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Dramatech presents

# Ek Jaam, Auntiyon ke Naam

(Ranjit Kapoor's hindi adaptation of Joseph Kesselring's Arsenic and Old Lace)

## Cast & Crew

Rosa D'Souza – Renu S. Chopra  
 Father William – Sunil Chaudhry  
 Alfie D'Souza – Ravi Raj Sagar  
 Constable Rokde – Ankit Arya  
 Constable Samant – Hemant Kathuria  
 Martha D'Souza – Meghna Ojha  
 Julie William – Neel Monty  
 Bobby D'Souza – Saurav Padhi  
 Jonathan D'Souza – Sanjiv Chopra  
 Doctor Lagoo – Rakesh Gupta  
 David Lean – Hemant Kathuria  
 Constable Ghodke – Anil Monga  
 Daroga Chawhan – Wg Cdr Praveen K. Hasija  
 Dr Saxena – Vivek Aggarwal

## Backstage

Sets and Costumes – Suchitra Chauhan  
 Costumes Assistance – Priti Gupta  
 Music – Sunil Chaudhry  
 Keyboard – Kaushik  
 Lights – Wg Cdr Gurinder Dua  
 Make-up – B.S. Rawat  
 Poster Design – Rishi Aggarwal  
 Print & Publicity – Roots Advertising  
 Hall – Arica  
 Gate – Poonam and Sanjiv Sarin, Roopmala,  
 Sarthak, Sangita P. Hasija  
 Production Manager – Jagjeet Kaur  
 Production Controller – Parag Agarwal

Directed by – RAVI RAJ SAGAR

The participants in this production include Working professionals (from HP, BHEL, Cognizant, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, IITD, Aaj Tak, KPMG, Axero Solutions, Liqid Elearning Services); Students (IITD, Skyline Institute of Technology), Entrepreneurs (Ezeeflex Plastics, Cyber Alley, Nakshatra Cineaste, ROOTS Advertising); and Homemakers.

Acknowledgments: J P Singh, Atul Chauhan, Ankur Bhatia, Sumer Mehta, Kanika Mathur, Anurag Batra, IIT Delhi.

A play in 3 acts. Duration: 120 minutes. One interval of 12 minutes.



# Arsenic and Old Lace

Arsenic and Old Lace is a madcap comedy of murder and insanity, written by American playwright Joseph Kesselring in 1939. It ran 1444 performances making it one of the top 10 stage grossers of all time. It was also made into a famous movie by Frank Capra starring Cary Grant. The play has been performed countless times all over the world, and has been made into a Russian film as well.



The boarding house where the playwright lived as a student, and which inspired the story and setting of this play

When Kesselring taught at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, he lived in a boarding house called the Goerz House, and many of the features of its living room are reflected in the Brewster sisters' living room, where the action of the play is set. The Goerz House is now the home of the college president. The 'murderous old lady' plot line may also have been inspired by actual events that occurred in a house in Windsor, Connecticut, where an older woman took in boarders and allegedly poisoned them for their pensions. Kesselring originally conceived the play as a heavy drama, but a friend, reading the half-finished play, convinced him it would be much more effective as a comedy.

**From Insights; the Study Guide of the Utah Shakespearean Festival, 2001:**

Cornelia Otis Skinner describes the gestation of Arsenic and Old Lace and the part played by the brilliant playwrighting and producing team of Lindsay and Crouse, who were responsible for Life with Father and The Sound of Music, among other hits:

Kesselring had sent Howard and Dorothy Lindsay a copy of the script, hoping "that Dorothy would be interested in playing one of the dear, demented old sisters. . . . Howard handed his wife the script to read, saying he hadn't the time just then. Dorothy started reading it that evening, and as she did, she kept letting out little gasps and whoops of suppressed laughter, and ended up saying that nobody could possibly get away with a play on the subject of blithe madness and cheerful murder but that it was very, very funny. Howard, his curiosity piqued, started to read and he too began emitting similar vocal noises. The script, which was then called Bodies in Our Cellar, was uneven. Some of it was in bad taste, as when one of the characters would open the cellar door and complain about the terrible smell".

