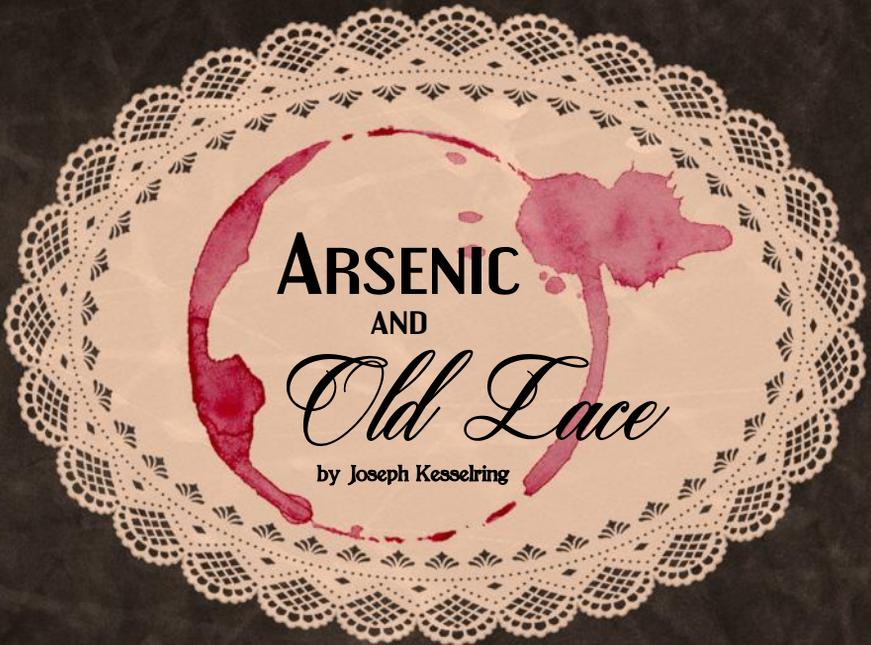


Hammond Theatre presents



NOVEMBER 12, 13, & 14, 2015

Presented through special arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service, Inc.

Director's Notes

Arsenic and Old Lace first premiered on January 20th, 1941, at the Fulton Theatre. Written by American playwright Joseph Kesselring, this dark comedy became an instant hit. It ran for 1,444 performances and was turned into a Hollywood movie starring Cary Grant. It explores themes of insanity and altruism, showcasing how these two ideas are only a matter of perspective. The dramatic, and often comedic, irony of the play is one of the reasons it remains relevant for modern audiences.

I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to direct my first show at Hammond High School. I am energized by the wonderful, talented, and hard-working students. As Robert Heinlein once said, "When one teaches, two learn." My knowledge and skill as an actor, director, and designer have grown immensely since the beginning of this process. The cast, crew, and production team have put their blood, sweat, and tears into this production, and together we have created a beautiful piece of theatre that I will always treasure. I thank you for coming to support us in this exciting and challenging endeavor and I hope you enjoy the show.

"But, as he says, the theatre can't last much longer anyway and in the meantime it's a living." Here's to proving Mortimer wrong!

~Samantha Duvall

In consideration of the performers and the audience, flash photography and phones/cameras with screens are prohibited during the performance.

No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium (water is acceptable).

Please turn off all mobile devices prior to the start of the show!

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Production Team

Producer: Lauren Tobiason

Director: Samantha Duvall

Technical Director: Donald Chiarella

Assistant Director: Connor Landfried

Stage Manager: Keche' Arrington

Lighting Designer: Zach Sager

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the administrative and custodial teams for their essential support. We would also like to thank:

- Emily Aubin for meal coordination
- Kris Woodson for assistance with costumes
- Jonathan Hawkins for assistance with sound
- Chris Wieman, Shannon Nabors, Hannah Grabenstein, and the Waaks for assistance with construction
- Mr. Blanch for headshots
- Theatre department families for generously donating their time and energy
- Aaron Tobiason for equally impressive graphic design, parenting, and support
- Keche Arrington and Connor Landfried for their collaboration, perseverance, and leadership

The Cast

ABBY BREWSTER

Flora Aubin

MARTHA BREWSTER

Jasmine Phillips

MORTIMER BREWSTER

Nick Zuelsdorf

ELAINE HARPER

Valerie Quintanilla

JONATHAN BREWSTER

Kira Bennett*

Makayla Beckles**

DR. EINSTEIN

Rhea Bradley*

Nealon Miller**

TEDDY BREWSTER

Caleb Dufresne*

Jack Buzard**

OFFICER O'HARA

Han Wagner*

Kevin Aranyi**

OFFICER BROPHY

Hosea Mundi

OFFICER KLEIN

Hayley Skaggs

LT. ROONEY

Lexi Wakefield*

Eric Hryniewicz**

DR. HARPER

Grace Woodson*

Hanaa Omran**

MR. GIBBS

Daniel Quinter

MR. WITHERSPOON

Lindsay Larsson*

Connor Landfried**

*Thursday and Saturday evening

**Friday evening and Saturday matinee

UNDERSTUDIES

ABBY

Daniel Quinter

MARTHA

Connor Landfried

MORTIMER

Eric Hryniewicz

ELAINE, BROPHY

Grace Woodson

The Crew

CONSTRUCTION/PAINT

Jaeden Arrington
Skylar Belmont
Emily Brefo*
Conner Chick
Anna Feldstein*
Hannah Feldstein*
Eunice Hawkson*

