

The Picture of Dorian Gray



Oscar Wilde adapted by Neil Bartlett

Audition notes

As London slides from one century into the next, a young man is cursed with the uncanny ability to remain both young and beautiful while descending into a life of heartless debauchery. With its glittering dialogue, provocative imagery and radical questioning of sexual and moral freedoms, Oscar Wilde's infamous parable has lost none of its power to provoke and disturb.

Characters:

Basil Hallward (playing age around 30)

A reclusive painter much respected by the London aristocracy. He admires Dorian to the point of adulation and paints the titular picture of him.

Lord Henry Wotton (playing age around thirty, but later in his seventies)

A champion of sensual pleasure, notorious among London's high society for his dazzling conversation and brazenly immoral views. He values beauty above all else, and is chiefly responsible for Dorian's corruption.

Dorian Gray (playing age of 20 absolutely essential)

A physically beautiful young man, naive and good-hearted until corrupted by vanity. Dorian makes a Faustian bargain: his body remains young and beautiful, while his portrait alters to reflect his age and increasingly guilty conscience. He eventually brings corruption, pain, and death to all in the social circles in which he moves.

Francis

Dorian's second valet is the play's 'Master of Ceremonies'. Assisted by:

Mrs. Leaf

Dorian Gray's housekeeper, a bustling older woman

A 'chorus' of other actors form an onstage company who repeatedly double to play the other characters (widely varying ages):

Sibyl Vane: A beautiful, 17-year-old Shakespearean actress in a rundown low class theatre.

Mrs Vane: Sybil's aging, single mother

James Vane: Sibyl's younger, fiercely protective brother

Victor: Dorian's faithful first servant, of whom he is unnecessarily suspicious.

Mr Hubbard: A celebrated London frame-maker

Alan Campbell: A talented chemist and musician who is blackmailed by Dorian

Victor: Dorian's first valet

And a sextet of aristocratic ladies:

Lady Narborough, Lady Ruxton, Mrs Erlynne, Lady Agatha Carlisle, Lady Victoria Wotton and The Duchess of Monmouth

Production dates: 10th to 18th May 2019

Auditions at the Little Theatre, Dunstable in February 2019 (date TBA on the website)