

Dixon Community Theater
& The City of Dixon
Show Dates
December 6th, 7th, 8th 2024

The Little Town Of Christmas



Auditions Oct. 28th & 29th
6-7:30 p.m. Senior/Multi-Use Center
201 S. 1st Street, Dixon, CA
Children Ages 6 - 18
+ 2 Adult Roles

ARSENIC & OLD LACE

By Joseph Kesselring



DIRECTED BY CHERYL SOMMERS
OCTOBER 12, 13, 19, 20, 2024
DHS THEATER, 555 COLLEGE WAY
DIXON, CALIFORNIA



NICOLAS BROWN

AWARD WINNING
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

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ARSENIC & OLD LACE

BY JOSEPH KESSELRING

**DIRECTED BY
CHERYL SOMMERS**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER
ABEL CORNEJO**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KELLY PIDGEON JAMES**

**LIGHTING DESIGN
& OPERATION**

LEWIS WENTWORTH

**SOUND DESIGN
& OPERATION**

**GARY ERWIN
& ANGIE WOLF**

COSTUMES

JEAN HENDERSON



About the Cast

Angel Gatchel is 26 years old. She is new to the theater community and joined in theater to lead as an example to her daughter to always try new things in life. Angel debuted in her first play earlier this year called "Murder mystery at the Dixon Manor". She starred as the murderess Audry Greystone. Debuting in her second performance as Aunt Martha in "Arsenic and Old Lace, she hopes to gain a place in the Dixon Community Theater as she grows and takes on new roles not only in the theater but in life as well.

Barrett Shepherd (Mortimer) has been performing onstage since his high school days and is thrilled to be dodging mayhem in Arsenic and Old Lace. Some of his favorite roles include Prentiss (Peter and the Starcatcher), Prince Alfred (Rumpelstiltskin), Gilbert Blythe (Anne of Green Gables), Thing 2 (Cat in the Hat), and Earthworm (James & the Giant Peach). When he's not trying to cover up murders, Barrett can be found strumming his guitar and playing a variety of instruments in a local band—extending his talents well beyond avoiding suspicious wine bottles. He'd like to thank his favorite scene partner and wife, Emily Jo, and their two wonderful children, who fill his life with joy...and significantly less arsenic.

Chris Tan is excited to make his theater debut in Arsenic and Old Lace, playing the roles of Gibbs and Officer O'Hara. Outside of the theater, he works as a Productivity Analyst at Solidigm and lives in Rancho Cordova. He has a passion for storytelling that extends to acting, with experience in short films like Life Goes On, showcased at the Sacramento International Film Festival, and various commercials. In his free time, he enjoys reading, street photography, and traveling.

David Atkinson moved from his hometown, Whittier, CA, to attend UC Davis in 1980. He later on relocated to Dixon and after retirement, has been able to dedicate more time to his family, like his wife Alicia, and to playacting with his five rambunctious grandchildren (such natural improvisationalists). David also loves the movies, art and music and although he had speech, theater and stagecraft classes in high school and acted in a couple Halloween skits at his job, he never had the opportunity to go further down that path. He was excited to join the Dixon Reader's theater to test the waters which turned out to be very warm. He joined Dixon Community Theater this year and has performed as Professor Winkle in the DCT production "Murder Mystery at the Dixon Manor" and was cast as Mr. Witherspoon in this production of "Arsenic and Old Lace."

David Cripe - After an over twenty-year hiatus from the stage, David Cripe (Dr. Einstein) is thrilled to be once again treading the boards. Some of his past acting work includes Private Lives and Sly Fox at the Woodland Opera House, Doris Baizley's commedia dell'arte version of A Christmas Carol at River Stage in Sacramento and a long-ago presentation of Arsenic and Old Lace at American River College. David spends his workweeks participating in walnut development at UC Davis and maintaining his small farm near Dixon.

Emily Jo Shepherd (Elaine) has been immersed in theatre since childhood, taking on various roles as an actor, director, and choreographer across Solano, Yolo, and Sacramento counties. She's had the joy of bringing many memorable characters to life. Some of her favorite roles include Peter (*Peter Pan*), Helen Keller (*The Miracle Worker*), Junie B. Jones (*Junie B. Jones the Musical*), Sandy (*Grease*), Gertrude (*Seussical the Musical*), and Smea (*Peter and the Starcatcher*). Now, as Elaine, she's delighted to navigate the charming chaos of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Cheers (sans wine!) to her children's grandparents for making this experience possible.

Janice Ferrero - Playing the part of Abby Brewster. Janice is so excited to be part of the new Dixon Community Theater, considering many, many years ago she was part of the original Dixon Community Theater. Oddly enough Arsenic and Old Lace was produced in the first year the original community theater was established, and now this production of Arsenic and Old Lace is being produced within the first year of the new community theater! Back in the day, Janice was on stage with the man who would become her husband, and now, here they are again on stage, together, in the same play. Funny how life has a way of moving in a full circle!

ARSENIC & OLD LACE

Cast

(In order of appearance)

1. Abby Brewster - Janice Ferrero
2. Rev. Harper - Loren Ferrero
3. Teddy Brewster - David Muerle
4. Officer Brophy - TaNea Ingram
5. Officer Klein - Lily Pidgeon James
6. Martha Brewster - Angel Gatchel
7. Elaine Harper - Emily Jo Shepherd
8. Mortimer Brewster - Barrett Shepherd
9. Gibbs - Chris Tan
10. Jonathan Brewster - Neil Henderson
11. Dr. Einstein - David Cripe
12. Officer O'hara - Chris Tan
13. Lieutenant Rooney - Robert Williams
14. Mr. Witherspoon - Dave Atkinson

The Brewsters



Janice Ferrero as
Abby Brewster



Angel Gatchel as
Martha Brewster



David Muerle as
Teddy Brewster



Barrett Shepherd as
Mortimer Brewster



Neil Henderson as
Jonathan Brewster

The Harpers



Emily Jo Shepherd as
Elaine Harper



Loren Ferrero as
Rev. Harper

The Police



Robert Williams as
Lieutenant Rooney



TaNea Ingram as
Officer Brophy



Chris Tan as
Officer O'Hara/Gibbs



Lily Pidgeon James as
Officer Klein

The Others..



