



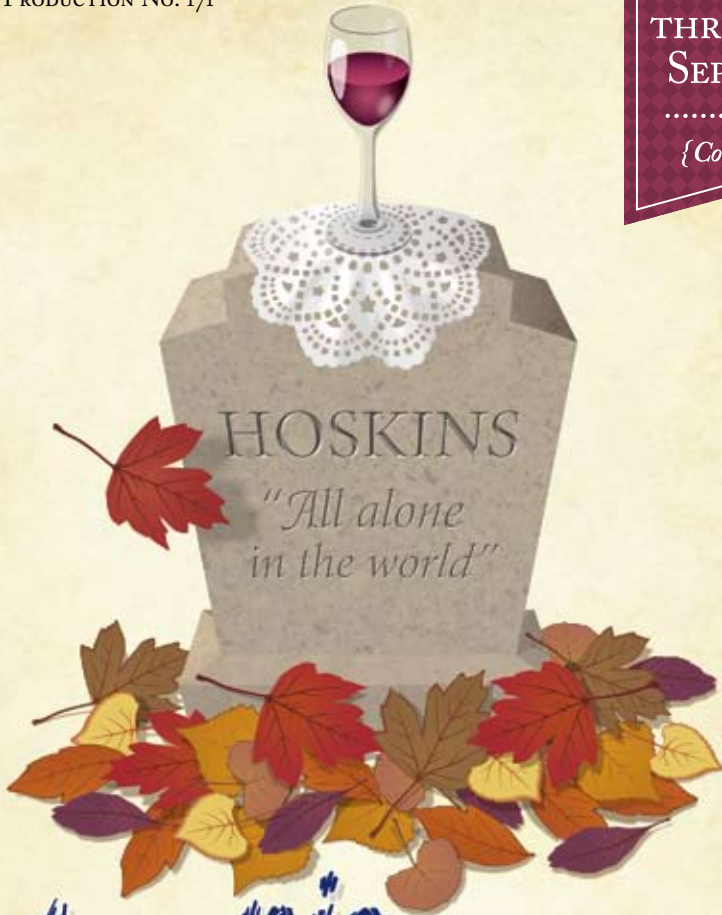
HALE CENTER THEATER OREM | 2012

.....
PRODUCTION NO. 171



AUG. 16
THROUGH
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.....
{Comedy}



Arsenic AND Old Lace

By Joseph Kresselring

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HALE CENTER THEATER OREM *proudly presents*

Arsenic AND Old Lace

By Joseph Kresselring

starring

KAREN BAIRD • DANIEL HESS • KRISTI LYN HILL
JON LIDDIARD • JAYNE LUKE • BRETT MERRITT
JASON PURDIE • TANYA M. QUINN • RYAN RADEBAUGH

featuring

KEITH ALLEN • H.K. BAIRD • WILLIAM BISSON • TRENT BOULTER
SCOTT M. HEALY • MITCH HALL • LARSON HOLYOAK
NATHAN JENSEN • JD RAMEY • ELDON RANDALL