However, recognizing the play's great potential, Lindsay immediately sent a message to Crouse, which read: "Shake your head, take a cup of coffee and read further. Have just read a play about two charming old ladies who go around murdering old men. Very funny. How would you like to be a producer?' Russel wired back, 'Buy it.' The two went to work as soon as they had made their agreement with Kesselring. They all but rewrote everything, changing many of the situations and introducing some new characters. But they were careful to give full credit at all times to Kesselring". Regardless of the reasons for the play's success, Arsenic and Old Lace remains dear to the hearts (and funnybones) of modern audiences. It has become Kesselring's legacy, with its film incarnation and numerous stage revivals around the world.

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With love and best wishes  
to dear friend and fellow Joka-ite

**RAVI RAJ SAGAR**

From 'Chacha' Sandip Bhatia

IITD, IIMC (16th batch, 1981)

# Dramatech's Past Productions

Ashit Ghosh's	Bael Se Muthbhed	Adapted & Directed by S.Sanyal
Tennessee William's	The Glass Menagerie	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Moliere's	Bichoo	Adapted by Wasi Khan, Directed by Rakesh Gupta
Harold Pinter's	The Birthday Party	Directed by M. Jain & Deepak Gidwani
Agatha Christie's	Ten Little Niggers (in Hindi)	Translated & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Mohit Chatterjee's	Guniea Pig	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Nirmal Verma's	Teen Ekant	Directed by Alok Tiwari
Govind Deshpande's	Uddhvast Dharamshala	Directed by S.P. Jain
Bernard Pomerance's	The Elephant Man	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Dario Fo's	Comedy of Terrors (in Hindi)	Adapted & Directed by Ranjit Kapoor
Peter Shafer's	Equus	Directed by S.P. Jain & Deepak Gidwani
Bernard Shaw's	Mrs. Warren's Profession	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Agatha Christie's	Witness for the Prosecution (in Hindi)	Translated & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Michael Frayn's	Noises off (in Hindi)	Adapted & Directed by Umesh Vyas
Sam Shepard's	True West	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Grimm's	Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (in Hindi)	Adapted & Directed by Archana Gidwani
Dr. Shankar Shesh's	Rakt Beej	Directed by Pradeep Shrivastava
Christopher Hampton's	The Philanthropist	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Tennessee Williams	A Streetcar Named Desire	Directed by Sanjiv Agarwal
Vijay Tendulkar's	Panchhi Aise Aate Hain	Directed by Satyajit Sharma
Neil Simon's	Broadway Bound	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Badal Sircar's	Ballabhpur Ki Roopkatha	Directed by Archana Gidwani
Mary Chase's	Harvey	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Badal Sircar's	Ek Do Tin	Directed by Sundeep Varma
Ranjit Kapoor's	Ek Jaam Auntiyon Ke Naam	Directed by Sanjiv Agarwal
A Conan Doyle's	Sherlock Holmes Stories <sup>*</sup> (Audio Play in Hindi)	Adapted and Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Ranjit Kapoor's	Chainpur ki Daastan	Directed by Amitabh Srivastava
Dario Fo's	Accidental Death of an Anarchist (Hindi)	Directed by Sanjiv Agarwal
Joseph Stein's	Fiddler on the Roof <sup>^</sup> (in Hindi)	Translated, Lyrics & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar

# About Dramatech

Dramatech is a 24 year old theatre group of Delhi, having 30 successful play productions to its credit and having received acclaim and invitation from NSD and Sahitya Kala Parishad for its performances. This amateur theatre group with a professional outlook was started in 1984 by a group of IIT Delhi Alumni. It then expanded to attract talent from other institutions, in particular, IIM Ahmedabad and Delhi University. Over the years Dramatech has provided the Delhi audience with good, wholesome theatre both in English & Hindi.

For more information search for DRAMATECH in Wikipedia

Talented Amateur Actors, Singers, Dancers, Musicians are invited to join Dramatech.

Please contact

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<sup>\*</sup> For free, legal download, go to [archive.org](http://archive.org) and search for Sherlock Holmes Hindi  
<sup>^</sup> To view songs from this musical, go to 'YouTube' and search for 'Fiddler Hindi'.