



ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

Written by Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Elina de Santos

STARRING

Alan Abelew, Michael Antosy, Ron Bottitta, Jacque Lynn Colton, Sheelagh Cullen,
Darius De La Cruz, Alex Elliott-Funk, Mat Hayes, Gera Hermann,
Liesel Kopp, Yusef Lambert, JB Waterman

SCENIC DESIGNER

Bruce Goodrich

COSTUME DESIGNER

Amanda Martin

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Leigh Allen

SOUND DESIGNER

Christopher Moscatiello

PROP DESIGNER

Josh La Cour

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Jenine MacDonald

STAGE MANAGER

Morgan Wilday

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

**Ellen Boener
Everett Keeter**

Produced by the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble

"Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York."

Arsenic and Old Lace performance schedule: August 26th through October 8th, 2017



The Odyssey is supported in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, and Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.





CAST

(In order of appearance.)

ABBY BREWSTER.....Sheelagh Cullen
 REV.DR.HARPER/ MR. WITHERSPOON/ MR. GIBBS.....Alan Abelew
 TEDDY BREWSTERAlex Elliott-Funk
 OFFICER BROPHY..... Mat Hayes
 OFFICER KLEIN.....Darius De La Cruz
 MARTHA BREWSTERJacque Lynn Colton
 ELAINE HARPER..... Liesel Kopp
 MORTIMER BREWSTERJB Waterman
 JONATHAN BREWSTER..... Gera Hermann
 DR. EINSTEIN..... Ron Bottitta
 OFFICER O'HARAMichael Antosy
 LIEUTENANT ROONEY.....Yusef Lambert

Setting

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

Act One: An afternoon in September, 1941

Act Two: That same night

Act Three: Scene 1: Later that night

Scene 2: Early the next morning

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

The running time is two hours and twenty minutes.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

JOSEPH KESSELRING

Playwright

Joseph Kesselring spent much of his life in and around the theater. In 1922 he began teaching vocal music and directed stage productions at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, a Mennonite school. After two years, Kesselring left teaching and returned to the stage, working for two years with an amateur theatrical group in Niagara, New York. He began working as a freelance playwright in 1933, completing twelve original plays, of which four were produced on Broadway: *There's Wisdom in Women*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Four Twelves Are 48*, and *Mother of That Wisdom*. *Arsenic and Old Lace* was his masterpiece and ran for 1444 performances on Broadway and 1337 performances in London. A film version, starring Cary Grant and directed by Frank Capra, was released in 1944 and was a commercial hit.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

August 25 through October 8

Friday & Saturday at 8pm • Sunday at 2pm • Wednesday at 8 on September 13 • Thursdays at 8 on September 28 and October 5. Tix for \$10 on September 1, 13 and October 5. • Wine Night September 15

RESERVATIONS: 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or odysseytheatre.com

WHO'S WHO



ALAN ABELEW

Rev. Dr. Harper / Mr. Witherspoon / Mr. Gibbs

Alan is a KOAN member at the Odyssey Theatre: *Oedipus Machina, Theatre in the Dark, Ionescopade, Sliding Into Hades, Threepenny Opera, Mary Barnes and Kveich*. At the Mark Taper Forum: *Henry IV, Part 1* and *The Devils*. World tour: *Mike Kelly's Beat of the Traps*. Film: *Infection, Bullitface, Don't Be a Menace, Cocktail, Julia Max's Distortion*. TV: *E.R., General Hospital, Cagney & Lacey* and *Happy Days*. Award for the Best Supporting Actor and an Emmy for his work on PBS. Alan's last show was *Beckett's* (Odyssey), and he will next be seen in Julia Max's short film, *The Colonies*.



MICHAEL ANTOSY

Officer O'Hara

Michael is an actor, producer and a proud member of the Rogue Theatre Company. He has performed locally at The Road Theatre, Skylight Theatre Company and is thrilled to be making his debut here at the Odyssey. Please check out his IMDB profile for a past list of episodic and film credits, and stay in touch @michaeljantosy. Michael extends much love and appreciation to his family, friends, and wife for their loving support.