costume design
MARYANN HILL

costume director
ANNE SWENSON

costume assistant
AMANDA FITT

hair & make-up design
JANNA LARSEN

assistant hair & makeup
MELINDA WILKS

technician
ANDY KEELE

properties
LINDA HALE

technical assistant
CHARLES ROSS

lighting design
CODY SWENSON

technical operations manager
TODD MITCHELL

technical direction
CODY SWENSON &
CODY HALE

production stage management
MEAGAN M. DOWNEY

producers
THE HALES &
SWENSONS

scenic design
BOBBY SWENSON

music director
MARCIE JACOBSEN

scenic painting
PENNY JONES

Directed by
DAVE TINNEY

CAST OF CHARACTERS

| CHARACTER | NAME |
|-------------------------|--|
| Abby Brewster | Jayne Luke* |
| Martha Brewster | KAREN BAIRD |
| Mortimer Brewster | RYAN RADEBAUGH (<i>MWF</i>) BRETT MERRITT (<i>TThS</i>) |
| Elaine Harper | KRISTI LYN HILL (<i>WThF</i>) TANYA M. QUINN (<i>MTS</i>) |
| Teddy Brewster | JON LIDDIARD* |
| Jonathan Brewster | DANIEL HESS |
| Dr. Einstein | JASON PURDIE |
| Officer O'Hara | TRENT BOULTER (<i>MWF</i>) NATHAN JENSEN (<i>TThS</i>) |
| Lieutenant Rooney | MITCH HALL (<i>MWF</i>) SCOTT M. HEALY (<i>TThS</i>) |
| Reverent Harper | WILLIAM BISSON (<i>MWF</i>) LARSON HOLYOAK (<i>TThS</i>) |
| Officer Brophy | KEITH ALLEN |
| Officer Klein | JD RAMEY |
| Mr. Gibbs | H.K. BAIRD |
| Mr. Witherspoon | ELDON RANDALL |

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SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

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ACT II

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INTERMISSION

ACT III

SCENE I Later that night

SCENE 2 Early the next morning

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UCCU



KAREN BAIRD



DANIEL HESS

WHO'S WHO

KEITH ALLEN

Officer Brophy (M-S)
Arsenic and Old Lace is Keith's first show with HCTO, and he's extremely grateful to be here. Keith grew up in Northern California, performing in many different shows during his youth. He studied at BYU, and graduated in 2010 with a degree in Manufacturing Engineering, but that hasn't stopped him from performing! Throughout his collegiate career Keith has portrayed characters in several plays and musicals. Some of his favorites have been LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as Cat in the Hat in *Seussical the Musical*. Student plays and local theater have allowed Keith to keep up his love of acting, and now HCTO has given him a chance to continue on the stage. Lastly, if you want to know something interesting about Keith, just ask him why some people call him "Cosmo." "Thanks for the support, and try not to laugh too hard!"

H.K. BAIRD

Mr. Gibbs (M-S)
Formerly, H.K. taught theater in southern California for 30 years, and during the summers spent 12 years producing/directing summer theater at the Pink Garter Theater in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He also spent two summers in Petoskey, Michigan directing and acting in shows with the Young Americans. Then, 15 or so years ago, when their kids "flew the coop", the Bairsds "flew" from Glendora, CA to Provo. He and his wife, Karen, (who is playing Martha tonight) have appeared in many productions at BYU, Provo Theatre Company, SCERA and here at HCTO. Thanks to the Hales and Swenson and all the spectacular

Continued on page 7

WHO'S WHO (cont.)

production staff for getting us all together for years for a continuous string of hits and fun for all!

KAREN BAIRD

Martha Brewster (M-S)
Karen loves performing and is grateful for the opportunity to bring a sweet, albeit bizarre, Martha to life in this production. Her other favorite roles include: Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Betty in *The Foreigner*, madcap Mrs. Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Mrs. Telford in *The Children's Hour*, Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, Aida in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Boo in *Last Night of Ballyhoo*, Mrs. Graves in *Enchanted April*, Mirium in *Beau Jest*, and Golde & Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof* (several times over). Whatever the role, whatever the ethnicity, Karen loves breathing life into the characters she has had the privilege to create. Having met her husband "on stage" many years ago, it is a special joy to share the stage with him yet again tonight, although very briefly. Theater brought their lives together and has enriched their lives throughout their 43 years of marriage. Thanks to her husband H.K., the Hales, the Swensons, the director cast and crew for bringing such joy into the life of this aging actress.

WILLIAM BISSON

Reverend Harper (MWF)
William is so excited to be back at HCTO. In 2010 he played Fezzwig/Solicitor/Preacher in HCTO's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Prior to that he was Reverend Arthur Humphrey in *See How They Run*, and in 2011 he was the Preacher in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Now he is Reverend Harper in *Arsenic and Old*

Lace. There seems to be a pattern here. Most recently, April 2012, he became a new husband when he married his 'Jeanie'. It was Jeanie's encouragement that brought him back to HCTO.

