

# ARSENIC

# AND *Old Lace*

BY  
JOSEPH  
KESSLERLING

DIRECTED BY  
SCOTT  
MONTAVON



August 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 at 7:30p.m.

August 24 at 2:00p.m.

Call **(815) 758-1940** or visit  
**[stagecoachers.com](http://stagecoachers.com)** for tickets.

Arsenic and Old Lace  
is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

# STAGECOACH PLAYERS

## 2014 Season

### **Urinetown, the Musical**

Music and Lyrics Mark Hollmann  
Book and Lyrics Greg Kotis  
Directed by Craig Gustafson  
Musical Direction by Jodeen Coulter  
Sep 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 2014 @ 7:30 pm  
Sep 14, 21, 2014 @ 2:00 pm



### **To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday**

by Michael Brady  
Directed by Barbara Andree  
Oct 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2014 @ 7:30 pm  
Oct 19, 2014 @ 2:00 pm

### **Irving Berlin's White Christmas**

Based Upon the Paramount Pictures Film  
Written For the Screen by Norman Krasna,  
Norman Panama and Melvin Frank  
Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin  
Book by David Ives and Paul Blake  
Original stage production directed by Walter Bobbie  
Orchestrations by Larry Blank  
Vocal and Dance Arrangements by Bruce Pomahac  
Directed by Josh Smith  
Musical Direction by Nika Plattos  
Dec 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 2014 @ 7:30 pm  
Dec 7, 14, 2014 @ 2:00 pm



### **9 to 5 The Musical**

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton  
Book by Patricia Resnick  
Based on the 20th Century Fox Picture  
Originally produced on Broadway  
by Robert Greenblatt, April 2009  
Directed by Dan Hyde  
March 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22, 2015



**Stage Coach Players  
dedicate the  
2014 season  
to the fond memory of  
E. Nelson James**

# **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE**

## **Synopsis of Scenes**

Year: 1941

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

### **Act I**

Scene 1 ..... An afternoon in September.

Scene 2..... That same night.

### **Act II**

Scene 1 ..... Later that night.

Scene 2..... Early the next morning.

# CAST LIST

in order of appearance

Abby Brewster	D'Ann Hamilton-White
The Rev. Dr. Harper	Richard Christensen
Teddy Brewster	David W. Booth
Officer Brophy	G. Scott Morris
Officer Klein	Dalton Bates
Martha Brewster	Andee Larson
Elaine Harper	Amy Whelan
Mortimer Brewster	Michael Mattingly
Mr. Gibbs	Robert Anthenat
Jonathan Brewster	Norm Read
Dr. Einstein	Dan Augsburg
Officer O'Hara	Nyoka Polyak
Lieutenant Rooney	Michael Steffan
Mr. Witherspoon	Aaron Schryver

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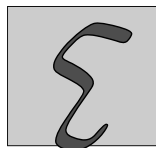
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with purchase of a meal.

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# CREW LIST

Director Scott Montavon  
Assistant Director /  
Stage Manager Jan Booth  
Assistant Stage Manager Anya Helm  
Properties Designer Kerig Anthenat  
Costumes Designer Janet Rosenberg  
Set Designer Scott Montavon  
Set Dresser Wendy Tritt  
Artistic Designer Rachel Saltz  
Lighting and Sound Designer Tom Grady  
Hair and Makeup Designer /  
Understudy Keely Smith  
Set Construction Bob Anthenat,  
Dan Augsburg, Dave Booth,  
Jan Booth, Bob Cain,  
Richard Christensen,  
Jerry Dobson,  
D'Ann Hamilton-White,  
Cameron Harms,  
Andee Larson, Bill Larson,  
Scott Montavon,  
G. Scott Morris, Dave Pearson,  
Nyoka Polyak, Norm Read,  
Rachel Saltz, Bernie  
Schuneman, Wendy Tritt,  
Amy Whelan

STAGECOACH  
PLAYERS



# GREEN ROOM



**Robert F. Anthenat, Jr.** (Mr. Gibbs) returns to the stage after a 10 year hiatus. His previous experience with SCP spanned from 1983 to 2004 and included numerous wonderful roles including that of Teddy Brewster in the 1996 50th Season production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has also acted with Children's Community Theater and the NIU Theater Department.



**Dan Augsburger** (Dr. Einstein) is a new member of Stage Coach Players. He is a well-seasoned martial arts expert, and has competed, performed, & choreographed for over 20 years. He has also worked on a major motion picture for Paramount Pictures. Dan is pleased to be joining the Stage Coach family!



**Dalton Bates** (Officer Klein) is very excited to be a part of his second Stage Coach Players production. He has been involved in theatre since his junior year of high school and looks forward to continuing in the years to come. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continuing support and he hopes all who come to see the show thoroughly enjoy it!



