



Faringdon Dramatic Society
presents

affiliated to
NODA

Arsenic and Old Lace

by Joseph
Kesselring



May
20th, 21st,
and 22nd



a black comedy!

Faringdon Junior School

This amateur production is presented by
arrangement with Joseph Weinberger Limited

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Arsenic and Old Lace

by Joseph Kesselring

The action of the play takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn. Time: 1941

Act I

An afternoon in September

Act II

The same night

Act III

Scene 1 : Later that night

Scene 2 : Early the next morning

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts I and II, when refreshments (including 'elderberry wine') will be served, and an interval of ten minutes between Acts II and III when the raffle will be drawn.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Abby Brewster	Carolyn Taylor
The Rev. Dr. Harper	John Taylor
Teddy Brewster	Gary Thompson
Officer Brophy	Dave Headey
Officer Klein	Steve Sheppard
Martha Brewster	Joan Lee
Elaine Harper	Sarah Couzens
Mortimer Brewster	Daniel Lander
Mr Gibbs	David Campbell
Jonathan Brewster	Peter Webster
Dr Einstein	Adrian Wells
Mr Hoskins	Rob Thorpe
Officer O'Hara	Gary Bates
Lieutenant Rooney	John Taylor
Mr Witherspoon	David Field

Directed by Jo Webster

Production Team

Assistant Director:	Carole Tappenden
Producer	John Taylor
Stage Manager	Rob Thorpe
Set Design	Jo Webster
Set Construction	Nick Coard, Tim Evans, Claire & Cleve Forty, Andrew Logan, Kevin Mitchell, Carole & Jim Tappenden, Rob Thorpe, Jo & Peter Webster
Stage Crew	Claire & Cleve Forty
Wardrobe	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee
Properties & Sound	Clare Pinkney
Lighting design	Ian Chandler
Lighting operator	Tom Mildenhall
Prompt	Angela Stone
Publicity	Mary Mountford-Lister, Gary Bates
Make Up	Jean Evans, Jeni Summerfield, Marianna Raho
Poster Design	Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey, Pat Evans
Front of house	Denise Monk, Lynda Bates, Jill Headey, Mary & Paul Mountford-Lister, Jim Tappenden, Ann Taylor, Lynda & Simon Wisbey

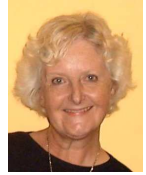
Costumes are from the **FDS Wardrobe** and the **Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe**.

Arsenic and Old Lace was first performed in New York in August 1941. In that production the part of Jonathan was taken by Boris Karloff, the well-known actor in horror movies.

The Players

Carolyn Taylor (Abby)

Carolyn has appeared in and directed many productions, recent highlights being directing FDS's award-winning production of **The Crucible**, playing Mavis in **Stepping Out**, Judith in **Cold Comfort Farm**, and Kate in **Taming of the Shrew** (for Cotswold Arcadians) Last year she appeared with the ActIV company in the Edinburgh Fringe.



John Taylor (Dr Harper / Rooney)

Recent roles include Malvolio in **Brush up Your Shakespeare** and Badger in **The Wind in the Willows**. John directed **Daisy Pulls it Off** and **Much Ado About Nothing**. Forty years ago he played Mortimer (with another company) and still finds the play hilarious.

Gary Thompson (Teddy)

Gary joined FDS six years ago and made his debut as a soldier home from the war in **Lark Rise**. He carved a niche in pantomime as Buttons in Cinderella and as a sinister rabbit-eating weasel in **The Wind in the Willows**. Last year Gary made his Shakespearean debut as Benedict in **Much Ado About Nothing**.



Dave Headey (Brophy)

Dave joined FDS in 1978, two years after moving to Faringdon, and has graduated from being the youthful lead in **Post Horn Gallop** to grey-bearded patriarch in **Much Ado About Nothing** as well as directing a number of plays. In 2002 Dave was presented with his NODA 25-year service award - a year early.

