

WEST VALLEY ARTS PRESENTS

Arsenic^{skull}
AND OLD LACE
BY JOSEPH KESSELRING



OCTOBER 1 - 26

HARMAN THEATRE

WWW.WVCARTS.ORG



SERVICES OFFERED

- Financial Advisory Services*
- Private & Public Participation Project Financings*
- Debt & Financial Policy Development*
- Procurement of State & Federal Loans & Grants*
- Rating & Credit Enhancement Facilitation*
- Assessment Area Analysis & Administration*
- Comprehensive Financial Sustainability Planning (CFSP)*
- Impact Fee Studies/User Rate Analysis*
- Economic Development & Strategic Planning*
- Green Energy Services*


**LEWIS YOUNG
ROBERTSON & BURNINGHAM, INC.**

*DELIVERING CREATIVE, CONCISE, HIGH QUALITY, &
VALUE ADDED SOLUTIONS TO UTAH
SINCE 1995*

Arsenic **AND OLD LACE** **BY JOSEPH KESSELRING**

**THIS PRODUCTION IS PRODUCED BY
WEST VALLEY ARTS**

**JOSH RICHARDSON
DIRECTOR**

**KIA ARMSTRONG
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

**MARY HOHL
ANDELIN ANDERSON
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS**

**JASON BALDWIN
SET DESIGN**

**SAM SIMS
LIGHTING DESIGN**

**ZACH GRIFFEN
ASSISTED BY TRENTON THIEDE
SOUND DESIGN**

**KELSEY NICHOLS
COSTUME DESIGN**

**RUSSELL BAKER
SET CREW**

**BECCA ASHTON
SCENIC PAINTER**

**ZACH GRIFFEN
SOUND ENGINEER**

**ANDELIN ANDERSON
ASSISTANT SOUND ENGINEER**



ARSENIC AND OLD LACE IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., NEW YORK.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Character	Actor
Abby Brewster.....	Tara Berrett
Martha Brewster.....	Catherine Bohman
Teddy Brewster.....	Zac Freeman
Mortimer Brewster.....	Clayton Barney
Elaine Harper.....	Morgan Fenner
Jonathan Brewster.....	Mike Brown
Dr. Einstein.....	Michael Hansen
Rev. Harper / Mr. Gibbs / Lt. Rooney.....	Galen Chatterton
Officer O'Hara.....	Isaac Moss
Officer Brophy.....	Clayton Troy Guymon
Ms. Witherspoon.....	Karen S. Chatterton

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- MAYOR RON BIGELOW & WEST VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
- TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS, INC.
- CENTERPOINT LEGACY THEATRE
- CHAD LAWRENCE
- JENNIFER PARKER HOHL
- WEST VALLEY ARTS STAFF

Director's Notes

When *Arsenic and Old Lace* hit Broadway in 1941, the U.S. was in the midst of some very tumultuous times. Countries in Europe and much of the world were taking sides as fighting intensified in what would become known as World War II. The United State would supply arms and aid, but wouldn't officially join the war until December 8th, one day after Japanese forces attacked a U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Here at home, Franklin Roosevelt was sworn in for his third term as President. Joe DiMaggio went on a 56-game hitting streak. Orson Welles' classic *Citizen Kane* hit movie theaters. The television stations NBC and CBS began broadcasting their programs. Bugs Bunny was becoming a national phenomenon. And a comedy called *Arsenic and Old Lace* was playing on Broadway.

Audience members were blown away by the Brewster sisters, equal parts lovable and sociopathic. They sympathized with poor, unaware Mortimer as he came to terms with his aunts' "little secrets". They were frightened by Jonathan, played to perfection by the incredible Boris Karloff, himself. All families have some oddball members, but hopefully getting to know the Brewsters makes us feel a little better about our own relations.

We now find ourselves in unprecedented times, and we need a laugh more than ever. We're so glad you've joined us tonight, and we hope you enjoy our story of a pair of sisters, their nephews, and the characters that cross their paths. We just hope you have as much fun seeing this story as we have telling it. Please sit back, relax, laugh, and if anyone offers you a glass of elderberry wine, well ... it's probably a good idea to say, "no, thanks."

Play Synopsis

Act 1, Scene 1 - It's a beautiful evening in Brooklyn, sometime in the 1940s. Abby and Martha Brewster are entertaining guests in their lovely home with their nephew, Teddy. Their nephew, Mortimer, is about to get engaged to the local minister's daughter, Elaine. And Jonathan Brewster and his accomplice, Dr. Einstein, are looking for a place to escape from the law.

Act 1, Scene 2 - It's later in the same evening. Mortimer has made a gruesome discovery and is struggling to deal with the consequences. Elaine is struggling to find out why her fiance has started acting so strangely...

Act 2, Scene 1 - It's near midnight. Mortimer and Jonathan are at odds how to proceed with the complicated situation they now find themselves in. Abby and Martha would like to proceed as usual with their charities and hobbies, but the events of the evening are making that difficult.

Act 2, Scene 2 - It's a few minutes later. Jonathan and the doctor are wrapping up a task in the basement, Mortimer is trying to come up with a solution that can protect his aunts, and the police are getting tired of calls about Teddy and his bugle.

