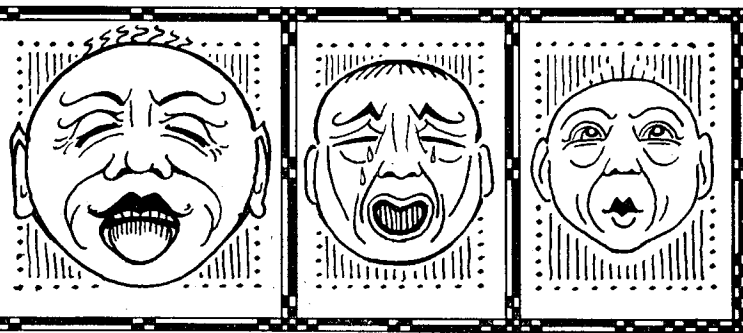


Masks & Faces



Newsletter of



REGINA LITTLE THEATRE
SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 63, No. 3

Entertaining Regina & Area since 1926.

Nov. / Dec. 2003

Our second play of the season:

Arsenic & Old Lace

The well-loved comedy by Joseph Kesselring

November 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.
at the

 Regina Performing Arts Centre
1077 Angus Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 1Y4

About the play:

In September 1941 in Brooklyn, New York, in a large old Victorian house just across the cemetery from the Episcopal church, live two kindly and elderly spinster sisters, Abby and Martha Brewster. They are well-known for their many kind and generous acts of charity (in stark contrast to the dark stories told about their demented father and grandfather). Also living in the house are their two nephews: Mortimer, who is a dramatic critic for a major New York newspaper, and Teddy, who suffers from the harmless delusion that he is American president Teddy Roosevelt. Mortimer is currently seeing Elaine Harper, daughter of Reverend Harper of the Episcopal church next door.

It starts when Mortimer discovers by accident that his two sweet little old aunts innocently harbour a rather macabre secret, involving the disappearance of lonely old bachelor gentlemen. Shocked and dismayed, Mortimer hatches a plan to have it all blamed on Teddy, who is demented anyway. His plan is interrupted by the unexpected and unwelcome arrival of Mortimer's other brother, the sinister Jonathan Brewster and his associate Dr. Einstein (Herman, not Albert). Jonathan is a psychopathic criminal and killer, on the run from the law, and due to botched plastic surgery done by Dr. Einstein he currently bears the scary face of Boris Karloff. Jonathan's plan is to use Grandfather's old laboratory to have Dr. Einstein give him a new face and then make his escape. Madcap shenanigans ensue as Mortimer tries to get rid of Jonathan, Jonathan tries to get rid of Mortimer, and the police are none the wiser!

RLT first performed *Arsenic & Old Lace* in March of 1943, in the year after it was a hit on Broadway. Touted as RLT's first ever sell-out production (2 nights at Darke Hall), it was directed by L.R. Salisbury and the cast featured Jack Coalston, Anita Gilbert, Ruth Hamilton, Eugene Zarek, Lloyd Measner and Jock Mackay, among others.

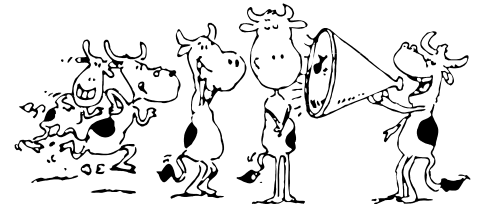
Twenty-four years later, in April of 1967, RLT mounted second production of *Arsenic & Old Lace*, directed by Margaret Woodward. This time there were 3 nights at Darke Hall. The cast featured Chuck Jordan, Margaret Fraser, Hilda Allen, Stephen Arsenych, Walter Geres, Robert Rossander, and Bill Powell, among others. The production team included Harold Woodward, Denise Ketheson, Jo Dunn, Arthur Gardiner, Walter Reibin, Dean Claussen, Jack Chamberlain, and Jean Freeman, among others.