Steve Sheppard (Klein)

This is Steve's second appearance with FDS following **Clarence** and it may be his last if he has to struggle with an American accent for a third time! He has previously strutted his stuff for various groups in Surrey and Buckinghamshire.



Joan Lee (Martha)

Joan joined the Dramatic Society in 1987, and after making the mistake of admitting that she could sew, was co-opted onto the wardrobe team and has been there ever since. She acts as well, and has specialised in animal parts, being in her time a lion, half a horse, a fish and a toad.

Sarah Couzens (Elaine)

Sarah's debut with FDS was as Daisy Meredith in **Daisy Pulls It Off** back in November 2001. In her student days her one claim to fame was her chorus role in a professional production of the **New Pirates of Penzance** at Exeter's Northcot Theatre along with appearances in other G and S student productions.





Daniel Lander (Mortimer)

This is Daniel's second production with FDS and he brings a wealth of experience with him. Professionally trained, Daniel has decided that after an unrewarding appearance on 'Crimewatch', and twelve weeks spent as Gordon Kaye's understudy, another career beckons; he begins training as a drama teacher in the autumn. Daniel has also written comedy for both the BBC and Channel 4.

David Campbell (Gibbs)

David Campbell has been with FDS now for nine years. During that time has played in **Lark Rise**, **Habeas Corpus**, and most recently in **Much Ado About Nothing**. He has also provided technical support for many productions and is most at home behind a lighting or mixing desk.



Peter Webster (Jonathan)

Although he is seen on stage from time to time, Peter is more likely to be found with a paintbrush or screwdriver behind the scenes. Or with a pen - he is the author of six pantomimes, all of which have been produced by FDS.

Adrian Wells (Einstein)

Adrian Wells was not involved in a famous TV series, he has not been the subject of huge national critical acclaim, and he does not have ambitions to become a famous film star. He has, however, had a very enjoyable 9½ years with FDS and is very happy with his lot.



Gary Bates (O'Hara)

Gary joined FDS in 1997 and has worked on sound and lighting as well as acting in **Between Mouthfuls** and **Cabaret**, playing a panto dame in **Arthur's Adventure**, and compèreing a music hall. FDS is a family affair for Gary as his wife, Lynda, helps with costumes and his son, Ashley, has appeared in many pantos.

David Field (Witherspoon)

Although David has been involved in past productions with the Cotswold Arcadians, this is only his third with Faringdon Dramatic Society. He was once Promotions Manager with Bang & Olufsen, where he devised and presented concerts in major venues throughout the UK.



Jo Webster (Director)

Firstly appearing as a murderess and most recently as a horse with attitude, Jo has acted in over fifteen plays with FDS, created 40 sets and with **Arsenic and Old Lace** will have directed four times. A huge fan of witty, well-written comedy 'Arsenic' was a temptation she couldn't resist.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following:

- ◆ **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation;
- ◆ **Faringdon United Church** for the rehearsal venue;
- ◆ **Portwell Press** for partly sponsoring posters;
- ◆ **H. J. Webb and Son** for supplying timber for scenery;
- ◆ **White Horse Country Wear** for ticket sales.

Our next productions will be :

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|---------------|---|
| 4th July 2004 | Shakers by John Godber and Jane Thornton (a one-act play forming part of the Faringdon Arts Festival.) |
| November 2004 | Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel |
| January 2005 | Snow White: a pantomime by John Beeterson |

And watch out for members of FDS in **BARNSTORM** at Great Coxwell, on the 8th, 9th and 10th July.

