

*Arsenic and
Old Lace*

By Joseph Kesselring

Ankeny Community Theatre

April 27 - May 13, 2007



ACT Celebrates Silver Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago, Pastor Fred Lewis and some of his First United Methodist congregation decided to put their acting skills to use. From that group, Ankeny Community Theatre was born. Since then it has been a venue for a long list of local actors, directors, stage crews and volunteers to use their talents to provide entertainment to the Ankeny area. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers have donated countless hours over the past 25 years to keep ACT a part of the community.

For years, the group performed shows in many locations around Ankeny including Ankeny High School, Neveln Center, Lakeside Center and the old movie theater building on West 1st Street. In 1993, with the help of Denny Elwell, ACT moved into a place it could call home. Sweat and many hours converted the empty space into a community theater. ACT has expanded its season from one to two shows a year to five, and sometimes even six. Children's theater and educational opportunities have been a vital part of ACT since 2004.

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to its loyal audiences, supporters and business partners. Without their support, ACT would not be celebrating its 25th anniversary. With your continued support, ACT looks forward to providing live theater to Ankeny for another 25 years.

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2007-2008 Season***

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Susan Nanus
September 21 - October 7

Murder Takes the Stage
James Reach
November 2 - 18

Plaza Suite
Neil Simon
January 11 - 27

The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase
Pat Cook
February 29 - March 16

Heaven Can Wait
Harry Segall
April 25 - May 11

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Kent Whitmore

Director's Notes

Arsenic and Old Lace has always been a favorite of mine so I was thrilled when I was asked to direct this show again.

A bit of history (or useless facts): The original 1941 cast included Josephine Hull, Jean Adair (both of whom reprised the roles of the Brewster sisters in the movie) and horror legend Boris Karloff.

We have a truly fine group of character actors in our cast and it has been a tremendous pleasure to have worked with them all. So, sit **back and join us in 1940's Brooklyn at the house of the Brewster sisters** where everyone is just dying to try their Elderberry Wine!

Enjoy the show and thanks for coming.

Kevin Sprague

Historical Facts

Nelson A. Miles: Commander of the American forces that invaded and occupied Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War.

“Fighting” Bob Evans: Gruff captain commanding the U.S.S. Iowa at the Battle of Santiago; commanded President Teddy Roosevelt’s “Great White Fleet”.

“Izzy” Cohen: Comic book character in the Sgt. Fury and his Howling Commandos (1940’s)

Judith Anderson: Appeared on the New York stage and later won an Oscar nomination for *Rebecca*.

George Washington Goethals: U.S. Major General and Engineer; Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal.

Boris Karloff: Actor whose menacing manner scared generations of film fans; best known as Frankenstein (1931).

U.S.S. Oregon: Battleship that steamed around South America to strengthen forces in the Atlantic as the Spanish-American War approached; one of the battleships in the “Great White Fleet” commanded by Bob Evans.

CAST

In order of appearance

Abby Brewster	Kaylene Ruby
Rev. Dr. Harper	Monte Eng
Teddy Brewster	Terry Yakish
Officer Brophy	Aaron Price
Officer Klein	Troy DeStigter
Martha Brewster	Barbara Adams
Elaine Harper	Susan Jacobson
Mortimer Brewster	Brian DePrez
Mr. Gibbs	Bud Pratt
Jonathan Brewster	Al Price
Dr. Einstein	Paul Ruby
Officer O'Hara	Kent Whitmore
Lieutenant Rooney	Gary Hagan
Mr. Witherspoon	Doug Arterburn

ACT I An afternoon in September

ACT II The same night

ACT III Scene 1: Later that night
 Scene 2: Early the next morning

The entire action of the play takes place in the living room
of the **Brewster home in Brooklyn during the 1940's.**

There will be a 10 minute intermission after Act I and a 5
minute intermission after Act II.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Kevin Sprague
Assistant Director/Producer	Lynn Arterburn
Stage Manager	Becky Plager
Set Construction	Jerry Reid, Dick Wilson & Cast
Set Painting	Dawn Hockemyer, Don Seltz & Cast
Lights/Sound	Kevin Sprague & Brad DePrez
Lighting Consultant	Harold Mosier
House Manager	Doug Arterburn
Refreshments	Bev Heldt
Playbill	Lynn Arterburn
Marketing	Dawn Hockemeyer, Jolene Schwarz & Lynn Arterburn

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Jan Price - **Grandfather Brewster's portrait**

Jerry & Jo Reid, Kaylene & Paul Ruby, Kent & Vonnie

Whitmore & Becky Plager - furniture for the Brewster home

Shelley Blok - **our "caterer"**

Grand View Theatrical Department - costumes

Heartland Floors - area rug

Andall's Service - **Teddy's suit**

Home Depot - paint

Starbar - doors

Brian & Don Crook - police uniforms

Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers or other audible electronic devices before the show begins.

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during any of our productions.



