ARSENIC and Old Lace

by Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Rob Pold
Asst. Directors: Mary Pavia & Lori B. Proksa

OCTOBER 1 – 17, 1999

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ARSENIC and Old Lace

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

Abby Brewster.....Mary Crown
The Rev. Dr. Harper.....John Zimmerman
Teddy Brewster.....Thomas V. Cicero
Officer Brophy.....David Morton
Officer Klein.....Rubiks
Martha Brewster.....Martha Hogenboom
Elaine Harper.....Inge Baugh
Mortimer Brewster.....Edward J. Green
Mr. Gibbs.....Dick Brand
Jonathan Brewster.....Joe Petrolis
Dr. Einstein.....Tim Feeney
Officer O'Hara.....Robert A. Nardini
Lieutenant Rooney.....Dave Callaghan
Mr. Witherspoon.....Phil Laskowsky

The Brewster home in Brooklyn, New York

ACT I
An afternoon in October, 1941

ACT II
That same night.

ACT III
Scene 1: *Later that night*
Scene 2: *Early the next morning*

There will be a 15-minute Intermission after Act I;
a brief break after Act II

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York, NY

Production Staff

Director.....Rob Pold
Asst. Directors.....Mary Pavia & Lori B. Proska
Set Design.....Chuck Budach, Rob Pold
Set Construction.....Mike Pavia, Rob Pold
Construction/Painting Crew.....Chuck Budach, Tom Frohnapfel, Rich Gannon, Steve Hogenboom, Steve Lown, Rob Nardini, Mary Pavia, Mike Pavia, Lori Proksa, Sue Walaszek and the Cast
Props/Set Decoration.....Kathryn Frank, Tom Frohnapfel, Tom Lindsay, Jean Lamb, Jan Lown, Mary Pavia, Lori Proksa, Tina Salamone, Sue Walaszek
Portrait Painting of Grandfather Brewster.....Rob Pold
Stage Crew.....Karen Chyna, Alan Callaghan
Lighting Design.....Sue Kuehnhold
Light Technician.....Tom Frohnapfel
Costume Coordinators.....Kathryn Frank, Tina Salamone
Publicity.....Kathryn Frank, Tom Frohnapfel, Patti O'Hara, Gary Charles Metz
Program & Poster.....Mary Crown
House Manager.....John Weis
Box Office.....Joan & Rick Ralph
Hospitality.....Ann Carter, Carol Clarke, Mary Cleveland, Solveig DeSutter
Ushers.....Shirley Evans, Sue Walaszek

We appreciate all who assisted during this production and apologize to anyone inadvertently omitted. — ***rp***

A Note from the Director

This production is dedicated to the memory of Mr. George Toler

A former teacher at Downers Grove South High School, he inspired my interest in the theater and cast me as Teddy in the school's 1979 production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

This was one of his favorite plays and I wish he could be here with us.

—— Rob Pold

For an enjoyable theater experience. . . .

- Contact an Usher if assistance is needed.
- Turn off all watch alarms, beepers, and cell phones.
- The use of recording devices and flash photography is strictly prohibited.
- Please refrain from talking during the performance.
- No smoking is allowed in the entire building.
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Anderson's Bookshops
Philip Lynch Theatre, Lewis University
Alice Toebaas
Tina Thiele
Mike Grunwald
Lincoln Center
Tom Lindsay
Park District of Downers Grove

Biographies

RobPold ***(Director)*** has played many roles for Grove Players – spotlight operator, poster artist, press release writer, stage manager, and board member to name a few. He's also played roles on stage in ten Grove Players' productions. Rob's favorite show will always be *Veronica's Room* since it was the first time he worked with his wife, Linda. Last season, he directed *The Good Doctor*, and designed/built the set for *Towards Zero.*

Mary Pavia ***(Asst. Director)*** is looking forward to another busy season as vice-president of Grove Players. After producing and assistant directing last Spring's *Towards Zero*, Mary played Irene Livingston in *Light Up the Sky* at Summerplace Theater in Naperville with fellow cast members Tim, Tom, and John. Thanks to Rob Pold for this opportunity. In 30 years of acting, some of Mary's favorite on-stage moments have been with Rob. Her dream job? PA Announcer at Comiskey Park.

