

# AISEMIC and Joint Comedy and Joint Classic Award-Winning Comedy and Joint Classic Award-Winning

Friday & Saturday 8pm Sunday Matinee 2pm Sept 14, 15, 21, 22 • Oct 5, 6, 12, 13 Sept 23 • Oct 7

Produced by Sandi Lewandowski and Loritta Bonfante Johnson Directed by Janell and Andrew Cummings

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

The producers of ARSENIC AND OLD LACE would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following:

Glynis Crabb for the wonderful painted detail on the set.

Bill Tindall owner of Brotin Designs for exceptional set dressing.

Rosso's Furniture for lending us the lovely furnishings.

Diane
owner of Stems Floral Boutique
for lending us the birch trees in the
cemetery.

# Arsenic and Old Lace

## Cast.

| Abby Brewster                    | Carol Harris      |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| The Rev. Dr. Harper              | Loren Lewandowski |
| Teddy Brewster                   |                   |
| Officer Brophy                   | Doug Doughty      |
| Officer Klein                    |                   |
| Martha Brewster                  | Barbara Smith     |
| Elaine Harper                    | Colleen Chipman   |
| Mortimer Brewster                | Bob Lewis         |
| Mr. Gibbs                        | Richard Crews     |
| Jonathan Brewster                | Travis Blanchard  |
| Dr. Einstein                     | Drew Jones        |
| Officer O'Hara                   | Jonathan Bass     |
| Lieutenant Rooney                | Bill Tindall      |
| Miss Witherspoon                 | Robin Harris      |
| Pre-show Greeting (pre-recorded) | Lance LaShelle    |
| Mr. Hoskins/ Mr. Spinalzo        | Josh Cummings     |

## Director's Note

Arsenic and Old Lace... What a ride! This is one of our favorite shows and we are very excited to be a part of this production. We have had the pleasure of working with a very talented group of people, and the cast never failed to make rehearsals interesting with their hilarious interpretation of this classic comedy. We'd like to thank all the people who put so much time into building the beautiful Brewster house, especially those who lived at the warehouse as much as we did! We really appreciate your time and talents. Lastly, we would like to thank our producers, Sandi and Loritta, for their enormous contributions. They went far beyond their roles as producers, and we wouldn't have survived without them. Enjoy the show!

Andrew and Janell Cummings

There will be one 15 minute intermission

# Message from the President

Welcome to Arsenic And Old Lace, the first production of South Valley Civic Theatre's 2007 – 2008 Season. Written in 1941, this dark comedy about two homicidal, yet endearing aunts and their very odd nephews has been a theater favorite for over sixty years. The film version, directed by Frank Capra and starring Cary Grant, was made while the show was running on Broadway, but was not released to the public until after the show closed in 1944. However, like other Hollywood films, it was used to entertain troops overseas while being held for release to the domestic market.

SVCT is a non-profit organization supported by ticket sales, memberships, donations and grants. We are a volunteer organization made up of community members of all ages and from all walks of life with a passion for the theater and committed to our vision of bringing quality theater to South County and beyond. Each season we produce five shows; a children's production; a teen production; a family musical; and two adult shows, usually comedies.

In addition to Arsenic And Old Lace, our new season for 2007 – 2008 will include Pinocchio (Children's Show), Little Shop Of Horrors (Teen Show), Nunsense, and our holiday family production of Scrooge, The Musical. Open auditions are held for all shows.

Season tickets for the 2007-2008 season are now available and make unique gifts for family and friends. Season tickets can be purchased in the lobby during intermission

If you are a regular to our theater I would like to thank you for your continued support.

If you have not done so already, please consider becoming a member of SVCT. Please stop by the membership table in the lobby during intermission for more information or to join SVCT. Membership, in addition to helping SVCT financially, brings additional benefits including discounted tickets and voting privileges at our annual "Members Choice" awards.

Be sure to add your name to our mailing list in the lobby to guarantee receiving audition, performance and season ticket notices. We thank you for your patronage as an audience member and welcome and encourage you to become involved onstage as well as behind the scenes.

