

# Comments According to Doc

Walden  
Happenings



By Doc Fennessy

## Stage Right presents legendary classic comedy "Arsenic & Old Lace" at the historic Crighton Theatre Opening Friday, September 6th

talented young man hails from Amarillo and brings a wealth of theatrical experience to the stage both on and off. We are delighted to have him join our ranks. Speaking of 'delighted' we are also pleased to welcome David Vela to the cast as Teddy Brewster (who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt). David has recently retired from teaching Theatre Arts at Willis High School. Playing Mortimer's love interest is newcomer Cassandra Roschen. Conroe Chamber members will know Cassandra from her work as Director of Membership Development. The smile she brings to that position lights up the Crighton stage in this production. We also welcome newcomer Brenda Storseth who serves as director for this production. Like David, Brenda has retired from teaching Theatre Arts and Communication at Montgomery Jr. High School. Have you retired recently and have an interest in theatre either on the stage or behind the scenes? Come join the fun like Brenda and David did; you could find a whole new career, make new friends, learn new skills and do things you never thought you could. See our website for future audition dates ([www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org)).

The story venue is in 1941, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Mortimer Brewster, a New York critic of both drama and marriage, is finally getting hitched to Elaine Harper, the girl next door. Before heading off for an evening at the theatre with his new bride to be, Mortimer stops in to deliver the news to his aunts, Abby and Martha Brewster, two sweet little old ladies who donate toys to charity and care for their nephew Teddy, a bugle blowing nut-case who thinks he's Theodore Roosevelt. But Abby and Martha aren't as sweet and innocent as they seem. Mortimer soon discovers, to his horror, that his dear old aunts have a dozen bodies buried in the basement. It seems the

Brewster sisters have a new hobby - luring lonely old men into their home and serving them Elderberry Wine with their own special recipe, a teaspoonful of arsenic, a half teaspoonful of strychnine and just a pinch of cyanide (Deee-lightful!). To make matters worse, Mortimer's deranged and very dangerous brother Jonathan shows up. Jonathan, on the run from the law, has a dead body in the trunk of his car, a drunken plastic surgeon at his side, and a face that looks like Boris Karloff. Mortimer frantically attempts to deal with dead bodies, insane asylum directors, attempted murders, and an impatient bride-to-be all in one crazy Halloween night. Homicide has never been more humorous!

Please take notice that this production features an array of STAGE RIGHT audience favorites and a few newcomers as mentioned in the third paragraph. Leading the cast as the Brewster sisters are Leona Hoegsberg as Abby and Carolyn Corsano Wong as Martha. Audiences may remember Leona as the evil step-mother in our production of Cinderella. Carolyn recently took a spin on her broom above the Crighton stage when she played the Wicked Witch of the West in The Wizard of Oz. Also making a quick return to the stage is Katt Gilcrease who was last seen as the loveable Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz and now portrays the un-loveable Jonathan Brewster. Jonathan's ever-present sidekick Dr. Einstein is played by Crighton favorite Dennis O'Connor. Dennis recently served as the true wizard of Oz having been technical director and master carpenter for that show.

Other crew members from The Wizard of Oz are making an appearance on the stage in this show. Portraying Brooklyn flatfoots Officers Brophy and Klein are John Barton and Michael Wong. John was running the fly lines on Oz and Michael was the sound engineer. Also running the fly lines

The opinions expressed in editorial do not necessarily reflect those of MCN.

By Carolyn Corsano Wong [Please take note! By Doc Fennessy]. The column this week is graciously written by my journalist friend Producer Carolyn Corsano Wong of Stage Right of Texas theatrical troupe. Last week was the first time I missed having my column "Walden Happenings" miss being published in the Montgomery County News for 17 3/4 years because I was hospitalized for a week with a unique, rare and dangerous bacterial infection. I just got home Saturday and am unable to write this week's column. Therefore, Carolyn will be this week's author.

"Insanity runs in my family; it practically gallops!" - By Mortimer Brewster. STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe is pleased to present the hilarious classic comedy Arsenic & Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring September 6th until Sunday, September 22nd. The show is directed by Brenda Storseth. The show opens on Friday evening, September 6th and runs every Friday and Saturday night until Sunday, September 22nd, with 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinees on September 15th and 22nd.

This classic hilarious belly-laugh story brings out the best in all the actors and crew because it is so much fun to rehearse and present to the appreciative audience. The ongoing slow reacting dialogue that finally hits the audience funny bone keeps a warm and pleasing atmosphere in the audience during the show. Every show brings new talent to the Crighton Theatre stage and this show is no exception. Leading the cast is newcomer Michael Blake Oldham as Mortimer Brewster (yes, our show has 3 Michael's in the cast!). This



The sneaky lady serial killers are at work on the Crighton Theatre stage as Carolyn Corsano Wong sets up another victim. (Left to right) - Michael Blake Oldham as Mortimer with Carolyn Wong as Martha and Leona Hoegsberg as Abby. \* \* {Photo by Steven Wong}.

for Oz was STAGE RIGHT board president Phil Clarke who is portraying the harried Lt. Rooney. Returning to the Crighton stage with us in supporting roles are Jim King, Will Radcliffe, Michael Cadwallader and Greg Kelly. Jim and Will portray the objects of the Brewster sisters 'mercy' work- Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Witherspoon. Michael Cadwallader portrays a policeman who really wants to be a playwright; the clueless Officer O'Hara. Greg Kelly has worked extensively behind the scenes as a board member and carpenter on many productions. Greg portrays the Brewster's unsuspecting neighbor the Reverend Dr. Harper.

The historic Crighton Theatre is located at 234 N. Main St. in downtown Conroe. Season tickets are still on sale; don't miss the rest of our season of step back in time favorites which include A Christmas Story, Anything Goes, Driving

Miss Daisy and Hairspray. Come step back in time with us! Tickets are at a reasonable family and group prices. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and groups of 15 or more and \$15 for youth under 16 yr., students and for senior

groups of 15 or more. Available now by calling Ticket Manager Kim Kelly daily in the theatre Box-office between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. at: (936) 441-7469 - OR on line at: [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org).

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