Henley Jennings*
Vincent Johnson
Grace Lee*
Tess McRae
Maddie Meyer*
Josh Pike
Emily Renfro*

Haley Rice
Leslie Sparling*
Joseph Steelman*
Kunal Thapar
Caroline Waak

SOUND

Keara Cogan*
Justine Kovacs*
Alex Pyryt*
Jade Smith*

LIGHTS

Courtney Ellis
Deladem Lassey*
Josh Lee*
Julia Linthicum
Sebastian McMillan*
Nate Palmer
David Raphael
Zach Sager*

COSTUMES/MAKEUP

Irene Azurmend*
Valerie Quintanilla
Stephanie Scott*
Shelby Waters
Grace Woodson

PROPS

Columbia Dyson
Tess McRae
Abbey Moffit

*Running Crew

Setting: Autumn 1941, the Brewster home in a quiet neighborhood in Brooklyn

Act 1: Late afternoon

Act 2, scene 1: That same night

– 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION –

Act 2, scene 2: That same night

Act 3, scene 1: Later that night

Act 3, scene 2: Early the next morning

Biographies

KEVIN ARANYI (Officer O'Hara) is a senior who loves improvisation, laughter, and long walks on the beach.

KECHE' ARRINGTON (Stage Manager) has been a part of Hammond Theatre since 2013. She started Theatre I in 2013/14, and was in *Almost, Maine* and *Seussical* last year.

FLORA AUBIN (Abby Brewster) is a senior and is thrilled to be a part of her 6th show at Hammond! Her favorite past roles have included: Mrs. Potts (*Picnic*) and Mrs. Mayor (*Seussical*). She plans to double major in math and theater in college. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her, and Ms. Duvall for being an amazing director for her senior play!

MAKAYLA BECKLES (Jonathan Brewster), a senior, has been a part of the department since her freshman year and wishes to pursue a career in theatre. Please enjoy the interesting transformation from a 17-year-old high school student to a 40-year-old psychopath.

KIRA BENNETT (Jonathan Brewster), a junior at Hammond, is honored by the chance to play Jonathan Brewster and thanks everyone involved with the production, which has been a blast! Enjoy the show!

JACK BUZARD (Teddy Brewster) is a junior this year. This is his 5th Hammond production. Favorite roles include Horton (*Seussical*), Bun Foo (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), and the Baker (*Into the Woods*). Enjoy!

KEARA COGAN (Sound Designer) has been involved in technical theatre for three years now and plans on continuing through senior year. She has a creative mind and is interested in pursuing Computer Science in college.

CALEB DUFRESNE (Teddy Brewster) is a junior who has been involved in theatre since middle school. He's also a huge nerd.

ERIC HRYNIEWICZ (Lt. Rooney), a freshman, previously performed as Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof* and in *Alice and Wonderland* as a singing Lobster... He loves performing, including trumpet and Polish dancing.

CONNOR LANDFRIED (Assistant Director, Mr. Witherspoon), a junior, is assistant directing this year's production- and loves it! He also plays Mr. Witherspoon and Mr. Hoskins. Connor wants to thank the cast and crew for their hard work. Enjoy this amazing show!

LINDSAY LARSSON (Mr. Witherspoon) is a freshman excited to be in her first theatrical production.

NEALON MILLER (Dr. Einstein) is a senior at Hammond, and is very pleased to be in his first large role in Hammond Theatre. He has been acting for 10 years, and is glad to be going out on such a high note. He would like to thank his family and everyone who has encouraged him over the years.

Biographies

HOSEA MUNDI (Officer Brophy) is a sophomore and is excited to be back in yet another Hammond theater production. Off stage Hosea enjoys playing the piano and guitar, making short films, and one day dreams of becoming film director.

HANAA OMRAN (Dr. Harper) is a sophomore and pleased to be in her third Hammond production.

JASMINE PHILLIPS (Martha Brewster) is an 11th grader who loves theater. She is excited to play Martha. Her hobbies include reading, dancing, and listening to K-pop music. Enjoy the show!

VALERIE QUINTANILLA (Elaine Harper) is very excited to perform in her last Hammond play. It seems like not so long ago she was playing Flo in Hammond's production of *Picnic*. She plans to continue acting outside of high school and hopes that you enjoy the show!

DANIEL QUINTER (Mr. Gibbs) cannot wait to perform for everyone. He has had six years of acting experience and is eager for his seventh. He would like to thank his parents and grandparents.

ZACH SAGER (Lighting Designer) is a senior and this is his 5th production at Hammond. He's excited to explore Brooklyn and what can really happen behind closed doors. Zach is incredibly thankful to have an opportunity to fully design for a production of this caliber. Check out his other work at Hammond dance concerts and *The Pajama Game* March 3rd-5th!

HAYLEY SKAGGS (Officer Brophy) is a senior who is delighted to be in her fourth year of classes and productions with the Hammond Theatre department.