Regina Summer Stage mounted the most recent production of *Arsenic & Old Lace* in August of 1988, directed by Elisabeth Stoppa Ebbels. The cast of this production included Ian Paul, Marion Lee, Dorothy O'Keefe, Alan Bratt, George Alexander, and Daniel Bond among others.

Fifteen years since the last production, (and thirty-six years since RLT last did it) we are pleased to mount our third production of this well-loved comedy classic by Joseph Kesselring. As far as we can tell this is the ONLY full-length, main stage play to have been produced more than twice in RLT's 77-year history.

(... continued on page 2)

AUDITION NOTICE:



RLT'S THIRD PLAY OF THE SEASON:

Communicating

Doors

a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Nora Berg

PERFORMANCES: February 11, 12, 13, & 14, 2004
8:00 p.m. each evening
Regina Performing Arts Centre

AUDITIONS: Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 24 & 25
at 7:30 p.m. each evening
Regina Performing Arts Centre

When you're on the run from someone, and you're hiding in a hotel room, and the only way out is through the communicating door into the next hotel room, you never know who, what, or when you'll find on the other side of the door!

ACTORS REQUIRED: 3 women, 3 men,
ages 20's to 60's

For more information about the auditions and the play, please contact director Nora Berg at 787-9914 (work) or 775-1335 (home).

RS

Arsenic & Old Lace

... continued from Page 1

About the cast & crew:

AUNT ABBY BREWSTER is played by RLT newcomer Tia Ginot, who is thrilled to be playing such a great role in her first RLT production. She was recently relocated back to Regina from Calgary and is excited to be involved in the local theatre scene. Tia has performed in numerous one act plays, and most memorable as Dorothy in *The Wizard Of Oz*.

The REVEREND DOCTOR HARPER, Elaine's father, is played by Chuck Jordan. Chuck is retired from school teaching and is the Administrator of the Regina Performing Arts Centre and is an RLT Honorary Life Member who first joined RLT in 1967 in the production *Arsenic and Old Lace* directed by the late Margaret Woodward. Since then, Chuck has acted in numerous RLT productions, directed several plays for RLT, taught creative drama to students for The Regina Child and Youth Drama Association, has acted in *The Trial of Louis Riel* for over 30 years.

TEDDY BREWSTER is played by Patrick Pelletier. Born in St-Jean-Sur-Richelieu, Quebec, Patrick has lived in Regina for 2½ years. *Arsenic & Old Lace* is his 3rd experience in the theatre, having appeared in Regina Summer Stage's productions of *Anything Goes* (July 2002) as the Purser, and in *Brigadoon* (July 2003) as one of the town folk; this is his first appearance in RLT. He works at Staples as a Customer Relations Representative in the out-bound French call area. In addition to performing on stage in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, Patrick is also assistant stage manager.

Police OFFICER PAT BROPHY is played by Paul Chomos. Paul was born in Regina, but has lived in Fort McMurray, Alberta; in Esterhazy; and moved back to Regina last year from Medicine Hat. His stage roles include Pawnee Bill in *Annie Get Your Gun* (Medicine Hat Theatre), Grimm in *Humpty Dumpty: A Pantomime* (Medicine Hat Theatre), and Roy in the RLT production of *The Odd Couple* (February 2003). Paul works at CTV Regina as a Creative Writer / Producer, and his hobbies include novel writing, poetry, kick boxing, curling, and playing the drums in a local rock band.

Police OFFICER ABE KLEIN is played by Oscar Olivas. An active front-of-house and box office

volunteer for both Theatre Regina and RLT, Oscar did the costumes for *Inherit the Wind* (October 1998) and *What I Did Last Summer* (November 1999). He also assisted with costumes for Regina Summer Stage's production *Anne of Green Gables* (July 1999), and assisted backstage with their production of *It's a Wonderful Life* (December 2002). Oscar graduated from the U. of R. Theatre Department in 1999, with a degree in costume design. Originally from San Diego, Oscar took part in the film *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* when he was a boy.