Barb Adams (Martha Brewster) returns to ACT after appearing in *Caught in the Net* last season and in *Dearly Departed* the season before that. Prior to ACT, she appeared in several productions at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater with “The John Thompson Players.” Her favorite role was Suzy in *Hot Baltimore* at the Drama Workshop. Barb loves to spend time at the lake with the grandchildren, Rachel and Nick. She is a social worker with the State of Iowa.



Doug Arterburn (Mr. Witherspoon) has been involved with ACT since 1992 when he first appeared in *The Wizard of Oz*. His favorite role was Mr. Jenkin’s in *Cash on Delivery*. He has also appeared in assorted plays at his church. Doug’s other ACT duties include theater’s website manager, house manager, light/sound technician, and set builder. Doug enjoys hiking and reading when he’s not over his head in computer work. Doug and Lynn have two grown children who have also been seen on the ACT stage.



Brian DePrez (Mortimer Brewster) is no stranger to ACT audiences. He has appeared in *Cash on Delivery*, *Funny Girl*, *Funny Money* and *It’s A Wonderful Life*. He is also active in his church’s drama productions. Brian is married to his wonderful wife, Wendy, and has two great children, Brad and Allison. He is a realtor for Coldwell Banker. When not involved with acting or coaching little league, he works on getting his singing career off the ground. He thinks that will take him quite a while since he has to learn to sing first!



Troy DeStigter (Officer Klein) quite familiar with *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He played Mr. Gibbs in ACT’s first production in 1995. He has performed numerous times at ACT including this season’s *Our Town* and *Wizard of Oz*. His favorite roles include Ernie Cusack in *Rumors*, Mr. DePinna in *You Can’t Take It With You* and The Wizard in *Wizard of Oz*. He works at American Republic Insurance Company. Troy enjoys collecting music memorabilia especially records and CD’s.



Monte Engh (Dr. Reverend Harper) was last seen on ACT's stage in January as the Scarecrow in the *Wizard of Oz*. Other shows include *Bedfull of Foreigners*, *Funny Money*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Lil Abner*, *Dearly Departed*, *Harvey* and *You Can't Take It With You*. Monte is an avid bicyclist and can be found riding with the Kum&Go team during RAGBRAI every year.

He is serving his second term on the Board of Directors for ACT. He is married to Saint Vicki and has three grown children - Kari, Jeff & Chris.



Gary Hagan (Lieutenant Rooney) was first seen on ACT's stage as the taxi driver in *Funny Money*. Gary enjoys acting and wants to try out for more extensive roles. He is Marketing Coordinator for the Des Moines International Airport. He enjoys digital photography, long-distance bicycling and traveling. This summer he is going to compete in the Hy-Vee Triathlon. He and his wife Diane live in Bondurant. They have two children and two grandchildren.



Susan Jacobson (Elaine Harper) started out ACT's 25th season appearing in *Our Town* and *And Then There Were None* and ending the season appearing in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Other shows include *Don't Drink the Water* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. She earned her DVM degree from ISU where she

happened to be one of Director Kevin Sprague's anesthesia

students during her 4th year. She works as a doctor at the Low Cost Spay Clinic in Des Moines. Susan and her husband, Jeff, live in Ankeny and have two cats and one dog. When she's not "doctoring" or doing theatre, she likes to garden, run, and read. The cast has been very appreciative of the fact that baking is one of her hobbies. She's an excellent baker!



C.W. "Bud" Pratt (Mr Gibbs) has appeared in about 30 plays at ACT including *Funny Girl* and *Sound of Music*. He also was Officer Brophy in ACT's original *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He was seen this fall in *And Then There Were None*. He has been

married to Hazel for 40 years and they have five children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He will be

celebrating the second anniversary of his 40th birthday this summer. Congratulation, Bud!



Aaron Price (Officer Brophy) is excited to be in another Sprague/Arterburn ACT production. This is his third one in as many years. Last year he was Gavin in *Caught in the Net* and in 2005, he played Royce in *Dearly Departed*. Aaron's first production with ACT was in *Annie Get Your Gun* when he was in third grade. Aaron works at Yellow Transportation in customer service and part time at Home Depot as a Head Cashier. In his free-time, Aaron likes to play Playstation 2, read comic books, and watch movies. Someday Aaron hopes to write the great American novel.



Al Price (Jonathan Brewster) must enjoy doing shows more than once! This is the second show this season (the first was *Our Town*) where Al performed in a show for the second time. He was in *Arsenic and Old Lace* over 25 years ago and played Dr. Einstein. His son, Aaron (Officer Brophy), had just been born. Al has been a member of ACT since 1982. Some of his favorite shows have been *Wizard of Oz*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Greater Tuna*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Oklahoma*. Al would like to thank his wife Jan for her support. They have three children and five grandchildren. In his "free" time, he works for Wells Fargo.



