# Mendelssohn

Theatre

**October** 15-19, 1975

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre







# Artistic Director and Set Designer

# ROGER WERTENBERGER

Roger Wertenberger is a multi-talented man with broad experience in the theatre as well as in television and film. His background includes proven ability as an artistic director, musical director, actor, conductor, composer, arranger, and set designer.

First active in Civic Theatre in 1961, Roger appeared in several shows, including Crucible, Pajama Game and Three Penny Opera. He has also appeared on stage for the U-M Players, Musket, Gilbert & Sullivan, in over 30 U-M Tele-

vision productions including the Dickens Series, and in about 20 plays at Interlochen. His musical performances include work with the U-M Glee Club, Michigan Singers and several madrigal groups.

In addition to directing for the Ann Arbor Junior Theatre and the Comic Opera Guild, he has directed seven Gilbert & Sullivan shows and was the musical director of Musket's Camelot. For Civic Theatre, Roger has directed two studio productions (Angel Street and Fantasticks) and one major production — Ten Little Indians — for which he earned the award for Best Show of the season. Most recently, he was musical director of our winter production of Fiorello, and the musical and artistic director of last April's production of South Pacific for the Saline Area Players.

Arsenic and Old Lace is Roger's third set design for Civic Theatre, following his sets for Ernest In Love last year and Hogan's Goat two years ago. In the past, he has served as technical director and designer for the Ann Arbor Junior Theatre.

A Graduate of the U-M, Roger is a commercial photographer and the owner of Photo Services in the arcade.





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# THE STAFF

John Ford (Producer), an active member of AACT since 1961, has served as producer, technical director. stage manager and lighting designer for many shows, most recently as stage manager of Fiorello, Arsenic and Old Lace marks his 29th production — including 9 musicals — for Civic Theatre. He is also serving this season as AACT's historian, chairman of stage managers, and program editor. John is a past member of AACT's Board of Directors.

Renulda Medrano (Assistant Director) has been an assistant director and stage manager for nine shows in the past ten years for AACT, most recently for Barefoot In the Park. She has also served on stage and prop crews, been head usher, membership chairman, social chairman, and editor of the AACT Spotlight newsletter. This year she is serving as recording secretary and co-treasurer to AACT's Board of Directors. Renulda works as a secretary.

David Mohler (Lighting Designer) has designed lights for many shows since joining AACT in 1964. Most recently he has worked on the lighting crews for Tartuffe and Hogan's Goat. He is also a member of the Saline Area Players where he participated in this past season's productions of You Can't Take It With You and South Pacific. Dave is an electrical engineer with a local consulting firm. For fun (besides theatre) he is involved with model railroading.

Meg Gilbert (Costume Designer) has been a costume designer and builder and wardrobe mistress for AACT since joining three years ago. Most recently, she designed costumes for last year's production of Ten Little Indians. She is also a talented actress, appearing for AACT in Hogan's Goat, and in the studio productions of Angel Street, Pygmalion and Medea. Meg was on stage professionally last summer with the Gelman/Palidofsky Dance Theatre.

Darlene Hartford (Stage Manager) has been a very active member of Civic Theatre since joining one year ago. She has worked on lighting and sound crews for several major productions and was lighting designer for studio productions. Darlene works as an electronic assembler in the test engineering department for Sycor.

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# THE CAST

Nancy Heusel (Abby Brewster) is a graduate of the U-M Speech Department and has acted professionally in summer stock and Ann Arbor Drama Season productions. She is a veteran of many AACT plays, including Tea and Sympathy, Darkness At Noon, Miracle Worker, Joan of Lorraine, The Skin of Our Teeth, Blithe Spirit, Forty Carats and, most recently, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie; she also appeared in the U-M Repertory production of Streetcar Named Desire. Nancy is a director and drama coach at Greenhills School and has taught for 10 years in the Ann Arbor Cultural Arts program.

Warren C. Eveland (Rev. Harper) is returning to the stage after an absence of several years. He is a veteran of eight previous plays for AACT, including Enter Laughing. The Devils Disciple, Come Back Little Sheba. Rhinoceros, and, most recently, I Never Sang For My Father. Warren is a retired bacteriologist from the U-M School of Public Health and keeps busy as a medical laboratory consultant.

John Stephens (Teddy Brewster) has appeared on stage in a number of shows for AACT, including Fiddler On the Roof, The Most Happy Fella, Forty Carats, and, most recently, Fiorello. Two years ago he earned the Best Supporting Actor award for his portrayal of Chief Sitting Bull in Annie Get Your Gun. He was also seen in Musket's Jericho. A past member of AACT's Board of Directors, in real life John is the president of West Devices in Brighton, a manufacturer of electronic hardware.

David Harbison (Officer Brophy) is returning to the stage for AACT after an absence of nearly four years. Last seen as one of the Joint Chiefs in the original musical *The Brass and Grass Forever*, he has also appeared in our productions of *South Pacific, Fantasticks, Devil's Disciple, Mame, Becket, Mr. Roberts, Mary, Mary* and *A Man For All Seasons*. Dave works as a sales representative for Viking Steel.

Chuck Keeps (Officer Klein) is appearing in his second role for AACT. Last winter he played the title role in *Tartuffe*, a performance which earned him last years Best Actor award. He has been seen in several productions for the University, including *Brave Little Tailor*, *No Place To Be Somebody*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. During the summer of 1974, Chuck worked in the cast of the Ann Arbor company of The Extension.

Susan Morris (Martha Brewster) is both an actress and director of considerable accomplishment, and a familiar face to Ann Arbor theatre goers. She has appeared in numerous roles for the U-M Opera, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, U-M Speech Department, and for AACT. During the last three years she has directed five G&S productions, including Yoeman of the Guard last spring. She has directed two studio productions for AACT (Diary of Adam and Eve and Thurber Carnival) and will be directing The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail this coming winter. Susie is a member of AACT's Board of Directors and our production coordinator for this season.