AUNT MARTHA BREWSTER is played by Carol Krieser, an RLT board member. She was last seen on stage as Davin's daughter in *Davin* (June 2003), and she designed and sewed costumes for *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (October 2003). Carol played Golda in *Fiddler on the Roof* (May 2000) for Regina Lyric Light Opera Society, Mother Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life* (December 2002) for Regina Summer Stage, and Mother Superior in the Souris Valley Theatre production of *Nunsense* (Estevan; July 2003).

ELAINE HARPER is played by Meghan Pedersen, active with RLT for several years and recently elected to the RLT board of directors. She was last seen as Ophelia in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (October 2003), as Kate's maid and Roblyn's secretary in *Davin* (June 2003), and before that appeared in *A Christmas Carol* (November 2002) and in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (October 2002).

MORTIMER BREWSTER is played by Colin Grewar. Colin is thrilled to be making his RLT debut in this production. Since moving to Regina in 1988 Colin has played many leading roles for Regina Summer Stage and Regina Lyric Light Opera including Tommy in *Brigadoon* (twice!), Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Robert in *Company*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man* (twice!) and Koko in *The Mikado*. Although he's performed musical theatre since he was a teenager growing up in Winnipeg, this is Colin's first non-singing stage role . . . ever! By day, Colin is the host of CBC Radio's THE AFTERNOON EDITION, heard around Saskatchewan weekday's between 4-6PM.

MR. GIBBS is played by Dwaine Dornan. He recently played Sir John A. McDonald in *Davin* (June 2003), has appeared in several of RLT's one-act plays, and played Otto Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (October 2000). For Regina Summer Stage he played Uncle Billy in the musical *It's A Wonderful Life* (December 2002).

The nasty JONATHAN BREWSTER is played by Mike O'Brien. He was in *The Flowering Peach* (December 1995), *Bedroom Farce* (February 1997), and *A Man for All Seasons* (April 1999). This year Mike appeared in his first musical – *Cabaret* (Lyric;

May 2003). Mike has appeared in film and on television, usually cast as a loving dad or a villain; his role as Jonathan tips the scale firmly toward the bad guys. By day Mike works for CBC Radio.

DOCTOR HERMAN EINSTEIN, Jonathan's partner, is played by RLT newcomer James Park. Originally from Northwestern Ontario, James moved to Saskatchewan 4 years ago, and is excited to be involved with RLT. This is his first RLT production, but not his first time being involved in *Arsenic & Old Lace*. He played Jonathan Brewster in 1995 in his hometown of Dryden.

Police OFFICER JOE O'HARA is played by RLT newcomer Martin Krieser, who performs regularly with Regina Lyric Light Opera Society and Opera Saskatchewan. So far in 2003 he has performed in: *A funny thing happened on the way to the brunch* (musical brunch; Regina Lyric Light Opera Society; February), *The Barber of Seville* (opera; Opera Saskatchewan; February), *Cabaret* (musical; Regina Lyric Light Opera Society; May), and he was the stage manager for the play *Simon's Wife* at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival in the summer.

Police LIEUTENANT ROONEY is played by Blaine Olsen. Blaine's other plays and roles: *The Trial of Louis Riel* as Father Vitel Formond (RIELCO; Aug. 2003), *The Odd Couple* as Speed (RLT; Feb. 2003), *Arsenic & Old Lace* as Officer O'Hara (Moose Jaw; Oct. 2002), and *Who Killed Roger McSween?* as Tony (Moose Jaw; Nov 2002). He moved to Regina in 1989 from Estevan, and works at Cloud Rider Designs and makes auto accessories.

Mr. Witherspoon is played by Patrick Cherneski, in his first RLT appearance. He recently appeared in the Regina Lyric Light Opera musical *Cabaret* (May 2003) – his first Regina stage appearance. Patrick's non-theatre appearances include bits in several movies (not likely coming to a theatre near you <grin>), a television series (Corner Gas), and a TV commercial (intro'ing "Regina OnBoard").