Now sit back and relax as Kesselring's absurd plot and equally absurd characters shock you a bit, while tickling your funny bone.

Carol F. Harris
President, SVCT Board of Directors

Member

www.giiroyartsaillance.org

## **Production Staff**

| Producers            | .Loritta Bonfante-Johnson & Sandi Lewandowski |
|----------------------|---|
| Directors            | Janell & Andrew Cummings                      |
| Costumes             | Kae Jenny-Spencer & Brianna Quick             |
| Lighting Design      | Beric Dunn                                    |
| Sound Design         | Stephen Porter                                |
| Stage Manager        | Beth Dewey                                    |
| Props                | Sue Quick & Marie Haluza                      |
| Master Carpenters    | Rich Kaiser & Frank McGill                    |
| Scenic Artist        | Glynis Crabb                                  |
| Stage Crew           | Sue Quick, Becky Kaiser                       |
| Light Board Operator | Zac Rzesniowiecki                             |
| Lobby Design         | Terri Miles                                   |
| House Manager        | Kim Kacir                                     |
| Box Office           | Bruce O'Hara                                  |
| Concessions          | Terri Miles (chair)                           |
| Publicity            | Zana Vartanian & Loritta Bonfante-Johnson     |
| Program              | Zana Vartanian & Sandi Lewandowski            |
| Auditions            | Beth Dewey & Loritta Bonfante-Johnson         |

## Set Construction & Move in:

Rich Kaiser, Frank McGill, Larry Tom, Janell, Andrew, Josh, Matthew, & Mark Cummings, Beth Dewey, Glynis Crabb, Jonathan Bass, Doug Doughty, Loren Lewandowski, Lance LaShelle, Barbara Smith, Robin Harris, Loritta Bonfante-Johnson, Sandi Lewandowski, Zana Vartanian, Colleen Chipman, Peter Mandel, Travis Blanchard, Terri Miles, Carol Harris, Jon Reed, Roy Miles, Stephen Porter, Drew Jones, Renee & Bruce O'Hara, Bob Lewis

# Special Thanks to:

Johanna La Shelle, Kim Stolberg and San Benito Stage Co. for props and costumes and to Glynis Crabb for the specialized painting of our set!

# The Tradition Of The Gypsy Robe

Each SVCT production awards "Gypsy Robe" to a cast member who has made special contributions of time, and energy towards the good of the show. The robe is presented to the recipient on opening night; they put on the robe, and bless the stage before the performance. It is the duty of the recipient to affix to the robe a patch that signifies the show. The Gypsy Robe is then returned closing night, to perform its duty for another show, and carry on the tradition.

The producers of Arsenic and Old Lace are pleased to present the Gypsy Robe to Barbara Smith

## Who/What is it?... mentioned in Arsenic And Old Lace

## Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th president of the United States. He is remembered as a great leader, a Rough Rider, an advocate for women's rights, his concern for conservation and his gift of eloquent speech:

"Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."

"The man who really counts in the world is the doer."

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

"It is no use to preach to children if you do not act decently yourself."

The one thing I want to leave my children is an honorable name."

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."

## General Nelson A. Miles

Called a "brave peacock" by President Theodore Roosevelt toward the end of his service. General Nelson A. Miles commanded the troops that put down the Pullman strike riots in 1894, and was commander of the army during the Spanish-American War.

## The USS Oregon

The USS Oregon was a pre-Dreadnought Indiana-class battleship of the United States Navy. She was commissioned on July 15, 1896, under the command of Captain H.L. Howison. During The Spanish-American War the USS Oregon sailed over 14,000 miles on a 66-day journey from San Francisco to assist in the war. The record-setting voyage delighted the public and inspired a popular song- "The Race of the Oregon," by John James Meehan. The feat had demonstrated the many capabilities of a heavy battleship in all conditions of wind and sea. The Oregon's trip inadvertently swept away all opposition for the construction of the Panama Canal. Despite Oregon's inspiring transit, the realization that the 74-day delay would have been cut to some three weeks if the Panama Canal had been operational greatly helped to persuade the United States to buy the failed French operations in Panama and complete the canal.

