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Arsenic and Old Lace

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Taylor University Theatre presents

ARSENIC and Old Lace

by

Joseph Kesselring

The Brewster Sisters brew a wonderful Elderberry wine ...

It's the Arsenic that gives it the KICK!

February 21, 22, 27, 28, and March 1

Performances begin at 8pm in the Mitchell Theatre
Tickets available by calling 998-5289

produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Directed by Professor Janice Pletcher
FROM THE DIRECTOR

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING.

TODAY’S THEATRE EXPERIENCE TAKES US FAR AWAY FROM THE REALITIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY WORLD. AS THE CURTAIN OPENS WE FIND OURSELVES JUST PRIOR TO THE U.S. ENTRANCE INTO WORLD WAR II. EVEN THAT WORLD IS NOT A TRUE REALITY IN THE BREWSTER HOUSE IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, WHERE AUNT ABBY HAS “ALMOST COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS MR. HITLER ISN’T A CHRISTIAN.”

AS WE ENTER THE BREWSTER HOME, WE ARE INVITED INTO THE FRENZIED, MADCAP, AND HILARIOUS WORLD OF TWO ECCENTRIC, CHARMING LADIES WHOSE “CHARITY” WORK INCLUDES COMPASSIONATELY SERVING POISONED ELDERBERRY WINE TO LONELY OLD GENTLEMEN AND BURYING THEM IN THEIR CELLAR. AS EACH NEW FAMILY MEMBER OR ACQUAINTANCE ENTERS THE ROOM THE PLOT THICKENS AND THE LAUGHTER INCREASES.

TONIGHT WE DO NOT ANALYZE OR CONTEMPLATE OUR WORLD. TONIGHT WE LEAVE IT BEHIND TO SPEND A FEW HOURS TO LAUGH AND ENJOY THE MARVELOUS BREW OF ARSENIC AND OLD LACE AND THE BREWSTER FAMILY.

PROFESSOR JANICE PLETCHER
Production Director
Jan has directed over 40 plays during her teaching career. This is her third production at Taylor University. She directed The Trip to Bountiful in 2003 and the readers' theatre production Lest We Forget. Jan attended the University of Evansville and graduated from Ball State University with teaching degrees in both speech and theatre and American history and political science. She received her M.A. in speech and history from Ball State University.

CORY RODEHEAVER
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Cory is a 1999 graduate of Taylor University and veteran to the Taylor Theatre program. Cory also works as a freelance designer and most recently designed for productions in southern Indiana and at Indiana Wesleyan University. Next year he plans on pursuing an M.F.A. in scenic design. He would like to thank his loving wife, Jennifer, for her continued support and God for the many blessings that come with each production.

SHANNON SWEENEY-ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Shannon is a junior communication arts education major. She is involved in Chorale, is a vocalist for jazz band and plays football, basketball, and volleyball intramurals. Shannon enjoys snowboarding, skydiving, traveling and going to jazz clubs. Home for Shannon is Fort Collins, Colorado. She is also a costume crew co-chairperson.

LESLIE ANNE WISE-STAGE MANAGER
Leslie Anne is a sophomore communication studies major from Wilmore, Kentucky. In high school she had parts in Bye Bye Birdie, Class Dismissed, The Music Man and The Wizard of Oz. Leslie Anne was last seen in The Miracle Worker. She sings in the Chorale, and is a discipleship coordinator on 3rd Swallow.

WELCOME TO TAYLOR UNIVERSITY THEATRE. IF YOU ARE A REGULAR SUPPORTER OF OUR PROGRAM WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION OVER THE YEARS. IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT, WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL ENJOY OUR WORK ENOUGH TO RETURN - AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN. WE HAVE A DISTINCT CALLING AS A CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS THEATRE PROGRAM, REFLECTED IN OUR PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT. WE WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION, YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR WORK, AND ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO HELP US ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION.
The action takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn, New York.

Time: 1940's

**Abby Brewster** ................. Annie Calhoun
**Martha Brewster** ............... Betsy DeMik
**Teddy Brewster** ................. Robby Tompkins
**Mortimer Brewster** ............. Carl Hass
**Jonathan Brewster** ............. Josh Stamoolis
**Dr. Einstein** ............ Jeremy Otten
**Elaine Harper** ................. Andrea Sweazy
**Rev. Dr. Harper** .......... Leroy Timblin
**Officer O'Hara** .......... Isaac Ramsey
**Officer Brophy** .......... Seth Bartal
**Officer Klein** .......... Tony Tozser
**Lt. Rooney** ................. Ben Friedberg
**Mr. Witherspoon** .......... Brad Marquis
**Mr. Gibbs** ................. Peter McClanathan

**Annie Calhoun - Abby Brewster**
Annie is majoring in communication arts education with an English minor. She is a sophomore from Gurnee, Illinois. While at Taylor she appeared in Peter Pan and The Royal Family. Annie is on the women's soccer team and enjoys jumping on her trampoline.

**Elizabeth DeMik - Martha Brewster**
Betsy is a junior mass communications major from Wylie, Texas. She is a university relations intern and an ECHO staff writer who enjoys reading, watching movies, choreographing airband routines, singing along with the radio and playing volleyball. This is Betsy's first time acting at Taylor.

**Robby Tompkins - Teddy Brewster**
Rushville, Indiana is home for Robby. He is a junior Christian education major who plans to work in youth ministry. At Taylor he has worked as a crew member for Hamlet, Peter Pan, The Royal Family and The Miracle Worker. Robby enjoys watching movies, eating at BW-3's and "frantic wrestling in a spirited game of Pit."