Dave Atkinson as
Mr. Witherspoon



David Cripe as
Dr. Einstein



Mr. Spenzalzo as
Himself

Mr. Hoskins (not pictured but apparently good-looking)

Set Design

Kelly Pidgeon James & Abel Cornejo

Set Construction

Tony James & Robert Williams

Graphics Design

Kelly Pidgeon James
& Abel Cornejo

Photography

Nicolas Brown &
Kelly Pidgeon James

A Special Thank You To...

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For donating the set panels!

And to...

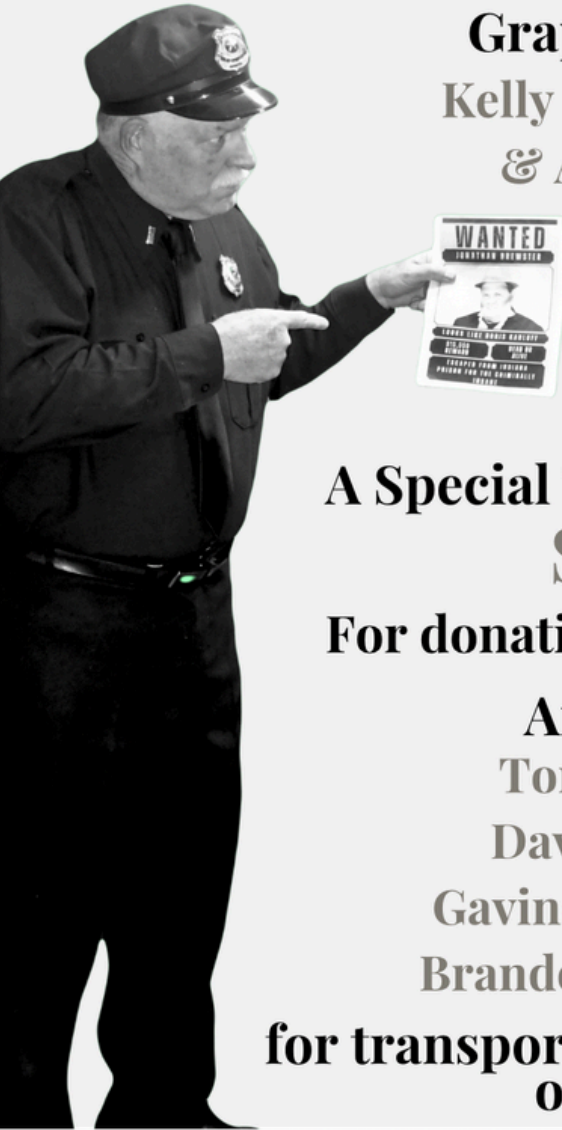
Tony James

David James

Gavin O'Donovan

Brandon Sommers

for transporting and building
our set!



About the Cast

Lily Pidgeon James is making her debut as Officer Klein in Dixon Community Theater's "Arsenic and Old Lace." A high school junior, Lily is enrolled in CAVA, California's online virtual independent school and has been recognized yearly as a top performing student statewide. A designation that recently earned her a place in the California UC College Summer Program COSMOS. Lily has been a SCT volunteer since the organization's recent re-formation and we look forward to seeing her infuse her role with her quirky, comedic style.

Loren Ferrero - playing Rev. Harper, was in the very first production of the newly founded Dixon Community Theatre in 1978, playing multiple roles in the musical, "Sing Out, Sweet Land". He was the lead actor as Mortimer in that year's "Arsenic and Old Lace", a role he played opposite the female lead, Janice, who played Elaine. Two years later, the onstage fiancées became a real married couple. In subsequent productions, Loren cornered the "king" market, playing the mute king in the musical, "Once Upon a Mattress", and the lead male role as king in "The King and I". He danced dressed in coconuts in "South Pacific", sang in "A Night with Gershwin", was the cynical second lead in "Brigadoon", and the toymaker in "The Toys Take Over Christmas", as well as various other community productions.

Neil Henderson (Jonathan Brewster) is from Edinburgh Scotland originally and grew up in the UK and Western Europe. While at high school in the Netherlands, he participated in theater during his junior and senior years. This production marks his return to the stage after 40 years! Neil retains strong ties to his cultural heritage as a competitive solo bagpiper and a member of the Scottish Cultural Association and the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. Most recently Neil was appointed the official piper for the Clan Henderson Society of the South Pacific Region.

Robert Williams is a Dixon native who performed in Dixon High theatrical productions and the very first production by the original Dixon Community Theater company. He took a thirty-year hiatus from acting until his teenaged daughter was cast in a Winters Theatre Company show. Robert got roped in and wound up performing in several WTC shows. Robert is thrilled to participate in the rebirth of the Dixon Community Theater and grateful for the support of the Dixon community.

TaNea Ingram is a newcomer making her acting debut as Officer Brophy. She developed a love for acting while participating in church plays. TaNea is eager to take on diverse roles that challenge her range as an actress. She was born and raised in the Bay Area. She is a wife of 23 years and a homeschooling mom of three sons; Which she considers her most important roles.

David Muerle - No bio submitted

