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What Do You Mean...You Haven't Got Talent?!

The most important aspect of the Gaslight Theatre is the volunteer. It is the pulse beat ensuring our survival. If you can hammer a nail, move a paintbrush, sew a button, usher, or pour a glass of tea with a smile, you belong as part of the Gaslight Theatre. Actors and directors are always needed. Come join the fun.

If You've Got It to Give

The Gaslight Theatre accepts donations of almost any kind. Interested people are our greatest need...actors, stagehands, crew members, seamstresses, painters...you name it, we need YOU! Especially helpful is cash; however, if you have art equipment or supplies, interesting period items for the prop room, hand or power tools to build sets — please give us a call. All donations are tax deductible.

Gaslight Thespian Scholarship

Please consider making a contribution to our scholarship fund. All proceeds will be used for scholarships to encourage the involvement of area youth in a volunteer capacity and to perpetuate support of the theatre and its youth programs. Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who meet the qualifications. Ask your hostess for an envelope if you would like to make a contribution. Thank You!!

Auditions

Auditions are held approximately 10 weeks before the opening of a production. If you are interested in being notified about Gaslight Theatre auditions, email us at jkaspar76@gmail.com or mail your name, address and phone number to P.O. Box 223, Shiner, TX 77984.

Sister Michelle

When I sit in this old Shiner Opera House
Awaiting the signal for curtain time
My mind wanders back to yesteryears
When this historic theatre was in its prime
I am engrossed with visions of how it was then
And the many productions that crossed their stage
But then the action ceased and its doors were closed
To sit in silence and mellow with age
Then you came along with a dream and hard work
And a fresh and exciting new era arrived
Again the stage came alive with action and sound
And thus far your great work has survived
We all realize just how fortunate we are
To again have theatre in our little town
Thank God for this great thing that you did
And may He reward you with a star studded crown.

J. Jack Cloutier

—In Memoriam— Edgar Winkenwerder

About the Gaslight Theatre

In the small Texas town of Shiner is a gem of Texas history, the Shiner Opera House. Now known as the Gaslight Theatre, it has been given a second chance to promote the arts and theater. The second chance came after a part of history was lost when the Old Shiner Opera House was converted into apartments and later a warehouse.

The history began when ground was broken for the theater on September 12, 1895. The building was completed by December 1, and began providing entertainment and a gathering place to serve Shiner on December 31, 1895. A Firemen's Ball on that New Year's Eve was one of the many "Official Grand Openings" held at the Opera House.

The lower floor of this sprawling two story structure for many years housed the Opera House Saloon. Now serving as the theatre box office and museum, it was at one time owned by August Stephan and then Albert Berckenhoff. The stage in the large upstairs hall is a true work of art with the dark wood inlaid and

patterned designs framing the borders of the stage. The ornate proscenium arch and vaudeville style stage are all original from the building's 1895 construction.

One of the foremost actors of the 1890's, a German named Henry Messer, provided audiences of the time with numerous evenings of pleasure with his pantomime and humor. He, as well as amateur actors drawn from the local populace, appeared in the "Deutches Theatre" productions.

The Opera House was used for plays, lodge meetings, political events, debates, town meetings, wedding receptions, balls, parties and banquets, church socials, bazaars, teas and "social hops." The opening of the Opera House was concurrent with the provision of electric lights. Stories are still told of evenings when the fun ran high and late and the young swains of the party would pass the hat to raise a few dollars. The money was taken to Mr. Wilks, the city electrician, with an appeal to not turn off the lights

at 12:00 midnight so dancing could continue until 2 or 3 AM.

The Opera House remained one of the centers of Shiner social life until 1927, and has stood the test of time. Although the Opera House became inactive for many years, in 1975, through the efforts and love of Sister Michelle Belto, a local nun and drama teacher, along with her students, the Gaslight Theatre was born and the old Opera House lived again. After discovering the Opera House hidden as a storage warehouse, the entire community became involved and went to work. A non-profit organization was formed and a board of directors was set up to manage the theater's activities. In 1976, a highlight came when the Gaslight Theatre was presented an historical monument.

The Gaslight Board of Directors is committed to restoring and preserving the Theatre. In 2006 the theatre received a major renovation when the exterior was repainted and new air conditioning installed. In 2008 the "Grand Lady" underwent another

major renovation. The interior became the focus which included replacement of the original stage floor, addition of another side stage, refinishing the floors, and a complete rebuilding of the raised seating area. New bathrooms and kitchen and an additional fire exit, as well as improvements to the lighting and sound systems, and many other improvements were completed.

Today the Gaslight Theatre serves as a dinner theatre, providing contemporary and classic theater. Talent for productions is all volunteer, as are all the tasks at the theater, and is drawn from the local area surrounding Shiner.

Reservations call 361-594-2079
Visit us on the web at www.shinergaslight.org
No children under 4 years old

**Cast
(In Order of Appearance)**

Abby Brewster Dr. Michelle Turek
Martha Brewster..... Shelly Lowery
Mortimer Brewster..... John Marshall Fowler
Johnathan Brewster..... Jesse Downey
Teddy Brewster..... Clement Sofka
Elaine Harper Lindsey Bickham
The Rev. Dr. Harper David Gumper
Mr. Gibbs..... Craig Hughes
Dr. Einstein..... Laci Ramos
Officer Brophy..... Kylie Sofka
Officer Klein Lynn Lewis
Officer O'Hara Crystalynn Clark
Lieutenant Rooney Tammy Lee
Mr. Witherspoon Bo Walker

Stage Crew

Director Veronica Johnson
Mentor Director Jeanette Hughes
Assistant Director Elaine Plummer
Backstage Manager Elaine Berkovsky & Patti Morales
Backstage Assistants Gretta Klander & David Gumper
Set Designer David Gumper
Costume Designer Patti Morales
Lights & Sound Jim Winkenwerder/Alena Winkenwerder



Shiner's Historic Opera House



Arsenic and Old Lace

By Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Veronica Johnson

Play Dates:

*November 8,9,10,13,15,16,17
22,23,24- 2024*

Act 1

An Introduction of the Brewsters

INTERMISSION

Act 2

An Unwanted Guest

INTERMISSION

Act 3

A Tie Gets Broken

SPECIAL THANKS

As a first-time director at the Gaslight Theatre in Shiner, I am honored to have been a part of such an amazing dramatic event. From the moment auditions were held, I knew this play would be an experience to remember. Each and every cast member has been so easy to work with and all have made creative contributions to what the audience will experience when the curtains go up. I want to thank every cast and crew member for their dedication and commitment to make this the best possible experience for the audience. We have worked countless hours without complaint. There have been smiles and laughter during rehearsals and have developed into a little family. We have all made life-long friends and have so many memories that I will cherish forever! I also have to thank our Shiner Community for all the donations of costume, props, and furniture! We could not have embarked on this endeavor without the contributions. I also want to thank Josh Kaspar and Jeanette Hughes for trusting me to direct this play and I pray that every person in the audience go away with a smile and a new memory. Thank you all for this opportunity.

-Veronica