**David W. Booth** (Teddy Brewster) teaches house management and publicity at NIU's School of Theatre and Dance and has been the school's marketing director since 1997. He directed 2012's *The Dining Room*, SCP's first entry in AACT regional competition. Performances include Kaiser Wilhelm II in the NIU production, *The Underpants*, Harry Roat in *Wait Until Dark*, Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, and Preacher in the indie film, *Dust*.



**Richard Christensen** (Dr. Harper) has been seen on stage at SCP for quite a while. His most recent appearances were in *Twelve Angry Jurors*, and in *Red Herring* last year. Richard works at Northern Illinois University in the Holmes Student Center Audio / Visual Department. He recently returned to DeKalb from Nashville, Tennessee where he lived for 10 years, and was active in founding Encore Theatre Company of Mount Juliet, Tennessee. He lives in DeKalb, and enjoys time with his grandchildren.



**Andee Larson** (Martha Brewster) has been an actor, director, set designer, board member, committee chair, president, and award winner since joining Stage Coach Players in 1982. *Arsenic and Old Lace* is her thirty-second role. She's directed eight shows with the most recent being the 2006 production of *Anne of Green Gables*. She retired from NIU in 2009 after 28 years as a secretary.



**Michael Mattingly** (Mortimer Brewster) is happy to be involved with Stage Coach Players yet again this year, having started with Stage Coach playing the part of Benedick in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. He has been in numerous productions since, including *A Christmas Carol* and *The Robin Hood Caper*, and providing musical entertainment during last year's production of *Rope* with the band, "The Bedlozs".



**Scott Morris** (Officer Brophy) has been a member of Stage Coach Players since 1981. He has worked in community and educational theatre, primarily as a director and occasionally as an actor and set designer. He is a graduate of the former NIU Department of Theatre, and lives in DeKalb with one wife, Patricia Finn-Morris, one mouthy beagle, and an idiosyncratic cat. Recent SCP directing assignments include: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Rope*, and *Night People*.



**Nyoka Polyak** (Officer O'Hara) This is Nyoka's third time on stage with SCP. Previously, she was a Vixen/Nurse in *Dracula* (2005) and Sharon Lake in *Play It Again, Sam* (2011). Nyoka has also worked as a stage manager for *Seeking Flight* (2011) and *The Dining Room* (2012). She is thrilled to be a part of this production.



**Norm Read** (Jonathan Brewster) has appeared in many roles on stage, with his favorite being Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*. He has also worked backstage as a costumer, stage manager, and director, has served on the Stage Coach Board of Directors, and was honored with the 2006 SCOTY award. Norm would like to thank his wife, Winifred, for her patience and support.



**Aaron Schryver** (Mr. Witherspoon) most recently appeared in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* last spring. When not acting or working at First Student Busing, he can be found reading comics or watching classic films such as *A Christmas Carol*, in which he also worked on stage.



**Michael Steffan** (Lieutenant Rooney) is absolutely thrilled and excited to be back for his fourth production at Stage Coach. He appeared in the production, *The Dining Room*. He has also performed in two productions of *A Christmas Carol* as Jacob Marley and Christmas Present/Narrator. He also appeared in *Phantom of the Opera* at Rock Valley College's Starlight Theatre in Rockford, Illinois. Michael is a professional electrical engineer with many hobbies related to electronics technology.



**Amy Whelan** (Elaine Harper) has appeared in various roles at SCP since 1994 and fell in love with the theatre. Her favorite role was as Miss Maudie in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but her most rich experience was her opportunity to play multiple roles in *The Dining Room*, which incidentally, was chosen to go to regional competition in Wisconsin in April, 2013. Amy is blessed to have the most supportive family. Jeff, Liam, Donovan...thank you.



**D'Ann Hamilton-White** (Abby Brewster) has been active in Stage Coach Players, both onstage and off, for many years. Favorite acting roles include Dotty (*Noises Off*), Linda (*Death of a Salesman*), Suzette (*Don't Dress for Dinner*), Ouiser (*Steel Magnolias*), and Mrs. Kravitz (*Red Herring*). When not involved with theater, she is establishing her indexing and editing business and spending time with her friends, especially her best friend, Bob.

# PRODUCTION STAFF



**Scott Montavon** (Director) has been involved in numerous productions at Stage Coach since 2008. He has worked both on stage and off, but this is his first time directing for SCP. He resides in Sycamore, Illinois with his wife, Cheri, and sons, Skyler and Jared. During the day, Scott is an ironworker in Aurora, Illinois.



**Kerig Anthenat** (Props Mistress) This production marks a full circle for Kerig. Her first SCP crew experience was makeup assistant for *Arsenic and Old Lace* in 1996. More recently she has done props for *The Dining Room*, *Red Herring*, and *The Lion in Winter*. She is happy to work with her father Bob again.



**Jan Booth** (Assistant Director / Stage Manager) has been involved with SCP on stage and off since the 1980s. She has received the SCOTY award, and is currently serving on Stage Coach's board of directors. When not at the theatre, Jan serves as co-director of the Illinois Writing Project, and spends time with her husband, David, along with her four dogs and two cats.