TRENT BOULTER

Officer O'Hara (TThS)
Trent is excited to return to the stage after a 10 year break while pursuing his bachelors and masters degrees in communications at BYU. After being in such productions as *Les Miserables* (Jean Valjean - OHS 2002), *The Crucible* (Rev. Hale), *The Music Man*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Educated Heart*, as well as others; it was only a matter of time before he made his way back to HCTO which he loves. Trent would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support in all of his endeavors, as well as the Hale family for their willingness to allow him the opportunity to do what he loves.

MITCH HALL

Lieutenant Rooney (MWF)
Born in Boulder, Colorado, Mitch was raised mostly in the Salt Lake City area. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1991. Mitch has been working in live theatre as an actor for over 20 years. Here at HCTO you may have seen him in such roles as Atticus in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Yank in *The Hasty Heart*, Brad in *Pillow Talk*, Mike in *Wait Until Dark*, Father Drobny in *Don't Drink the Water*, among many others. Mitch also has many national and local credits in film, television and radio. He resides in Midvale, Utah with his dog Raleigh.

Continued on page 9

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WHO'S WHO (cont.)

SCOTT M. HEALY

Lieutenant Rooney (TThS)

Scott is pleased to be back at HCTO and once again being able to be called "Scott the Cop." He would like to thank his family, the Hales, the Swensons and especially Meagan for this opportunity. Other productions that Scott has been involved in in his career: *A Christmas Carol*, *No Time for Sergeants*, *Footloose*, *Camelot*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Brigadoon*, *Lilacs in the Rain*, and *South Pacific* just to name a few.

DANIEL HESS

Jonathan Brewster (M-S)

Daniel is thrilled and honored to be part of such a classic piece of American Theatre and even more thrilled to be part of such a classic and classy cast and creative family here at HCTO. Words do little to express his love and gratitude to his incredibly loving and supportive wife and daughters. Director Robert Cohen has said, "Nothing so distinguishes great acting -- in any style, in any historical period -- than the feeling that the actor has the potential to 'go off' at any moment, and to unleash an explosion -- a flood of lava, that will be totally uncontrolled and uncontrollable. Great Acting always dances with danger!" Shall we dance?

KRISTI LYN HILL

Elaine Harper (WThS)

Kristi's been active in theater her entire life and is absolutely thrilled to be in her first show at HCTO. Kristi grew up in the great state of Idaho and graduated from BYU-Idaho with a degree in Theater Education. Some of her favorite roles include Caitin O'Hare in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Gwendolen in *The Importance of being Earnest*, Sarah in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and

Anne in *Anne of Green Gables*. Kristi also worked as a princess at Disney World and spent two summers performing at the Playmill Theater in West Yellowstone. Special thanks to her darling husband and her two adorable little boys!

LARSON HOLYOAK

Reverend Harper (TThS)

Larson has been doing local theater for over 20 years. He has played several different parts over the years, including some good guys, some bad guys, and some in-between guys. He once even played a nun. One of his recent favorite roles was Nunzio in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. His last gig at HCTO was *The Foreigner* playing Owen Musser. Acting is Larson's way of relaxation and therapy because you can't take life too seriously.

NATHAN JENSEN

Officer O'Hara (MWF)

Nathan is thrilled to return to HCTO to participate in one of his favorite plays, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Nathan started theater as young as age 7 with productions of *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Cheaper by the Dozen*. He later trained in music and theater at the Frankfurt International School in Frankfurt, Germany and at BYU Idaho. Some of his favorite performances ever have been shared with the wonderful people of HCTO such as that of Mercier in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and Mr. Feldzieg in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Nathan would like to thank his wonderful wife and family for their support as well as the Swensons, Hales and the good people of Rockstar energy drinks who kept him awake during work and rehearsal.

Continued on page 11



KRISTI LYN HILL

UVM AD

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WHO'S WHO (cont.)



JON LIDDIARD

JON LIDDIARD

Teddy Brewster (M-S)

Jon has performed in regional theatres across the United States and in Shakespeare Festivals in Colorado and California. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Tennessee, is a member of Actor's Equity Association, and currently teaches Acting as an adjunct faculty member at Utah Valley University. Recent work includes *Shackled* in conjunction with Warboy Theatre Projects, and *Hermanos* with Jason Purdie in their comedy team, The Redux Brothers. Jon is delighted to be in this, his first HCTO production, and would like to thank the producers and director for this wonderful opportunity. Jon would also like to thank his wife, two boys and the little girl on the way for their love and support! This one's for them—"Charge!!"