RON BOTTITTA

Dr. Einstein

At the Odyssey: *The Assassination of Leon Trotsky, Rank, Theatre in the Dark, The Arsonists, Chekhov and Maria*, and more. Recent local credits include *Nicky* with the Coeurage Theatre Co., *Judgment at Nuremberg* at the Annenberg (and the national tour); John Pollono's *Rules of Seconds* at LATC; *Superior Donuts* and *Yes, Prime Minister* at The Geffen; *Honky, Penelope, A Bright New Boise, Monkey Adored, The Sunset Limited, Half of Plenty* and *Razorback* at Rogue Machine, where he is a company member. Film: *Thor: Ragnarok, The Mountain Between Us, Guardians of the Galaxy 2, Mad Max: Fury Road, The Adventures of Tintin, Mr and*

Lost. He is the host of *Rant of Rant*, Rogue Machine Theatre's monthly spoken-word series, now in its ninth year. Training: MFA-NYU, BA-UC Berkeley. Dad, Aviator, Iron Butt Motorcyclist.



JACQUE LYNN COLTON

Martha Brewster

Jacque is delighted to return to the Odyssey Ensemble, where audiences may remember her as Mrs. Peachum in the last two *Threepenny Operas* as well as *Little Murders, Rhinoceros, Caucasian Chalk Circle, White Marriage, Kveich* and *Mother Courage*. She most recently appeared as Fraulein Van Zandt in *The Physicists* and played a similar character at Theatre West in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, as well as the Countess in Clare Booth Luce's *The Women*. She was Halie in Sam Shepherd's *Buried Child* at the Whitefire, and has played the mainstage at A Noise Within in *Eccentricities of a Nightingale, Blithe Spirit*, and their Artists'

Readings Period of Adjustment and *Liliom*. At OpenFist Theatre Company, Ms. Colton played Aunt Julia in James Joyce's *The Dead*, Horton Foote's *Footnotes* and many others. She has been frequently seen on film and TV and national and international stages, large and small.



SHEELAGH CULLEN

Abby Brewster

Sheelagh came to Los Angeles from Hong Kong, where she ran a theatre company for ten years. Previously she had worked in both England and her native Ireland in theatre and TV. In Los Angeles she has worked with Stages Theatre, Shakespeare Festival/LA, Theatricum Botanicum, LA Theatre Works, Working Stage Theatre and the Odyssey Theatre. Sheelagh loves to get back to her Irish roots, both in *The Heart of an Irishwoman* and as narrator and storyteller in a series of Irish concerts with Kerry Records. She last appeared at the Odyssey in *Beckett's* earlier this year, and is delighted to have been asked back to take part in this madcap adventure!



DARIUS DE LA CRUZ

Officer Klein

Darius is a first-timer at the Odyssey and is beaming to be here. Other work includes improv at iO West (house team Wheelhouse), understudies for *Bull* and *Bunny Bunny* at Rogue Machine and The Falcon, and dire fun on shows from *The Comeback* (HBO) to *Famous in Love* (Freeform). Look for him in the 2017 season premiere of *NCIS*. Thanks for being here, to book club, and to my loved ones for tolerating such long food prep times.



ALEX ELLIOTT-FUNK

Teddy Brewster

Alex is satisfying a young theatre-lover's dream by getting to play Teddy in this legendary play. He is grateful for his first chance to perform at the Odyssey and honored to join such a stellar cast. He is a member of Theatre of NOTE, where he was recently seen in the world premiere of *Supper* by Phinny Kiyomoura. Favorite roles include Franz Woyzeck in *Woyzeck*, Johansson in *Ghost Sonata*, Druce in *Red Noses*, Gloucester in *Henry VI* and E in *Figure 8*. His performance is dedicated to young theatre-lovers everywhere. @funkonfire



MAT HAYES

Officer Brophy

Mat is an Ovation Award winner (*The Boy from Oz*, Celebration Theatre) and is thrilled to be a part of the Odyssey's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Originally from Alabama, he has performed all over the world via cruise ships, regional theatres, theme parks, dinner theatres, and everything in between. He can be seen in *Jane the Virgin*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *My Crazy Ex*, etc. Though a filmmaker, Mat also has worked on various casting projects for Disney Channel. HUGE thanks to his family, Del Shores, Bradley Bernstein, Jeff

Marcus, Stan Zimmerman and Twinkle Byrd. @matjhayes



GERA HERMANN

Jonathan Brewster

Gera was last seen at the LA Fringe 2017 as Newton in Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *The Physicists*. He is a member of Theatre West and appeared in its award-winning production of Randy Gross' *Bread as Ali Akmed*, as well as a tailor in Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle*. He was also seen at the Victory Theatre as Haroun (u/s) in Jason Wells' critically acclaimed *The Engine of Our Ruin*. Gera loves acting in films, and his most recent feature film just hit iTunes: visit www.thehollywouldnts.com. He is thrilled to make his Odyssey Theatre debut with this

amazing ensemble in his favorite play, and dedicates this performance to his mom.