**Carl Hass - Mortimer Brewster**
Carl is a senior theatre major from Wheaton, Illinois. He plans to act professionally following college. While in college he has appeared in Peter Pan, Hamlet, The Royal Family and All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. Most recently he served as assistant director for The Miracle Worker.

**Josh Stamoolis - Jonathan Brewster**
Josh is a junior biblical literature major from Wheaton, Illinois. He has had roles in The Boys Next Door, The Trip to Bountiful, Hamlet, and The Royal Family. Josh is involved in the Telemachus Tutoring Program and the International Long Hair Club.
Jeremy Otten - Dr. Einstein

New to the Taylor stage, Jeremy has been the sound crew chairperson for the last few years. Jeremy says he "juggles, makes poems and cooks. He loves to read and write books. He once ruled Libya, he plays Bible Trivia, and just look at his rugged good looks!" Jeremy is a junior Bible and English writing major from Peoria, Illinois.

Andrea Sweazy - Elaine Harper

Andrea is a sophomore communication studies major from Elkhart, Indiana. At Taylor she appeared in The Miracle Worker and Peter Pan. In high school she had roles in The Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof, She Was Only the Garbage Man's Daughter, Flowers for Algernon and Bye, Bye, Birdie. Andrea also enjoys golf and singing.

Leroy Timblin - Rev. Dr. Harper

Leroy is from Scottsdale, Arizona and is a junior Bible major and theatre minor. Leroy plans to be a youth pastor. At Taylor he has appeared in The Trip to Bountiful and Hamlet and was an assistant director for Peter Pan. Leroy enjoys "coming up with wild and crazy activities to do like chasing tornadoes."

Isaac Ramsey - Officer O'Hara

Isaac is from Hebron, Ohio, and is a freshman majoring in theatre and psychology. In high school, he appeared in several shows including The Music Man and You Can't Take It with You. He most recently appeared in The Miracle Worker.

Seth Bertal - Officer Brophy

Seth is a senior psychology major who plans to be a residence hall director. In high school he had roles in Guys and Dolls, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Grease, Sound of Music and Oklahoma.

Tony Tozser - Officer Klein

Tony is a freshman environmental biology major from Omaha, Nebraska. In high school he appeared in a number of plays including Comedy of Errors, Hello Dolly, and Antigone. Other activities at Taylor in which he is involved include intermural Ultimate Frisbee, Taylor Christian Artists, and Young Life. Tony enjoys hunting, fishing, backpacking, playing guitar and racing.

Ben Friedberg - Lt. Rooney

Ben is a senior from Harmony, Pennsylvania, and is a computer science major. He has had roles in and worked with several plays including The Music Man, Bye, Bye, Birdie, Hamlet and Peter Pan. He enjoys philosophical films and likes "convincing people about my opinions on a film before they can formulate their own."

Brad Marquis - Mr. Witherspoon

Brad is a junior accounting major from Columbus, Ohio. He is a member of the Chorale and Young Life. He had roles in Hamlet, Peter Pan and worked crew for The Miracle Worker. Brad follows Ohio State and enjoys sleeping and watching television.

Peter McClanathan - Mr. Gibbs

Freeport, Illinois, is home for Peter. He is a junior majoring in Bible and political science. Peter enjoys reading, and relaxing on the wing. He plans to go on to graduate school for a degree in history or political science.

Special Thanks to the Following:

Stained glass by Nora and Steve Harding
Cast haircuts by Sally Sweazy and Ben Rocke
Candelabra - Roger and Jan Jenkinson
Bow Tie - Pastor Randy Gruendyke

Taylor University Housekeeping and maintenance
BE SURE TO STOP BY THE CONCESSION STAND BEFORE THE SHOW OR DURING INTERMISSION.

WE ARE NOW SERVING CRACKER BARREL COFFEE WITH YOUR CHOICE OF FLAVORED SYRUPS, HOT CHOCOLATE, PEPSI PRODUCTS AND OTHER REFRESHMENTS.

ENJOY THE CURRENT ART EXHIBIT (THROUGH INTERMISSION) IN THE METCALF GALLERIA FROM THE MEZZANINE OR ENTER THE GALLERIA FROM THE EAST SIDE OF THE RUPP CENTER.
As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones should be deactivated. Please deactivate your electronic watch alarm so it will not interrupt the performance.

No photography, video, or audio recording please.

Fire Notice:
The exits are indicated by lighted signs. The front exits are to be used for handicapped or emergencies only. Please take a few minutes to locate the exit nearest you.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Taylor University is a co-curricular educational program supporting the Liberal Arts mission of the University by providing a broad range of theatre experiences that span most theatrical periods, genres, and styles.

Plays that probe the human condition and reveal human action with integrity, authenticity, and a sense of "grace," provide us the opportunity to understand better what is true about ourselves and others.

While individual plays may not necessarily reflect the ethos of the Taylor community, we believe that this theatrical pursuit of truth resides at the heart of a Christian Liberal Arts education.
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Theatre Program

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$400, $500

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*See store for details*
TAYLOR UNIVERSITY’S THEATRE PROGRAM

THEATRE T-SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNICATION ARTS OFFICE AND ARE ALSO BEING SOLD IN THE CONCESSION STAND AT TONIGHT’S PERFORMANCE.

FOUR STYLES AND THREE COLORS AVAILABLE

PRICES

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NEW ITEM

TAYLOR THEATRE MUGS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE IN THE CONCESSION STAND AND IN THE COMMUNICATION ARTS OFFICE.

PRICE: $6.50
COMING SOON ...

The Miracle Worker
November 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Arsenic and Old Lace
February 21, 22, 27, 28 and March 1

A Doll's House
May 2, 3, 8, 9, 10