

Arsenic and Old Lace Week 2 Address

Hello Everyone,

Our first week of rehearsal has now come and gone. I'm feeling pretty comfortable with how things went. This week we continue on with additional production work, blocking rehearsals, and tech will also get underway. Actors, we'll be doing a lot of reviewing as we're going along. I'm hoping this will help to solidify blocking and movement patterns, which should save us time in the long-run. At any rate, please begin the arduous task of beginning line memorization NOW. More on that in a minute.

Okay, we have a few more deadlines coming up this week. Leads, your bios are due to Mrs. Brody by **THIS TUESDAY**. Do not forget. You will be sorely disappointed when and if your information does not appear in the program. All company members, display ads and payment are **DUE ON THURSDAY**. We've stressed how tight budgets are this year. We are not joking. The revenue that program ad sales generate helps to sustain the entire theatre program throughout the season. Please take care of your ad sale obligations on-time. We're counting on you. Below, I've provided a link to the necessary forms that must be completed and submitted with your payment. Thank you. Tech begins on Monday. Actors and general company members, when you are not called for PD, blocking, or other rehearsal activities, you're certainly encouraged to help out with the work tech is doing. They'll be meeting to begin their share of the process on Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri. of this week. Lend a hand when you're not needed for our end of activities. Last schedule item. Parents, we'll be holding our parent informational meeting in the Forum (Rm. 453) one week from Monday on Oct. 10th at 7pm. We would love to see everyone attend.

Looking ahead to next week, I'm setting the deadline to be off-book for Act 1 on Friday, October 14th. That gives you just under two weeks. Yes, it's a lofty goal, but we're staging a comedy. We absolutely cannot work scenes properly until we remove the impediment of the scripts. Put your time in now. Actors with the fewest lines have no excuses with regards to being completely ready on the 14th. Leads will provide the best examples to everyone by being ready on-time as well. Our date for being off-book for Act 2 is Wednesday, October 19th. I know you can all hit these deadlines, but it will take a lot of work. Use downtime in rehearsal to help the process along. Luckily, we have invested nearly \$6,500 in a highly advanced speech recognition program used by professional actors in Tuscany as they commit dialog to memory. Sadly, we did not realize the software operates entirely in Italian. Obviously, this entire tangent is a joke. Use tested strategies. Note cards help, as do recordings of your dialog. The best strategy is to sit with other actors and run sections. You can do it.

Well, that's about it for now. Let's have a productive week. Stay caught up on homework and get rest when you can. I'm hoping the terrible viral thing that has been going around is waning at this point. We'll see. Okay, see everyone very soon.

- Greene

Program Ad Contracts: http://wbhstheatre.com/downloads/Arsenic_and_Old_Lace/Ad_Contract.pdf

Quote for the Week: "Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious." - Peter Ustinov, Russian Actor

Thought for the Week: This is much that can be said about the "proper" way to play comedy. Authors Frank Hauser and Russell Reich write, "It is not their (actors) job to get a laugh; it is their job to go about achieving their objectives truthfully on stage. Audiences will be naturally delighted, drawn in, and amused by what's real and true." There's such a delicate balance necessary when playing comedy. What is your understanding of the correct approach to playing comedy? Does it gel with the authors' statements?