**Tom Grady** (Lighting Design) has done technical work for too many SCP productions to count. He has served on the board of directors, and was a recipient of 2013's SCOTY award. At home, he enjoys fostering cats and kittens until they find their permanent homes.



**Anya Helm** (Assistant Stage Manager) has helped mostly backstage for a few shows with Stage Coach Players, including *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She helped with costumes, hair and makeup for *Shrek the Musical*. She made her stage debut as Alais in *The Lion in Winter*. She is thrilled to broaden her knowledge as assistant stage manager in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.



**Janet Rosenberg** (Costumer) has worked behind the scenes with Stage Coach Players for six seasons. She is delighted to have this opportunity to work on the 2014 production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. It has long been one of her favorite plays. Janet would like to thank the director, production staff and actors for making her job so much fun.



**Rachel Saltz** (Artistic Design) is returning for the third time to SCP as stagehand/artist. She works from home in her art studio and enjoys walking her dog and taking care of others. She would like to thank her family and wonderful friends, new and old, for their overwhelming encouragement and support.

**Keely Smith** (Hair / Makeup Designer / Understudy) has been working on Stage Coach productions since 2008, mainly in hair, makeup, and wigs. She has most recently been on stage in last year's *A Christmas Carol* and also in the musical, *Company*. She is very happy to be working on this production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and hopes you enjoy the show!





**Wendy Tritt** (Set Dresser) is excited to be working behind the scenes on *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She has provided her design skills for various projects over the years, including set design for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. On stage, she most recently appeared as the chain smoking Ms. Krumholtz in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Written in 1939 by Joseph Kesselring, *Arsenic and Old Lace* opened in the Fulton Theatre, and moved to the Hudson Theatre in 1943. At its closing in 1944, it boasted 1,444 performances in its first run. *Arsenic* was one of the plays chosen to be part of Stage Coach Players' very first season, and has the distinction of being one of the few plays from its era to be in continuous production throughout the world since ending its run on Broadway.



## SPECIAL THANKS

The Hillside  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
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Rosita's  
Bernie Schuneman  
Tapa la Luna  
Willow's Hometown Café  
Yen Ching

# STAGECOACH PLAYERS

The logo for Stagecoach Players features the words "STAGECOACH" and "PLAYERS" in a bold, serif font, stacked vertically. Below the text is a stylized, decorative flourish that resembles a horse-drawn carriage or a similar theatrical element.

## Auditions

### Irving Berlin's White Christmas

Auditions for Stage Coach Players production of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* will be held at the Sycamore United Methodist Church, 160 Johnson Ave, in Sycamore, on August 23 & 24 (from 1-4) and August 25 (from 6:30-9). The *White Christmas* production includes 8 shows, opening December 4 and running through December 14. Rehearsals will begin on October 8th.

*White Christmas* is based on the 1954 American musical film directed by Michael Curtiz and starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kay, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen, loosely based on the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*. Stage Coach Player's production of *White Christmas* is being directed by Josh Smith with music direction by Nika Plattos.

Casting includes men and women from 20 - 60 and one young girl 9-12 (to play a 9 year old). Those auditioning should come prepared with a song (bringing sheet music for the audition pianist), be prepared to cold read scenes from the script and participate in a dance audition.

### 9 to 5: The Musical

Auditions for the production of *9 to 5: The Musical* will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 511 Russell, DeKalb, IL, on Saturday and Sunday October 4th and 5th from 1 to 4 and Monday October 6th from 7 to 9. The production includes 8 shows, March 12 to 15 and March 19 to 22.

*9 to 5: The Musical*, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick, is based on the 1980 hit movie. Set in the late 1970s this hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking, and even a little romantic.

Pushed to the boiling point, three female co-workers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy - giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

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September 12-20: AMERICAN QUEEN, Mississippi River Cruise

October 6: FREE ALASKA presentation

October 18: Open House Chicago

October 24: Milwaukee Art Museum

December 1-5: Branson Holiday Shows (\$535)

December 6: Holiday Shopping trip

December 27-Jan 4: Holiday Caribbean Cruise

February 7-14: New Orleans (\$599)

March 7-15: Miami and Key West, Florida (\$795)

April 9-15: Washington DC (\$699)

April 30-May 5: New York City (\$599)

May: Norwegian Coastal Voyage

June 13-27: Summer Solstice Alaska and the Yukon

July 20-24: Stratford Festival of Canada

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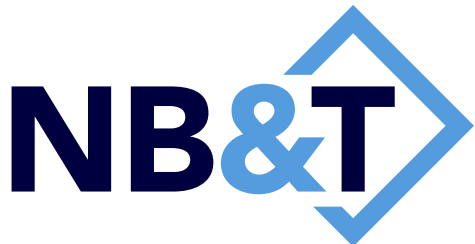


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