JAYNE LUKE

JAYNE LUKE

Abby Brewster (M-S)

Jayne welcomes her "little old lady phase" with the opportunity to play this definitive role in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She loves getting older because now she doesn't have to diet anymore! She believes all little old ladies, on stage and off, should be celebrated. She has been seen at HCTO in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Girl, the Grouch and the Goat*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *The Spitfire Grill*. She also directed *April Ann* and *Man with the Pointed Toes*. Last year she had the opportunity to play her dream role, Amanda Wingfield in Tennessee Williams' classic *The Glass Menagerie* at the Grand Theatre. She has also played in *The Producers* at Pioneer Theatre Company, *Charm* at Salt Lake Acting Company, *Cabaret* at the Egyptian Theatre, and *Facing East* for Plan-B Theatre Company

in Salt Lake City, New York City and San Francisco. She is so grateful to the producers, director and staff at HCTO who make wonderful theater in this crazy little building where she loves to work.

BRETT MERRITT

Mortimer Brewster (TThS)

Brett was last seen at HCTO in 2011 as Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, one of his favorite roles of all-time. He's also played Freddy Benson in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Gary in *Noises Off*, Paul in *Moon Over Buffalo*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and a bunch more. Brett wishes to thank the Hales and Swensons and the staff of the theater for being amazing to work with, Laurie Purser for showing him some new tricks, Meagan Downey for her general awesomeness, and the cast for being simply great every night. He sends his love to his wife and kids who encouraged him to become Mortimer (but only for this show).



BRETT MERRITT

JASON PURDIE

Dr Einstein (M-S)

Jason is delighted to be on the HCTO stage. He holds a BFA in Acting and his teaching licensure in Theatre Education from Brigham Young University. He has also studied at the Oxford School of Drama in England. After teaching middle school Drama in Florida for two years, he was happy to return to Utah as a Drama Specialist for the Alpine School District. He currently teaches Acting as an adjunct faculty member at Brigham Young University and manages his seven-year-old son's street-side magic show (only 25 cents--best show in town). Some of his past credits include: Alaric



JASON PURDIE

WHO'S WHO (cont.)

in *Peg o' My Heart* (Old Lyric Repertory Company), Truffaldino in *The Servant of Two Masters* (UVU), and Treplev in *The Seagull* (BYU). He would like to thank his amazing wife and their three children for their love and support.

TANYA M. QUINN

Elaine Harper (MTS)

Tanya feels so honored to return to HCTO. In past HCTO shows she has played Marie in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and Rosalind in *As You Like It*. In her other life, Tanya loves to cook for anyone that will let her. HCTO is a wonderful place to create with a team of truly talented people. She is grateful to be here and hopes you enjoy the show with the cast. It was a joy to be involved in the production process. Tanya would like to thank her husband Tom for his support and their son Augustus for being her bestest friend.

RYAN RADEBAUGH

Mortimer Brewster (MWF)

Ryan has been performing at HCTO since its creation in 1990. His credits include Willum, Dave/Bob, Dick, Nick, Young Scrooge, Charley, Jack, Dexter, Floyd, Bill, Buddy, Art and Nick again (if you know the shows these characters come from, congratulations, you are a theater geek!). Ryan's children will be seeing him kiss someone other than mom for the first time. He hopes they don't need therapy. Ryan currently serves as the Theater School Director at HCTO, a program he created 9 years ago. Please come see one of our shows—the youth in this valley are truly amazing! Last year he wrote the script for the youth production, *The*

Emperor's New Clothes. It was one of the creative highlights of his theater experience. Another highlight, one that will be hard to top, is working with Laurie Purser. "Thank you for being such a fantastic director! It has been a pleasure to be your clay." Always for Lindsay.

