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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. Gibbs	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

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Act I: An Afternoon in September

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Intermission - 7 minutes

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Act II: That Same Night

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Intermission - 7 minutes

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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
John English President
Kevin McDonough Vice President
John McDonnell Secretary-Treasurer
Robert P. Andrews Business Manager
E. John Sillings Publicity Manager

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Lou Renner Stage Manager
Bob Niesen Asst. 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

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ASSISTANTS

Tom Hogan	Marylou Duffy	John Bachhuber
Chuck Atten	Nan Resse	Joanne D'Abate
Marty Patton	Bob Platt	Cora Lee Reynolds
Rogar Smith	Elaine Repecky	Anne Davidson
Bill Semidt	Roberta Mulcahy	Rosemary Pietroniro
P. J. Kirkhope	Mary Ann Blaha	Rosanne Cusumano
Cathy Fleming	Ken Caloagy	Don Garcia
Jane Vahey	Joan Hennessey	Dave Santoro
Jean Wheeler	Cathy Kurn	Doloris Molnar
Jim Kertes	Pat O'Neil	Al Lapri
Jean Burns	Jim Wargo	Bill Murphy
Gerry Tobin	Mary Ambriola	

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