



College of the Mainland®

★ Front Row ★

Nov. 6 - 23, 2014

THE BIGGEST LI'L THEATRE IN TEXAS • A Texas Tradition Since 1971 • Circulation 8,000

College of the Mainland Community Theatre • 1200 Amburn Road • Texas City, Texas 77591 • www.com.edu/theatre

“Arsenic and Old Lace” Opens at COM for Three Weeks of Chilling Hilarity!



“Arsenic and Old Lace” is an American classic that has delighted audiences with its unique blend of farcical comedy and genuine suspense for over 75 years. This uniquely funny tale of two sweet old aunts who gently poison lonely gentlemen as a charitable act has seen Broadway revivals, an unforgettable film version and countless productions around the world since 1940.

College of the Mainland Community Theatre produces “Arsenic and Old Lace” for the very first time in its history on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 8 p.m., continuing through Nov. 23. Fasten your seat belts!

“Arsenic and Old Lace” has been a smash hit wherever it has been performed, thanks to a simple yet ingenious, darkly comic plot.

We meet the charming and innocent Aunt Abby (Zona Jane Meyer of Sugar Land) and her sister, Aunt Martha (Missy Lane of Texas City) who populate their cellar with the remains of socially and religiously “acceptable” roomers.

Added into the mix are the deluded antics of their nephew Teddy (J.R. Marshall of Houston) who thinks he’s Teddy Roosevelt, the harried efforts of their “normal” but increasingly frazzled nephew Mortimer (Matt Poole of Galveston), and a third nephew, Jonathan (COM Professor Jim Hackett of Clear Lake), and his accomplice Dr. Einstein (Steve Garfinkel of Houston), who are intent on murder of a less charitable nature. Rounding out the cast are COM veterans Tom Carrington,

Willy Devlin and Matt Graves, along with COM students Alaina Spiers, Kiana Kay and Max Estudillo.

Director Mark Adams says, “There is no more original farce in American theater than this play. All the traditional elements are there – vivid characters, an outrageous situation and plenty of fast-paced action – but with the added twist that’s perfect for the Halloween season.” Although it takes painstaking hours to rehearse effectively, Adams adds, “We’ve got the right cast to pull off this challenging, hilarious script, including several actors making their COM debuts!”

“Arsenic and Old Lace” runs Nov. 6-23. Please call the Theatre Box Office for tickets or information at 888-258-8859, ext. 8345 or 409-933-8345.

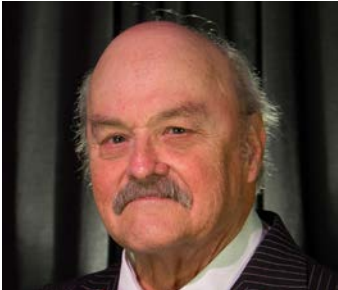
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“Arsenic and Old Lace” Cast



TOM CARRINGTON (Dr. Harper/Lt. Rooney) is overjoyed to return to the COM stage to tackle these two diverse roles. Last seen as Mr. Tinsworthy in “9 to 5,” Tom has appeared in a variety of roles at COM, as well as other area theatres. Credits include “Taking Sides,” “Much Ado About Nothing,” “Art,” “Incorruptible,” “Spinning Into Butter,” “Red Herring,” “Sly Fox,” and “No Sex Please, We’re British.” When not on stage, Tom can be found advancing the art of human spaceflight as an aerospace engineer at the Johnson Space Center. Tom wishes to thank Linda, Elizabeth and Christopher for their unwavering support.



WILLY DEVLIN (Gibbs /Witherspoon) has performed at COM as Second Watchman in “Much Ado About Nothing,” Perelli in “Requiem for a Heavyweight,” Gaston in “Picasso at the Lapin Agile,” Paul Sycamore in “You Can’t Take it With You,” Master Jacques in “The Miser,” Murray in “The Odd Couple” and Martini in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” Recent shows include “The Tempest,” “A Christmas Carol” and “The Importance of Being Earnest” at Clear Creek Community Theatre. He also appeared in “Arsenic and Old Lace” and “The Curious Savage” at Pasadena Little Theatre.