CAST BIOS



Tara Berrett

Abby Brewster

Credits: *Cash on Delivery* (Ms. Cowper) at Hale Centre Theatre; *9 to 5* (Kathy/Ensemble), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Ma Bailey), *The Miracle Worker* (Aunt Ev), and *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror #10) at CenterPoint Legacy Theatre. Additionally, she has been in the feature films *Lucy Shimmers and the Prince of Peace* and *Our Father's Keeper*. "The noblest art is that of making people happy." - P.T. Barnum



Catherine Bohman

Martha Brewster

Credits: *Footloose* (Lulu) at Harman Theatre; *Steel Magnolias* (Truvy), *Wait Until Dark* (Susy) at Midvale Performing Arts Center; *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts) at High Valley Arts; *The Sound of Music* (Elsa), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Hedy La Rue) at Rodgers Memorial Theatre; *Anne of Green Gables* (Rachel Lynde) at Covey Center for the Arts. Film: *American Killjoy* (Starbell). She was a backup singer for the Piano Guys, and has received private acting coaching from David Weekes, and acting classes from Masters Acting Academy. She is thrilled to return to the Harman stage, and wants to thank her husband and son for their unfailing support.



Zac Freeman

Teddy Brewster

Credits: *The Wizard of Oz* (Uncle Henry/Doorman) and *The Pirate Queen* (Sir Richard Bingham) at Hale Centre Theatre and *Shrek the Musical* (Shrek) with Cottonwood Heights Theatre. Additionally he was part of the award-winning film through BYU Adlab as Orkin Bugman. He is a certified personal trainer currently employed with VASA Fitness, the father of three handsome boys, and has been married for 10 years.



Clayton Barney

Mortimer Brewster

Credits: *Holiday Inn* (Jim Hardy) at CenterPoint Legacy Theatre, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Tom Copley) and *Mary Poppins* (Robertson Ay) with Hale Centre Theatre. He holds a AFA in Musical Theatre from Western Wyoming College, and is grateful to be working with such a talented group.

CAST BIOS



Morgan Fenner

Elaine Harper

Credits: *Bright Star* (Margo Crawford), *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Marie Tussaud), and *Suessical* (Mrs. Mayor) at Hale Centre Theatre; *Crazy for You* (Polly Baker) at CenterPoint Legacy Theatre; and *Addams Family* (Wednesday Addams) with Sandy Arts Guild. She has a Bachelor's in Acting from Utah State University, and trained at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She would like to thank her parents, family, and best friend, Larissa, for always supporting her playing pretend.



Mike Brown

Jonathan Brewster

Credits: *The Foreigner* (Charlie Baker), *9 to 5* (Franklin Hart, Jr.), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Bob Ewell), and *The Foreigner, Bus Stop, and Barefoot in the Park* (Director). Mike served as a co-writer and director for the *Doctor Who* parody, *Doctor U*. He is pleased to return to the stage at Harman Theatre for the first time in many years, and to be working with Josh Richardson again.

Michael Hansen

Dr. Einstein

Credits: *Les Miserables* (Marius), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Joseph), and *Hamlet* (King Claudius) at John H. Guyer High School, and *Les Miserables* (Combeferre) with Denton Community Theatre. Michael was Assistant Director for Skyridge High School's alumni production of *Into the Woods*. He would like to dedicate this show to his beautiful, talented wife, his wonderful mother, and his heavenly father.



Galen Chatterton

Rev. Harper/Mr. Gibbs/Lt. Rooney

Credits: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Uncle Billy), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Poole), *A Christmas Carol* (Marley/Old Joe), and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Jessup) at CenterPoint Legacy Theatre; *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror) with Empress Theatre, *Annie* (FDR) at Hale Centre Theatre Orem; *Brigadoon* (Archie Beaton), *No Time for Sergeants* (Pa/General Pollard), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Jacob), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Rabbi) with Hale Centre Theatre; *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Officer Brophy) at Sandy Arts Guild; *Hello, Dolly!* (Horace Vandergelder) with Murray Arts Council; and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Harper/Gibbs/Witherspoon) at Midvale Arts Council. He was seen as "Blonde Family" Grandfather in Disney's *High School Musical*, and is a graduate of the University of Utah and Dixie State. He met his sweetheart while doing Promised Valley on the outdoor stage.

CAST BIOS



Isaac Moss

Officer O'Hara

Credits: *Footloose* (Jeter) with West Valley Arts, *A Christmas Carol* (Dick Wilkins) at Hale Center Theater Orem, *Into the Woods Jr.* (Baker) at Hale Center Theater Orem Youth, *The Three Musketeers* (Porthos) at Maple Mountain High School, *Sister Act* (Eddie), *Witness for the Prosecution* (Leonard Vole) at Mountain Ridge High School. He is a senior at Mountain Ridge High School, enjoys performing as a freelance magician, and is thrilled to be returning to the Harman Theatre.



Clayton Troy Guymon

Officer Brophy

Credits: *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror 7), *Snoopy the Musical* (Linus), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Asher), *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio), *The Little Shop of Horrors* (Hobo), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Tom Snout), *Hairspray* (Joey), and *Hamlet* (Hamlet's Ghost/King Player). Clayton is in his final semester at Utah Valley University, and will be graduating with a degree in Theatre Arts and Political Science. He has spent two years on UVU's student government, and enjoys spreading school spirit and cheering on the Wolverines.



Karen S. Chatterton

Ms. Witherspoon

Credits: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Aunt Tilly) at CenterPoint Legacy Theatre, *The Sound of Music* (Frau Schmidt) with Murray Arts Council, various plays and roles with Bumbleberry Playhouse at Zion National Park, and *The Lottery* (Townsperson) with Brigham Young University. She has been heavily involved in theater since 1978 in many roles, including choreographer, director, and costumer. Currently, she is working with Sandy Arts Guild as a costume designer. She has an M.Ed. from National University in Educational Leadership, and an M.Ed. from Brigham Young University in Administration. She was a principal dancer at BYU, taught ballet for 25 years, and was the principal at Cottonwood and Westbrook Elementary schools. She is the mother of six children and the grandmother to 25 grandchildren.