May-I-Say-Nothing.doc)> )
- Snider**, Clifton. "Synchronicity and the Trickster in *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Wildean* 27 2005. p. 55-63.
- \*\***Tadié**, Alexis. « "An age of surfaces" : le langage de la comédie dans *The Importance of Being Earnest* d'Oscar Wilde. » *Études Anglaises* 58 2005. p. 323-335. [repris dans **Aquien et Giudicelli**]
- Thienpoint**, Eva. "Faltering Arrow to Pistol Shot: *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *Cambridge Quarterly* 33 2004: 245-55. [repris p. 106-115 dans **Norton**].
- Vatain**, Julie. "Face to face in Word and Translation: Playing with Words and Playing with Accents in Two Scenes by Oscar Wilde and G. B. Shaw." *Études Irlandaises* 33 ii 2008. p. 91-103.
- Vatain**, Julie. "Who is coming to tea?": Aspects of Hunger in Three Victorian Plays: *The Lights o'London, Widower's Houses* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*." **Angel-Pérez et Poulain**. p. 101-114.
- \*\***Waldrep**, Shelton. "Mechanical Bodies and Desiring Machines: *The Importance of Being Earnest*." *The Aesthetics of Self-Invention: Oscar Wilde to David Bowie*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2004. p. 49-61.
- Ware**, James M. "Algernon's appetite: Oscar Wilde's hero as Restoration dandy." *English Literature in Transition* 13 1970. p. 17-26.
- Whitaker**, Thomas R. "Playing in Earnest." *Omnium gatherum: Essays for Richard Ellmann*. Ed. Susan Dick et al. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smythe, 1989. p. 407-423.

#### 4. Sélection d'articles ou de chapitres sur les mises en scène de la pièce

- Archer**, William. *The Theatrical 'World' of 1895*. London: Walter Scott, 1896. "The Importance of Being Earnest". p. 56-60 [compte rendu de la première mise en scène de la pièce].

- Beerbohm**, Max. *Around Theatres, volume I*. London: Heinemann, 1924. p. 331-336 [compte rendu d'une mise en scène de 1902].
- Donohue**, Joseph W. "The first Production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*: a Proposal for a Reconstructive Study." *Essays on Nineteenth Century British Theatre*. Kenneth Richards & Peter Thomson, eds. London: Methuen, 1971. p. 125-143.
- Jackson**, Russell. "A Classic without Danger: the National Theatre's *Importance of Being Earnest*." *Critical Quarterly* 25 ii 1983. p. 73-80.
- Kaplan**, Joel H. "An Earnest for our Time: *KAOS, Handbag and Lady Bracknell's Confinement*." *Irish Studies Review* 13 2005. p. 341-351.
- Leverson**, Ada. "The Last First Night." *New Criterion* 4 i 1926. p. 148-153. [compte rendu de la première représentation de la pièce].
- Mason**, A. E. W. *Sir George Alexander and the St. James' Theatre*. London: Macmillan, 1935 [p. 72-90 consacrées à *The Importance of Being Earnest*].
- Stokes**, John. *Oscar Wilde. Myths, Miracles and Imitations*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1996 [voir en particulier p. 165-178 consacrées aux mises en scène de *The Importance of Being Earnest*].

## 5. Filmographie sélective

- 1952** : *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Anthony Asquith, réal. ; Michael Redgrave (Ernest Worthing), Michael Denison (Algernon Moncrieff) et Edith Evans (Lady Bracknell).
- 2001** : *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Oliver Parker, réal. ; Rupert Everett (Algernon Moncrieff), Colin Firth (Ernest Worthing), Frances O'Connor (Gwendolen Fairfax), Reese Witherspoon (Cecily Cardew) et Judi Dench (Lady Bracknell).
- Pour plus de détails sur les différentes mises en scène et adaptations filmiques de la pièce, on se référera à** : **Tanitch**, Robert. *Oscar Wilde on Stage and Screen*. London: Methuen, 1999.

## 6. Sites internet

- The Oscholars : <http://oscholars.com>
- Oscar Wilde Society : <http://oscarwilde-society.co.uk>
- Oscar Wilde Society of America : [www.owsoa.org](http://www.owsoa.org)
- Revue en ligne *Rue des Beaux-arts* [http://www.oscholars.com/RBA/Rue\\_des\\_Beaux\\_arts.htm](http://www.oscholars.com/RBA/Rue_des_Beaux_arts.htm)
- The Yellow Nineties on line: <http://www.1890s.ca/>
- The Victorian Web: <http://www.victorianweb.org/>

## 7. Ouvrages à paraître

- Aquien**, Pascal et Xavier Giudicelli, ed. *The Importance of Being Earnest* d'Oscar Wilde. Paris : PUPS, coll. « mondes anglophones », 2014.
- Degroisse**, Élodie. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Paris : CNED/PUF, 2014.
- Drugeon**, Marianne et Emmanuel Vernadakis. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Neuilly-sur-Seine : Atlande, coll. « clefs-concours », 2014.
- Eells**, Emily, ed. *Wilde in Earnest*. Nanterre : PU de Paris Ouest, coll. « Intercalaires-agréation d'anglais », 2014.