Deborah MacVey (Elaine) has performed in, directed and crewed many college productions. During the past three seasons, she has aided AACT with costumes and sound, and was the assistant director for White Liars, Hands Across the Sea and Ernest In Love. A "retired" substitute teacher for the Ann Arbor schools, Debbie has taught Creative Dramatics for the Ann Arbor Recreation Department.



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William J. Cross (Mortimer) has appeared in several shows for AACT, including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Barefoot In The Park, Hogan's Goat*, and, most recently, as Lombard in *Ten Little Indians*. He has also appeared in our studio productions of *The Fantastics* and *Medea*. His acting credits include numerous roles in EMU and U-M productions and the U-M Television Dickens Series. Bill works as an audio engineer at the School of Music.

Jerry Patterson (Mr. Gibbs), a veteran member of about 20 years with AACT, has been in shows too numerous to list. He is looking forward in this production to a reunion on stage with Bob Green (they played together as the gangsters in Kiss Me, Kate, 1966) and with Joe Medrano and Dave Harbison (who played the Joint Chiefs of Staff with Jerry in The Brass and Grass Forever, 1971). Jerry is the managing editor of The Education Digest and is a past president and treasurer of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.

Bob Green (Jonathan Brewster) is yet another veteran of AACT in tonight's cast. Most recently seen as Buffalo Bill in our production of Annie Get Your Gun, he has appeared in numerous plays since 1958, including The Crucible (1962), (in which he shared the stage with fellow actors Roger Wertenberger and Jerry Patterson), and for which he earned the Best Actor award for that season. He has also appeared for us in Kiss Me, Kate, Candida, Miracle Worker, and Blithe Spirit among others. Bob is an associate dean of the U-M Medical School.

Jim Kane (Dr. Einstein), a member of AACT for eight years, has appeared on stage in our productions of Mouse Trap. Fantasticks, Rose Tatoo, The Visit, and, most recently, Black Comedy. He is a former member of the AACT Board of Directors and has produced two shows. Jim works as a reporter for the Ann Arbor News.

John Alexander (Officer O'Hara) has performed in numerous Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, including Trial By Jury, The Gondoliers and The Pirates of Penzance. For AACT, he has appeared in Hogan's Goat. and, most recently, as detective Blore in Ten Little Indians. The service manager for Huron Valley Motorsports, John races sports cars in the summer.

Joe Medrano (Lt. Rooney) has performed in many AACT plays, including Guys and Dolls, Cactus Flower. View From the Bridge, Brass and Grass Forever, Anything Goes, and most recently, Ernest In Love. He was the production manager for Mary, Mary, set designer for Any Wednesday, crewed Flowering Peach, and directed The Owl and The Pussycat as an AACT minor production. Joe is a teacher in the Allen Park Schools and a former vice president of AACT.

Dayton Benjamin (Mr. Witherspoon) has an extensive background in theatre, including six years in the Fairbanks (Alaska) Light Opera Theatre and four years with the First Theatre of Montrey, California. He was seen last year as General MacKenzie in our production of *Ten Little Indians*, as well as one of the politicians in *Fiorello*. Ben is presently Executive Director of the Washtenaw County Council on Aging.

## CAST

### (in the order of appearance)

Abby Brewster	NANCY HEUSEL
The Rev. Dr. Harper	WARREN C. EVELAND
Teddy Brewster	
Officer Brophy	
Officer Klein	CHUCK KEEPS
Martha Brewster	SUSAN MORRIS
Elaine Harper	DEBORAH MACVEY
Mortimer Brewster	WILLIAM J. CROSS
Mr. Gibbs	JERRY PATTERSON
Jonathan Brewster	BOB GREEN
Dr. Einstein	JIM KANE
Officer O'Hara	JOHN ALEXANDER
Lieutenant Rooney	JOE MEDRANO
Mr. Witherspoon	

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire action of the play takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn. Time: 1940.

ACT I: An afternoon in September.

ACT II: That same night.

ACT III: Scene 1. Later that night. Scene 2. Early the next morning.

There will be two 10-minute intermissions.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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### ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

presents

# ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

A Comedy in Three Acts by Joseph Kesselring

# ARTISTIC DIRECTION AND SET DESIGN BY ROGER WERTENBERGER

LIGHTING DESIGNER

DAVID MOHLER

COSTUME DESIGNER

MEG GILBERT

Assistant Director RENULDA MEDRANO Stage Manager DARLENE HARTFORD

PRODUCED BY

JOHN FORD

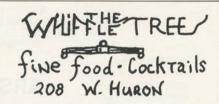
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# PRODUCTION CREWS

Master Carpenter	Bob Pace
Set Construction	Darlene Hartford, Bob and Bettie Seeman,
	Steve Kirk, Liz and Ricky Jelinek,
	Charlie Sutherland, Ed Lesher, Ted Farah,
	Claudia Kerfoot, Mark Bowls, Tom Manzy,
	Chuck Keeps, Larry Hill, Warren Eveland
Lighting Crew	
Properties	Barbara Lindsay, chairman, Sylvia Llewellyn,
•	Cindy Deeks, Kathy App, Chris Stephens, Chris Schwartz
Sound	Chris Schwartz, chairman, Nancy Preis
	Harriett Kirk, chairman, Amy Vuolo,
	David Curtis, Barbara Fiddler, Kathy Kirk
Costume Crew	Chris Stephens, Meg Grossman

# **BUSINESS STAFF**

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- Dave Gilbert \*
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