# ARSENIC and OLD LACE





Welcome to the MAC! Our entire staff is thrilled to have you here and we are grateful that you have chosen to invest your time in live entertainment and world-class culture in our community. We want to offer you a space to unwind and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. Our aim is to provide you with unique and inspiring opportunities to engage more deeply with the arts. Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, and offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Fridays at Noon and our free international global film series, Global Flicks in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (<u>www.AtTheMAC.org</u>). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theater Ensemble play. Or join us this summer for the Lakeside Summer Series. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez Director, McAninch Arts Center



"Great theater is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to."

> -Willem Dafoe renowned American actor

# Welcome to College Theater at the MAC

From the inception of planning College Theater productions, each season is built with the idea that both escapism and engagement theater are important for students to experience and our audiences to enjoy. Escapism theater allows us to escape from our daily turmoil and daily life, offering pure entertainment. Engagement theater focuses on the human condition and the burning quest for a solution—it is theater we do not easily forget and that changes us in some way, forever.

The mission of both escapism and engagement theater is to expose everyone to the great theater of the past as well as important theater of today. We've chosen an eclectic season including both escapism and engagement theater, culled after considering countless titles and varied genres. Above all, we're most interested in training our students as artists, both on the stage and behind the curtain, engaging with students and community in our audience, as well. That is the power of live theater, which does not exist except in this live, ephemeral moment—it is an art that celebrates interaction—on stage, but also between stage and audience.

The 2023–2024 College Theater season is a perfect example of this exciting mix: *Dead Man's Cell Phone, Twelfth Night, Good Kids,* and *Arsenic and Old Lace.* 

Thank you so much for supporting the voices of our talented students and power of live theater. We hope you join us again and again.

# The Theater Faculty at College of DuPage

# Arsenic and Old Lace

by Joseph Kesselring

Director Daniel Millhouse

Scenic Design Caitlyn Woods Costume, Hair & Make-up Design Kimberly G. Morris

Lighting Design Richard Arnold, Jr. Properties Design Sabrina Zeidler

Sound Design Fisher Parsons Theater Department Chair Amelia Barrett

Produced by special arrangements with Dramatists Play Services, Inc.

Support is made possible by a generous gift from the College of DuPage Foundation's **Dr. Donald and Helen (Gum) Westlake Fund for Student Productions**.

Please note: This production contains adult themes and language, and has simulated strangulation/stage violence.

The use of recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without a flash is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices, such as cell phones and watches.

April 4-14, 2024 | Playhouse Theatre

# CAST LISTING (in order of appearance)

Abby Brewster	Lynn Borge
The Rev. Dr. Harper/Lieutenant Rooney	Dylan Orlik
Teddy Brewster	Nicholas Washington♦
Officer Brophy	Neela Lugo
Officer Klein	Jenna Cima
Martha Brewster	Lynette Myers
Elaine Harper	Ashley Chavez*
Mortimer Brewster	Alexander Wisniewski‡
Mr. Gibbs/Mr. Witherspoon	John McNamara
Jonathan Brewster	Steven A. Zeidler
Dr. Einstein	Nola Helms
Officer O'Hara	Kelly Kuper

\* 2024 John Belushi/Second City Scholarship recipient
 + 2024 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient
 ◊ 2024 BTE Stage Management Scholarship recipient
 ‡ 2024 College of DuPage Academic Excellence Award for Theater recipient

Time and Place: Brooklyn, New York, 1941

There will be a 15-minute intermission.



# **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Stage Manager	Carolyn Goldsmith+◊
	Ashley Chavez*, John McNamara,
Nicholas	Washington <sup>()</sup> , Alexander Wisniewski <sup>‡</sup>
	Amelia Barrett
Fight/Intimacy Director	Michael Dias
Fight/Intimacy Captains	Neela Lugo, Alexander Wisniewski
Technical Director/Scene Shop Man	agerSabrina Zeidler
Technical Coordinator	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Scene Shop Crew Gail Creight	on, Sameer Datta+, Keira Hernandez,
Mack Lechter	nberg, Vinny Scanio, Emily Sheehan*,
Harry Smi	th, Jillian Todd, Kaden Van Lerberghe
	Emily Sheehan*
	Nick Dobiliauskas
	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Shop Manager	Gretchen Woodley
Costume Shop Assistants	Lynn M Borge, Eleanor Evans,
	Courtney Lilly, Meri Nushi
Wardrobe	Meri Nushi

\*2024 John Belushi/Second City Scholarship recipient
 + 2024 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient
 ◊ 2024 BTE Stage Management Scholarship recipient
 ‡ 2024 College of DuPage Academic Excellence Award for Theater recipient

# AUDITIONS – AUDITIONS – AUDITIONS

\* \* \* \*

College of DuPage Theater is holding auditions for summer productions:

# The Mystery of Edwin Drood

A musical by Rupert Holmes Directed by Amelia Barrett Musical Director Dan Brennan | Choreographer Kyle Donahue

# Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Doo-Wop

Created by improvisation by cast and director Directed by Daniel Millhouse

Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. Friday, April 19 at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at 12 p.m. (callbacks, if necessary)

For more information, see AtTheMAC.org/auditions

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to a world full of charming oddities and dark deeds! *Arsenic* and Old Lace blends dark humor and farcical chaos, with just a pinch of romance, and a dash of murder.

