

SORRY! WRONG CHIMNEY!

David Tuttle, a struggling young executive
Samantha Tuttle, his bride of 6 months
Natalie Weldon, their neighbor across the hall
William Weldon, Natalie's psychiatrist husband
Kris Kreigle, a man with a Holiday delusion
Sheila, Kris's doggedly devoted fiancée
Policeman, a determined disciple of Law and Order

MRS. CHRISTIE

CHARACTER NAME BRIEF DESCRIPTION

AGATHA - 37 year old dabbler in detective fiction
CHARLOTTE - 20's Agatha's secretary and dogsbody (Also plays Mary)
ARCHIE - 40's Agatha's husband
NANCY - 20's Archie's mistress (Also plays Chloe)
LUCY - 37 year old detective fiction fan
WILLIAM - 20's Christie scholar (Also plays Collins)
JANE - An elderly enigmatic spinster
MONSIEUR - The world's greatest detective

IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

John (Jack/Ernest) Worthing, J.P. (Age: late 20s-early 30s) - The play's protagonist. Jack Worthing is a seemingly responsible and respectable young man who leads a double life. In Hertfordshire, where he has a country estate, Jack is known as Jack. In London he is known as Ernest. As a baby, Jack was discovered in a handbag in the cloakroom of Victoria Station by an old man who adopted him and subsequently made Jack guardian to his granddaughter, Cecily Cardew. Jack is in love with his friend Algernon's cousin, Gwendolen Fairfax. The initials after his name indicate that he is a Justice of the Peace.

Algernon Moncrieff (Age: late 20s-early 30s) - The play's secondary hero. Algernon is a charming, idle, decorative bachelor, nephew of Lady Bracknell, cousin of Gwendolen Fairfax, and best friend of Jack Worthing, whom he has known for years as Ernest. Algernon is brilliant, witty, selfish, amoral, and given to making delightful paradoxical and epigrammatic pronouncements. He has invented a fictional friend, "Bunbury," an invalid whose frequent sudden relapses allow Algernon to wriggle out of unpleasant or dull social obligations.

Gwendolen Fairfax (Age: early 20s) - Algernon's cousin and Lady Bracknell's daughter. Gwendolen is in love with Jack, whom she knows as Ernest. A model and arbiter of high

fashion and society, Gwendolen speaks with unassailable authority on matters of taste and morality. She is sophisticated, intellectual, cosmopolitan, and utterly pretentious. Gwendolen is fixated on the name Ernest and says she will not marry a man without that name.

Cecily Cardew (Age: early 20s) - Jack's ward, the granddaughter of the old gentlemen who found and adopted Jack when Jack was a baby. Cecily is probably the most realistically drawn character in the play. Like Gwendolen, she is obsessed with the name Ernest, but she is even more intrigued by the idea of wickedness. This idea, rather than the virtuous-sounding name, has prompted her to fall in love with Jack's brother Ernest in her imagination and to invent an elaborate romance and courtship between them.

Lady Bracknell (Age: 50-65) - Algernon's snobbish, mercenary, and domineering aunt and Gwendolen's mother. Lady Bracknell married well, and her primary goal in life is to see her daughter do the same. She has a list of "eligible young men" and a prepared interview she gives to potential suitors. Like her nephew, Lady Bracknell is given to making hilarious pronouncements, but where Algernon means to be witty, the humor in Lady Bracknell's speeches is unintentional. Through the figure of Lady Bracknell, Wilde manages to satirize the hypocrisy and stupidity of the British aristocracy. Lady Bracknell values ignorance, which she sees as "a delicate exotic fruit." When she gives a dinner party, she prefers her husband to eat downstairs with the servants. She is cunning, narrow-minded, authoritarian, and possibly the most quotable character in the play.

Miss Prism (Age: 40-65) - Cecily's governess. Miss Prism is an endless source of pedantic bromides and clichés. She highly approves of Jack's presumed respectability and harshly criticizes his "unfortunate" brother. Puritan though she is, Miss Prism's severe pronouncements have a way of going so far over the top that they inspire laughter. Despite her rigidity, Miss Prism seems to have a softer side. She speaks of having once written a novel whose manuscript was "lost" or "abandoned." Also, she entertains romantic feelings for Dr. Chasuble.

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. (Age: 50-65) - The rector on Jack's estate. Both Jack and Algernon approach Dr. Chasuble to request that they be christened "Ernest." Dr. Chasuble entertains secret romantic feelings for Miss Prism. The initials after his name stand for "Doctor of Divinity."

Lane (Age: 30-65) - Algernon's manservant. When the play opens, Lane is the only person who knows about Algernon's practice of "Bunburying." Lane appears only in Act I.