MAX ESTUDILLO (Officer Brophy) is a happy sophomore theater major at COM. His favorite roles include Josh in “9 to 5,” Igor in “Young Frankenstein,” John Proctor in “The Crucible,” the Cat in the Hat in “Seussical,” and many more. Max would like to thank his family and friends for all the support they happily provided for him. Max would also like to thank all his theater educators and directors that have given him opportunities that have led him to his strengths in his craft and skills. He hopes to one day become a theatre teacher.



STEVE GARFINKEL (Dr. Einstein) has appeared in several shows at COM from musical comedies (Herr Schulz in “Cabaret”) to Shakespeare (Leonato in “Much Ado About Nothing”). His favorite COM role is as vaudevillian Al Lewis, opposite Mark Adams’ Willie Clark in “The Sunshine Boys.” Other than at COM, Steve’s major work for the stage has been at Houston’s Main Street Theater, where he has written, directed or appeared in more than 100 plays.



MATT GRAVES (O’Hara) is thrilled to return to the College of the Mainland Community Theatre. He has previously been seen onstage at COM in “9 to 5” (Bob), “Much Ado About Nothing” (Borachio), “Prelude to a Kiss” (Taylor) and “Spinning Into Butter” (Greg). He was also the assistant stage manager for “The Importance of Being Earnest” and “Lombardi.” He feels privileged to work with the great cast and crew here and hopes to do so again in the future. He would also like to thank his wife, Victoria, for her wonderful support!

“Arsenic and Old Lace” Cast



JIM HACKETT (Jonathan) last trod the COM stage in 2012’s “Deathtrap,” playing Sidney Bruhl. Before that, Jim portrayed a multitude of different characters in “The 39 Steps.” In 2010 he played Elwood P. Dowd in “Harvey,” his third production on the COM stage that year, having also acted in “The Importance of Being Earnest” and “Spinning Into Butter.” Jim’s other appearances at the “Biggest Li’l Theatre in Texas” include; “The Woman in Black,” “Red Herring,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Comic Potential,” “Bus Stop” and “The Taming of the Shrew.” Jim is a professor of speech communication and Humanities Department chair at College of the Mainland. He and his lovely wife, Jeanette, make their home in League City.



KIANA KAY (Officer Klein) is a sophomore at College of the Mainland, and a student in the Collegiate High School program. She hopes to acquire her associates degree in theater and will continue to further her education at a university. She’s delighted to be performing in “The Best Li’l Theatre in Texas” for the first time and aspires to be in more of the theater’s productions. She’s also performed in other plays such as “The Lion King,” “Grease” and “Seussical.”



MISSY LANE (Martha) is very excited to be returning to the COM stage after a one-year absence. She first appeared many years ago in the Southwest premier of “Ten November” as Singer 3. Missy has also appeared in “Harvey,” “The Boys Next Door,” “Sly Fox,” “Mame” and others. She has enjoyed working with this talented cast and would like to thank Mark Adams for giving her an opportunity to continue in her passion of acting. Missy would like to thank her husband for his love and support.

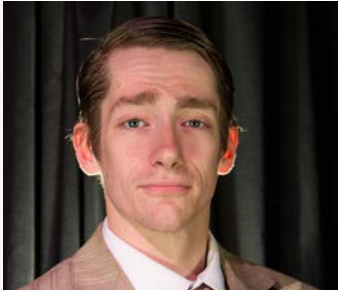


ZONA JANE MEYER (Abby) first appeared at College of the Mainland in “Glorious” and has since enjoyed being in “Harvey,” “Incorruptible,” “Deathtrap,” “Lombardi,” “Dally With The Devil,” “The Red Herring,” “Big River” and “Cabaret.” She thanks the audience for supporting live theatre. Zona says, “Between the actors and the audience there is a rapport that exists for one performance only. May audiences continue to share in the joy and spontaneity of live theater. Thank you for being here.”



J.R. MARSHALL (Teddy) marks 10 years of participation in Texas theater. At the prompting of his wife, Carol, he returned to theater after a 40-year hiatus. Her support never wavered even now she’s watching from the balcony. Also hugs to his theater buddy, Jada August, for her guidance over the years. Check out J.R.’s new blog at “HoustonAreaHappenings.com” for live theater around Houston. J.R. says, “to all my Carols—Thank You With Love.”