## Robley Dunglison Evans (Fighting Bob Evans)

During the Spanish-American War he commanded the battleship Iowa in the Battle of Santiago de Cuba. Rear Admiral Evans commanded the Great White Fleet in its passage in 1907 and 1908 from the Atlantic through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific. Two destroyers were named in his honor.

## **Izzy** Cohen

lzzy Cohen was a lightweight boxer from New Cannan CT. He turned pro in 1927 and resided in The Bronx, New York.

## Mourning etiquette:

When holding services, Aunt Abby and Aunt Martha follow Victorian mourning etiquette by wearing dresses made of bombazine, a fabric originally made of silk or silk and wool, and black in color.

# Cast Biographies

# Jonathan Bass (Officer O'Hara)

Jonathan Bass has been in several productions over the last 9 years. He most recently appeared for SVCT as Marvin in *California Suite* and the Bellhop in *Plaza Suite*. Last season he also played Andrew McNair in 1776. Jonathan is a teacher at Antonio Del Buono Elementary School in Gilroy, a father of two, and a husband to one. He is flattered to have the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and talented people to put fantasy above reality.

## Travis Blanchard (Jonathan Brewster)

Though Arsenic And Old Lace is Travis' first show with SVCT, he is by no means a stranger to the theatre. He can most often be found backstage working as a technician, where he began his foray into show business during his time at Live Oak High School. His other shows include Fiddler On The Roof, where he worked as Tech Director, and most recently, he had the privilege of stage managing Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He would like to thank the talented cast (and crew!) for putting on a wonderful performance and constructing an amazing set. Saluté!

## Colleen Chipman (Elaine Harper)

Colleen has performed in several SVCT productions, most recently appearing as "Marian" in *The Music Man*. She has been involved with over thirty productions in the bay area, and enjoys her involvement as a director, lighting designer, and performer. She recently directed 1776, and her favorites with SVCT include directing *Peter Pan, Aladdin*, and playing "Luisa" in *The Fantasticks*. She would like to thank the cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace* for sharing such a wonderful experience with her.



## Shannon Clark (Officer Klein)

This is Shannon's first show with SVCT. She has also performed in *The Valiant* as Josephine and in *Soldiers and Ghosts* as Clytamnestra. Shannon is currently studying the Meisner Technique with Christy Wioncek and Daniel Tobias at the Bay Area Acting Studio. She continues to work on her goals, so that one day she can be living her childhood dream as a successful actress in film, television, and on stage. Aquarius for life. Chaos forever.

## Joshua Cummings (Mr. Hoskins / Mr. Spenalzo)

This is Joshua's debut performance with South Valley Civic Theatre. Joshua is a sophomore at Live Oak where he is an active member of the drama guild. His previous roles include Gad, in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and an officer and kid in *My Sister Eileen*, and Matt /Andrew in *Nowhere To Run*. It has been said that this is Joshua's most challenging role! (ha ha ha)

## Richard Crews (Mr. Gibbs)

Richard is a retired (recovered) psychiatrist who sings bass with The Camerata Singers. He acts a little to spice up his retirement. Casting him as the morose old codger Mr. Gibbs is, he claims, perceptive type casting.

## Doug Doughty (Officer Brophy)

This is Doug's first acting appearance for SVCT, having spent much time on the other end of the business in the sound booth. It's rather remarkable to contemplate that Elvis was unequivocally alive the last time Doug was seen on stage. But with his daughters taking to this craft it seemed like the moment to return, besides, it's a pleasant diversion from making light bulbs. He would like to thank those little thespians, Laura and Emily, for their encouragement and support. His wife, Kathy the concessionaire, is no doubt thankful his midlife crisis has manifested itself in such an innocuous manner.