LIESEL KOPP

Elaine Harper

Liesel, a Los Angeles native, is delighted to be performing in her first show at the Odyssey. Liesel played a holographic newscaster from the year 2033 in the dystopian farce *The Rising* at this year's Hollywood Fringe Festival and Tipper Gore in *Porn Rock* at last year's Fringe. She appeared in Clive Barker's *Frankenstein in Love* and *Crazyface* at Sacred Fools and *View of the Dome*, *Midnight Brainwash Revival* and *Valparaiso*, also at Sacred Fools. On TV she's appeared in *Masters of Sex*, *Parenthood*, *Men of a Certain Age* and

Jimmy Kimmel Live, and she'll soon be seen in the indie films *Captain Black* and *Hard Promises*. She co-hosts the children's comedic/educational YouTube series, *The Adventures of Mr. Clown*, created by an Emmy Award-winning writer/producer of *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and she's been lucky enough to work alongside guests such as Ray Romano, Allison Janney and Camryn Manheim. LieselKopp.com

TELL A FRIEND!

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YUSEF LAMBERT

Lieutenant Rooney

Yusef is making his Odyssey Theatre debut as Lt. Rooney. A recent Los Angeles resident, he has performed with the San Francisco Opera, the Boston Lyric Opera, the San Francisco Playhouse, the American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, TheatreWorks, the Annex Theatre, Theatre Schmeatre and Zach Scott Theatre Center, and is a founding member of the award-winning commedia dell'arte company, Tongue and Groove, in Austin, Texas. Mr. Lambert also spent several years performing Grand Guignol horror plays in the Bay Area. He has starred in the independent kung fu film, *The Mandarin*, as well as the award-winning silent film, *The Magic Man*.



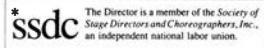
JB WATERMAN

Mortimer Brewster

JB is thrilled to be joining so many wonderful artists at the Odyssey Theatre for the first time. Some credits include *Hamlet-mobile* at the Hollywood Fringe, *Dragon Play* at the Chance Theatre, *The Curse of Oedipus* at Antaeus and *Women* at the Hollywood Fringe, as well as starring in the films, *Five Pilgrims* and the upcoming *Mia, Tia and Tim*.

ELINA DE SANTOS*

Director
Elina is the Co-Artistic Director, Rogue Machine Theatre. World premieres: *Dirty Filthy Love Story* (Rob Mersola), *Nice Things* (Vince Melocchii), *Razorback* (John Pollono), *Yard Sale Signs* (Jennie Webb), and *The Sexual Life of Savages* (Ian McDonald). West Coast premieres: *Bhutan* (Daisy Foote), *Stop Kiss* (Diana Son; co-director, Matthew Elkins), *Falling* (Deanna Jent), Nicolas Wright's *Vincent in Brixton* (Pasadena Playhouse), and *New Jerusalem* (David Ives). LA premieres: David Mamet's *Speed the Plow*, Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. Other: *Broken Glass*, *All My Sons* and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller; *Awake & Sing!* (1994-95, 2015-16 Odyssey) and *Rocket to the Moon* by Clifford Odets; Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending* (LADCC Award for direction), and *A Doll's House* (LA Weekly Best Direction nominee); *Orphans* (Lyle Kessler) (the OC Weekly Best Production), *Romeo & Juliet: Circus Verona* (DWT) (Ovation nomination), *Awake & Sing!* (Berkshire Theatre Festival & Pittsburgh Public Theatre). Elina is the recipient of the LADCC Directing Career Achievement Award. Thanks, Megan.