Prepare to meet the eccentric Brewster family, a bizarre clan with secrets lurking beneath their seemingly charming facade. The Brewster sisters, Abby and Martha, serve their elderberry wine (laced with a touch or two of something... extra) to lonely old men, all in the name of misplaced charity. Meanwhile, their nephew, Mortimer, a drama critic with a picture-perfect life, stumbles upon the evidence of their crimes.

Through the lens of comedy, we explore the complexities of familial love and the blurred lines between morality and mortality. *Arsenic and Old Lace* invites us to ponder the boundaries of identity and acceptance. We see how far the lengths of love can stretch, impairing our judgement of right and wrong in the name of protecting those we hold dear.

This production is a celebration of dark humor, quirky familial bonds, and the enduring power of theater. It is a testament to the power of humor in navigating adversity and the importance of accepting individuals for who they are, flaws and all. Join us on an adventure full of unexpected twists, delightful surprises, and a touch of the macabre!

~DM



# CAST PROFILES

Lynn M Borge (Abby Brewster) Second COD production; A Christmas Carol (Londoner). She performs at the Bristol Renaissance Faire as part of The Queens Court (Mistress Kat Ashley). Favorite credits include You Can't Take It With You (Penny Sycamore) and West of Pecos (Mrs. Powers) with The Oakbrook Academy.

Ashley Chavez\* (Elaine Harper/Assistant Stage Manager) Third COD production; *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Stage Manager) and *Twelfth Night* (Musician). Favorite credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolyn Fairfax), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Judy Boone), and *Snoopy* (Lucy). \*Chavez is a 2023-2024 John Belushi/Second City scholarship recipient.

Jenna Cima (Officer Klein) Third COD production; *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Farrah the Fox) and *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Ensemble). Favorite credits include *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Farrah the Fox); *The Lion King* (Lionness) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Ensemble).

**Nola Helms** (Dr. Einstein) Second COD production; *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Jean). Favorite credits include *Almost, Maine* (Gayle/Hope); *Puffs* (Narrator) and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Jean) at McKinney High and COD. Helms is a 22-23 Senior Thespian Scholarship winner.

**Kelly Kuper** (Officer O'Hara) First COD production. Favorite credits include *Legally Blonde* (Grandmaster Chad/Prison Guard), and *Arabian Nights* (Interpreter).

**Neela Lugo** (Officer Brophy) Second COD production; *Once Upon a Mattress* (Pantomime Queen/Lady Beatrice). Favorite credits include *Mamma Mia!* (Tanya), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena) and *Trap* (Kenosha) all at Addison Trail High School. Lugo is a 2022 IHSMTA student.

John McNamara (Mr. Gibbs/Mr. Witherspoon/Assistant Stage Manager) second production at COD; *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Dwight). Favorite credits include *1984* (O'Brien), *All Shook Up* (Denis), and *Holy Darkness* (Frank) all at Montini Catholic High School.

# CAST PROFILES

**Lynnette Myers** (Martha Brewster) first COD production. Favorite credits: *Renfield* (Miss Mina), *Agnes of God* (Agnes), *Talking With* (Clear Glass Marbles) and *Who's Life is it Anyway* (Claire) as a finalist in Duet Acting at the American Forensic Association national tournament.

**Dylan Orlik** (The Rev. Dr. Harper/Lieutenant Rooney) Second COD production; *Twelfth Night* (Curio/Officer #1).

Nicholas Washington♦ (Teddy Brewster/Assistant Stage Manager) Sixth COD production. *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley* (Student Stage Manager); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (A Dead Man, Gordon); *Born Yesterday* (Sen. Norval Hedges); *The SpongeBob Musical* (Larry the Lobster, Gary Snail, Sponges, S Devotee, Pirates, Anemones); *The Dining Room* (Howard, Ted, Paul, Chris, Standish, Guest). ♦Washington is a 2024 BTE Stage Management Scholarship recipient.

Alexander Wisniewski<sup>‡</sup> (Mortimer Brewster/Assistant Stage Manager) Seventh COD production; *She Kills Monsters* (Steve), *Badger* (John), *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob SquarePants), *Born Yesterday* (Harry Brock), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Jester), *Twelfth Night* (Feste). Favorite credits include *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Dr. Einstein), *Andy Warhol's Tomato* (Andy Warhol), *Clue! Onstage* (*Cat*). ‡Wisniewski is a 2024 College of DuPage Academic Excellence Award for Theater recipient.