“Arsenic and Old Lace” Cast



MATT POOLE (Mortimer) is thrilled to be making his COM debut with this fantastic cast. Some of Matt’s previous credits include “Rent” (Mark Cohen), “Hair” (Claude), “Young Frankenstein” (Igor), “Avenue Q” (Nicky), “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” (Gooper), “Sweet Charity” (Oscar) and “The Wizard of Oz” (Scarecrow), for which he was nominated for a Tommy Tune Award. Matt currently resides in Galveston. He dedicates tonight’s performance to him, her, them and you.



ALAINA SPIERS (Elaine) has participated in many children’s summer theater programs over the years. Her character in “Arsenic and Old Lace,” however, is the first opportunity she has been given to perform as an adult. Aside from acting, Alaina spends much of her time pursuing a double major in business and communications with a minor in writing. She also takes pleasure in performing her violin, mandolin and dulcimer at various musical venues. Her greatest joy comes from her two pups, Rocket and Johnny, who always lend positive support. She also receives encouragement from her loving family and shady friends.



“Arsenic and Old Lace”

We want you to Like us! Really Like us!



College of the Mainland Community Theatre has finally bowed to teenage peer pressure and launched its very own Facebook page. Now we're allowed to sit with the cool kids. You should sit with the cool kids, too, and click "Like" on our

page. We won't clutter your news feed with a bunch of junk, but we will keep you posted on shows, auditions, special events and any announcements that directly affect the audience/actor experience.

So give us a click at <https://www.facebook.com/the-biggestlittletheatre>. It'll help us expand our little theater's visibility and give you a coveted space at the lunch table next to the varsity quarterback and the homecoming queen. Everybody's doing it.

COM Community Theatre Ticket Information

FOR TICKETS

409-933-8345 or 1-888-258-8859, ext. 8345

TICKET OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
with extended hours on performance days.

TELEPHONE RESERVATION

during regular office hours

TICKET PRICES

Sections: "A"/\$23, "B"/\$18, "C"/\$13
Discount for students and senior citizens.
Children must be four years old to attend.

www.com.edu/theatre



We Need Your Help!

College of the Mainland Community Theatre is always in need of backstage help for the performances. If you've ever had an interest in seeing how a play really works and don't mind making some new friends and having some fun, we'd love to add you to our list of potential volunteers. You don't need any experience (we'll teach you what you need to know!), just availability for the performances and a few rehearsals. If you might be interested and available to work on any of our shows this year, please contact our Technical Director, Curt Meyer, at 409-933-8371. *Join us!*

Online Ticket Sales

COM Community Theatre now offers online ticket sales right from the theater's home page. Pick your date, pick your section, charge your credit card through our secure payment system and the tickets are yours – no waiting! Visit www.com.edu/theatre. Then just look for the big green *Buy Tickets Online* button, click it and you're off and running.

“Arsenic and Old Lace”

CALLBOARD

www.com.edu/theatre

“Arsenic and Old Lace”

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>Nov.</i>	Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.	6 Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.	7 Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.
Arsenic and Old Lace 2:30 p.m.	9			Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.	13 Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.	14 Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.
Arsenic and Old Lace 2:30 p.m.	16			Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.	20 Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.	21 Arsenic and Old Lace 8 p.m.
Arsenic and Old Lace 2:30 p.m.	23					



“Arsenic and Old Lace”

Don't miss our winter musical production ...



Always ... Patsy Cline

By Ted Swindley

Directed by Mark Adams

Music Direction by Eduardo Guzman

January 29 – February 15, 2015

Back by popular demand! It's COM Community Theatre's biggest box-office sensation in its 42-year history so get your tickets early! It features over two dozen Patsy Cline standards including "Crazy," "Walkin' After Midnight," "Sweet Dreams," "She's Got You," "I Fall to Pieces" and many more.

Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

For reservations, call the Box Office at 888-258-8859, ext. 8345
or 409-933-8345, or purchase tickets online at www.com.edu/theatre.

Join us for an exciting new season of thrills, laughs,
touching moments and captivating theater!

COM Community Theatre's 2014–2015 Season

"Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring

"Always ... Patsy Cline" created by Ted Swindley

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo" by Alfred Uhry

"The Drawer Boy" by Michael Healey

"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" by David Yazbek and Jeffrey Lane