

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Presents...

Arsenic And Old Lace

by Joseph Kesselring Directed by Ted Heusel

Oct. 19-22, 1988 at 8 p.m. Sat. Matinee at 2 p.m.

AT THE MICHIGAN THEATER

Sponsored in part by:



TICKET INFORMATION, CALL 662-7282

With the Support of the Michigan Council for the Arts:





Arsenic And Old Lace is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

The Michigan Theater forbids smoking in any part of the facility.

The President's Message

With this production of Arsenic And Old Lace, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre provides a truly classic offering—America's premier old-time play presented in Ann Arbor's premier oldtime theatre by Ann Arbor's premier old-time director.

Over the last forty years, the play has been performed perhaps more than any other in this country. Its particular style of humor—literate, knockabout, sometimes surrealistic—remains remarkably fresh. It has a secure niche in American culture, in part because of the famous names who appeared in various stage and screen versions—Cary Grant, Helen Hayes, Boris Karloff, Peter Lorre. While not pretending to compete with these titanic performances of the past, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre owes its audiences a production of *Arsenic And Old Lace* from time to time. Our last production was in 1975, and it is time for another one.

The Michigan Theater is a good place for this play. The architectural style is of the right period. The cinematic associations are right. The air of ornate gentility is right.

And Ted Heusel completes the package as director. For decades he has amused Ann Arbor audiences with his distinctive directing style. You can expect to see more of the same here.

Synopsis of Scenes

The entire action of the play takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn. The Time is 1941.

ACT I

An afternoon in September.

ACT II

That same night.

ACT III

Scene 1: Later that night. Scene 2: Early the next morning.

There will be two ten minute intermissions.

The Crew

Make-Up

Cathy Davis Angie Jones JoAnn Z. Keosaian Roberta Price Rosemarie Rothe Penny Ryder

> Lights Liz Mustard

Set

Rich Ashcroft John Ford Chris Hall Judy Hsieh Shirley Mallette Joe Medrano Ann Morton Eric Olson Judy Ripple Brad Roberts Bob Seeman Dwight Smith Julie Vorus Bill Wrentmore Jeff Zupan

Acknowledgements

AK's Hairworks

Props Janet Bachman Cathy Jenkins Davi Napolean Kathy Wadhams Hair & Wigs Karin Lindstrom-Hay

> Set Dressing Ted Farah Tom Lacy



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The Cast (In order of appearance)

 Abby Brewster
 Nancy Heusel
 Mortimer Brewster
 Tobin Alan

 The Rev.
 Hissong

 Dr. Harper
 Christopher Korow
 Mr. Gibbs
 Norman Gibson

 Teddy Brewster
 Tom Holden
 Jonathan Brewster
 Norman Gibson

 Officer Brophy
 Jeffrey Pickell
 Dr. Einstein
 John Cox

 Officer Klein
 Alan Dengiz
 Officer O'Hara
 Jerry Klein

 Lieutenant Rooney
 Dana D. Buck
 Mr. Witherspoon
 John Cottrell

The Staff

Director	Ted Heusel
Assistant Director	Julie Miller
Co-Producers	Chris Schwartz
	Roy Schwartz
Assistant Producer.	. Kendra Schwartz
Set Co-Designers .	Joe Medrano
	Bob Seeman

Set Dressing	. Marilyn Kennedy
Costume Designer	Lary Hafner
Lighting	

Designer	Johanna Broughton
Props	Catherine Moore
Stage Manager	Jeff Zupan
Make-Up	Sophia Farah



About The Cast

ROBIN BARLOW (Jonathan Brewster) has appeared in seven previous AACT productions, dating back to 1981, when he received the first of three AACT Best Actor awards. During his term on the AACT Board of Directors, Robin has served as Treasurer and is this season's President.

DANA BUCK (Lt. Rooney) was last seen in the AACT MainStage production, BULLSHOT CRUMMOND. He is a Kent State University Theatre graduate. A director and technician as well as actor, Dana's theatre career includes work with Savoy Light Opera, Ohio Light Opera and dinner theatre. He is an avid reader, helps publish a local literary magazine, and enjoys carpentry and furniture making.

JOHN COTTRELL (Mr. Witherspoon) last appeared with AACT more than three decades ago. Once capable of playing the romantic lead, he now specializes in being wicked lawyers, kinky uncles, mad doctors, and such—or so he says.

JOHN COX (Mr. Einstein) is making his first appearance on AACT's stage. He has worked with the Saline Area Players as actor, producer, director, costume designer and lights designer for THE KING AND I, THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER, DRACULA, PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM, and MY FAIR LADY. John also directed TWELVE POUND LOOK for the Ypsilanti Players, and is Archie in AACT's ongoing travelling production of THE BUBBYLO-NIAN ENCOUNTER. John enjoys bridge, chess, and writing, in addition to theatre.