**Steven Zeidler** (Jonathan Brewster) second COD production; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Senex). Favorite credits regionally include: *Spamalot* (King Arthur), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *Man of La Mancha* (Cervantes/Don Quixote), *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks), *Sugar* (Osgood Fielding), and *42nd Street* (Julian Marsh). Graduate of Elmhurst College (BA). Zeidler has served on the Board of Directors of The Summer Place Theatre, Lombard Chamber of Commerce, and The Lombard YMCA.

# **CREATIVE PROFILES**

**Daniel Millhouse** (Director) is thrilled to be continuing his position at the College of DuPage as an Assistant Professor. Recent directing credits for College Theater include *Dead Man's Cell Phone; Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow;* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Along with teaching and directing, Millhouse has worked as a professional actor throughout the world. His primary theater credits include shows with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and the Shakespeare Project of Chicago. You may have also seen him on an episode of *Chicago Fire* or in the *Call of Duty* video game franchise. You can hear his voice on podcasts as well, including *The Vanishing* and The Onion's *The Topical*. He received his MFA in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his BS in Theater Arts from Eastern Michigan University. Millhouse is grateful for this opportunity to work and collaborate with everyone here at the College of DuPage.

Amelia Barrett (Theater Department Chair) is a professor of theater at College of DuPage. Barrett has most recently directed COD productions of *Good Kids* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Professionally, she has directed multiple Buffalo Theatre Ensemble productions, where she is Associate Artistic Director and a member of the acting ensemble. As an actor, she has appeared with other local, regional, and international companies. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association as well as the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting and a Graduate Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis.

**Richard Arnold, Jr.** (Lighting Design) is excited to join the creative team at the College of DuPage. Prior to coming to COD, he spent 15 years teaching Theatre Design and Technology at Elmhurst University. Beyond teaching, he has designed over 100 theatre productions around the Midwest. Additionally, he spent several years working in other areas of the entertainment industry, designing and producing corporate events, concerts, television commercials, as well as exhibits for several Chicagoland museums. He is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and the Illinois Theatre Association.

#### **CREATIVE PROFILES**

**Kimberly G. Morris** (Costume, Hair and Make-up Design) is pleased to continue her work at College of DuPage. Prior to joining the crew at COD, she spent 13 years as a freelance costume, makeup, wig and properties designer throughout Chicago and the east coast. She is a company member of Babes with Blades Theatre Company where she has designed for many of their productions. She has also designed for Stage Left Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Ball State University, American Shakespeare Center, Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Tecumseh!, Wilmette Arts Center, NWHS and MEHS.

**Fisher Parsons** (Sound Design) is an Audio Production Specialist for the McAninch Arts Center. Before making the jump to working at College of DuPage, he was a Production Manager and Audio Engineer at Evanston Rocks and the Arcada Theater where he engineered sound for various artist. When not mixing audio or recording, you can find him on stage at The Second City or in the pit orchestra on guitar for various theatrical productions throughout the Chicagoland area.

Caitlyn Woods (Scenic Design) First College Theater production as a designer. Woods recently joined Buffalo Theater Ensemble as their resident Technical Director after working as a stage technician for the McAninch Arts Center for many seasons. Previous BTE credits include: The Outgoing Tide, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Naperville (Assistant Technical Director) and Ding Dong or How the French Kiss (Acting Shadow). After spending two years at College of DuPage as an acting student and scene shop carpenter, she completed her postsecondary degree, graduating from North Central College with a Bachelor in Arts in Theater/Theatrical Design and Technology with a minor in English. Woods then moved to Orlando, Florida to work with the Orlando Shakespeare Theater as a Scenic Apprentice and completed 11 shows which included: West Side Story, Jekyll and Hyde, Love's Labours Lost, and Pinkalicious: The Musical. She returned to Illinois and has worked in and around Chicago with Stonewolf Studios, North Shore Performing Arts Center, Apollo Theater Stagehands (formerly Chicago Stagehands), Timeline Theater Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Drury Lane Theater, Summer Place Theater, and many others. She would like the thank Daniel Millhouse, Rick Arnold, Sabrina Zeidler, and the rest of the production team and crew for this opportunity.

# **CREATIVE PROFILES**

Sabrina Zeidler (Properties Design, Technical Director) is thrilled to be working with the MAC as the Technical Director of College Theater. Her previous work at COD has been seen as the Technical Director and Properties Designer for the DuPage Opera Theatre, Technical Director for Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and various design roles for College Theater. She is the former Stage Manager for the New Philharmonic Orchestra. Zeidler was previously the Technical Director and a resident designer for Hinsdale South High School. She is a graduate of Elmhurst University with a BA in Theatre - Stage Management, Design and Technology, and Theatre Arts Administration.

**Carolyn Goldsmith +**♥ (Stage Manager) Fifth COD production; *Badger* (Rose) *A Christmas Carol* (Fezziwig Guest); *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Sally Snail); and *Twelfth Night* (Viola). ♦ Goldsmith is a BTE Stage Management Scholarship recipient, and +John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient.





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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a worldclass performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

#### Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
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- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
  For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.

• Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.

• Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.

• Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.

• If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.

 McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.

• For Americans With Disabilities Act accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).

 Infrared Assistive Listening Devices: For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.

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