

Sunnybank Theatre Group

Presents

*by arrangement with Hal Leonard Aust. Pty. Ltd.
on Behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc New York*

Arsenic and

Old Lace

Written by J. Kesselring

*Director Anne Ross
Assistant Director Franck Dance*

*26 August to 10 September
2011*



Director's Notes

Arsenic & Old Lace is one of those classic comedies that has stood the test of time a joy to be a part of if you're an actor & a great night of fun & laughs for the audience.

Joseph Kesserling wrote this much loved comedy in 1939 during the dark days of World War 2 & it opened on Broadway in 1941. It was an immediate hit running up 1,400 performances. 1942 saw it open in the West End in war torn London & the movie version soon followed starring Cary Grant, Raymond Massey & Peter Lorre , with Josephine Hull & Joan Adair as the wacky sisters. It became a huge world wide Box Office success.

The story is set in New York in Brooklyn & our hero is Mortimer Brewster, a drama critic, the youngest of 3 brothers raised by their elderly, eccentric spinster aunts, Martha & Abby Brewster. He has just become engaged to the girl next door when he accidentally discovers his lovable aunts have a rather sinister little habit. Mortimer goes from a nice normal young man to a nervous, neurotic mess as he tries to figure out what to do.

It's also a play full of zany characters for the actors to get their teeth into, Teddy one of his brothers who thinks he's building the Panama Canal is harmless but totally bonkers, Jonathan his other brother is a psychopathic killer on the run who looks like Boris Karloff curtsey of his friend Dr Einstein an intoxicated plastic surgeon. And this is to name but a few. It's no wonder Mortimer is a mess but how he manages to get out of it all is hysterically funny, to say the least.

This wonderfully funny comedy has not lost any of its appeal & is as fresh as the day it was written. And for those of you who enjoy a damn good laugh it's still the perfect night out for theatre goers of all ages.

Anne & Ross.

Synopsis

The entire action takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn in 1940

ACT 1

An afternoon in Sept.

ACT 2

That same night

ACT 3

SCENE 1: Later that night

SCENE 2: Early the next morning



The Cast

(In order of appearance)

Abby BrewsterDenise Oxborough
Rev. Dr. Harper Gerard Burges
Teddy Brewster Mark Scott
Officer Brophy Gary Suthers
Officer Klein Samantha McLaughlin
Martha Brewster Doreen Omiros
Mortimer Brewster..... Kevin Doyle
Elaine HarperJoanne Smith
Mr Gibbs Gary Clarke
Jonathan BrewsterPatrick Tiernan
Dr. Einstein Martin Navin-Sanders
Officer O'Hara Gerard Burges
Mr Witherspoon Franck Dance
Lieut. Rooney Gary Clarke





Anne Ross - *Director*

Anne has had many years of experience in live theatre since appearing on stage at the age of 4. She studied ballet under Laurel Martin & went on to dance with Ballet Victoria before going on to appear in over 35 Musical Comedies. She also appeared professionally in many of the much loved TV Dramas, several Films for the ABC and Cabaret Shows such as *IMT* & *Bryce's Follies*. She went on to develop a keen interest in Set Design & Costumes and has won many awards among them 1st prize for set design at the prestigious Ballaret's South Street Eisteddfod. Anne has appeared in over 35 STG productions including such favorites as *Stepping Out*, *Arsenic & Old Lace* & *The Reluctant Debutante*. For the last 14 years she has turned her many talents to directing our hugely successful musical comedies as well as Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, J B Priestley's *When We Are Married* and Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Last year she returned to musicals and directed *Little Shop of Horrors*.