ALAN DENGIZ (Officer Klein) is also making his first appearance for AACT. His interest in theatre began in childhood and extended to many productions through high school and college. Alan has produced and directed THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, DAMN YANKEES!, BYE BIRDIE and GREASE for the Burns Park Players.

BETTE ELLIS (Martha Brewster) Bette's first AACT show was THE TORCHBEARERS in 1950. Since then, she has shared her talents both on and off stage, including roles in HARVEY, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST and THE MAD WOMAN OF CHAILLOT. A native of Ann Arbor and a U of M Theatre graduate, Bette spends much of her time in volunteer work. Bette appeared on stage in New York and as St. Mary in ST. MARY THE EGYPTIAN, a full-length movie filmed in Greece.

NORMAN GIBSON (Mr. Gibbs) returns to AACT's stage for this show, after many years' absence. Norman says he now "enjoys being on the other side of the footlights after so many years of sitting on the aisle, complaining but often complementing." (Note: This is a clue to the "One Of A Kind" Quiz on page 15 of this program.)

NANCY HEUSEL (Abby Brewster) has, for the past 30 years, delighted AACT audiences in numerous productions, including PLAZA SUITE, MIRACLE WORKER, THE ROYAL FAMI-LY, THE LITTLE FOXES and BLITHE SPIRIT. A U of M Theatre graduate, she has worked with the University Professional Theatre Program, Ann Arbor Drama Season, Arts Theatre Club and Saline Mill Summer Theatre. Dear to her heart is the St. Andrews Players, which she co-produces with her husband, Ted. They recently presented AGNES OF GOD in Ann Arbor and the one-woman play JULIAN at Kenyon College and in Florida. Nancy is the proud mother of four and grandmother of three.

TOBIN ALAN HISSONG (Mortimer Brewster) has been active in community theatre for twelve years appearing with the Spotlight Players, Plymouth Theatre Guild and most recently the Saline Area Players. He also composed and performed the music for the PBS special DEATH ON THE INLAND SEA, which recently premiered on Channel 56. **TOM HOLDEN** (Teddy Brewster) was last seen as Otto Von Brunno in AACT's production of BULLSHOT CRUMMOND. With this current production, Tom is fulfilling a life-long dream: to be President! He is a collector of rare books and Disneyana.

JERRY KLEIN (Officer O'Hara) has appeared with the Ypsilanti Players, Saline Area Players and the Chelsea Area Players, and is back on stage after an absence of several years. He has also been seen in a recent TV commercial that enjoyed national airtime.

CHRISTOPHER KOROW (The Rev. Dr. Harper) has been active in AACT MainStreet productions for four years, appearing in eight shows. He also served as assistant director for PAINTING CHURCHES, THE MISANTHROPE, and has slung paint with the best.

DIANE L. LEONI (Elaine Harper) a newcomer to Ann Arbor, is enjoying her first experience with AACT. She has also appeared in BLOOD AND ICE at Performance Network. A recipient of the Best Actress Award in high school, she continued to pursue her interest in theatre at Western Michigan University. She enjoys piano, voice, aerobics, swimming, and travel.

JEFFREY PICKELL (Officer Brophy) appeared in AACT's FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, BELLS ARE RINGING, WORKING and MUSEUM. He was also seen in Common Ground Theatre's WORK SONG which toured to Las Vegas, Nevada, in addition to several Comic Opera Guild productions. Jeff enjoys racquetball, softball; book, art deco, and toy collecting; singing and composing music; and playing with his 22-month-old son when his wife (who dearly appreciates his support and encouragement!) works late nights at AACT.

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JOHANNA BROUGHTON (Lighting Designer) While this is her first AACT show, Jo has designed sets and lights in Traverse City, Carlisle, PA and Lake Placid, NY. Locally she has designed for Gilbert & Sullivan, Young People's Theatre and Performance Network. She is a U of M graduate.

SOPHIA FARAH (Make-Up Designer) Since joining AACT in 1962, Sophia has done everything from painting sets to painting faces, from box office to Board member. She has long lost count of the number of shows for which she has done make-up, having worked with theatre groups, U of M operas, public schools and churches throughout the area. She has designed make-up for about 25 Heusel-directed shows including the 1975 production of ARSENIC AND OLD LACE.

LARY HAFNER (Costume Designer) returns to AACT, having previously designed costumes for SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM, PAINTING CHURCHES and FIFTH OF JULY. Lary has also designed for Chelsea Area Players and the Washtenaw Historical Society. He is the owner, proprietor and designer of Dream Dresses, Inc., and has designed fashions for many entertainment and charitable organizations.