JD RAMEY

Officer Klein (M-S)

After years of seeing shows at HCTO, JD is beyond excited to actually be in his very first HCTO production! When he's not counting the years since his last theatrical endeavor with the ensemble of *Sweeney Todd* at the Castle in Provo in 2009, JD enjoys a wide variety of activities like watching TV, going out to eat and cuddling with his cat Skittles. He wants to express his absolute gratitude to his partner in life, Christopher, for hanging in there and supporting him any and every time.

ELDON RANDALL

Mr. Witherspoon (M-S)

Eldon is extremely excited to be back performing on his favorite stage. He has many fond memories at HCTO. Some of them are Sancho in *Man of La Mancha*, Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and his ultimate favorite is *The Body* in *Lucy Stiff* (twice). Eldon would like to thank his wife for putting up with his absence. "Lovewww you Alice!"



ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

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ABOUT THE SHOW



Joseph Kesselring

*"Insanity runs in my family.
It practically gallops"*

- Mortimer in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Writer Joseph Kesselring was born in New York in 1902. He spent much of his early years in and around the theater and in 1922, began pursuing the stage in earnest, teaching vocal music and directing plays at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. After a few years, he began writing plays, and found some success, even managing to get one, *Wisdom in Women*, produced on Broadway in 1935. In 1939, he finally hit on a winning formula, an insane frolic then titled, *Bodies in Our Cellars*. Kesselring sent the play to Broadway star Dorothy Stickney, hoping to entice her into playing one of the adorable, demented old sisters. The script caught the attention of her husband, producer Howard Lindsay,

Continued on page 19



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ABOUT THE SHOW (cont.)



Frank Capra



Boris Karloff

who sent a copy to his collaborator and partner, Russell Crouse, with a note: “Shake your head, take a cup of coffee and read further. Have just read play about two charming old ladies who go around murdering old men. Very funny. How would you like to be a producer?” Crouse immediately wired back; “Buy it.” Kesselring is credited as the full writer, but by the time it opened on Broadway’s Fulton theater in 1941, it included a great deal of Crouse and Lindsay’s contributions and was by then, renamed by them, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Drama critics raved and it was huge commercial success, running on Broadway several years. The New York Times review said that the play was, “so funny, that none of us will ever forget it.” Dorothy Stickney never did play one of the adorably murderous old ladies. They were played on Broadway by Jean Adair (Martha) and Josephine Hull (Abby). John Alexander practically stole the show with his portrayal of Teddy and the part of Jonathan Brewster with its many references to how much he looks like Boris Karloff, was in fact played by film horror star Karloff.

Early into the Broadway run, Hollywood director Frank Capra saw a performance and realized it was a chance to make a film that was purely for pleasure and not a social commentary like his more recent movies. “I owe myself a picture like this,” he said, reasoning that he had been “preaching one thing or another for several years

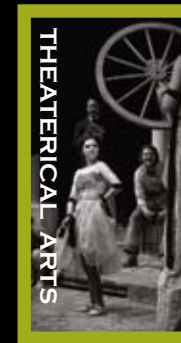
and [I] hadn’t had a really good time since *It Happened One Night*.” Capra secured the rights from Lindsay and Crouse, despite having failed previously to win their trust on another play they had produced, *Life With Father*. He vowed to make a, “anything goes, rip-roaring comedy about murder!”

Once Capra set about casting the movie, he quickly realized that the ladies quirky banter and chemistry couldn’t be reproduced and he secured both Adair and Hull from the Broadway show to do the movie, which took quite a lot of negotiating with the play’s producers to release them for

shooting. John Alexander as Teddy would also sign on for the film. The producers dug in their heels regarding Boris Karloff however. Karloff was an initial investor of the show and was the biggest star in the cast. They decided he was too large a box office draw to lose for the scheduled four week shoot, so Karloff’s role would go to Raymond Massey. The crucial casting of Mortimer took a little more time. The role was initially offered to Ronald Reagan and then to Jack Benny, who both turned it down. He then offered the part to Bob Hope who was eager

Continued on page 21

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ABOUT THE SHOW *(cont.)*



Arsenic and Old Lace movie poster

to do it, but Paramount Pictures would not loan him out to Warner Bros. for the project. Eventually, Cary Grant would play the role. In a strange bit of coincidence, 20 years earlier, Jean Adair was a member of a traveling troupe of vaudeville performers. One of the young actors, Archibald Leach was stricken with rheumatic fever, and Jean, helped nurse him back to health. Archie Leach would of course later change his name to Cary Grant! One of the tombstones in the cemetery next to the Brewster house reads "Archie Leach."