Kimberly Ireton is the DIRECTOR for *Arsenic & Old Lace*. By day Kimberly is a writer. By night she is and actor/director. And in between she attempts to dabble in graphic design, work out, and sleep. *Arsenic...* marks her directorial debut on the RLT mainstage, but she is no stranger to cracking the whip in front of the stage. Directing credits include *Impromptu* (RLT one acts, May 2003), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Agnes of God* (Theatre Essential), and *First Name's Second* (Providence Players). On stage she's played everyone from Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (RLT; October 2002) to Abigail Williams in *The Crucible*. Most recently she appeared in the cast of *Class of '57* at Applause Dinner Theatre.

(... continued on page 3)

Blood Relations

a drama by Sharon Pollock, directed by Ken Spencer

PERFORMANCES: March 25, 25, 26, & 27, 2004

AUDITIONS: January 11, 12, & 13, 2004

Bernadette Tice is pleased to be the STAGE MANAGER for *Arsenic & Old Lace*. Bernadette has been involved in RLT productions since 1985, when she did the hair and makeup for *Twelve Angry Jurors*. Since then, to her best recollection, she has been involved in some capacity with every RLT production to date except 3. She is also involved with other community theatre groups in Regina, most recently as stage manager in both RSS production of *Brigadoon* (July 2003) and RLLOS production of *Cabaret* (May 2003). Community theatre, most notably RLT, has given Bernadette the opportunity to discover her "love of theatre" and to help others discover it also.

Candice A. Appleby is the assistant stage manager and props master. Candice is a newcomer to RLT, and comes to us from B.C. where she gained much theatrical experience. She has been a music educator for 27 years, having owned and operated three music schools including Blue Water Music and managed two music schools for others. She is currently Music and Drama Teacher at Athol Murray College of Notre Dame, assisting to develop a performing arts curriculum that will fit the unique requirements of a predominantly athletic private high school.

Other backstage and behind-the-scenes volunteers include: Marie McCracken (costumes), Sharon Eisbrenner (set decoration), Fred Gallagher (set construction, James McCullough (lighting), Melissa Mark (hair & makeup), Ken Spencer (artistic consultant).

You can meet and chat with these people at the Green Room Party after the performance on Friday, November 28th. Hope to see you there!

☞

One Act Plays

PERFORMANCES:

Friday & Saturday, February 27 & 28, 2004

AUDITIONS:

Monday & Tuesday, January 19 & 20, 2004

WHAT WE NEED:

Well ... people! Directors, stage manager(s), actors, (and perhaps some backstage people).

And plays! If you'd like to suggest a one-act play, great! (We can suggest one, if you'd like.)

Novices & first-timers,

as well as experienced people are eagerly welcomed – this is a learning environment for you!

This is your chance to come out and give it a try, but on a small and perhaps less intimidating scale than a full-length main stage play. Won't you give it a try? Contact Warren James for further information [see page 4 for contact information!]

☞

How RLT Picks It's Plays

Ever wondered how RLT selects a play to produce? Should it be a farce, comedy, melodrama, drama, or tragedy? Where should the play be on the spectrum between "light, simple, and easy" and "heavy, complex, and difficult"? Should the play appeal to the whole family or only to the adults? How can we please both our older and long-time play goers while still attracting some younger and new play goers? How does RLT choose 5 plays for a season, let alone one play? It is a challenging task.

When choosing plays for a season RLT follows this simple guideline: variety and balance.

Each season the RLT board of directors appoints a Play Selection Committee of 3 to 5 current RLT members. The PSC is charged with the task of doing all the "leg work" to choose plays for our next season. The PSC usually works towards the following season outline.

Play #1 – For this mid October season opener, we want a really "good" play that makes an impression.

