



LA LUMIERE SCHOOL

Character • Scholarship • Faith

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For Immediate Release

La Lumiere School Drama Workshop Presents *Arsenic and Old Lace* Performances Free and Open to the Public

La Porte, IN. (January 26, 2006) – La Lumiere Students and Faculty members invite the public to attend *Arsenic and Old Lace* written by Joseph Kesserling, directed by Donna Blue Lachman, and presented by The Drama Workshop of La Lumiere School, February 23 and 24 at 7:00 p.m., and February 25, 2:00 p.m. (Chicago time). All performances are held in the Fine Arts Building on the La Lumiere School campus, and are free of charge. A special performance will also be held on Thursday, February 22, 1:00 p.m. for senior citizens and grade school children. Please call for reservations and free tickets.

This play, hailed as one of the first and funniest comedies of multiple murders, was the play that put black comedy back on the theatrical map. First opening in January of 1941, *Arsenic and Old Lace* is a farce revolving around Mortimer Brewster, a theatre-hating drama critic who must deal with his crazy family and local police in Brooklyn, New York, as he debates whether to go through with marrying the woman he loves. Brewster's family includes two spinster aunts, charming and gentle, who, with a glass of homemade elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine and "just a pinch" of cyanide, poison their poor, orphan lodgers in order to save them from the sorrows of this world. Of the 12 plays written by Kesselring, *Arsenic and Old Lace* is the only one to be successful.

About the Director

Donna Blue Lachman has worked as a playwright, actor, director and teacher in Chicago for over 25 years. She was the founder and Artistic Director of the *Blue Rider Theatre Company* for fourteen years where she wrote and performed nine one-woman plays, including: *Frida: the Last Portrait*, *The Thirst: A Solo Work for Jew and Clarinet* and *The Trouble With Peggy: Pieces of Guggenheim*. Ms. Lachman has toured her plays all over the U.S. and abroad, receiving numerous awards for her work, including an Emmy Award for hosting *Free for All Chicago*, a TV Show for the City of Chicago; two Joseph Jefferson Awards for best performance, several Playwright Fellowships, and awards from the Chicago Artist's International Program which allowed her to research and tour her productions to Venice, Berlin, and Port-au-Prince. She did an Off-Broadway run of her One-Woman Show called, *Dancing on the White House Lawn* in 1994. She has also received three playwright commissions from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Goethe Institut. Her teaching credits include: the School of the Art Institute, master degree program at Columbia College, Artist-in-Residence for Gallery 37 for the Arts, and Dramatist-in-Residence for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. She begins her 5th year as Theater Director and Instructor at La Lumiere School. She lives with her husband in Three Oaks, Michigan.

Ms. Lachman's current project is a one-woman show called, "On Death and Gardening". It premiered in July, 2005 at the Acorn Theatre in Three Oaks, Michigan to rave reviews, and will be performed February 3 and 4 at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, Ind.

About La Lumiere School

La Lumiere is a coeducational lay Catholic boarding and day school that provides a comprehensive college-preparatory, high school education for qualified young men and women from a rich diversity of backgrounds. It seeks to develop character, scholarship, and faith, while remaining both independently accredited and faithful to its Catholic heritage. Current enrollment is 152 students. It is situated on a beautiful rural estate 8 miles north of La Porte at 6801 N Wilhelm Rd. Please visit www.lalumiere.org for directions and additional information.

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