CENTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE PRESENTS

ARSENIC & Old Lace

BY JOSEPH KESSELRING

NOVEMBER 16-18 😎 7:30PM

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists wPlay Service collection. (www.dramatists.com).



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Video recording and audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited. Still photography, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all noise-making electronic devices. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited. No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre.

Director's Note

Welcome to the opening of Centerville High School Theatre's 2023-2024 season!

Arsenic and Old Lace is such a beloved classic in American theatre that nearly everyone reacts the same way to the title: "I love that show!" It seems like everyone has either seen or been a part of a production of *Arsenic* since it debuted on Broadway in 1941. That original Broadway show was such a hit that the release of the film version was delayed for three years while tickets continued to sell. With over 1400 performances, it even out-ranks household names like *The Sound of Music, The Music Man*, and *Newsies*.

In schools, *Arsenic* has also been a mainstay, appearing on the Educational Theatre Association's list of most-produced plays for six decades, which includes C.H.S. Theatre's productions in 1998 and 1963. Is there anyone out there tonight who played Jonathan, Einstein, or Elaine on their own school's stage?

It isn't the elderberry wine that preserves this show, it's the way playwright Joseph Kesselring upends our sense of normalcy through snappy jokes, opposing goals, and unexpected characters. Here, we side with the murderous spinsters, hope the police stay out of the way, and let Teddy be Roosevelt.

No matter how many times you have been to the Brewster house, each visit is like spending time with an old friend. If you're new to *Arsenic and Old Lace*, make sure Abby and Martha know that you aren't there to stay, because we think you'll enjoy coming back again and again.

Jason Hamen Director of Theatre Programming

P.s. If you're reading this before the show starts, take a moment to enjoy the incredible scenery on the stage. C.H.S. Theatre is a student-focused program, and that includes developing theatre skills and life skills at set building and costuming sessions, in the classroom, through leadership roles, and on the stage. Thank you for supporting their work by being here!

Arsenic & Old Lace Cast

In order of appearance

Emma Purnhagen*	Abby Brewster
Tye Roy*	The Rev. Dr. Harper
Max Smith	Teddy Brewster
Carlee Page*	Officer Brophy
William Finnell*	Officer Klein
Lila Hilliard	Martha Brewster
Sydney Korpusik	Elaine Harper
Nyle Atiq*	Mortimer Brewster
Jilyan Wilson	Mr. Gibbs
Aiden Reiman	Jonathan Brewster
Grayson Reynolds*	Dr. Einstein
Johanna James	Officer O'Hara
Tye Roy*	Lieutenant Rooney
Jilyan Wilson	Miss Witherspoon

Understudy Cast

Jessica Stoehr*: Abby Brewster; Samuel Bright: The Rev. Dr. Harper; Noah Abbey: Teddy Brewster; Peter Bright: Officer Brophy; Lucy Fulkerson: Officer Klein; Gracie Wilkens: Martha Brewster; Daria Cobb: Elaine Harper; Gabriel Reker*: Mortimer Brewster; Joseph Ealey: Mr. Gibbs; Hayden Carabell: Jonathan Brewster; Samuel Bowman: Dr. Einstein; Jaxon Rowe: Officer O'Hara; Samuel Bright: Lieutenant Rooney; Violet Johnson: Miss Witherspoon

Costume Crew

Lucy Amrine, Josie Astahoff, Florence Black-Brown, Sareena Brar, Clara Burns, Isabella Conte, Alana Ducker, Lindsey Ellzey, Izzy Grilliot, Ellie Hanchak, Likitashree Kanakala, Ainsley Keller, Sharon King, Isaac Marin, Brianna Sipple, Claire Spychalski, Blair Stilwell, Soleah Stoughton, Naomi Tyson

Set Crew

Caelyn Bird, Abby Boehm, Lillian Brewer, Jaden Bunger*, Clara Burns, Calissa Caldwell, Caleah Caldwell, Emma Churby, Aleksandra Claflin, Ellis Coalson, Lindy Collings,
Corey Coogan*, Lyena Clark, Neil Crichton, Matthew Davis, Miles Fuller, Keri Greanya*,
Leo Gruenberg*, Kyen Hatcher, Katherine Hole, Olivia Holland, Lillie Hopf, Laila Hopkins, Marissa HoShue*, Navy Houtz, Sadie Huerta, Opal Irlbeck, Madison Landers,
Kaylie Marin, Julie Marquardt, Zander Massey, Amelia Metzger, Joshua Mitchell, Zach Moore, Max Pickrel*, Cami Pinchot*, Jaden Pinchot, Azarius Pritchett,
Isabella Pontarelli, Jaxon Rowe, Tye Roy, Asher Rozakis*, Andrew Shampton,
Max Smith, Adam Spencer, Noal Stansifer, Cora Tanner, Aimi Waters, Nora Watring