Play #2 – For this late November or early December show we'd like a play that's perhaps a bit lighter; perhaps something family-oriented for the holiday season, or perhaps a light drama or comedy, or perhaps an old favourite.

Play #3 – For this mid February show we traditionally like a comedy or a farce, to warm you up with laughter during the cold of winter.

Play #4 – This is performed two weeks before Easter and we choose a high-quality play – that is, something perhaps a bit more challenging, or heavier – as this is the play RLT may send to the Theatre Saskatchewan Festival (if the RLT board of directors decides we can afford it).

Play #5 – This show is performed during the second week of June, and because of other productions during the same time (Regina Lyric Light Opera Society and Regina Summer Stage) we want a smaller scale play (small cast, simple sets). If we have recently run a play writing contest, the winning play is most often performed as

Play #5.

The Play Selection Committee compiles a list of a dozen or so plays to use as a starting point. They read and

evaluate many, many plays to get this starting list – plays not used from last year's list, plays they find themselves, or plays that are suggested to them. They ensure any play on the starting list is both "in print" and available from the publisher. The PSC also uses a list of possible directors, and each prospective director gets the starting list and is asked to pick a short list of up to 3 plays in order of preference that he/she would be willing to direct. In order to improve the starting list, each director may add ONE AND ONLY ONE new play as part of his/her list of 3 plays. The prospective directors must also specify which plays they can or cannot direct in terms of dates available.

Once the Play Selection Committee has the short list from each director, they can assemble a season. Director availability will often change the order or combination of plays that was outlined above. The PSC submits this "draft" season to the RLT board of directors for approval.

OTHER HURDLES:

RLT must apply to the publisher of each play for permission to produce and perform it. RLT must pay the publisher and/or the playwright royalty fees, ranging from \$50 per performance up to 10% of the box office proceeds per performance.

RLT must purchase copies of the play for the cast & crew to use – photocopying is strictly prohibited. A single copy of a play is usually \$5.00 or \$6.00, but a very few cost up to \$20.00 each.

DID YOU KNOW? Copyright laws strictly forbid RLT from making ANY change to the play – that is, we aren't allowed to shorten it or change any of the dialogue. Very few scripts provide playwright approved cuts or dialogue changes.

After all that RLT can advertise the play to you. This doesn't begin to address the challenge of finding actors and behind-the-scenes people to make the production run – people willing to put in many hours of volunteer work. Let's not forget the many arrangements for Front-of-House services such as box office, programs, juice & cookies, the bar, the Green Room Party, all of which require volunteers. But that is another story ...

This article was intended to give you a taste of the process RLT goes thru just to pick some plays to perform. While the actors get the "glory" of appearing on stage, the many hours of volunteer effort behind their performances are often overlooked, both for each individual show and for the season and the society.

If you have input or feedback for RLT on the plays we choose, we would LOVE to hear from you (phone, letter, email). We can only do the plays you like if you let us know what they might be.

☞

Past Artistry

a new play by J.J. Steinfeld, directed by Carol Krieser

PERFORMANCES: June 9, 10, 11, & 12, 2004

AUDITIONS: April 4, 5, & 6, 2004

REGINA LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY, INC.



1077 Angus Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4T 1Y4

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2003–2004 Board of Directors

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Nora Berg, VICE PRESIDENT – Costumes & Props,
and Producer, Main Stage Plays
Res. = 775-1335 Bus. = 787-9814 FAX = 787-9815

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Res. = 775-0821

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Meghan Pedersen, Member at large – Workshops
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Res. = 757-9933 FAX = 780-2523

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

"To each his own" goes the old saying. So it was with our terrific season opening play *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. Thanks to director Darla Biccum and stage manager Pat Wilson and to their talented cast & crew for all of their hard work bringing this challenging play to the RLT stage. Reaction to this play by the audience was mixed. We had some audience members communicate to us how much they enjoyed it and thought it was wonderful and congratulations to RLT. On the other hand, we had some audience members who did not enjoy this show; some left the theatre at one of the two intermissions and did not stay to see the end; some phoned the RLT office and left messages to express their dislike of this show.

