



20th Season In Review

New York Classical Theatre created more *unique theatrical experiences* than ever before—including the **3** exciting titles in December, March, and June.

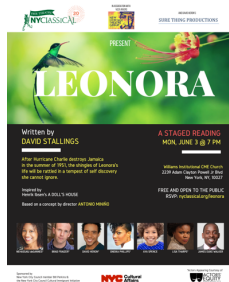
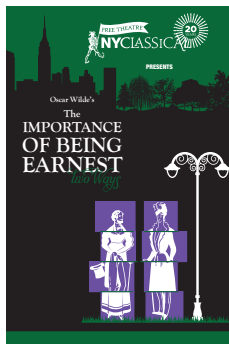
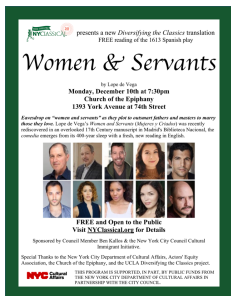
Lope de Vega's *Women & Servants* reimagined a community center as the courtyards of 17th Century Spain.

The Importance of Being Earnest transformed NY City Parks into aristocrats' gardens!

Leonora (an adaptation of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*) introduced a new audience to 1875 Norway.



In 2018-2019, we staged over **40** performances, engaging with nearly **8,000** people—and more than **70%** said they were **NEW** to NY Classical!



And, producing *year-round*, we served more **Students and Senior Citizen** groups!



We launched our new online reservation system. It shared *Advance Program Information* like plot synopses, directions to the show (even early warning for rain cancellations) with audience members—**PAPER-FREE!**

We *educated and entertained* guests from vital New York City institutions including the Borough of Manhattan Community College's CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) and Hudson Guild Senior Centers.

The Reviews are in...



“*The Importance of Being Earnest* is widely regarded as Oscar Wilde’s masterpiece, and watching NY Classical’s new production, it’s easy to see why. No word is out of place, no line is not sharply pointed. The comedy rolls along at a sleek pace, with one clever witticism following hard on the heels of another. Of course, it helps to have a good cast, and the NY Classical cast plays Wilde’s masterful comedy with smooth decorum. As the focus here is the characters—their personalities, choices, desires, and blunders—set and props are minimal. To some extent, the viewers themselves provide the set—and a dynamic one at that. It’s ‘panoramic theatre’, we’re told, and it works like a charm—adding a further element of fun and spontaneity to the production.” **-Erin Kahn**



“[NY Classical’s interpretation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*] is not just entertaining but surprisingly enlightening, building upon the play’s satire of Victorian behavior also becoming a satire of gender roles. With its nonsensical attitude and deft wordplay, *Earnest* has always marched to its own beat, and [Burdman’s] casting works perfectly well within its distinctively stylized universe. I imagine that many of the attendees appreciate being able to take in plays in the park in a welcoming, low-key context. It was accessible, pleasant and unexpectedly inventive.” **-Matt Windman**



“There’s something compelling about seeing theater outdoors. Last night I fell in love again with theater in Central Park when I saw NY Classical Theatre’s production of Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*. There’s nothing more satisfying, and nothing more quintessentially NYC than sitting on the grass with others in the know, enjoying the wonderful weather, the idyllic backdrop of a body of water framed with drooping trees, and a talented troupe of actors performing a witty, erudite piece of classical theater. I was charmed by the whole thing.” **-Donna Herman**



“For years critics were under the mistaken belief that Wilde’s aphorisms and quips were funny nonsense. A few are—but most find truth in hidden places and have a depth that is probably one secret of the play’s continual freshness. [NY Classical’s] actors, with their crisp articulation, are on the same page, delighting in the wit and playfulness. The play is in excellent hands. This is good theatre, in the spirit of bringing great works to all audiences.” **-Glenda Frank**



“Cucumber sandwiches, a handbag checked at a Victoria Station cloakroom, Bunbury and all of the other enduring pleasures of Oscar Wilde’s classic comedy are to be joyously experienced anew or for the first time in the wondrous dual productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* presented by New York Classical Theatre. Employing hearty English accents, the actors verbally caress Wilde’s ingenious epigrammatic dialogue to optimum effect. [NY Classical] has melded these singular elements into tremendously satisfying presentations that breezily play out.” **-Darryl Reilly**