TED HEUSEL (Director) "Mr. Civic Theatre" brought us PLAZA SUITE and BULLSHOT CRUMMOND last season. Joining AACT in 1950, he has directed for us every season. A past AACT Board member, stalwart Ted continues in the Heusel tradition this year.

MARILYN KENNEDY (Set Dressing) has been a part of many AACT productions both on and off stage. Among her onstage appearances are Morgan Le Fey in CAMELOT and Mother Abbess in SOUND OF MUSIC. Her set dressing talent added dimension to THE CHALK GARDEN and HEDDA GABLER. She has also served as producer, Board member and production coordinator, in addition to creating graphic designs and serving as Social Chair. Marilyn spends her "spare time" working as a graphic designer and coping with an energetic Great Dane.

JOE MEDRANO (Set Designer) has been a part of AACT since his first show in 1960, DARKNESS AT NOON, which was also the first show for his co-designer, Bob Seeman. He has acted in more shows than he cares to count, once winning best actor in a supporting role. At least eight sets have had his name on them, among them the awardwinning HEDDA GABLER. Joe has worked every aspect of amateur and secondary school theatre except costumes, and is active in Kiwanis. *P.S.* He played Lt. Rooney in AACT's previous production of this play.

JULIE MILLER (Assistant Director) This is Julie's third AACT production. Starting out as producer for PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD on AACT's MainStreet, she finished last season as assistant director for AACT's BULLSHOT CRUMMOND. Julie has worked make-up, box office and on the follow-spot lights. She also directed THE ZOO STORY for Community High School.

CATHERINE MOORE (Props) worked with AACT on THE MUSIC MAN and with Comic Opera Guild on several of their more recent shows. She enjoys the backstage excitement and teamwork, and is looking forward to future AACT productions. Catherine enjoys gardening, reading, walking her dog and baking. CHRIS AND ROY SCHWARTZ (Co-Producers) Nearly 20 years in AACT have seen this duo produce, do lights, sound, props and set. Play selection/Board member/past president Chris has been onstage in SOUND OF MUSIC, while building technician/set builder Roy designed lights for the same show. Their last collaboration was producing PLAZA SUITE for Ted Heusel.

BOB SEEMAN (Set Co-Designer) This is the eighth show Bob has co-designed with Joe Medrano; their last collaboration produced the award-winning HEDDA GABLER set in the 1986-1987 season. A long-time member of AACT, Bob is currently Vice-President for Production on the AACT Board of Directors.

JEFF ZUPAN (Stage Manager) returns to this job for the second time this season. He can always be found backstage or in the scene shop, and last year designed the season's "Best Set" for PLAZA SUITE.



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In Community Theatre the Producers *are* our audience. The individuals and businesses acknowledged below are generous contributors to AACT this year. Bravi!

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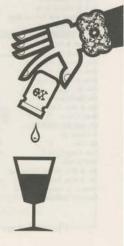
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Please let us know if your name is omitted or incorrectly spelled.



One Of A Kind

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre is unique in our area—affordable, professional quality entertainment presented by amateurs—our neighbors, all. Each of the people you see on stage tonight has a "real life" away from the footlights. Civic Theatre makes performing possible for *everyone* who is ready, willing, and able.

We thought you might like to try your hand at matching actor/actress to occupation. Check out your abilities of perception—and Civic Theatre's one-of-a kind community involvement.

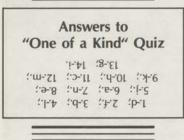
Good luck!

Cast Member

- 1. Robin Barlow
- 2. Dana Buck
- 3. John Cottrell
- 4. John Cox
- 5. Alan Dengiz
- 6. Bette Ellis
- 7. Norman Gibson
- 8. Nancy Heusel
- 9. Tobin Alan Hissong
- 10. Tom Holden
- 11. Jerry Klein
- 12. Christopher Korow
- 13. Diane L. Leoni
- 14. Jeffrey Pickell

Occupation

- a. Secondary School Teacher (Ret.)
- b. Skydiver (Ret.)
- c. Realtor
- d. Professor of Economics, U of M
- e. Play Maker
- f. Duplicating Technician
- g. Advertising Sales Representative
- h. English and Theatre Teacher
- i. Intake Coordinator for an Adolescent Residential Care Agency
- j. Physician
- k. Statistical Data Analyst
- I. Self Employed
- m. Systems Analyst
- n. Drama Critic (Ret.)





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Remember, also, that there is magic throughout the theatre-magic backed hard work and devotion of hundreds of volunteers, frugal budgets, and your cor	
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 \$75.00, plus 120 hours of skilled loving work by Ted Farah, designed an sisters' grandfather clock, which promises to become a Theatre heirloom productions during our next 59 years. 	d built the in infinite
• \$50.00 and meticulous handcrafting provided "Teddy" with a handsor anchored handrail to grasp as he charges into action.	ne, tightly
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