Lori B. Proksa ***(Asst. Director)*** is making her first move from in front of the stage as a Grove Players audience member, to behind the scenes with the group. She previously assisted the director in 1997 of the female version of *The Odd Couple* at Vortex. Her most recent role was the Mom in the premiere at Theatre of Western Springs' *A Christmas Story*. Lori works in business management for a Lisle technology company.

Inge Baugh ***(Elaine)*** is delighted to be a first-time Grove Players performer. She recently moved from Iowa where she was a full-time Artistic Staff Member at the Old Creamery Theatre. Roles Inge enjoyed performing include the Rose/Snake in *The Little Prince*, Hope Langden in *Something's Afoot*, and Linda Swan in *Cash on Delivery*. She is an Office Manager in Evanston and teaches children creative drama/movement at the Old Town School of Folk Music. Inge loves to dance, do yoga, stand on her head, and eat Swiss Lindor Chocolate...all at once!

Dick Brand ***(Mr. Gibbs)*** began appearing in productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* 35 years ago. This show marks his third experience in *Arsenic*. This is his second play with Grove Players; *Our Town*, the first. Dick has also acted for Wheaton Drama and Batavia's Albright Theater. A retired junior high school counselor hoping to hit the lottery, he now devotes his time to volunteering at the Downers Grove Care & Counseling Center, civic organizations, and to his two grandchildren. ***(cont.)***

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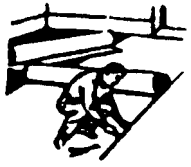

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BIOGRAPHIES *(CONT.)*

Dave Callaghan ***(Lieutenant Rooney)*** along with his wife, Carol and their children, Stephanie, Sean and Alan, moved to Downers Grove in 1992, and quickly discovered Grove Players. Dave made his acting debut with the company in *Social Security* and has gone on to perform in *Anything Goes*, *Oliver*, and *The Good Doctor*. His participation her has encouraged his son Alan's involvement as a stage crew member for this show, *The Good Doctor*, and *Towards Zero*.

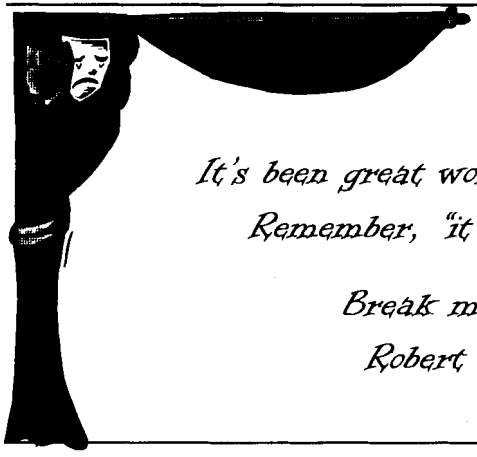
Thomas V. Cicero ***(Teddy)*** has been performing at a variety of theaters over the past three years in roles such as Big Jule in *Guys & Dolls*, and as Teddy, in another production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Tom enjoys being a Design Engineer and looks forward to someday continuing his career as a home-based business. Tom is single, looking, and living in Lisle.

Mary Crown ***(Aunt Abby)*** appears for the first time with Grove Players. She performed in *Inspecting Carol* with the Des Plaines Theatre Guild last Fall, and in *Harvey* at Winnetka Community Theater. In her spare time, she plays with her "nieces she loves to pieces," Kelly and Michelle, who already show promise of following in their "Aunt Mimi's" footsteps before the footlights.

Tim Feeney ***(Dr. Einstein)*** is an independent consultant, living out his dream and loving it as an actor and crew member, beginning with his high school's production of *Godspell*. After a brief break from the theater, he found his way back this past year. Tim is enjoying his stage debut with Grove Players after working on the set for *Towards Zero* and in other productions with Vortex, Limelight Theatre Guild of Bensenville, and Summer Place Theater in Naperville.

Edward J. Green ***(Mortimer)*** is fulfilling a long-time goal playing Mortimer Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has appeared in a number of area productions over the last 10 years, most recently as the TV Newsman/Mr. Jopek in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at Naperville's Magical Starlight Theatre. This Fall for the 3rd season Ed with be directing the TV talk show, "Overtime," (WBBM-Ch. 2). Ed and his lovely wife, June, have two boys Eddie, age 7, and David, age 5, who keep what little free time he has, occupied.