Franck Dance- *Assistant Director / Mr Witherspoon*

Franck joined STG in May of 2009 and has been actively involved in set construction, back stage, renovation work and maintenance. He is a qualified carpenter and he has brought with him his extensive knowledge in construction to help build and design numerous sets for the theatre. Franck's interest in music started at the age of 14 where he learnt drums and subsequently played with many bands. Playing Jazz through to contemporary rock. This is also where he learnt about setup and operation of lighting desks, sound mixers, microphones and recordings. This will assist him greatly in his role as Building & Technical Manager for STG. He is now honored to be part of the *Arsenic & Old Lace* production.



Denise Oxborough - *Aunt Abby*

Denise has been in STG since 2003 after having performed in North Queensland for many years. She loves character roles & has played a demented 100 year old, an aging call-girl, an obsessive compulsive patient in *Così*, a detective and an "Italian" maid to name but a few. Denise was last seen on stage in *Hat Tricks*. Her second love is costuming and we saw her wonderful work in this field in *Little Shop of Horrors*.



Doreen Omiros- *Aunt Martha*

As a student Doreen attended the Conservatorium of NSW studying music and singing. She won the prestigious Joan Bonamy Scholarship Award and studied Contemporary Ballet and Folk Dancing. She has performed both professionally and non-professionally appearing in countless Musicals and Operettas. This Doreen's first straight play and we welcome her to STG.



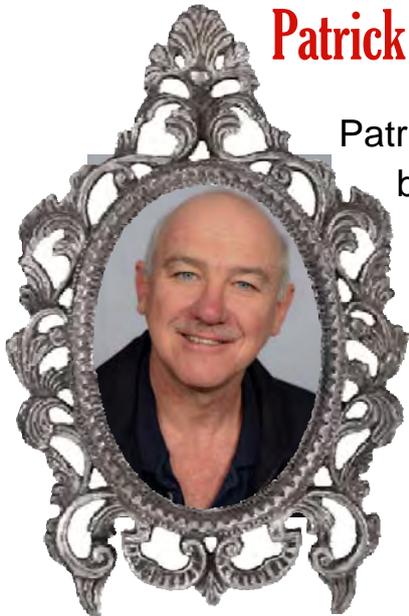
Kevin Doyle - *Mortimer*

This is Kevin's fourth show with STG. He previously appeared in *Calamity Jane*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Cosmo* in *Call Me Madam*. He has also appeared with Beenleigh Theatre Group in *Treasure Island* and *When the Cats Away*, with Mates at Birkdale in *Wait Until Dark & Strictly Murder* as well as countless musicals. He is enjoying playing the long suffering, very confused Mortimer.



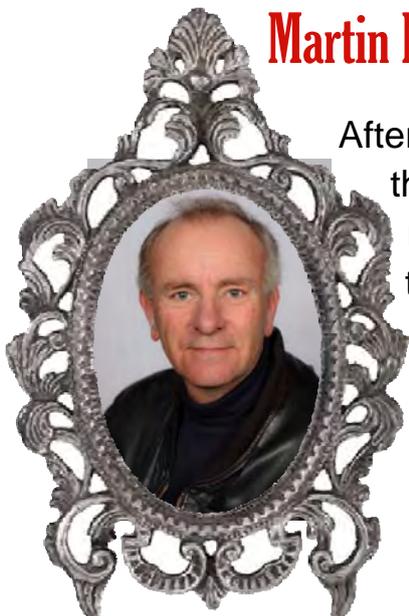
Mark Scott - *Teddy Brewster*

Mark was last seen at STG in *Noises Off*. Over the years he has been in many of our productions including *Catch 22*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *No Sex Please We're British*, *Silhouette*, & *A Man for All Seasons*. Mark also played 3 roles in the stage production of *Allo Allo* & the Verger in the Australian & New Zealand tours of *Dad's Army*.



Patrick Tiernan - *Jonathan Brewster*

Patrick has appeared in a number of STG productions but after his last stint on stage playing Selsdon Moybray in *Noises Off* he is looking forward to playing the murderous Jonathan in *Arsenic & Old Lace*. He says going from a drunken old actor to psychopathic killer is sure to be a challenge.



