

ARTS DATE BOOK



Dispatch photo

Cast members of *Arsenic and Old Lace* rehearse for the Otterbein College summer theater season, which opens on Tuesday. They are, from left, Jodie Silk, Laura Stitt, David Caldwell, Tim Gregory and Steve Salyer. See theater listings.

OC summer theatre to open with 'Arsenic'

Find out why two elderly but very proper spinster sisters, Abby (Jodie Silk) and Martha (Laura Stitt) Brewster spend so much time in their basement in Joseph Kessling's "Arsenic and Old Lace," the season opener of Otterbein College Summer Theatre, being presented June 25-30 in the air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre.

It seems that they're not the only ones down there either. Their not-quite-right nephew Teddy Brewster (Steve Salyer) spends much of his time hard at work "digging the Panama Canal" in the dirt-floored cellar, convinced that he is Theodore Roosevelt.

At first, enjoyable events in the offbeat but relatively calm Brewster household include frequent visits by the Rev. Dr. Harper (Todd Freeman), whose lovely

daughter Elaine (Liana Peters) is being courted by another nephew and Teddy's brother Mortimer (Tim Gregory), a handsome drama critic for the local newspaper.

However, the routine is upset by a visit from Teddy and Mortimer's long lost brother Jonathan Brewster (Ken Ernyl), a Boris Karloff look-alike who has had three facelifts to disfigure him from the law, and his sleazy sidekick and personal plastic surgeon, Dr. Einstein (David Caldwell).

ABOUT THE TIME these two characters announce their plans to "hide out" for awhile at the Brewster's (and dispose of a dead body that they've brought along), Mortimer discovers another dead body hidden in a window seat.

He presumes the murder has been the deed of his

crazy brother Teddy and he wants him given over immediately to Mr. Wither-spoon (Tod Wilson), superintendent of Happy Dale, an insane asylum.

The hilarity explodes up to the last second of the three-act comedy, and poor Mr. Gibbs (Michael Harper), a boarder at the house, is privy to all of it.

Neither police officers Klein and Brophy (Roy Woods and Jeff Kin), nor Officer O'Hara (Marc Foster), a forgetful bumbler who dreams of becoming a famous playwright, have any notion of what is really going on around them in a rapid-fire succession of uncanny events.

Only the audience knows that Teddy, after all, wasn't half as crazy as his aunts who have murdered a dozen men, and have buried all of them in the basement.

THEY WON'T SHARE their hiding place with Jon-

athan and Einstein, who have an urgent need for a burial plot for their 12th victim. And sparks fly between the two pairs of murderers because the "score" is tied.

As the curtain closes, a possible 13th victim raises a cup to his lips. Arsenic?

Evening performances will be at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, through Saturday, June 29, with a special matinee set for 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 30.

The Summer Theatre box office will open Monday, June 17, with hours Monday-Saturday, 12:30-9 p.m. The box office is closed Sundays.

Honored

Twila M. Doran of New Albany recently was honored at Central Ohio Technical College's Scholastic Recognition Banquet. She received a special award designating her as a COTC Student Scholar.



I wouldn't do that

Delightfully crazy spinster sisters Abby and Martha Brewster (left to right, Jodie Silk and Laura Stitt) are aghast as their nephew Mortimer (Tim Gregory) raises his glass to his lips in a scene from "Arsenic and Old Lace," set for June 25-30 in the air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre. Other assorted characters in the popular comedy include a fugitive plastic surgeon named Dr. Einstein (David Caldwell, at rear), and another Brewster nephew, Teddy, who believes he is Theodore Roosevelt (Steve Salyer, standing at right). Evening productions are set for 8:30 p.m. June 25-29, with a special Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. on June 30.



"Aren't they darling?" coo the charming spinsters Abby and Martha Brewster (from left, back row) Jodie Silk and Laura Stitt. The objects of their affection are Elaine (Liana Peters, left), who is being courted by their dashing nephew Mortimer Brewster (Tim Gregory), in one of the saner moments of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, being produced by Otterbein College Summer Theatre through June 30 at Campus Center Area Theatre. Performances are at 8:30 p.m. with a special Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. For more information call 890-3000 ext 1600.