BRUCE GOODRICH

Scenic Designer
Recent work includes *Recorded in Hollywood* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. At the Chance Theatre, *Middletown*, directed by Trevor Bishop, and *Seminar*, directed by Elina de Santos. Also, *Fallen Angels* and *Chapter Two* at Ensemble Theatre Co. in Santa Barbara, directed by Andy Barnicle. New York and regional venues include Primary Stages Co. (original and off-Broadway productions of David Ives' *All in the Timing*), Ensemble Studio Theatre, American Stage Co. Playwrights Theatre of NJ, Arena Stage, Fords Theatre, The Colony, The Falcon, The Rubicon, The Odyssey (*Broadway Bound*, directed by Jason Alexander), El Portal, McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Laguna Playhouse, The Human Race (Dayton), Skylight Opera Theatre (Milwaukee), and many others. Stage Raw, LA Drama Critics and Ovation nominations. BFA: University of Wisconsin. MFA: Carnegie-Mellon School of Drama. Professor of Design at CSU, Fullerton, Department of Theatre and Dance.

LEIGH ALLEN

Lighting Designer
Leigh is a recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Career Achievement. Accolades include Ovation, best production and lighting nomination, *Dying City*; LADCC award for production, *One Night in Miami*; Garland Award, *Cousin Bette*; LA Weekly Award, *Treefall*; Ovation, Production of the Year, *Killer Joe*; GLAAD Award, *Like a Dog on Linoleum*; Macy Award, *The Secret Garden*; and LADCC and LA Weekly Awards, *Johnny Got His Gun*. Other lighting design credits include the world premieres of *Boise, USA* (Matrix Theatre) and *Flim Flam: Houdini and the Hereafter* (Malibu Playhouse), both written by Gene Franklin Smith. Leigh has also toured with Masters of Illusion, Live! and has designed for cruise lines, musical theater companies, regional theaters, universities and many more. In her spare time she teaches at Santa Monica College.

AMANDA MARTIN

Costume Designer

Amanda is a Long Beach native, currently pursuing her MFA in costume design and technology at Cal State Long Beach. She has a BFA in theatre design from ACU and has worked in several theaters across state lines, including the Vineyard Theatre in New York, NY, Music Theatre, Wichita, Kansas, the Abilene Shakespeare Festival in Texas, and The Long Beach Playhouse, Pacific Resident Theater (PRT), Rogue Machine, and now Odyssey Theatre Ensemble.

CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO

Sound Designer

Recipient of the 2015 Stage Raw award and multiple Ovation nominations for sound design, Christopher is also a composer, music editor/mixer, and music director for theater, television and film. Recent TV credits include *The Walking Dead* (AMC), *Psych* (USA), *Eureka* (Syfy), *Human Target* (Fox), *The Cape* (NBC), *Caprica* (Syfy) and *Trauma* (NBC), and he has scored full series, specials and promos for HBO, BBC, NBC, National Geographic and others. Other theatre credits include The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Rogue Machine Theatre and Antaeus Theatre Company, and he served as assistant conductor on the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Before residing in LA, Chris was the associate artistic director and conductor of the Boston Chamber Ensemble, and wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premiere in Washington, DC.

JOSH LA COUR

Prop Designer

Josh is a recent graduate from Loyola Marymount University with dual degrees in theatre arts and business administration. Previously serving as master electrician and technical director of the Del Rey Theatre, he is excited to use the skills he's developed as the Odyssey Theatre's production intern this summer. He is known primarily for his work in costume design and construction, as well as lighting design, which can be seen in the construction of Woman One's dress in the Odyssey's *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. His latest works include costume design for Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo* and set/lighting design for Kenneth Lonergan's *This Is Our Youth*. Later this year, he will be designing *Emperor of the Moon* at Loyola Marymount University and two repertory shows at Azusa Pacific University.

JENINE MACDONALD

Fight Choreographer

Jenine was trained and certified by the Society of American Fight Directors. She has assisted on stage combat workshops in Chicago, Las Vegas, Pittsburgh, Maine and Sweden. Winner of the "Best Female Advanced Actor Combatant" award at the SAFD National Workshop, her favorite shows include *Hamlet* at Pittsburgh Theatre Laboratories, *Tag Team Lovefest 2000* at The Actors' Gang, and *Four Clowns and a Bench* at the Complex's Ruby Theatre.

