

# Arsenic and Old Lace

A comedy by Joseph Kesslering

20th-22nd May 2004  
at Faringdon Junior School  
Director: Jo Webster

## Set was star of the show

THE CURTAIN opened in the hall of Faringdon's Junior School, to an exquisitely built set, which immediately took the audience back to the 1940s and Brooklyn, New York.

The set for Faringdon Dramatic Society's latest production was beautifully designed and built by Jo Webster and the set construction team, which set the whole scene for a wonderful evening's entertainment.

The cast all gave very convincing performances. The minor parts were played with great enthusiasm and the American accents were very convincing and very well delivered; something that many professionals find difficult to master.

Daniel Lander, although no Cary Grant, gave a vibrant portrayal of Mortimer Brewster and held the audience in the palm of his hand with his good timing and professional acting. He had great command of the stage and very strong stage presence. Carolyn Taylor and Joan Lee were perfectly cast as the murderous sisters, Abby and Martha Brewster.

The parts were played with great sensitivity and humour, quite perfect! They had just the right amount of gentility and old worldliness about them. Both obviously experienced actors.

Gary Thompson played the part of Teddy Brewster and he brought to the part a sympathetic touch. Sarah Couzens, who gave a very sparkling and attractive performance, played Elaine. The parts of Jonathan Brewster and Dr. Einstein were brilliantly played by Peter Webster and Adrian Wells, giving just the right amount of menace and humour to the parts.

This was an impressively professional play on all fronts. The lighting was very effective and the costumes beautifully put together. A lot of effort was made in covering every small detail.

The director, Jo Webster should be very proud of this production, she had obviously spent a lot of time researching this play and the audience were delighted with the final production.

*Review by Michelle Addison and Sally Dawson*