Nichols, Rick & Company CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

John S. Rick, CPA

Chartered Financial Analyst, Certified Fraud Examiner

www.nicholsrick.com 16360 Monterey Road, Ste. 170 Morgan Hill, CA 95037 Tel: (408) 779-3313

Fax: (408) 776-1555

john\_rick@nicholsrick.com 4040 Moorpark Ave., Ste. 100 San Jose, CA 95117 Tel: (408) 557-9890 Fax: (408) 557-9893

## Carol Harris (Abby Brewster)

For the past 23 years. Carol has been involved both on the stage and behind the scenes in over forty SVCT shows, as well as performing with City Lights in San Jose, and Center Stage, Odyssey Theater, and Pintello Comedy Theater in Gilroy. She has won SVCT recognition for acting, directing, musical directing, set design, costuming, and scenic painting, and is presently president of the company. When not working on theater business, this retired teacher keeps busy playing the piano for the Gilroy High School choirs, singing with the Gavilan College Choir, pursuing a music ministry at St. Mary Church, and traveling around the world with her husband, Dave, and daughter Nancy. She is also a member of the City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission and president of the Gilroy Arts Alliance. Carol has always been attracted to zany character roles and is thrilled to be portraying Abby Brewster in this witty dark comedy. Carol would like to thank Andrew and Janell for their patience and support. Sandi and Loritta for their incredible organization and dedication. Barbara for being like a sister, the talented cast for the past five weeks of hard work and good humor, and everyone else who helped, including staff and crew, for their muscle, sweat, invaluable help, and friendship. And, please be reassured, she doesn't have a cellar or an elderberry bush!

## Robin O'Neal-Harris (Miss Witherspoon)

employed as a Billing Specialist with Hospira.

Robin is pleased to be making her debut with SVCT after a ten-year hiatus from theater. A former resident of Albuquerque, Robin performed with the Albuquerque Civic Light Opera (*The King and I*) Albuquerque Little Theater (*Harold & Maude*) Theater in the Making (*A Midsummer's Night Dream*) The Vortex Theater (*House of Blue Leaves*) and The Adobe Theater (*A Thousand Clowns*). She sang, shimmied and served meals with Mystery Café, appeared as an extra on "Unsolved Mysteries" with NBC. She was Assistant Director/Stage Manager for *The Bad Seed* with The Vortex Theater. She wrote *I Wish I May I Wish I Might*, which was featured in the "In the Blink of an Eye" festival of short plays with the Vortex Theater. After moving to the Bay Area in 1996, Robin performed with Lyric Theater (*The Mikado, Naughty Marietta*) and with Stage 1 (*Jake's Women*). She would like to thank Jason, her beloved Aussie and fellow Utopian, for giving up 'date night' so that she could pound the boards again. Robin is

# HANDCRAFTED, LOCAL WINES INSPIRED BY MUSIC



Visit the Six Strings Winery
Website at:
www.sixstringswinery.com

## Drew Jones (Dr. Einstein)

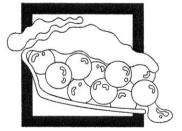
This is Drew's first show with SVCT, and it is the second time he has been in Arsenic and Old Lace. The first time he performed in Arsenic, he played a completely different role from Dr. Einstein back then, which was Dr. Einstein. He is very happy with his new part, as the last one was rather boring. Drew has at least four years of theater experience behind him, including working for Mr. Klipstine at Live Oak High School, and later, with Laughter Productions. Drew is striving to become a voice actor for a cartoon show or even for films if he gets that far. He would like to thank everyone who has existed in the past and exists today.

## Loren Lewandowski (Reverend Dr. Harper)

Loren has enjoyed many leads throughout the Bay Area in his 31 year theatre career. He would like to thank most Ms. Hubble—who cast him as the Great Oak Tree in fourth grade. She inspired him to get into theatre, and he's played many different plants and animals over the years. At the peak of his career, while playing an actual person (named Nanki Poo) in some silly operetta, he met the greatest love of his life (apart from his boat). Later, this actress he was playing opposite from became his Yum Yum/wife. ENJOY!

## Bob Lewis (Mortimer Brewster)

Bob has been involved with theatre for 10 years. He has been backstage, onstage, and even conducted. He has performed in shows like *The Fantasticks, Honk!, Lil' Abner, Guys And Dolls*, and *Inspecting Carol* just to name a few. He has been away from SVCT for about a year, taking a short break from theatre. He is thrilled to be back for *Arsenic And Old Lace* playing the part of Mortimer. He would like to thank his beautiful fiancée, Allyson, with who's support and love shows him what life is all about. He knows you're in for a real treat. So sit back and enjoy the show. And remember everyone's a critic!



