

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Mary Jane Tillia (Abby Brewster) is someone you're familiar with, if you've been to the Red Barn. She's ushered you to your seat or sold you coffee or just smiled at you while you stood in line at the ticket booth. Her favorite performances include roles in *Butterflies Are Free*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, *The Entrepreneurs* and *Hilda's Yard*. She has also worked behind the scenes as a director. She has run props, costumes, and lights. Mary Jane lives in Ellwood City with her BFF, Bridgette. She is excited to be performing with this amazing cast, especially with her fabulous friend Betsy, her sister on stage. "We work like sisters on stage, it's like we're sharing a brain. There's a comfortable feeling that makes everything fun." Mary Jane would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of her husband Tom, who loved this theater!

Kevin B. McGuire (The Rev. Dr. Harper; Lt. Rooney) is thrilled to be back at the Barn after last year's final show *Don't Be Afraid of The Dark* in which Kevin played the part of Ralph the orderly. Kevin has been performing since the early 1990's at several theaters in the area including Comtra, Iron Horse, R-Act, The Bobcat Players. Some of his favorite roles were Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple* at Comtra, Alfonse (Noodles) Feghetti in *Too Many Cooks* at the Bobcat Players and Noah Curry in *The Rain Maker* for R-Act Theater. Kevin lives in North Sewickley Twp. with his better half, Pauline. Kevin thinks this cast is one of the best with whom he has had the pleasure of performing.

Sean G. Donaldson (Teddy Brewster) is excited to be making his Red Barn debut in a great play with such wonderful cast-mates. He has performed with other area companies such as Prime Stage Theatre, Duquesne Red Masquers, and the Playshop Repertory Theatre at Allegheny College. Some favorite roles include Woyzeck in Büchner's *Woyzeck*, James Lingk in Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and Ellis in Shepard's *The Curse of the Starving Class*. Some of Sean's other exploits include working in IT Support and singing Opera, having sung in principal roles for several area companies, and over 40 operas with the Pittsburgh Opera Chorus. To Katie, Leyna, and Bryn: I can't thank you enough for all your loving support through this endeavor. Charge!

Carey Hutchinson (Officer Brophy) Carey has been involved in community theater for about 10 years. She mostly works behind the scenes doing tech, stage, and production management; and assisting in directing, house, marketing, and graphic design for R-ACT Theatre Productions and tech for the Bobcat Players. She's also had a few small roles with R-ACT. Besides theater, she enjoys any time in nature, traveling, the sci-fi and fantasy genres, and spending good times with friends and family. Carey has had lots of fun with the Red Barn Players with her first role in a classic play, which happens to be one of her favorites.

Joe Sible (Officer Klein) is excited to be performing for a second time with the Red Barn Players. He has previously performed at the Red Barn in *Don't Be Afraid of The Dark* as Deputy Graves. His past shows elsewhere include *A Killing In Kilts* as Cyril Thwisketham with R-ACT, *The Audition* in the role of The Artist Formerly Known As Question Mark at the Iron Horse Theatre, *Murder at the Movies* as Kip Stewart with R-ACT, *Godspell* with the Assumption Theatre Guild, *The Drowsy Chaperone* with the Pelican Players, *The Long Christmas Dinner* as Cousin Brandon at Robert Morris University, and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* as Ned Flanders/musician at Robert Morris University.

Betsy Berenson (Martha Brewster) is proud to be making her comeback at the Barn, as her last appearances were in the 1970's in such shows as *Girl in the Freudian Slip*, *Plaza Suite*, *Lovers and Other Strangers*, and *See How They Run*, where she was thrilled to share the stage with the incomparable Mary Jane and Tom Tilia in many shows. Betsy recently retired back to Beaver County from Los Angeles, where she had appeared in an award-winning production of *South Central Rain*, as well as *A Christmas Carol*, *Waiting For the Parade*, and *Playboy of the Western World*. Betsy had a supporting role in an indie film, *Wild Prairie Rose*, appearing with Oscar winner Troy Kotsur. She is also a guest lecturer at UNC School of the Arts for Costume Design. Betsy is thrilled to be onstage once again at the Barn with her dear friend Mary Jane Tilia and this talented group of actors. It's a dream come true to be doing this play with this cast! Big thanks to her beloved hubby Craig, and she dedicates her performance to the memory of her mother, Margie, who was always in the front row!

Julianna Mistovich (Elaine Harper) is excited to be performing her second show at the Red Barn Theater. Favorite past credits include Lydia Deetz in *Beetlejuice The Musical Showcase*, Matilda Hyde in *All Shook Up*, Rachel Ann in *Exit Laughing*, and The Sinity in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Film credits include *The Carver House* (2022). She was classically trained in voice and piano at Lisa Rae Music Studios and trained in acting by Lauren Lopez of StarKid Productions. She

plans to attend England's University of Lincoln to pursue a degree in musical theater. Julianna would like to thank the director, cast, and crew of *Arsenic and Old Lace* for another wonderful show to be a part of. She would also like to thank her parents for their continued support.