Kaylene Ruby (Abby Brewster) was Aunt Abby during ACT's **first production of *Arsenic and Old Lace***. Her favorite roles in plays are the characters - not the leading lady types. She loved being Ouiser (twice) in *Steel Magnolias* and Mammy Yokum in *Lil' Abner*. Kaylene enjoys a part of ACT because the theater is about "community" more than just the acting. She and her husband, Paul have gained wonderful friends because of their involvement. Kaylene is the Department Chair of Communication and Professor of Journalism at Grand View College. She enjoys traveling, golfing, and spending time with her two grandchildren.



Paul Ruby (Dr. Einstein) has performed in numerous ACT shows. Just look at the playbills on the wall! Some of his stage appearances include *A Round With The Boys*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Lil' Abner*, *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Plaza Suite* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. A Des Moines native, Paul is Dean of Students at Future Pathways. He and his wife, Kaylene, have grown children and two grandchildren. Paul enjoys corvette rallies and collecting Horatio Alger books.



Kent Whitmore (Officer O'Hara) certainly doesn't let any grass grow under his feet. He finished performing in ACT's *Godspell* and jumped right into rehearsals for *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In addition to ACT, Kent has performed at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre, Shoestring Productions, Elks Lodge Dinner Theatre and assorted church and school plays. He is a social worker at Broadlawns Medical Center. He is married to Vonnie and they have two children, Alicia and Bryce.



Terry Yakish (Teddy Brewster) has appeared on the ACT stage for the past three seasons. He played Stanley in last year's *Caught in the Net* and the year before he was seen in *Dearly Departed*. Terry spent a number of years performing at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater well as at the Des Moines Playhouse. This is Terry's second time for performing *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He played Officer O'Hara in 1986 at the Des Moines Playhouse. Terry is the owner of Park Avenue Plumbing in Des Moines. He enjoys sharing the stage with his significant other, Barb (Aunt Martha).



Kevin Sprague (Director) is directing his ninth show for ACT in his 14 years as a member. Included among these are his directorial debut in ACT's 1995 production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Cash on Delivery*, *Funny Money* and last spring's *Caught in the Net*. Ironically, this show marks his last with ACT as he and his family head west this summer. Kevin has been seen onstage, in the light and sound booth and working backstage for numerous productions. He also served twice as president on ACT's Board of Directors. Kevin lives in Polk City with his wife Stephanie, daughter, Bryanna, and son, Alex.



Lynn Arterburn (Assistant Director/Producer) has been involved with ACT since 1992. She enjoys acting but she loves working behind the scenes. Lynn has served as ACT Board president and currently serves on the Membership, Marketing and Children's Theater committees. Lynn works at Crocker Elementary. She would like to thank Doug for all his support during the past two months. She would also like to thank the cast and crew for all the hard work and long hours they put in to get this show ready. "They are a WONDERFUL, dedicated, and talented group of people! I am truly blessed to have the honor of working with them. It has been a pleasure working with Kevin for the past several years as his assistant director/producer. He's been a tremendous asset to ACT and will be greatly missed!"

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Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank all of our anonymous donors whose gifts total nearly \$625.

ACT NEEDS YOU!

ACT depends on the citizens of Ankeny and the surrounding communities to keep the theater running. Each volunteer is a valuable asset to the theater. Everyone is welcome. Time commitments can be large or small. Volunteer possibilities include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Costuming
- ◆ Set building
- ◆ Make-up
- ◆ Concessions
- ◆ Committee work

You may also support the theater by purchasing season tickets or a membership. Check out the opportunities by picking up volunteer forms or season tickets and membership forms from the box office or visit our website. You may also call the theater and the volunteer coordinator will return your call. Make new friends, have fun with old friends, and know the satisfaction of being part of live theater.

MATCHING FUNDS

Several companies have volunteer programs in place where the employer will match the amount of money that an employee donates to nonprofit organizations. Several also have programs where they match hours an employee has volunteered with a dollar contribution. Pioneer, Meredith, Federal Home Loan Bank and MidAmerican Energy are just some of the companies that have provided such funding to ACT based on employees contributing and working with ACT. Please check with your employer to see if you could be taking advantage of these programs and help secure ACT financing.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION

If you would like to receive information about ACT such as newsletters, **audition information, children's activities and show reminders**, please go to our website to sign up for email notification. Help us cut down on our mailing costs while keeping you informed of the most current events at ACT.

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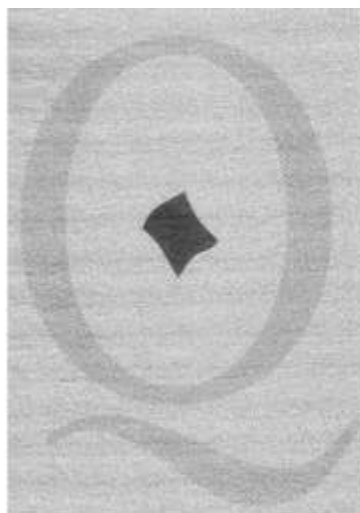
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