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“Arsenic and Old Lace” is a dark comedy, written by Joseph Kesselring. The theatre performance was directed by M Arifur Rahman. “Open Space Theatre” is the name of the theatrical group where I watch this performance on 8th november,2024. The show starts at 7.30 PM. The venue was Mohila Samity, Bailey road. This was the first time I watched a theatre performance. I am really grateful for the experience I got. This will stay in my heart forever. Furthermore, the story is about two aunties, Abby Brewster & Martha Brewster’s weird activities to help people. They mix poison in wine to kill old people who are sad,alone. Moreover, Their nephew Mortimer’s care for his family makes people love this character a lot. The whole story has many twists that makes people laugh even if the story is about killing innocent people. There are several things we can learn from the characters. Now, I will give a short summary of “Arsenic and Old Lace” according to my perspective after watching a theatre performance.

“Arsenic and Old Lace” this play starts with Revered Harper visiting Abby Brewster & Martha Brewster’s house. Reverend’s daughter Elaine is in a relationship with their elder nephew Mortimer Brewster. But, Revered doesn't like Mortimer at all, because he is a drama critic. But, Abby told Revered that Mortimer also does not like his job, if he can he would leave his job. Abby Brewster & Martha Brewster are amazing human beings, they always try to make a good relationship with others, and care for others a lot. Again, Mortimer has 2 younger brothers Jonathan, Teddy. Teddy is mentally unstable, he thinks of himself as Theodore Roosevelt. Their aunties want to send teddy to the happy dale after their death. Moreover, Jonathan left their house, few years ago. From childhood, he was mischievous and always tried to create problems for others. He wanted to be a doctor like his grandfather. Again, their grandfather was also mentally unstable. He used to do postmortem. By doing postmortem he earned a lot of money for his family. Additionally, Mortimer wants to go to the theater with his girlfriend. But, Mortimer sees a dead body of Mr Hoskins in the drawer. He was totally shocked, he thought Teddy killed Hoskins. But, eventually he gets to know that his aunties killed Hokins. Aunties have no regret after killing Hokins. Mr. Hoskins was an old man who didn't have any family members. So,Aunties killed him because they believed it's a help. Mortimer cancelled all his plans to resolve these issues. At this moment Mr Gibbs comes to their house, to find a room in their house for rent. Gibbs is also an old,alone man. So, aunties wanted to kill him by giving him poisoned wine. Mortimer somehow saves him. Mortimer didn't find any replacement , so he needed to go to the theater. After some time, Jonathan and his friend

Dr. Einstein visit the house. Aunties didn't recognize him, as his face is totally different. In the last 5 years Dr. Einstein has done plastic surgery on Jonathan 3 times. Jonathan told some old stories to prove that he is their nephew. Jonathan killed Speinjo, because he told Jonathan's face was scary. Police are searching for Jonathan, so to escape from the police he wants to do plastic surgery again in his aunties house. Meanwhile, Elaine comes to the house. As she sees a car outside the house, she immediately comes to the house to save the aunties from any danger. Jonathan wants to kill her also as she saw everything. Mortimer saves her. Mortimer told him to leave this house. These two brothers don't like each other. Then Mortimer gets to know that Jonathan is a murderer. But, he is hopeless because Jonathan threatened him that, if he calls the police then Jonathan would tell all the secrets of their aunties. Mortimer wants to sign a paper from Teddy so that he could save his aunties, get rid of Jonathan. Their aunties killed 12 old people. Jonathan told officer Brophy and officer Klein about the murders executed by their aunties. But, they didn't believe it at all, as aunties are really good according to them. Police Lt. Rooney arrested Jonathan, he knew that Jonathan was a criminal. He saw Jonathan's photo in the wanted list. Furthermore, Elaine comes with Mr. Witherspoon. He is the superintendent of the happy dale sanitarium. He comes to take Teddy with him, for that he needs a sign of Teddy's family member. Mortimer signed that paper. Then, aunties told Mortimer that Mortimer is not their own nephew. He came with his mother when he was 3 months old. They love his mother a lot, that's why their brothers married her. Hearing that Mortimer become very happy. Because seeing the activities done by this family members in past and present, he realized that this family is very weird. He was really scared to marry Elaine. Now, he can marry Elaine without any problem. Additionally, Mr. Witherspoon also doesn't have any family members, he is an old, lonely, sad person. Hearing this, as always favorite hobbies of aunties, they serve Mr. Witherspoon poisoned wine to kill him. The story ends here by the death of Mr. Witherspoon.

Furthermore, talking about the performance, all the actors performed really well. The flow was like waves of sea. Everyone perfectly portrayed their own character so well, to make people realize the power of theater performance. Personally I loved the role of Mortimer. This character was full of comedy, love for his family. His younger brother Teddy always acts like a kid, but he always cares for Teddy, performing activities that Teddy likes. He was making plans to save his aunties. Also he was dealing with several problems but always tried to hide from Elaine. Because he doesn't want to create any tension for Elaine. This role portrays a good family man who is mentally strong. This role was played by the director M Arifur Rahman. Also I liked the role of Einstein. No matter

what problems come he never leaves his friend Jonathan alone. Deals all the problems together. Again, Elaine was a supportive girlfriend who cares for Mortimer's family a lot. Now, talking about two aunts, they always treat their nephew like their own son. Mortimer was not from the family, but his aunts always treat him as their own nephew. They kill innocent old people but their motivation was to help them. They portray sweet, caring characters. Moreover, Jonathan played the villain role quite realistic. People will hate him for his activities, but love him for his wonderful performance. Lastly, Teddy's role was quite challenging. Because he has done the role of a mad person with his outstanding comedy. On the other hand, the whole play was performed in one stage with the same background. The set design was really aesthetic. Lighting was properly managed. I was on the second last row. The stage was properly visible and music was also matched with the scenes whether it is a sad, happy or laughing moment. Overall the atmosphere was up to the mark. Moreover, the costumes were not too fancy. But matching with the scenes. They were changing costumes several times according to the demand of the script.

Additionally, this was my first time watching a theater performance. I used to think theater performances are boring, nothing special about this type of act. But after watching the play my perspective totally changed. I really loved it. There are a lot of things I have learned from this story. For example, always try to give our hundred percent effort to save our family members. Always staying with partner in every situation and treating his/her family like own family. Never leave friends alone in difficult situations. Again, what we do to help others is not always good for them. So, we have to work carefully to help others. The play also shows what other people think normal may not be normal in reality. We can relate this play with our contemporary society. As, we can see these kinds of activities in our daily life. Overall at the end people loved the drama as it has mysteries, thriller, comedy, romance etc. The play shows scary events in a funny way by using dark humor.