

# *Arsenic and Old Lace Week 5 Address*

Hello Everyone,

I feel like it was just a few days ago when we were preparing for auditions. Now, we're fewer than two weeks out from presenting our show to audiences. I know we'll be ready, but it's not just going to happen. We need to be focused and truly commit to the process this week. Please make sure you do your best to stay healthy, keep up on school work, and review lines during every spare chance you can find. There is downtime during our process. I watch many of you use it to complete homework. I watch many more of you use it to merely socialize. Use it productively.

Now for the part when I vent a bit. I have to be very honest, I've been increasingly concerned with the lack of focus that seems to be permeating throughout the company. Whether it's being late to a call for blocking rehearsal, missing rehearsal entirely, or being utterly unprepared with lines, there's little excuse available. Please keep something in mind; your behavior during rehearsal sends signals to me. When you miss a rehearsal with just two weeks to go you're telling me you really aren't committing to working on a production. When you have three to four pages of dialog that have been known to you for a month and you have trouble remembering your lines you're telling me you're not ready for a larger role in the future. Now, you may disagree and not feel that these are the messages you're trying to send, but that's how I view it. I know you guys care about this show. I know you guys about the finished product. But you have to realize that it doesn't just randomly occur. You need to individually ready yourselves and display your commitment, and you need to collectively support each other and work to ensure the entire group succeeds. Show me you care this week. Show me you're committed to our process. Be present. Be prepared. Bring energy.

One final bit of stern reinforcement, then I'll move onto a happier topic. Please remember that as of tomorrow we have entered into our **FINAL TWO WEEKS** of the show. As such, **absolutely NO absences from rehearsal calls are tolerated**. Weekly conflicts DO NOT exist if you are called for rehearsal. Last-minute appointments DO NOT exist if you are called for rehearsal. Family emergencies and sickness that *keeps you home from school* are about the only exceptions that we tolerate. In recent years I've been forced into pulling far too many kids from performances for violations of our final two weeks attendance policy. Please don't place me in that position on this show. I don't enjoy it, and neither will you.

Okay, let's spend some time talking about clowns, sunshine, and other bright topics! In all seriousness, I'm really proud of the work you've all put into this show. We've seen some amazing creativity unfold in rehearsal, production department work, and onstage as our set has begun to take shape. I won't lie, we're not as far ahead with rehearsal as I'd been praising you for over the last couple of weeks. Not to worry. If you put in the time you need to this week, we'll be there. Time for some shout-outs. I'd like to thank the Coopers and Chris "My Bad" McClellan for their work on the show's video trailer. They worked from 11am-5:30pm at the school then proceeded to go home and edit the footage throughout last night. They're very driven in their process, and I'm really thankful to be able to place our video advertisement in their capable hands. Nice job, gentlemen. I also want to thank Brian Baylor who was willing to come in for an additional rehearsal call yesterday morning to cover for an actor who was ill. Brian's work ethic, agreeable nature, and positive energy have always made him a model student in our program. Thanks for all you do. I'd also like to thank Meghan, Gabby, Rose, Ari, Zach J, Olivia V, and Adam R for sacrificing so much of their day yesterday for the shoot. The leading players in our shows vastly more often than not lead by example. Thank you for all the hard work you're putting into this project, gang! I'm thrilled with my upperclassmen!

This week we've also got some fundraising events taking place this week. On Wednesday after school we'll be selling Carvel Ice Cream in the front of the school. Please tell your friends and stop by yourselves. Proceeds will benefit, you guessed it, our theatre program. Additionally, on the very next day (Thursday) we'll be having a fundraising event at Greek Islands Coney Restaurant on Farmington Road. Please plan on bringing some money for dinner that day. Younger students, we'll coordinate rides for you with the older students who drive. Again, tell your friends and family about the event as well. I've attached a flyer that must be presented to your server in order for our program to collect a portion of the total bill. And take a moment to thank Erika Lowenthal and her department for all of their hard work in preparing for these events.

Okay, final announcements. Don't forget that final t-shirt orders and payment **MUST** be in by tomorrow at the latest. Additionally, don't forget about our ice cream even on Wed or our dinner event on Thurs. Additionally, make sure

you've prepared for Sat. Newbie's, we ask that you bring in a few items. If you are bringing in a hot dish, please have a parent/guardian bring it in by 12:15pm. Perishable and room temperature items should be brought first-thing in the morning. Additionally, you will also need to bring in:

- A laundry basket or plastic storage tub for storage of your clothing and belongings during dress rehearsals
- Deodorant to be used in excess during dress rehearsals (trust me, 40+ sweating teenage bodies waft several layers of nasty that permeate the air in a matter of just a couple hours on our first day)
- Personal clothing items that Mrs. Tlumak may instruct you to supply
- No jewelry, electronics, or valuables should be stored downstairs
- And please pick up your food serving utensils and containers at the end of the day. The drama program has no further need for salad tongs or glass casserole containers, and your mom will thank you for returning her supplies... so will you dad for that matter.

Okay, final, final announcement. Ticket sales have begun in earnest. Parents, if you've been a bit gunshy about buying tickets because you're not positive of choosing the right performance date for your son/daughter's cast, I've made things a bit easier. Use this link: [http://wbhstheatre.com/current\\_season/fall.htm](http://wbhstheatre.com/current_season/fall.htm) Additionally, parents, if you're interested in participating in our fundraising dinner event on Thursday, please download, print, and bring in the flyer from the link listed below. Thank you!

[http://wbhstheatre.com/downloads/Arsenic\\_and\\_Old\\_Lace/Greek\\_Islands\\_Coney\\_Event.pdf](http://wbhstheatre.com/downloads/Arsenic_and_Old_Lace/Greek_Islands_Coney_Event.pdf)

- Greene

**Quote for the Week (pardon the language):** "Rhythm—the prince of Arts. Tempo—his bastard Brother"

- Richard Boleslavsky

**Thoughts for the Week:** What is your understanding of the differences between rhythm and tempo with regards to acting? How do you go about discovering the rhythm of a scene and the rhythm of an overall show? What impact results when a cast correctly identifies and plays the rhythm of a production? How about then a cast fails to correctly interpret and play it? Let's work this week to consider, play with, and refine our sense of this show's rhythm.

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/138434/what\\_makes\\_a\\_good\\_actor\\_temporhythm.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/138434/what_makes_a_good_actor_temporhythm.html)



Don't forget your food for the Starving Artist Luncheon on Saturday!  
Mason, screen what you eat!