*Indicates membership in Thespian Troupe 2204





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Photo courtesy of Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School



Production Staff

Director	Mr. Jason Hamen*
Technical Director	Mr. Mike Cordonnier*
Scenic Designer	Mr. Mike Cordonnier*
Costume Designer	Ms. Briley Lambert
Lighting Designer	Ms. Jessy Henning
Sound Designer	Mr. Brian Morgan*
House Manager	Mr. Wayne Kledzik
PAC Manager	Mr. Brian Morgan*
Bookkeeper	Mrs. Jan Kledzik*
Stage Manager	Mya Yancey
Assistant Director	Amanda Kingrey*
Assistant Stage Managers	Kayla Barnes*, Hailie Turner
Costume Shop Manager	Claire Spychalski
Wardrobe Manager	Ellie Hanchak
Scene Shop Managers	Keri Greanya*, Navy Houtz
Primary Carpenter	Corey Coogan*
Prop Managers	Lyena Clark, Marissa HoShue*
Scenic Charge	Cami Pinchot*
Lighting/Sound Assistant	Max Pickrel*

*Indicates membership in Thespian Troupe 2204

STAY CONNECTED!

FACEBOOK: Centerville High School Theatre INSTAGRAM: echstheatreco (This is run by our awesome STAGE club officers!) PARENTSQUARE: CHS Theatre Students/Parents Community members may join <u>CHS Theatre</u> <u>Community</u> for email updates and news.



Arsenic & Old Lace Scenes

The Brewster family home in Brooklyn, New York. 1943

ACT I

An afternoon in September

ACT II

Evening, the same day

10-Minute Intermission

ACT III

Scene 1: Night, the same day Scene 2: The following morning



Productions at CHS are photographed courtesy of Mr. Barry Burtenshaw.

Photos can be viewed and downloaded by visiting:

http://burtenshaw.smugmug.com /Events/Centerville-High-School

Thank you, Barry!

Congratulations, Emma!

We are so proud of all you have accomplished, on stage and beyond. Love,

Mom, Dad, and Grant



Biographies

Joseph Otto Kesselring (*Playwright*) was born in New York City on June 21, 1902. His career was always linked in some way to the theatre. His early years were spent as a singer (boy soprano and adult tenor), and at the age of twenty, he began teaching music and directing amateur theatre productions at Bethel College in Newton, Kansas. At twenty-three, he left academia to pursue acting, writing short stories, and producing vaudeville plays. He acted professionally in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at the age of twenty-four and, at thirty-one, one year after his marriage to Charlotte Elsheimer, he devoted himself to writing, continuing to pen short stories and initiating his career as a playwright. Between 1933 and his death in 1967, he authored twelve plays—mostly light comedies. His first play to be produced, *Aggie Appleby Maker of Men*, premiered in 1933, and four later plays were produced on Broadway: *There's Wisdom in Women* (1935), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1941), *Four Twelves are 48* (1951), and *Mother of That Wisdom* (1963). Mr. Kesselring died on November 5, 1967.

International Thespian Society[™]

The International Thespian Society is an honorary organization that recognizes the dedication and learning of theatre arts students. Since 1929, I.T.S. has inducted more than 2.5 million Thespians.

Centerville High School Troupe #2204 was chartered in 1961 and reinstated in 1990. Troupe #2204 has received many state and national recognitions, included "honor troupe" distinction for the work troupe members have done in service to the Centerville/Washington Township community and the future of theatre arts at C.H.S.

Noah Abbey (*u/s Teddy Brewster*) is a freshman at CHS. He is very excited to work in his first play at the high school. He was a part of his 8th grade musical *Rock Of Ages*. He enjoys choir and is in the Bass Choir in the high school choir program. He is also in the after school a cappella group called "Novae."

Nyle Atiq* (Mortimer Brewster) is a senior and is ecstatic to return for another show at Centerville High School! You may have seen him as Hugo in *Tuck Everlasting*, Tom in *Radium Girls*, or Bobby in *Curtains*. While not onstage, Nyle enjoys playing with his dog, working out, and engaging in shenanigans with friends. He would like to thank his family, and especially his sister Isha, for pushing him to audition and participate in theatre.

Kayla Barnes* (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior and is thrilled for her fourth show at Centerville High School. She has always been a part of the crew because it's so much fun. When not doing theatre, Kayla enjoys creating art and hanging out with friends. She would like to thank everyone who is a part of the high school theatre for making it such a joy.