Martha Hogenboom ***(Aunt Martha)*** got her show business start at age 10 singing "Buttons & Bows" on a hometown TV children's show Memphis, TN. Mar-



To the Cast & Crew of Arsenic and Old Lace:

It's been great working with all of you.

Remember, "it's not the worst!"

Break many legs,

Robert Nardini

BIOGRAPHIES *(CONT.)*

tha's 50 years of theater experience include mostly character roles, but as Amanda in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, she "got to wear pretty clothes and get the guy." She first appeared with Grove Players as an Irish maid in *The Uninvited*; other GP shows include *Anything Goes* as a Chinese evangelist, *The Foreigner* as Betty, *The Curious Savage* as Mrs. Paddy, and *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* as Juanita. Martha is happy to appear as Martha in *Arsenic and Old Lace* "because," she says, " I get to say the best curtain line ever written for the American stage."

Phil Laskowsky ***(Mr. Witherspoon)*** resides in Lisle and works as a Marketing & Sales Communications Manager for Fuji Photo Film. Since catching the acting bug a few years ago, he has gotten involved in several acting classes and workshops at College of DuPage, Second City, and others. This is his 2nd role with Grove Players, his first being Editor Webb in the 1998 production of *Our Town*. Phil would like to thank his wife, Sandy and children, Megan and Nicholas for all their wonderful support.

David Morton ***(Officer Brophy)*** is a first-time-ever actor with this show. He has been known, however, for "acting up" on stage as a member of a band while playing bass and electric guitars and has naturally segued to the theater . During the day, Dave works is a statistician for a home healthcare company working with drug and device clinical research companies. In addition to his performance arts, he is rehabbing his home and does agility training with his dog, Josie.

Robert A. Nardini ***(Officer O'Hara)*** holds the "dubious distinction" of being the only actor to be in all three of last season's Grove Players productions. He thanks his family and friends for all of their love and support over the past year. Rob, currently secretary of Grove Players' Executive Board, made his stage debut as Howie Newsome in *Our Town,* and played the husband, pochenkin, and a "very sexy prostitute" in *The Good Doctor*. With his role as O'Hara, it isn't his first time he's been asked to "protect and serve." In last Spring's production of *Towards Zero*, Rob got to subdue the murderer. Can he do it again?

Joe Petrolis ***(Jonathan)*** has attended acting classes, yet this show marks his stage debut not only for Grove Players, but for the world. Joe has lived in Downers Grove for the past 12 years with his lovely wife, Angela, and daughter, Sara. He thanks his wife and daughter for being so patient with him throughout the rehearsal process.

Rubiks ***(Officer Klein)*** a.k.a. Kevin Haines, has come back to his stage theater roots after years of circus performing as a tightwire walker, fire eater, and acrobat. This is his first production with Grove Players. Other recent credits include Ted Cotton in *Murder Among Friends* and Officer Welch in *Rumors*. This Fall he is assisting his old high school's drama club and planning his next vacation — an African Safari.

John Zimmerman ***(Reverend Dr. Harper)*** would ideally, be a playwright. In real life, he works as an editorial writer in the Lisle branch office for the Daily Herald newspaper. On a quest to "do something fun," he attended acting classes at the College of DuPage and Hinsdale Center of Performance Arts. John's renewed interest in performing paid off with being cast in Naperville's Summer Place Theater's production of *Light Up the Sky*. John notes *Arsenic and Old Lace* is only his 2nd show since college.

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— Lt. Rooney

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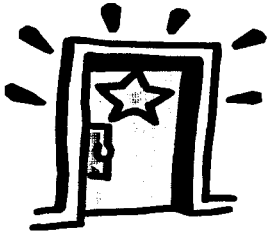

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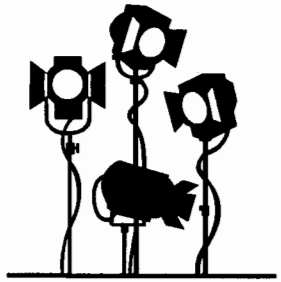

Best wishes —
from Elaine & Richard Albright

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Arsenic & Old Lace

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