Xander Boots (Mortimer Brewster) is a videographer working in and around the Pittsburgh area. When he's not capturing life's precious moments on film, you can find him gracing the stages of Pittsburgh with his side-splitting performances. Since 2019, Xander has been tearing up the stage, bringing laughter to unsuspecting audiences. But wait, there's more! This videographer-turned-thespian has conquered the camera and now sets his sights on conquering your funny bone. From playing the charismatic Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie* to embodying the quirky Hunter in the obscurely titled (*Title of Show*) (yes, that's a real show), Xander fearlessly dives into every role, leaving a trail of laughter in his wake. And let's not forget his unforgettable portrayal of Alan Dangle in *One Man Two Guvvners* with the Bobcat Players. With his boundless energy and infectious silliness, Xander is like a giggling tornado, ready to sweep you off your feet and into a world of laughter. Now, brace yourselves as Xander takes on his latest challenge as Mortimer in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Prepare to be tickled, delighted, and thoroughly entertained as Xander unleashes his comedic prowess on the unsuspecting audience. Get ready to laugh until your sides hurt, because Xander Boots is in the house!

Larry Baker (Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Witherspoon) Larry makes a return to the Barn stage after last year's comedy *Whose Wives Are They Anyway* where he portrayed Mr. Wilson. Other Red Barn stage credits include *Here Lies Jeremy Troy*, *The Odd Couple*, *There Goes The Bride*, *The Butler Did It*, and *Sorry, Wrong Chimney*. Larry has been acting since 2003 doing mostly comedies & drama. He retired in 2019 with 45 years of service at Herr-Voss as a cost estimator & has been a licensed PA Taxidermist since 1976. Larry resides in Slippery Rock Twp. New Castle with his wife Loraine of 49 years and is thrilled to be part of this production. Larry has generously loaned two examples of his skilled taxidermy to the set of this play.

John Brenner (Jonathan Brewster) is a long-time Red Barn member and a regular presence on our stage. He was Skull/Sebastian Sly in last year's *Don't be Afraid of the Dark*, and, in our last show before the pandemic, played Charlie Bickel in *Here Lies Jeremy Troy*. One of his most favorite roles was that of Cameron in *The Foursome*. John lives in North Sewickley Township with his wife of 38 years, Susan, and has worked as a Credit & Collection Specialist for Resco

Products in Robinson Township for 9 and 1/2 years. He enjoys playing volleyball and adores his 2 and 1/2 year-old granddaughter.

Andy Ludwig (Dr. Einstein) Andy Ludwig's first Red Barn performance was as Zip Whittle in 2022's "Don't be Afraid of the Dark". In 2023, he is thrilled to present his second role as Dr. Einstein, the shifty German plastic surgeon with a fondness for hard liquor. He hopes that his years of drinking have sufficiently prepared him for this role. Andy would like to thank his friends, family, and the cast and crew of this show that have worked so hard all season. He would also like to give a special thank you to his mother, Vickie Ludwig.

Paul Brenner (Officer O'Hara) Paul is super excited to be back on the Red Barn stage this year. It was way back in 2015 when he was last seen in Norm Foster's *The Foursome*. Oh sure, you may have seen him "creeping" around this stage if you attended the Saturday performances of last years' production *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*. He was understudy to castmate Xander Boots' character "The Creeper", so even if you were there, you really did not "see" him. Prior to that, Paul has performed in over a dozen Red Barn shows over the past 35 years. His first show was *Alone Together* in 1988. More recently he was in the Neil Simon plays; *Chapter Two* in 2014, and *Romantic Comedy* in 2008. Other favorite shows at the Barn include *There Goes the Bride* in 2009, *Moonlight and Magnolias* in 2011 and *Honus and Me* in 2010. Paul has also done a handful of shows at the Beaver Bobcat Players, including *12 Angry Men*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Harvey*. Paul is a chemical engineer at Ineos Composites on Neville Island. He would like to thank Kristin, his fantastic wife of 30 years, for all her support and understanding during every show he's done. In his spare time, Paul enjoys golfing and playing Volleyball and Wallyball.

Sarah Campbell (Elaine/Understudy), the delightful addition to the cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace* at the Red Barn Theater! With a background in Cinema Production from Point Park University, Sarah's creative flair shines both on and off the stage. When she's not captivating audiences, you can find her wielding a feather duster as a house cleaner or enchanting little ones as a babysitter. As if that wasn't impressive enough, Sarah also lends her talents to Dinosaur Studios, a local video production company. From her high school theater days to honing her acting skills in college and even creating her own short films, Sarah's journey to the spotlight has been nothing short of charming. Prepare to be captivated by her talent and infectious enthusiasm!

Lori Kosior Corbin (Director) returns to Ellwood City after living and working out of state for 42 years. Lori graduated from Grove City College with a BA in

Communications and continued her education with an MS in Teaching and MFA in Theatre Education. Most of her professional career was spent teaching English, Speech, and Theatre at the high school level. Directing more than 36 plays and musicals, two of which won awards from the International Theatre Association/Educational Theatre Association, Lori's passion for directing began at Ellwood City's Lincoln High School where she directed *The King and I* and *Li'l Abner*. Lori also spent several years as a professional presentation designer and trainer in the financial sector. Returning to the area in 2016 after retiring from teaching, Lori was widowed in 2020 and now spends her time enjoying family and friends, and spoiling her Shih Tzu, Sophie. Her other hobbies include cooking, reading, traveling, and binge-watching creative series and movies she never had time for. This is Lori's first time at The Red Barn and is thoroughly enjoying working with the fabulous cast and crew of "*Arsenic and Old Lace*."