



Arsenic and Old Lace

On Thursday, January the 30th the English Drama Group of the university of Würzburg presented "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring at the Stadtmensa. Mr. Kunkel was so kind to buy tickets in advance. He was also the one who suggested visiting this play after we were so enthusiastic after the play Brave new World we had been in few weeks before. Eight pupils of our class, FS13, made a draft on it.

For a black comedy, you take the following ingredients:

The spinster sisters Abby and Martha Brewster, two of a kind, generous, and charitable elderly ladies have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of home-made wine.

Their nephew Teddy, who is convinced to be Teddy Roosevelt and spends his days digging locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar (which serves as graves for the aunts victims).

Their other nephew, Mortimer, a dramatic critic, is deeply in love and engaged with Elaine. She's the neighbor's daughter. He needs to keep a clear head when it is exposed that his aunts are murderers of 12 men and still consider themselves as benefactors. That's the reason why he has some doubts to marry Elaine because he doesn't want their kids to be as insane as his aunts.

There is another nephew, Jonathan, a murderer, who after an absence of ten years returns home. He is accompanied by his German accented plastic surgeon Dr. Einstein and a face different from his former one.

That's the foundation of a very funny and compelling run against police officers, the mad and prodigal nephew Jonathan and the attempt of Mortimer to prevent further men of his aunts.

The whole play was performed by English students. Sounds like a funny middleclass entertainment – but it was quite the contrary! What we got to see was anything but mediocre. All of those students were proficient in language and spoke very clearly and distinctly. The plot was compelling, provided a range of laughter and the different characters made it entertaining and versatile.

It's safe to say that this visit to the theater was a total success for each of us. We really hope that Mr. Kunkel will consent to accompany us to the next play and maybe once more after the A-level. In case, we are looking forward to it!

Sophie Backhaus, Jessica Lehnert FS 13