Oscar winning writers Julius and Phillip Epstein were brought in to beef up Mortimer's part for the film for Grant. They added scenes, such as an

opening sequence of a riot at a Dodgers baseball game, that quickly helped Capra's small one set comedy budgeted at a low \$400,000 balloon to over a million dollars. The planned four week shooting period also stretched to eight weeks. This caused Capra to cut corners wherever he could, trying his best to bring in the picture on time and on budget. He later said the production manager asked him if he was "going back to your poverty row quickies" where he had begun his career. Capra replied, "Yes, for a refresher course."

Capra wanted to push the limits of how broadly the comedy could be played. This did not sit well with Grant, a more subtle actor. Although the movie has been loved by audiences the world over since it's release, he frequently stated that he thought it was his worst performance, although in his kinder moments of recollection, he would credit Capra with helping him to get the comic effect he was unable to do on his own. The movie was shot in 1941, shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Cary Grant donated his \$100,000 salary to the U.S. War Relief Fund. The film would not be released, however, until 1944, as Capra was contractually obligated to wait until the Broadway run of the show had ended.

—Paul Hill



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WHO: Ages 4-12 **COST:** \$65/month

WHAT: Comprised of 4 private or semi-private lessons per month

WHERE: Hale Center Studios (300 N 50 W in Orem)

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Taught by Ryan Radebaugh

WHO:
Youth ages 8-13

Beginner: students entering 3rd grade - 6th grade

Intermediate: Students entering junior high and above

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Taught by Brett Merritt

WHO:

Ages 13-17

WHEN:

Wednesdays 4:30 PM -5:30 PM Starting in September

WHAT:

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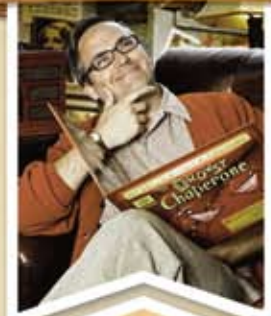
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IMPROV



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Taught by Brett Merritt

WHO:

Ages 18+ Performing artists and aspiring performing artists (actors, dancers, singers, etc.)

WHEN:

Wednesdays 5:45 PM-6:45 PM Starting in September

WHAT:

Learn and build on the principles of improv. as it applies to performance, preparation, character development, listening, being "in the moment," and ready for anything.

COST:

\$40/month

WHERE:

Hale Center Theater Orem



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In 150 B.C. King Mithridates VI of Persia developed the first “universal antidote,” called Mithridatium, to cure all known types of poisoning. Mithridates was paranoid about being poisoned and he took his antidote daily. When his kingdom was under siege, he tried to poison himself, but failed due to his high levels of Mithridatium. He had himself stabbed instead!

In the late 17th century, an Italian woman named Signora Toffana invented a poison called “agua Toffana” which she sold mainly

to women who wanted to murder their husbands. She is believed to have helped 600 women kill their husbands before she was executed in 1709.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, poisoning was commonplace. In fact, in 17th century France, poison was nicknamed “inheritance powder.”

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- Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance - all seats are reserved - you must be in your seat prior to the performance
- LATE-COMERS will be seated at the house management's discretion
{Hale Center Theater Orem accepts no responsibility for inconvenience to late-comers}
- NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FOUR OR BABES-IN-ARMS
- No cell phones, pagers with alarms or other electronic devices
- The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited
- No outside food or drink
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- Exits are located in the front and rear of the theater
- Season Ticket holders must make reservations early for each show. HCTO is not responsible for missed plays.

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- For audition schedules, acting and music class schedules and additional theater information visit our website at www.HaleTheater.org
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