Martin Navin-Sanders - *Dr Einstein*

After a break of 10 years Martin is enjoying returning to the STG theatre where he last played a principal role in *Bed full of Foreigners*. Martin is confident that you will enjoy his interpretation of Dr Einstein as much as he has. Otherwise he has "vays of making you enjoy".

Joanne Smith - *Elaine Harper*



Joanne has loved watching theatre from a young age but waited until her 4 children were almost grown to make her debut at St Luke's Theatre. In the 3 years since its been a rewarding journey with onstage roles as well as working backstage with STG and Villanova Players. After 7 plays with St Luke's, *Stepping Out* with Beenleigh Theatre Group and *Blithe Spirit* at Centenary she is enjoying the opportunity to work again with such a dedicated and talented team at STG.

Gary Suthers - *Officer Brophy*



As a member of the Rockhampton Junior Little Theatre Gary's love of performing was encouraged with many workshops in street theatre, circus skills & improvisation. After graduating from Junior theatre many & varied roles followed in the Rockhampton Little Theatre productions, shows such as *Dimboola*, *The Les Darcy Show* & *The Real Inspector Hound*. This is Gary's first role for STG & we give him a warm welcome.

Samantha McLaughlin - *Officer Klein*



Samantha is another newcomer we welcome to the STG stage. She has previously worked with Centenary Theatre Group where she played Elvira in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* earlier this year. Apart from theatre she thoroughly enjoys reading, painting and music. She admits she may be shy in person but she blossoms on stage.

Gerard Burges - *Rev. Harper /
Officer O'Hara*



Gerard is a newcomer to STG & still has wet feet after coming from Dalby only 12 months ago. Whilst there he became a member of the Dalby Players & performed in 2 of their productions *Ring around Rosie & Thermal Underwear*. When first arriving in Brisbane he appeared in *Mother & Son* for the Ipswich Little Theatre. Gerard is looking forward to performing in *Arsenic & Old Lace* & we welcome him to our theatre.

Gary Clarke - *Mr Gibbs /
Lieutenant Rooney*



It is with pleasure we welcome Gary back to the Sunnybank stage. Previously he appeared in our very popular musical comedies including *Call Me Madam, Calamity Jane & Annie Get Your Gun*. He has also featured in Savoyard musicals as well as *Mates* at Birkdale.





Behind the Scenes

Stage Manager	Courtney Kiernan
Set Design	Anne Ross, Robin Ross & Franck Dance
Décor	Anne Ross
Set Construction	Franck Dance, Robin Ross Morris Thorn & Ken Stuart
Lighting Design	David Gemmell
Lighting Desk	Anshu Podar
Costumes	Linda Hammond & Denise Oxborough
Props	Franck Dance, Anne Ross, Robin Ross & Cast Members
Hair & Make-up	Serena Altea
Program/Graphic Design	Serena Altea
Photography/Publicity	Kayleen Gibson
Voice Over	David Gemmell
Front of House	Cheryl Dangerfield & Members of STG

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone, particularly cast members who have helped us with props, costumes and décor. I appreciate all your help.

Anne Ross (Director)

Coming Soon!



Sunnybank Theatre Group Inc.
presents

by arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty. Ltd.
Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)
Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold S. Prince



Book by BURT SHEVELOVE and LARRY GELBART
Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDEHEIM

Directed by Ashley Worsman and Pam Cooper
Musical Direction by Carleen Steele

11 - 26 November, 2011

Performance Dates

Friday 11 - 8pm, Saturday 12 - 2pm & 8pm
Wednesday 16 - 8pm, Friday 18 - 8pm, Saturday 19 - 2pm & 8pm
Wednesday 23 - 8pm, Friday 25 - 8pm, Saturday 26 - 2pm & 8pm

Tickets on Sale 15 October

Book ONLINE www.stg.org.au
or Ph: 3345 3964

Cnr Mains & Beenleigh Roads, Sunnybank