Samuel Bowman (*u*/*s Dr. Einstein*) is a junior and is super excited to be a part of this year's fall play! He has participated in three shows at CHS. This is the first time he is part of a fall production. He wishes to thank his friends for being supportive. His parents are also supportive by making time in their schedules to take him where he needs to go.

Peter Bright (*u/s Officer Brophy*) is a freshman at Centerville High School and is very excited to be acting in his first show at CHS! In his free time, he enjoys singing, swimming, drawing, biking, and participating in various other activities. He loves acting and performing and would like to thank his older siblings who have been such a wonderful example for him.

Samuel Bright (*u/s Dr Harper, u/s Lieutenant Rooney*), is a senior who puts off writing about himself as long as he can. When not in theatre, he enjoys boxing, wrestling, writing, and painting. His favorite thing about this production is its amazing leadership.

Hayden Carabell (*u/s Johnathan*) is a junior and is excited to be participating in his first show in CHS Theatre! He always looked forward to doing something like this and enjoys acting for everyone watching.

Lyena Clark (*Prop Manager*) is a senior, and she is super excited for her second year of theatre at CHS. Favorite shows that she has seen are *Les Miserables* and *Anastasia*. She would like to thank her friends and family for encouraging her to join theatre.

Daria Cobb (*u/s Elaine*) is a freshman who is VERY excited to be in her first show at CHS! Outside of school, she enjoys roller skating, listening to music, and telling her friends about the musical *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*. She would like to thank her family and her friend Abby Skabby.

Corey Coogan* (*Primary Carpenter*) is a junior and is excited to participate in his seventh show at CHS. He has participated in previous shows both in the backstage crew and onstage. He would like to thank Mr. C for the opportunity to work with such amazing people to accomplish something meaningful. He would also like to thank the Scene Shop Managers (Ash and Keri), Mr. Morgan, and his cats. Enjoy the show!

Joseph Ealey (*u/s Mr. Gibbs*) is a sophomore doing his first show here at CHS. His favorite show is *Dear Evan Hanson*. He enjoys drawing and listening to music. He thanks everyone around him for supporting as he explores theatre.

William Finnell* (*Officer Klien*) is a junior and would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him.

Lucy Fulkerson (*u/s Officer Klein*) is a freshman and a first time actor! This is her first show and she's very glad to be a part of CHS Theatre. Some of her favorite shows include *Come From Away* and *Chicago*. In her free time Lucy likes to play cello, listen to rock music, draw, and paint. She'd like to thank her family, who supported her throughout her theatre journey.



Keri Greanya* (*Scene Shop Manager*) is a junior, and this is her seventh show with CHS Theatre. In the past, she has done acting, set build, and leadership. Her favorite shows were *Tuck Everlasting* and *Curtains*. She would like to thank her co-Scene Shop Manager Ash, as well as the pen that she frequently steals from Ash. Thanks, pen. Keri is very excited for the rest of the year and whatever it may bring.

Ellie Hanchak (Wardrobe Manager) is a sophomore who is extremely excited to participate in her third theatre production at CHS! Her favorite musicals include *Anastasia, Beauty and the Beast,* and *The Sound of Music.* She would like to thank her Nana for teaching her all she knows about sewing. She also sends thanks to Allie and Atlas for inspiring her during her freshman year.

Lila Hilliard* (*Martha*) is a senior at Centerville High School. She is beyond excited to be acting in her first play at Centerville. She is taking part in her seventh CHS production, in addition to participating in musicals around the Centerville and Dayton area. Some of Lila's favorite roles include Bambi in *Curtains*, Sven in *Frozen*, and Asher in *The Giver*. When she's not acting onstage, she loves to sing with Forte, write, and bake pumpkin rolls. Lila hopes to continue performing in college! She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for all of their support! She hopes you love the show as much as she loves being a part of it!

Marissa HoShue* (*Prop Manager*) is a junior and is excited to participate in her seventh show at CHS. She has previously been Primary Carpenter for *Curtains* and Prop Manager for *Radium Girls*. Her favorite show that she participated in at CHS was Clue. She would like to thank all the adults that make these shows possible and her rabbit, Lacookie, for being adorable.

Navy Houtz (Scene Shop Manager) is a sophomore and very excited to be participating in their fourth show at CHS! They would like to thank Keri for being an amazing partner in scene shop management and their dog Bandit for being fuzzy!

