

**ARSENIC AND OLD LACE**  
**By Joseph Kesselring**  
**CASTING/AUDITION INFORMATION**

Directed by Daniel Moore

**Production Dates**

**Auditions:** Saturday, January 18 and Sunday, January 19, 2025

**First Rehearsal:** Sunday, September 7

**Rehearsal Times:** Sunday-Thursday, 6:30-9:30; Saturday 10-2

**Performances:** Two weekends; October 10-19, 2025

**Summary of Show**

Drama critic Mortimer Brewster's engagement announcement is upended when he discovers a corpse in his elderly aunts' window seat. Mortimer rushes to tell Abby and Martha before they stumble upon the body themselves, only to learn that the two old women aren't just aware of the dead man in their parlor, they killed him! Between his aunts' penchant for poisoning wine, a brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, and another brother using plastic surgery to hide from the police—not to mention Mortimer's own hesitancy about marriage—it'll be a miracle if Mortimer makes it to his wedding. Arsenic and Old Lace is a classic black comedy about the only thing more deadly than poison: family.

**Characters/Casting Needs**

**Abby Brewster** (Already Cast)

**Martha Brewster** (Already Cast)

**Elaine Harper** (Female 20-35 years old) An Attractive girl, daughter of Rev. Dr. Harper, and Mortimer's fiancée. She is surprisingly wise in the ways of the world for a minister's daughter. She is a little bit wily, sassy, and absolutely sharp (Actor seeking this role will need to show genuine zest and spunk. She will also need to display a wonderful sense of versatility.) We witness Elaine progress from casual happiness, to utter bliss, to twisted confusion, to stark fear, to godsend relief, and back to casual happiness again.

**Mortimer Brewster** (Male 20-35 years old) Nephew of Abby and Martha, brother to both Teddy and Jonathan Brewster. A very likable, Mortimer is a drama critic who is in love with, & engaged to Elaine Harper. A good-hearted cynic who is about to have his world turned upside down.  
PHYSICAL ROLE.

**Teddy Brewster** (30-50 years old) Brother to Mortimer and Jonathan, Nephew of Abby and Martha Brewster, Teddy is a man who believes that he is the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. Extreme dedication and energy is necessary while charging up a flight of stairs and screaming "CHARGE!" PHYSICAL ROLE.

**Jonathan Brewster** (30-60) Nephew of Abby and Martha Brewster, brother to Teddy and Mortimer. Jonathan is a psychopath who has numerous murders to his credit and no scruples

whatsoever. He is creepy. Jonathan is a killer, that loves his business and he's got an unbelievably short temper. Dr. Einstein has changed Jonathan's face three times. Some PHYSICAL work.

**Dr. Einstein** (30-60 years old) A German plastic surgeon, with an accent to prove it. Right hand to Jonathan, Dr. Einstein is mousey and submissive to Jonathan. With somewhat of a ratty appearance, his face wears the benevolent smirk of a man who lives in a pleasant haze of alcohol.

**The Reverend Dr. Harper** (40+ years old) (Cameo) We only see Elaine Harper's father in the opening scene; a doctor of divinity, and the minister to the church next door to the Brewster house. The Brewster sisters have seen many ministers come and go over the years, but they seem to be particularly fond of Dr. Harper and vice versa. The actor portraying Dr. Harper should display a sense of polish, refinement, and mild-mannered sensitivity towards others. He is not in favor of Mortimer and Elaine's relationship.

**Officer Brophy** (20+ years old) (Cameo) The first police officer we meet in the show, Brophy is a thoroughly likable sort of fellow. Is making his rounds collecting Christmas toys for the needy. Some PHYSICAL work.

**Officer Klein** (20+ years old) (Cameo) A flatfoot Brooklyn officer who makes his rounds with Officer Brophy collecting Christmas toys.

**Officer O'Hara** (30-60 years old) (Cameo) He is the quintessential example of an Irish-American police officer: Full of life, good natured and played big. He is on very good terms with the Aunts. O'Hara is a would-be playwright, and needs to plainly display the nagging, persistent drive that's kindled within him once he discovers that Mortimer is a famous dramatic critic. Well intentioned, O'Hara really doesn't mean to come across as annoying as he does.

**Mr. Gibbs** (40+ years old) (Cameo) A gentleman who wishes to rent a room from the Brewster sisters; and nearly falls victim to the sisters "charity". He is a little gruff, but he warms up fairly quickly upon being offered a treat he hasn't had since he was a child.

**Lieutenant Rooney** (30-60) (Cameo) The man in charge at the local police precinct. Very early in the show we gain a pretty strong understanding of the caliber of men he has to manage under his watch. As such, he has very little patience for blunder and mistakes, and needs to run a pretty tight ship. He is loud, decisive, and clearly in-charge of every situation in which he finds himself.

**Mr. Witherspoon** (50+) (Cameo) The superintendent of Happy Dale Sanitarium. Very mild-mannered and kind.