New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over fifty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for "The Crucible" in 2001.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Or email us at webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Faringdon Dramatic Society Past Productions

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|------|--|------|--|
| 1949 | The Ghost Train
Busman's Honeymoon | 1966 | Rock-a-Bye Sailor
Post Horn Gallop
The Importance of Being Earnest |
| 1950 | A Quiet Weekend
Distinguished Gathering | 1967 | The Winslow Boy
Rookery Nook |
| 1951 | When We Are Married
The Chiltern Hundreds
Who Lies There | 1968 | Someone Waiting
Thark |
| 1952 | The Happiest Days of Your Life | 1969 | Pools Paradise
Dial 'M' For Murder
Blithe Spirit |
| 1953 | A Wagonload of Monkeys
Beggar My Neighbour
The Late Christopher Bean | 1970 | The Touch of Fear
I'll Get My Man
Something to Hide |
| 1954 | See How They Run
A Lady Mislaid | 1971 | Tons of Money
The Bride and the Bachelor
Dead on Nine |
| 1955 | The Shop at Sly Corner
Night Was Our Friend | 1972 | A Basinful of the Briny |
| 1956 | Mystery At Greenfingers
Miranda
And This Was Odd | 1974 | Beside the Seaside |
| 1957 | Haul For The Shore
Blithe Spirit | 1975 | The Brides of March |
| 1958 | Night Must Fall
Queen Elizabeth Slept Here
Love in a Mist | 1978 | Post Horn Gallop |
| 1959 | Madam Tic-Tac
Sailor Beware
Murder on the Nile | 1979 | A Murder Has Been Arranged
Doctor In The House |
| 1960 | The Blue Goose
Beside the Seaside
Breath of Spring | 1980 | Night Must Fall
The Brides of March |
| 1961 | A Play for Ronnie
The Paragon
Murder at the Vicarage | 1981 | House by the Lake
Mother Figure
Clara's On The Curtain
Time Murderer Please |
| 1962 | Look Out For The Catch
The Lovebirds | 1982 | Rookery Nook
Busybody
The Laboratory
Green for Danger |
| 1963 | When We Are Married
Russian Salad/Family Album | 1983 | Breath of Spring
Something to Hide
Fool's Paradise |
| 1964 | An Inspector Calls
Brush With a Body
Running Riot | 1984 | Babes in the Wood
Cat on the Fiddle
Murder in Company |
| 1965 | The Poltergeist
The Brides of March
The Geese Are Getting Fat | 1985 | The Madam
None the Wiser
Portrait of a Murder |

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|------|--|------|--|
| 1986 | Tomb With a View
The Murder of Maria Marten
Gosforth's Fete
Funeral Tea
Albert | | The Woman in White |
| 1987 | Sleeping Beauty
Local Affairs
Brush With a Body | 1995 | Peter Panto
The Good Old Days
Visiting Hour |
| 1988 | Jack and the Beanstalk
After Magritte
Between Mouthfuls
Nasty Things, Murders
Outside Edge | 1996 | Dick Turpin
Time of My Life
Witness for the Prosecution |
| 1989 | Cinderella
Murder for the Asking
Lord Arthur Saville's Crime | 1997 | Sleeping Beauty
Blood Brothers
Pygmalion |
| 1990 | Aladdin
Time and the Conways
Ten Times Table | 1998 | The Pied Piper
Lark Rise
Habeas Corpus |
| 1991 | The Wind in the Willows
Move Over Mrs Markham
Stepping Out | 1999 | Alice in Wonderland
Confusions
Oh What A Lovely War |
| 1992 | Babes In The Wood
Farndale Murder Mystery
Time To Kill | 2000 | Arthur's Adventure
Old Time Music Hall
Hell and High Water |
| 1993 | Sinbad the Sailor
Black Comedy
Blithe Spirit | 2001 | Cinderella
The Crucible
Daisy Pulls It Off |
| 1994 | The Wizard of Oz
Cold Comfort Farm | 2002 | Babes In The Wood
Brush Up Your Shakespeare
Cabaret |
| | | 2003 | The Wind in the Willows
Much Ado About Nothing
Separate Tables |
| | | 2004 | How Clarence Earned His Wings |

