



Arsenic & Old Lace

Audition Application Form

Marathon Community Theater

Personal Information

- Full Name: _____
- Preferred Pronouns: _____
- Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Email Address: _____
- Cell Phone: _____ Do You Text? Yes ___ No ___
- Preferred Communication Method: TEXT___ EMAIL___ CELL___
- Emergency Contact Name & Phone: _____

Audition Details

Character Preference, please list 3 characters you would like to audition for (A list of characters is attached:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(Please note that we take your preference into consideration, However, final casting decisions will be made based on what we feel is the best fit for each performer and the overall production.)

- Are you willing to accept a different role? YES / NO
- Have you performed in a play before? YES / NO
- If yes, list shows/roles: _____
- Are you willing to work behind the scenes? YES / NO
- Do you have experience working backstage? YES / NO

Availability

- Audition Date: (circle one) August 22nd / August 23rd
 - Are you available for all rehearsal dates? YES / NO
 - Are you available for all performance dates? YES / NO
 - If not, please list all known conflicts: _____
-

Special Skills

- Do you have any accents, dialects, or language skills?

- Other talents or skills:

Production Information

- Director: Karen Shotwell
- Audition Dates: August 22 & 23
- Rehearsals Begin: September 15th and September 29th will be a script read through. Rehearsals will begin October 5th, 2026, and run 7-9 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Please note not all actors will be required to attend every rehearsal.
- Holiday schedules TBD.

General Schedule:

- Performances: Starting January 14, 2027, through February 6th. Thursday-Saturday. With 2 Sunday afternoon matinees on January 24 & 31st.
- Location: Marathon Community Theater

Arsenic and Old Lace

By Joseph Kesselring

Director - Karen Shotwell

Stage Manager - Ana Paula

Producer - Deborah Shirley

Open Auditions - August 22 & 23, 10-12 and 1-3. For the best audition experience, please try to attend one of those dates. If you are unable to attend open auditions, please contact me at karensotwell@icloud.com.

Rehearsal Start Date - There will be character discussion and initial read-through on Tues. Sept 15 and a speedier read-through on Tues. Sept 29. Rehearsals will begin on Mon. Oct 5 at 7 p.m. in the costume loft at MCT and generally run Mo

n-Thurs from 7-9 p.m. with adequate time off for the holidays. Time off and informal rehearsal schedule will be discussed as we get to know each other. When rehearsal resumes on Mon. Jan 4, there will be only 5 rehearsals until Press Night. Many of the characters are in only one or two scenes. Your time will be respected, and rehearsals will be organized accordingly. Please supply any conflicting rehearsal dates to see if this can be accommodated.

Show Dates (you must be able to make all dates) - Opening Night is Thurs Jan 14, 2027. The show continues Jan 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24 (Matinee), 28, 29, 30, 31 (Matinee), Feb 4, 5, 6.

Synopsis - Known for their hospitality and charming demeanor, spinsters Abby and Martha Brewster are adored by their neighbors and guests. When their nephew, Mortimer, finds a corpse in the window seat, he learns that his dear delightful aunts had poisoned the poor fellow (and many others) as an act of misguided mercy. What follows is a hilarious chain of events that blends dark humor and farcical chaos with just a pinch of romance.

Time and Place - The entire action of the play takes place in the quaint living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn, early 1940s.

Characters - Every role in this play is attainable. No one has been precast. Also, there are no minor roles, just greater and lesser amounts of time onstage. Every character should develop a distinct quirk or accent. Think over-the-top, realistic but absurd. This show is filled with non-verbal reactions, such as double-takes, almost cartoonish facial

movements and rather odd ways of doing normal things. All silliness is welcome. Some character descriptions specify body type which is more of a guideline for me.

Note - Officer Brophy, Officer Klein, Mr. Gibbs, Officer O'Hara, Lt. Rooney, and Mr. Witherspoon can be played by women. In addition, some combination of Dr. Harper, Mr. Gibbs, Officer O'Hara, Lt. Rooney, and Mr. Witherspoon could be considered for dual roles by the actor.

Abby Brewster - A plump little darling in her late 60s, a paragon of the church committed to charity work. She's sweet, feisty and in charge.

Martha Brewster - Abby's sister and committed to bringing peace and comfort. A little more reserved but with just as much self-assured belligerence. She gets some good lines.

Note - the ladies are two peas in a pod, finish each other's sentences. There will be dialog drills. Wigs will be supplied. Body type is unimportant.

Teddy Brewster - Nephew of the sisters, believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, indulged by all. Must be able to run up a flight of stairs yelling "Charge!"

Mortimer Brewster - Leading man, 30s, charming. Another nephew of the sisters, a drama critic for a New York newspaper, can be a bit full of himself. Much of the play's comedy revolves around Mortimer trying to protect his aunts from themselves. Lots of movement and physical action.

Elaine Harper - Mortimer's fiancée, close friend of the sisters and Teddy. Anxious to start her new life with Mortimer, she is caught up in the insanity of the household. She is practical and ignores Mortimer's occasional condescension. Playful physical comedy with Mortimer and possibly climb through a window.

Jonathan Brewster - Another nephew of the sisters, left home years ago. He is an evil murderer whose facial reconstruction now has him looking like Boris Karloff which agitates him greatly. Generally played by a tall lanky man, but again I'm not tied to a body type. Create the voice and movement and we'll supply the make-up.

Dr. Einstein - Jonathan's partner in crime. Middle-aged and of German descent, disheveled, ratty, and an alcoholic. He performed the surgery on Jonathan. Jonathan and Dr. Einstein are another "couple" in this play. He is generally played as a smaller, more slightly built man.

The Reverend Dr. Harper - Local minister and neighbor of the sisters. Father to Elaine, he disapproves of Mortimer. He is in one scene at the beginning of the play, and the actor could play a dual role.

Officer Brophy - a local police officer who helps the Brewsters, partner to Officer Klein.

Officer Klein - a local police officer who helps the Brewsters, partner to Officer Brophy.

Note - these two are a little comedy act all on their own, buddy cops. No specific body type, could be played by women.

Mr. Gibbs - a potential boarder/victim. Again, in only one scene, but could also steal the show, On the list for dual role.

Officer O'Hara - a police officer and a playwright wannabe. Happily, self-involved and single-minded, he is blissfully unaware of the insanity unfolding before him including why Mortimer is tied to a chair.

Lieutenant Rooney - a gruff New York police lieutenant. On the list for dual role.

Mr. Witherspoon - Superintendent of Happy Dale Sanitorium. On the list for dual role.

Director's Notes - This is a character-led play and teamwork is its key to success. You'll have to know your cues every bit as well as you know your lines as responses must be immediate. Hesitation is the enemy. Every character is important to the story and has enough stage time to make an impact. There is fast dialog, quick movements and some very specific timing of entrances and exits.

Auditions will be casual and fun. Please come and give it a try.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping backstage, there are many opportunities to be involved with the show without having to learn lines. We always welcome those who want to join us and have a good time.