Cherry Pie Graphics, Inc.

Cherry Pie Graphics, Inc. is proud to support South Valley Civic Theatre's 2007 - 2008 season!

(408) 847-2585 www.cherrypiegraphics.com

## Jon Reed (Teddy Brewster)

Jon was last seen in an S.V.C.T. production as John Hancock, in one of his favorite shows, 1776. He is thoroughly enjoying playing the sliiiiightly quirky Teddy with all the fun cast of 'Arsenic'. He would not suggest trying this at home, though. Enjoy!!!

## Barbara Smith (Martha Brewster)

Barbara is retired after 44 years of teaching. This is her second show with SVCT. She was in the chorus of *Music Man* and had so much fun that the decision to audition for *Arsenic and Old Lace* was an easy one. Barbara thought the part of Aunt Martha Brewster matched both her age and a long time wish to be on stage in a comical role. She thanks the directors and producers for giving her this opportunity. She thanks the cast for their friendship and help with the basics. She sends her love and thanks to her husband, Chuck, for his encouragement and support; and for helping her memorize all her lines. She promises him a home-cooked supper, accompanied by fine wine, after the show ends! When Barbara is not rehearsing, she enjoys watercolors, reading, the hens in her backyard-- and going to plays and musicals.

## Bill Tindall (Lieutenant Rooney)

Bill has recently entered the world of theater appearing in the Pintello Comedy Theater's production of *Boeing, Boeing* as Albert, the disagreeable but loveable butler. Singing has long been part of Bill's life. He regularly sings with the United Methodist Choir of Morgan Hill. Bill works and owns Brotin Designs. He's lived in Morgan Hill since 1987, coming here from his childhood home, Greenville, MS.



## About the Staff

## Janell Cummings (Director)

This is Janell's first show she has directed for South Valley Civic Theatre. She is also the director of the Nordstrom Elementary School Theatre Program, where she typically works with seventy to eighty kids. Janell is the head of the drama department at The Point, Church of the Nazarene, which produces three to four productions a year. Her previous directing credits include *The Wizard of Oz, Rumplestiltskin*, and *It All Happened in the Country*. In her spare time she likes to spend time with her loving & supportive husband and their 4 boys.

## Andrew Cummings (Director)

Arsenic and Old Lace is Andrew's first show with South Valley Civic Theatre, and he has had a great time working with such a hilarious group of people. Andrew has been involved in over thirty productions, both on and offstage, and has worked with Laughter Productions, Live Oak Drama, and The Point Drama. His acting credits include Jud Fry in Oklahoma!, Clarence the Angel in It's A Wonderful Life, and Appopolous in My Sister Eileen. He has also directed Goodnight Desdemona with Live Oak Drama, as well as Doc's Holiday and Nowhere To Run with The Point Drama. He is currently president of the Live Oak Drama Guild. "Enjoy the show!"

## Loritta Bonfante-Johnson (Producer)

Arsenic And Old Lace is the second show Loritta has produced for SVCT.Loritta has coproduced several plays for Jewel Theatre in Santa Cruz. Producing this play with Sandi Lewandowski has been a joy. Many Thanks to the cast, crew and SVCT past and presents members who have been so supportive, without you we could have never done this production. A special thanks to my son Lance for all of the little details he's helped us with ENJOYTHE SHOW!

## Sandi Lewandowski (Producer)

Arsenic And Old Lace is the second show Sandi has produced. Last season she produced Treasure Island for SVCT with the same fabulous co-producer, Loritta Bonfante-Johnson. Sandi's been in over twenty plays; and was last seen by SVCT audiences playing the White Witch in Narnia. Sandi has been on the SVCT Board of Directors for over 3 years. She would like to thank her family for their support, especially her husband Loren for agreeing to be part of the company too.

To our volunteers: "Thanks so much for your time and energy. This would not have come together without you." To Loritta: "Thank you for taking such a leadership role this time. You're amazing!"