While I admit to being one of those who enjoyed the show, I understand that it wasn't everyone's cup of tea. In the ever challenging task of coming up with a varied and balanced season, I trust those who didn't fully enjoy the show will find that other shows in our season are more to your taste. Oh, and THANK YOU for telling us what you thought of the play, positive or negative. RLT can only be improved by listening to your feedback and working with it.

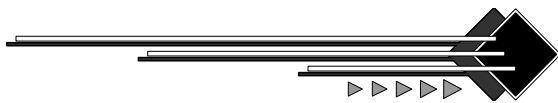
Front of House Manager Linda Biasotto wishes to extend her thanks to her lobby volunteers: Cathy Moberly, Donna and Ed Rumpel, James Trettwer, Heather Anderson, Darren Hehn, Brenda Hutch, Cec Wetch, Lynda and Jim Warner, Heather Bohach, and Kelly Munce.

Box Office Coordinator Ken Spencer would like to thank Nora Berg, Nils Clausson, and Bonnie Senger for volunteering at the box office during *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (while Ken was in the technical booth running sound & music for the show). We sold 1365 tickets to that show (341 per night), and our actual attendance was 1233 (that's 308 per night).

Costume Coordinator Nora Berg reports that our Costume Sale on Saturday, October 25 was a great success, bringing in over \$200.00. Thanks to Bonnie Senger, Pat Wilson, Sharon & Vince Medak, Annetta Kuntz, and Jean Taylor who helped out at this event. Oh, and for those who were wondering, our fundraising performance of the play *The American Dream* in September netted us just over \$900.00 in September, thanks to the hard work of producers Nils Clausson (for RLT) and Chuck Jordan (for Theatre Regina).

I remember studying *Arsenic & Old Lace* in high school, and I remember seeing a filmed-for-television version of the play featuring Bob Crane (who played Colonel Hogan on *Hogan's Heroes*) as Mortimer. I have also enjoyed the classic Frank Capra movie version featuring Cary Grant as Mortimer. I'm pleased that RLT is having a third go at this wonderful play. I look forward to seeing you there!

President



"Masks and Faces" is the official publication of Regina Little Theatre Society, Inc., and is published 6 times per year. SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Friday, December 19th, 2003

**business
Printers**

2330 - 8th Avenue, Regina, S4R 1G3, 522-4941
Special Thanks to Charlie & Jim Leibel & staff who donate the printing of this newsletter to RLT

Need a Scholar\$hip?

APPLY NOW!!

Regina Little Theatre is pleased to offer three scholarships annually, and the third of these for 2003-2004 is the *Life Member Jo Dunn Scholarship* to be presented/awarded in April. Here are the details:

- The amount of this scholarship is \$400.00
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** applications must be received by the RLT office on or before March 1st, 2004 [See the back page of this newsletter for addresses and other contact information.]
- Applicants must be current members in good standing of RLT.
- Applicants must have been an RLT member for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
- Applicants must have actively participated in the activities of RLT before the application deadline.
- Applications must be in writing. Please visit our web site or contact our office for a copy of our scholarship application form. The Applicant will list his/her recent activities with RLT and with other performing arts organizations. Performing arts résumés and C.V.'s are welcome.
- The scholarship may be used to cover registration and/or tuition fees for one and only one educational event (class, workshop, lessons, seminar, conference, etc.), which occurs no earlier than 6 months before or no later than 12 months after the application deadline.
- The applicant will demonstrate that the educational event is concerned with the performing arts – that is, drama, theatre, music, dance, including on-stage or behind-the-scenes activities for either live or recorded (TV, film, multimedia) performing arts. Preference will be given to live drama/theatre educational events.

The *Margaret Woodward Memorial Scholarship* was awarded to James Trettwer in September. The recipient of the *Vic & Mary Rouse Memorial Scholarship* in December has not yet been announced.