Merriman (Age: 30-65) - The butler at the Manor House, Jack's estate in the country. Merriman appears only in Acts II and III.

HAIR

Berger- Berger is an irreverent, anti-establishment, free spirit, a high school drop-out and the Tribe's most expressive member.

Woof- An androgynous, gentle soul, Woof loves plants, his family and the audience. Woof is hung up on Mick Jagger

Hud - Hud is a militant African American member of the tribe who loves Dionne.

Claude - Claude is the nominal leader and moral center of the Tribe.

Jeanie - An idealistic, pregnant environmentalist and earth-mother, Jeannie is in love with Claude.

Dionne - Dionne is a vivacious, strong, free-thinking African American.

Crissy - Crissy is sweet and innocent, and in love with motorcycle gang member Frank Mills (who never appears in the show). Crissy is the youngest member of the Tribe.

Sheila - An NYU student and antiwar protestor, Sheila is hung up on Berger.

Margaret Mead - Margaret Mead is a Tribe member who at one point in the show, portrays a female tourist in drag.

Other Members of the Tribe

... who play the following characters in the course of the show:

3 Moms, 3 Dads, 3 High School Principals, 2 Policemen,

Electric Blues Quartet (Oldsters),

White Girls Trio,

Black Boys Trio,

"The Supremes" Trio,

Army Sergeant, Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth, Calvin Coolidge, Clark Gable,

Scarlett O'Hara, Aretha Franklin, Colonel Custer, Shoeshine Boy,

3 Buddhist Monks, 1 Thousand-Year-Old Monk, 3 Catholic Nuns,

3 Astronauts, 3 Chinese, 3 Guerillas, 1 Native American Indian,

Hubert

and Others

GAY HUSBANDS

Jimmy (M, 30s) Married to Kevin. A struggling actor in New York. Sweet, but unsure of...everything.

Kevin (M, 30s) Married to Jimmy. A wannabe influencer. Good looking and striving for success.

Benji (M, 29) Married to David. Doesn't have to work. Eccentric, flamboyant, and loves going out.

David (M, 55) Married to Benji. Hardworking lawyer. Travels a lot for work. Well off and confident.

Mike (M, 30s) Kevin's friend and manager at work. An understanding guy, but at the end of his rope.

(Note: Mike only appears on a Zoom call. He can be played by an additional actor, an understudy, or, Benji can double as Mike if the Zoom call is only heard and not seen.)

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE END OF THE WORLD

M - they/them, 20. The star. Our MC. Swinging wildly between pissed, sweet, and mystical, maybe mythical. Sometimes in control of the narrative, sometimes being swept away by the story. M is an emerging drag performer moonlighting as a bar back at the local hole-in-the-wall gay bar downtown.

GREG - he/him, 40's-50's. M's father. The earth. Clumsily making his way through this world. A terminal diagnosis brings out a complicated core of wants and desires and regrets. He's been stuck in an office with fluorescent lights overhead and has never felt much of a purpose... until now.

VIV - she/her, 40's-50's. M's mother. The space between. Slightly neurotic and easy to get riled up, she wants with all her might to spend her last days with Greg, alone in a bed with M by their side. A bit of "I'd like to speak to the manager" energy. A bit of a ferocious tornado, ready to protect her family, wondering how the fuck she can fix this.

LILA & OTHERS - she/her, 20's-30's. Viv's younger sister, a high-maintenance yoga gal, who's the center of her own universe. But she's ride-or-die for family and can be a surprisingly great listener. Also plays: GRETA: Part-Greta Thunberg, part-Peter Pan,

part-screaming-teenage-girl- at-a-Taylor-Swift-concert, part-Angel of Death. Also plays: GROCERY CLERK, SHELLY, KATHY, ENSEMBLE A

WILL & OTHERS - he/him, 20's-30's. Good-natured and well-meaning, but uncomfortable in social situations and too smart for his own good. M's boyfriend. Also plays: TV NARRATOR, FRANK, KEV, ARMY GUY, MELOMYS, ENSEMBLE B

JANET & OTHERS - she/her, 60's.- Dealing with her wife's cancer diagnosis by at times lashing out, at times being the best older sister you could ever hope for. Blue collar. Also plays: DR. THOMAS - Greg's doctor with a near-robotic, perhaps excessively cold bedside manner. Also plays: TOAD - A now extinct Golden Toad. A kind of washed-up rockstar, quick to sob. Also plays: DOORDASH GAL, SUZIE, ENSEMBLE C

*Casting Note from the Playwright:

I've always envisioned the Murphy's as a mixed-race family. The cast should feel like it's full of different colors, backgrounds, body shapes, etc etc etc.

PARODY!

TBD by the writing team