Johanna James (Officer O'Hara) is a senior and is excited for her debut performance at CHS! Johanna is new to Centerville High School this year and is a part of the Culinary Career Tech Program. That is where she has made many friends and lots of food. Johanna's favorite show is the musical *Beetlejuice*. Her favorite role she's played is Vinnie in *Life With Father*, where she co-starred with her partner, Drew. Johanna would like to thank Drew for helping her run scenes this year and bringing her lattes during rehearsal.

GETTOKNOW CHS THEATRE

Theatre productions in our school began with *Headin' for a Weddin'* in the 1958-1959 school year, before CHS itself existed! Since then, CHS Theatre has presented over 200 productions.

In addition to what you see on stage, CHS offers several theatre classes: Introduction to Theatre, Advanced Theatre Arts, Advanced Acting & Directing, and a career education technical theatre program, which provides support for events in the Performing Arts Center throughout the year.



BY THE NUMBERS

- **150** the average number of students involved in a production
- **10** productions performed at the Ohio Thespians State Conference
- 6 plays by our most-produced playwright, Neil Simon
- 4 productions of our most-produced show, *Bye Bye Birdie*
- 31 titles performed 2 or more times on our stage
- 33 percentage of musicals in our history
- **2204** our troupe number in the International Thespian Society; our troupe was founded in 1961



Violet Johnson (*u/s Ms. Witherspoon*) is a sophomore and elated to participate in her fifth show and second at CHS! Violet has felt a love and passion for theatre since stepping onstage for the first time in the 8th grade. The favorite role she has played was Mrs. MacNeil in last year's production of *Radium Girls*. Violet also has a love for music, writing, and drawing. She recently discovered she loves volleyball. Violet would like to thank her director, Mr. Hamen, for giving her chances to act and always putting a smile on her face. She would also like to thank her friends for bringing her spirits up every single day, her family for keeping her strong, and especially her little sister Lilly, who has been her best friend through all of it.

Amanda Kingrey* (Assistant Director) is a senior at CHS and thrilled to be participating in her tenth production at the high school. Amanda loves theatre and intends to study musical theatre education and history education in college. Her favorite things to do when she isn't in rehearsals are to hang out with her friends, listen to podcasts, and cuddle her dogs. Amanda would like to thank her family for their loving support in everything she does, Alan Bomar Jones and Becky Barrett-Jones for their guidance and assistance over the years, and her dogs Henry and Boba for all the love and snuggles.

Sydney Korpusik* (*Elaine*) is a senior and is excited to be in her eighth show at CHS! Some of her favorite past roles are Carmen in *Curtains* and Mae Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting*. She would like to go to college and study musical theatre. She is beyond grateful for the growth CHS has offered her. She would like to thank her mother for being her biggest support along her theatre journey and her cat, Yuki, for helping her practice her lines.

Carlee Page (Officer Brophy) is a junior and is excited to be in her second production at CHS and fifth show overall. Some of her favorite shows are *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Kinky Boots*. When not in the theatre, Carlee enjoys wrestling, singing in Novae A Cappella, taking care of her houseplants, and watching B-movies. She would like to thank CHS Theatre for allowing her to be part of such an amazing community.

Max Pickrel* (*Lighting/Sound Assistant*) is a junior at Centerville High School. He has been a part of theatre for seven shows and been in a leadership position for three of them. Max wishes to thank Mr C. for trusting him with important tasks and giving him chances to improve every step of the way. Max hopes to participate in many more shows before his time at CHS ends.

Cami Pinchot* *(Scenic Charge)* is a junior at CHS, and this is her fifth show with CHS Theatre. Her favorite show with CHS was *Clue*. Outside of theatre, she also is a part of Forte A Cappella. She would like to thank all of her friends for making theatre enjoyable and her sibling Jaiden for following in her footsteps.

Emma Purnhagen* (*Abby Brewster*) is a senior who is thrilled to be participating in her twenty-third show and her ninth with CHS Theatre. Some of her past favorite shows at Centerville include *Clue* (Miss Scarlet), *Kodachrome* (Photographer), and *Radium Girls* (Irene/Miss Wiley). In her free time she enjoys reading, singing, and painting. She would like to thank her family and friends for continuing to support her.

Gabriel Reker* (*u/s Mortimer*) is a junior and is proud to be a part of his second show at CHS. His first appearance was in *Radium Girls* during his sophomore year. He is excited to be part of the understudy cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Aiden Reiman (*Jonathan*) is a sophomore at Centerville High School and is quite excited to be participating in his second show at CHS! Some of his favorite shows are *Jekyll and Hyde, Les Misérables,* and *Hadestown*.