HAN WAGNER (Officer O'Hara) is a junior and in his fourth Hammond production. He's happy to be human again after recent performances as a wolf and a monkey.

LEXI WAKEFIELD (Lt. Rooney) is excited to be in her first theatre production at Hammond. She has been in other shows like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Hairspray* (Penny), and *Alice in Wonderland* (Alice).

GRACE WOODSON (Dr. Harper) is a freshman and is excited to be in her first Hammond production.

NICK ZUELSDORF (Mortimer Brewster) is very excited to be performing in his first play (non-musical) for all of Hammond. He loves being able to go through it with such an amazing cast and crew!



**“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”
—Theodore Roosevelt**

**Hard work gets you the rest of the way!
We are so proud of you for all of your hard work
and another successful
Hammond Theatre performance, Jack!
We love you!**

—Mom, Dad, Matt, and Maw-Maw



**You GO, Kira!
Your Loving Family**





To Nealon,
aka Dr. Einstein,

You're a son of
great distinction...
and something of
a magician...and
something of a
thespian, too.

Great work!

Love you!
Mom & Dad



ARSENIC
and
Old Lace

Congratulations Keché and Jaeden
on a successful production

- *Love Mom & Dad*

Connor,

You've always been our favorite showman! We're all so incredibly proud of you and all you do! You're a blessing to us.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Andrew, Erica,
Grandma and the whole gang



ARSENIC GLOSSARY

Teddy Roosevelt – 26th president of the United States, serving from 1901-1909. He enjoyed going on hunting trips to Africa and was renowned as the hero of the Battle of San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War. His daughter's name is Alice.

Cardinal Gibbons – American cardinal in the Catholic Church who became close friends with President Roosevelt, who hailed him as a most useful citizen.

Panama Canal – American-made waterway that President Roosevelt adopted as one of his presidential legacies.

Blockhouse – small, isolated military fort.

Samuel Behrman – playwright who advocated for calmness and tranquility in the face of violence and war and was popular with dramatic critics like Mortimer.

Walter Winchell – popular New York columnist who changed the face of gossip columns with his writing and his radio show.

Henry Thoreau – author and Transcendentalist obsessed with the beauty of nature and animals.

Yellow fever – disease spread by infectious mosquitoes that plagued workers on the Panama Canal; Roosevelt headed a campaign to educate people about its dangers.

Pirandello – absurdist playwright who often based his plays on insane premises.

Arsenic/Cyanide/Strychnine – lethal poisons.

Boris Karloff – actor famed for playing Frankenstein's monster in a 1931 film; he played the role of Jonathan and served as a producer in the original production of *Arsenic* on Broadway.

General Goethals – chief engineer and supervisor on the Panama Canal.

Judith Anderson – actress famous for playing the murderous maid in the 1940 film *Rebecca* who dresses in Victorian garb similar to Martha and Abby.

Theatre Patrons

PRODUCERS

The Bennetts

DIRECTORS

Jennifer Wakefield

HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT THEATRE PATRON PROGRAM

Supporting and Celebrating the Theatre Artists of Tomorrow

The Hammond High School Theatre Department cordially invites you to become a member of our Theatre Patron Program. Your annual sponsorship will support the continued excellence of the Theatre Program at HaHS. We invite families as well as businesses to become our sponsors and help enrich this program in a way that only financial contributions can.

This year, with two main stage productions scheduled—*Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Pajama Game*—we need your help to keep our inventory of newly purchased lapel microphones in excellent condition and repair the walkie-talkies and headsets used by our technical crews. We also hope to rent top of the line lighting equipment to round out our recently updated inventory. Our desire is to provide the finest artistic and technical support possible to help our students shine, both on stage and behind the scenes. We hope that you will join us in supporting and celebrating the artists of tomorrow.

Your name will appear in our performance programs and on our website throughout this school year. To donate using our secure online payment system, scan the QR code or go to: tinyurl.com/HaHSPatrons.

Producer (\$100)
Director (\$50)
Stage Manager (\$25)
Actor (\$15)
Cameo (\$5)



THE PAJAMA GAME

An informational meeting
will be held on
November the 18th
at 2:20p.m.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

For the
International Thespian Society
will take place on
November the 19th
at 2:30p.m.

THE PAJAMA GAME

Auditions
will be conducted
December the 1st through
December the 4th.

THE PAJAMA GAME

Will be performed
March 3rd, 4th, and 5th at 7 p.m.
A matinee will be offered
March 5th at 2 p.m.

DRAMASTICS IMPROV

Auditions
will be conducted on
March the 10th.

FIELD TRIP

To the city of New York to
see School of Rock
will occur on
March the 24th.

DRAMASTICS IMPROV

Will perform on
April the 7th at 7p.m.

A SHOWCASE

Of the work of the Advanced
and Musical Theatre students
will take place April the 28th
and April the 29th
at 7p.m.

A BANQUET

Celebrating the year's many
accomplishments will be given
on May the 23rd at 6p.m.

DETAILS, ETC.

On these and other
department activities may
be found by visiting
tinyurl.com/HAHSTheatre.