# Beth Dewey (Stage Manager)

Beth has been volunteering with SVCT for 8 years. She told a friend that she wished she had worked on sets in theatre while in high school; always too busy with other activities. That person linked her with SVCT. Her favorite SVCT activities are set construction and dressing, but she has also worked on props, costumes, concessions, stage managing, house managing and ushering. Most recently, Beth was stage manager for the *Plaza Suite* and *California Suite*. In 2003 she co-produced, *The 1940's Radio Hour* and served on the SVCT Board of Directors for 4 years (2002-'07).

# South Valley Civic Theatre Board of Directors 2007–2008

President Carol F. Harris
Past President Larry Tom
VP Box Office Bruce O'Hara
VP Publicity Zana Vartanian
Secretary Terri Miles
Treasurer Jay Jacobson
Membership Renee O'Hara
General Board:
Jonathan Bass, Loritta Bonfante-Johnson, Maryann Bruegmann, James
Chipman, Beric Dunn, Kim Kacir, Dave Leon, Sandi Lewandowski, Stephen
Porter, Kathy Tom.

## **SVCT Members**

### Benefactors

The Hamaguchi Family Out & About Magazine

## Sponsors

The Cupples Family Joanna Evans John & Rose Tom Kathy Tom

#### Patrons

Jeanna Anson Wayne & Beth Dewey Bill & Ruby Hart

## **Families**

The Barham Family
The Bass Family
Loritta Bonfante-Johnson &
Lance LaShelle
The Borgia Family
The Bruegmann Family
The Alan Chipman Family
Robert & Ginny Christopher
The Cummings Family
The Doughty Family
The Dunn Family
Matt & Chris Eves

The Foster Family
The Hamik Family
The Hatcher Family
The Heath/Obata Family
Virginia Adams & Richard Helme

Tom & Anne Hepner
The Jacobsen Family
The Kacir Family
Richard Kaiser
The Kellett Family
Dana & Mary Kellogg
The Kinkel Family
Roger & Janie Knopf

The Leon Family The Lewandowski Family The Mallette Family Peter & Elizabeth Mandel

Nicole Lajeunesse

Linda & David Matuszak Frank & Del McGill

Terri & Roy Miles The O'Hara Family The Pereira Family

Stephen & Martha Porter The Portera Family

Ron & Donna Pray Jacob Riess

The Roberts Family The Robinson Family Eileen & Robert Shipp

## SVCT Members

## Families, continued

The Silva Family The Snook/Hurtado Family Mark & Cheryl Thompson Ray & Mary Trimble The Van Gundy Family

The Vartanian/Haskell Family Jaime Walling

The Yehle Family

## Individuals

Aurora Aguirre De Trejo

Federica Alcala Jose Alvarez Christiana Brav Zachary Brown Rock Buenavista Daniel Caballero Carolyn Carothers Gloria Castro James Chipman Colleen Chipman Daniel Corpus Hannah Curd Lauren Curd Raul De La Rosa Dick Debolt

Jose Escobar-Quijada

Jesus A. Garcia Kellie Gish

Rafael Gomez Ruiz Megan Griffin Joseph Gutierrez

Carol Harris

Hal & Arleen Havek

Olen A. Henry

Kae Jenny-Spencer

Linda Judd Becky Kaiser

Jennifer Langford

Magda Lazo Jung H. Lee

Diego Lopez Alexandra Mandel

Armando Mara Deanna McGill Kathryn McGill Michael McGill Aida L. Merrill Kevin Miles McKenna Miles Antonia Moran Jalil Nazmio Mai Nguven Thong V. Nguyen Francisco Ochra Babe O'Mara Ricardo Ortega April Ouellette Trudy Parks

Arturo Perdomo Arthur Pua

Sue Ouick Amy Reves Freddie Romero

Rogelio Rosas Lisa R. Rossi Dotty Shartzer

Chuck & Barbara Smith

Steve Spencer Dustin Steele Daniel Sullivan Larry Tom Nikki Tom

Doan Trang Tran Gerald Valenzuela Octavio Villa

Majid & Touran Vosooghi

Phat Vu Kel Whisner