Grayson Reynolds* (*Dr. Einstein*) is a junior at Centerville High School, and he can't wait to return to the theatre program after a nice long summer. This is Grayson's third year in the program, most recently having played Randy Dexter in the CHS production of *Curtains*, as well as Jesse Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting*. This is Grayson's first overstudy role in a play at CHS. He has also been a member of Centerville High School's premiere a cappella group, Forte, for two years.

Jaxon Rowe (*u/s Officer O'Hara*) is a junior at CHS. Jaxon has been involved in theatre in the past, but took a break from it when COVID hit. Jaxon loves every role he is given and cannot choose a favorite! A fun fact about Jaxon is that he is a big fine arts person. In addition to theatre, Jaxon is a part of Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Choir, and Novae A Cappella! *Arsenic and Old Lace* will be Jaxon's second show at CHS, and he could not be more ready to perform! Jaxon's favorite theatre production from CHS is *Radium Girls*, with *Curtains* being a close second. Jaxon plans on sticking with the fine arts program for the rest of his high school career, and is so excited for everything to come! Jaxon would like to thank Mr. Hamen for being an incredible director and everyone in the *Arsenic and Old Lace* cast and crew who made him feel welcomed to the program!

Tye Roy* (*Rev. Dr. Harper/Lieutenant Rooney*) is a junior and is excited to be participating in his fourth show at CHS! Some of his favorite shows include *Come From Away, Hadestown,* and *Radium Girls.* Tye is a part of the Technical Theatre Program, Advanced Acting and Directing class, and the choir program at CHS. He wants to thank his friends and family for supporting him throughout the making of this show.

Max Smith *(Teddy Brewster)* is a junior and is really excited to be a part of the cast for his seventh show at CHS. The favorite role he played so far is Von Sashocky in *Radium Girls.* He wants to thank Mr C. and Mr Hamen for teaching him and helping him develop as an actor.

Jessi Stoehr* (*u/s Abby*) is a junior and very grateful to be in this show. She was last seen on the CHS stage in *Curtains* as the understudy Carmen and part of the ensemble. Over the summer, she was the stage manager for *Children of Eden* at Epiphany Lutheran Church. Along with performing on stage this year, she also has the incredible opportunity to be the Ohio Student Thespian Officer for the Ohio Southwest Region. She can't wait to grow and learn as a student of the arts this '23-'24 season!

Claire Spychalski (*Costume Shop Manager*) is a junior at Centerville High School. She has participated in four shows since her freshman year. Her favorite show she participated in since being at CHS was *Tuck Everlasting*. Her favorite part about participating in CHS Theatre is watching all the different pieces of the show being brought to life on stage. A show that she wants to see is *Six: The Musical*. Outside of theatre, Claire spends her time hanging out with her friends and family and reading.

Hailie Turner (*Asst. Stage Manager*) is a sophomore. This is her second year doing theatre and her second show. She is also on the swim and dive team for the high school. She would like to thank Leyana Clark for introducing her to theatre.



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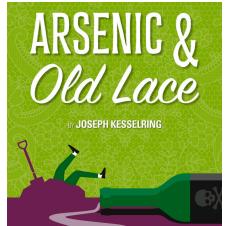
Gracie Wilkens (*u/s Martha*) is a senior and is excited to be participating in her third show at CHS! She was part of the run-crew for *Clue* and was the Assistant Stage Manager for the musical *Tuck Everlasting*. She's a part of the Early Childhood block program at the high school and plans to be a teacher. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and watching movies. Gracie wishes to thank everyone who has supported her through this journey and made this production phenomenal!

Jilyan Wilson (*Mr. Gibbs and Ms. Witherspoon*) is a senior and is looking forward to her third show at CHS! Her favorite show that she has done is *Radium Girls* as it challenged her ability to play multiple roles/characters with diverse personalities and voices. She enjoys playing D&D with her friends and is involved in digital art. Jilyan would like to thank Maximus Smith for helping her become more comfortable and involved with the theatre community at CHS.

Mya Yancey (*Stage Manager*) is a junior at CHS and is ecstatic to be participating in her fifth show with CHS Theatre! Her favorite show to build was *Clue* and her favorite show to be a part of was *Curtains*, as the assistant stage manager. She loves the performing arts and all the wonderful people involved. She would like to thank all of them, and her loving friends, for making her theatre journey fun-filled and exciting!



CENTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE 2023-2024 SEASON



NOVEMBER 16–18 AUDITIONS 9/5-6 SET BUILD/COSTUMING START 9/5



E. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S THE GREAT GATSBY ALAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY SIMON LEVY JANUARY 25-27

AUDITIONS 11/27-29 COSTUMING STARTS 12/5 SET BUILD STARTS 1/4





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