

Press Release  
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**WALKING SHADOW STAGES A TIMELY PRODUCTION OF OSCAR WILDE'S THRILLING COMEDY "AN IDEAL HUSBAND"**

AN IDEAL HUSBAND written by Oscar Wilde  
directed by Amy Rummenie

February 10-25, 2012 at the Red Eye Theater

Walking Shadow Theatre Company presents *An Ideal Husband*, Oscar Wilde's classic tale of love, deceit, and responsibility in public life, directed by company member Amy Rummenie.

*"Sooner or later, we shall all have to pay for what we do."* - Mrs. Cheveley  
*"No one should be entirely judged by their past."* - Sir Robert Chiltern

Robert Chiltern is loved by his wife and adored by the world for his unblemished virtue. As a Member of Parliament he toils ceaselessly for the public good and supports numerous progressive causes. But his entire career is based on one secret immoral act performed long ago, which he has regretted ever since. When Mrs. Cheveley discovers his past and tries to blackmail him, Robert must decide whether to confess his sin, risking his marriage and his ability to do good in the world, or to keep it secret by going along with Mrs. Cheveley's plot to manipulate the government for personal gain.

These themes are as relevant today as they were in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the United States entering into an election year, the minute scrutiny of our public figures has become an important topic in American politics, and Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* provides an insightful mirror to our current political climate.

And it's a comedy! All these discussions about morality and government happen within an entertaining world of mistaken identity, budding love, and clever repartee, including some of Oscar Wilde's best-known witticisms.

Oscar Wilde wrote *An Ideal Husband* in 1893 in the style of popular political thrillers of the era. It was a tremendous success, running for 124 performances. Shortly after its premiere, Wilde was arrested on charges of Gross Indecency, and his subsequent trial and

downfall cast a particularly poignant light on *An Ideal Husband* with its themes of private secrets, public disgrace, and personal redemption.

*An Ideal Husband* is director **Amy Rummenie**'s fifteenth production for Walking Shadow Theatre Company. Her previous productions include *reasons to be pretty*, *after the quake*, *The Crowd You're In With*, *Mojo*, *SQUAWK*, *Caligula*, *Amazons and their Men*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, *The American Pilot*, and *Fat Pig*.

The cast features **Adam Whisner** as Sir Robert Chiltern, **Sarah Ochs** as Lady Gertrude Chiltern, **David Beukema** as Lord Goring, **Heidi Berg** as Mrs. Cheveley, **Teresa Marie Doran** as Mabel Chiltern, **Alan Sorenson** as Lord Caversham, and **Maggie Bearmon Pistner** as Mrs. Markby. Other performers include **Anissa Siobhan Brazill**, **Shannon Troy Jones**, **Patrick Kozicky**, **Ben Layne**, **Zachary Nelson**, **Noë Tallen**, **Ruth Virkus & Joe Wiener**.

The production staff includes **Steve Kath** (set), **Victor Zupanc** (sound and music), **Peter W. Mitchell** (lights), **E. Amy Hill** (costumes), **Jennifer Probst** (props), **Sarah Holmberg** (stage management), **Callie Meiners** (assistant stage management) & **Lucinda Holshue** (dialects).

#### **About Walking Shadow Theatre Company:**

Since 2004, Walking Shadow Theatre has gained a reputation for creating well-staged and carefully researched independent theater. Past productions include *after the quake* by Haruki Murakami, Neil LaBute's *reasons to be pretty* and *Fat Pig*, *Robots vs. Fake Robots* by David Largman Murray, Albert Camus' *Caligula*, two site-specific puzzle shows, and John Heimbuch's *Drakul*, *The Transdimensional Couriers Union*, and *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*. This show marks Walking Shadow's 24th production for the Twin Cities stage.

This activity is funded, in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund, and its arts and cultural heritage fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



TICKETS: \$22/\$15  
RESERVATIONS: 612-375-0300  
MORE INFORMATION: [www.walkingshadowcompany.org](http://www.walkingshadowcompany.org)

**EVENT** **An Ideal Husband**  
WRITTEN BY: Oscar Wilde  
DIRECTED BY: Amy Rummenie

DATES: February 10 - 25, 2011  
VENUE: Red Eye Theater  
15 West 14th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55403

SUMMARY: Walking Shadow Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, a surprisingly modern comedy about politics, intrigue, deceit, love, and redemption.

EXPANDED SUMMARY: Robert and Gertrude Chiltern have a loving, ideal marriage. But when the devious Mrs. Cheveley threatens to expose the shameful secret of Robert's wealth, the Chilterns must rely upon the rakish bachelor Lord Goring to save their relationship, reputation, and chance of future happiness. A thrilling tale of love and redemption, told with the unmistakable wit and charm of Oscar Wilde.

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm	Opening Night Reception following performance
Saturday, February 11, 7:30 pm	
Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 pm	Pay What You Can Performance, Valentine's Day
Thursday, February 16, 7:30 pm	
Friday, February 17, 7:30 pm	Post-Show Discussion
Saturday, February 18, 7:30 pm	Audio Described Performance
Sunday, February 19, 3:00 pm	Matinee
Thursday, February 23, 7:30 pm	
Friday, February 24, 7:30 pm	ASL Interpreted, Post-Show Discussion
Saturday, February 25, 7:30 pm	

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