Importance of Being Earnest
1895, 1939 and today

By: Sarah W
2/14, 1895: St. Jame’s Theater, London.

Opening night, cast included; Michael Redgrave (Jack), Michael Denison (Algernon), Edith Evans (Lady Agusta), and Dorothy Tutin (Cecily Cardew.) Original name of play was The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Play for Serious People.
One London newscaster was asked to comment on what they thought of the play. They said, "Gielgud has wisely kept this little masterpiece as one of the objets d'art `one saw on Victorian mantelpieces, under a glass case. The diction is mannered, and the movements studied, thus bringing out the best in the author's lines."
What have people seen before in theater?

Members of the crew would have to know that Greek theater has been seen before, and would have to be familiar with the use of a Greek chorus. Another thing that I would let the directors know is that most plays were done outside, for everyone; come and go as they please.

The language used was very hard for people to understand, most of the time. If they spoke in modern English, as we do now, it would be much more understandable and relatable for the audience’s point of view.
2020: modernized events

In the scene with the tea, we can adjust that to a Sunday brunch, after church services. I would change that because most people in the 2000's have no idea what a high tea is, or what it was like. I think that a Sunday brunch is the best modern day comparison to a high tea; where you would eat and drink with family and friends.
2020:
Gender roles
In theater

I would change the roles that males and females have. In the 2015 version of The Importance of Being Earnest, David Suchet played the famous Lady Bracknell. I thought that it was great to switch up the roles, to give men a chance to play female roles.

This should be done because society now has been so much more accepting of everyone; women in society, the LGBTQ community, and people who have differing views.
Sources

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