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Arsenic and Old Lace

Joseph Kesselring

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John Carroll University Theater
Leone Marinello, Director

presents . . .

ARSENIC
& OLD LACE
by JOSEPH KESSELRING

November 13 and 14, 1954
8:30 P.M.
Murder and insanity don’t usually provide an evening of innocent merriment, but Joseph Kesselring has written a play in which two charming old ladies murder no less than twelve people and bury their bodies in the cellar, and yet which is one of the most hilariously funny plays in the American Theatre. In it Mr. Kesselring spoofs magnificently all murder plays and players, and particularly the chief of all boogey-men, Boris Karloff.

The doings in this old Brooklyn mansion beggar description. Besides the two old ladies, who put arsenic in their “lodgers’” wine to save them from old ages of loneliness, there is a man who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt, a policeman who wants to be a playwright, a dramatic critic who dislikes the theatre, and a crooked doctor who does plastic surgery on other crooks’ faces. Most of the people are mad, and those who are not act as if they were. And besides the corpses in the cellar, there is one in the window seat - and in fact there are two - and as the curtain falls we know there is to be another.

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE has been played in almost every country in the world. It has been delighting audiences ever since it was produced in New York in January, 1941. In that production, Boris Karloff, appearing for the first time in New York in an acting play, spoofed himself. Since then, such famous actors as Eric Von Stroheim, Bela Lugosi, and Peter Lorre have impersonated themselves in this play.

We sincerely hope that you, our audience for tonight, will sit back, relax and join in the fun.

About Our Next Play

This we feel is going to be our most exciting production to date. It marks several genuine firsts for the John Carroll University Theatre. For the first time in its history, we are going to produce a new and original play by one of our former members - a bright and promising new playwright. The name of the play: THESE STUBBORN ONES; the author: Michael S. Gallagher.

THESE STUBBORN ONES is a modern tragedy. The time and place: the present East Berlin. The play is about a former Nazi Panzer General who is living under an assumed name. The Western Allies want him for war crimes and the Communists want him to help build up a German Communist Army. The general despises both sides, but is forced to a decision when his daughter, now a communist, betrays him to the party. His decision and the forces that cause him to reach it makes for powerful, absorbing drama.

Performances: April 23 and 24
The Characters
(In order of Speaking)

Abby Brewster ........................................ Pat Mahony
The Rev. Dr. Harper .................................. Bill Schmidt
Teddy Brewster ........................................ John McDonnell
Officer Brophy ....................................... Dick Murphy
Officer Klein ........................................ Pat Smith
Martha Brewster ...................................... Barbra Hutchinson
Elaine Harper ......................................... Alverda Solens
Mortimer Brewster ................................... Dave Santoro
Mr. Gibba ............................................... Tom Skulina
Jonathan Brewster .................................. Pat O'Reilly
Dr. Einstein ............................................ E. John Sillings
Hoskins ................................................ Pat Ferrell
Officer O'Hara ......................................... Frank Stringer
Lieutenant Rooney .................................... John English
Mr. Witherspoon ..................................... Kevin McDonough
Spenalzo ................................................ Pat Ferrell

Synopsis of Scenes

Act I: An Afternoon in September

• Intermission - 7 minutes

Act II: That Same Night

• Intermission - 7 minutes

Act III: Scene 1 - Later That Night
Scene 2 - Early the Next Morning
The Little Theater Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. William J. Murphy, S.J. ................. Moderator
Mr. Leone J. Marinello .................. Director
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Lou Renner ..................... Stage Manager
Bob Niesen ..................... 2nd Stage Manager
Tom Moffitt ...................... Head Electrician
Tarri Sabol ..................... Costume Mistress
Pat Krause ..................... Property Mistress
Don Burger ..................... Sound Chief
Mike Aquaviva ................ Bookholder
Tom ‘‘Windy’’ Leonard .................. Artist

ASSISTANTS

Tom Hogan ................. Marylou Duffy
Chuck Atten ................. Nan Rosse
Marcy Patton ................. Bob Platt
Roger Smith .................. Elaine Repecky
Bill Semd ......... Roberta Mulravy
P. J. Kirkhope .......... Mary Ann Blaha
Cathy Flemag ................. Ken Calagay
Jane Vahey .................. Joan Hennessey
Tom Moffitt ................. Cathy Kurn
Jim Kortes .................. Pat O’Neill
Jean Burns .................. Jim Wargo
Gerry Tobin .................. Mary Ambriola

John Bachhuber .......... John D’Abate
Marylou Duffy ............. Joanne L. Reynolds
Chuck Atten ................. Anne Davidson
Marcy Patton ................. Rosemary Pietroniro
Roger Smith ................. Rosanne Casamano
Bill Semd .................. Don Garcia
P. J. Kirkhope .......... Dave Santoro
Cathy Flemag ............... Doloris Molnar
Jane Vahey ................. Al Lapi
Tom Moffitt ................. Bill Murphy
Jim Kortes .................
Jean Burns .................
Gerry Tobin .................

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