ELLEN BOENER

Assistant Director

Ellen is ecstatic to be making her Los Angeles debut working with The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble on *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She premiered her most recent original production, *Car Play*, alongside Liam Collier under the auspices of T1 Presents in Berkeley, CA. Ellen spent her last year in the Bay Area, where she worked closely with TheatreFIRST as their artistic development intern as well as the stage manager for their productions of *HeLa* and *VS*. Other credits include *We Players' Beowulf* and *Romeo and Juliet* (director's assistant). Thank you all for supporting The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, and enjoy the show.

EVERETT KEETER

Assistant Director

Everett "Reti" Keeter is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma. He has been in LA the past two years pursuing his training in the BFA acting program at Calarts. His most recent credits include *Solidus*, directed by Julie Bour, and *The Words of Others*, directed by Ruth Estevez-Gomez. This is his first time working at the Odyssey, and he would like to thank Elina and the Odyssey for the opportunity to work on this wonderful play again.

RON SOSSI

Artistic Director/Founder of the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble

Ron received the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award in 2013. He has also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in the process of theatre" and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." Recent OTE directing projects include *Beckett's, My Sister, Oedipus Machina, Theatre in the Dark* (LA Weekly nomination, Best Production of the Year), *Way to Heaven* (LA Weekly and LADCC nomination for Best Production of the Year), *Adding Machine: A Musical, The Arsonists* (LA Weekly nomination for Best Direction) *Sliding Into Hades* (Best Production of the Year, LA Weekly), *Kafka Thing!*, *Far Away* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Ron has led the Odyssey throughout its 48-year history.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Master Carpenter	Joe Behm
Scenic Artist.....	Chris Bell
Carpenters	Danny Felix, Bill Moore & BMC Design
Set Construction Crew	Brent Cartier, Deisy Cervantes, Robert Fox, Sharon Maslow, Toni Medina, Jacob Nudel, Aysa Shaffer, Josefa Osorio
Costume Crew	Caitlin Wells
Master Electrician	Danny Felix
Lighting Crew	Kevin Orellana
Backstage Crew	James Hunter, Sharon Maslow, Toni Medina, Sadia Ortiz, Joann Song, Caitlin Wells
Casting Assistant.....	Megan Wright
Publicist.....	Lucy Pollak
Photography.....	Enci
Graphic Design.....	Peter Simpson Cook
Set Crew	Alison Bacon, Daisy Cervantes, Rob Fox, Shai Hunt
Promotional Video.....	Eric Ekman
Special Thanks	Vallerie Griffin, Marjje Mautner

THANK YOU

The Italian antique desk on the set of *Arsenic and Old Lace* was donated by **PAUL J. MURPHY** from **MURPHY'S TOUCH** a source for fine woodworking, finishing, restoration, training and consulting.

Please visit Paul's website at www.murphystouchla.com for more information.

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We are thrilled to announce *THE DANCE OF DEATH*, August Strindberg's deliciously venomous 1900 play, so savage and so shot through with cruel wit that the audience will find themselves physically squirming with a mixture of pleasure and dismay. Strindberg's play is amplified by the voice of celebrated Irish playwright Conor McPherson.

Directed by Ron Sossi

Starring Darrell Larson, Jeff Lebeau and Lizzy Kimball

Produced by the Odyssey in association with Isabel and Harvey Kibel.

September 23 through November 19



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We're so happy that long-time supporters ISABEL and HARVEY KIBEL has stepped up to the plate to help us produce THE DANCE OF DEATH opening in September.

We're hoping that more of our loyal supporters will find it possible to join her ranks, helping to provide additional funding for shows normally not possible to do at the Odyssey, because of budget restraints.

Please kick in some financial support and join this exclusive new Producers' Circle, wherein you are part of the show team and featured in all press, posters and social media.

Thank you to our past audience producers GLORIA LEVY, MARJIE MAUTNER and LAWRENCE N. FIELD

Call me personally at 310-477-2055 ext.108 for more info.

Thanks again so much, Isabel and Harvey.

Ron Sossi

Artistic Director, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble



EMILY GRUNFELD

Photographer and Visual Artist

A selection of Emily's photographs are on display in the Odyssey lobby. Please join her on Sunday, October 8 from 5 - 10 pm at the Odyssey Theatre for her art show and fundraising event. Emily is a photographer and visual artist based in Los Angeles. In 2014, she received her BFA in photography and imaging from Art Center College of Design. For further information please visit her website at www.emilygrunfeldphotography.com or contact her at contact: emilygrunfeldphotography@gmail.com

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