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Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

The Mousetrap

by Agatha Christie

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SETTING & SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene I: The Great Hall at Monkswell Manor. Late afternoon Scene II: The same. The following day after lunch.

ACT TWO

The same. Ten minutes later.

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

CAST

Mollie Ralston	JAMIE BELLE MECKLEY
Giles Ralston	Eli Tracewell
Christopher Wren	Cole Mazaher
Mrs. Boyle	
Major Metcalf	CHARLES WILCOX
Miss Casewell	RAQUEL JACKMOND
Mr. Paravicini	David Scheimann
Detective Sergeant Trotter	Drew Williams

STAFF & CREW

Director	Rod Oden
Assistant Director	DAVID B PRATHER
Stage Manager	Mary Lucas
Technical Director	
Sound Designer	TATE THOMPSON
Production Assistant	
Costumer	JANE MANCINI
Assistant Stage Managers	HANNAH DAY, MIRANDA RICHARDS
Props	ALLISON HAMRICK, PAM SALISBURY
Lighting Operator	ALYSSA KNIGHT
Sound Operator	Jaliyah Townsend
Stage Crew	Shawn Price
Advisor	Charlie Matthews
Make-up	ALLISON HAINES, EM HAIRL
Hair	Ashley Fluharty
Set Construction Rod Oden, Dave 1	Prather, Dave Scheimann, Larry Deem
Photographer	JEFF BAUCHAN
Playbill Layout and Design	



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A letter from the President



Ere we are again, friends, at the start of a new theater season. As I reflect upon my first year as president of the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, I think of new friends, old friends, and friends we have lost. We have had several new faces join us on stage and behind the scenes this past year: stage crew, interns, costumers, and even patrons who made it a point to see their first live theatrical performance right here at 724 Market Street! And the contributions of friends who are no longer with

us continue to inspire us to be better, to work harder, and to adapt to any changes that may come our way.

And while I honor every single member and volunteer who moved on to more eternal theaters, I would like to mention John Lee one more time. John was one of those rare members and volunteers who donated his time in many ways. He was a director, an actor, an advisor, a policy-maker, a committee member, and someone willing to help out any way he could. As a matter of fact, John was on the Play Reading Committee that put together the season we are starting with *The Mousetrap*. I can't help but think that this is John's last visible influence upon our theater community. I was a fellow committee member, and I remember how emphatic John would get about shows he felt would help us remember the history of theatrical arts, and the shows he simply loved, and the shows he simply hated. There was always a sparkle in his eyes when he spoke of theater, and it is that sparkle I hope we can capture as we move into the future together.

I think my fellow volunteers will understand and agree when I say that this season is John's season. There is a certain finesse that John had when crafting a show or a season, and we are still feeling that. I think John's presence will be felt in every single show this season:

The Mousetrap, Scrooge!, Barefoot in the Park, Disney's Alice in Wonderland JR., Company, Around the World in 80 Days, and Big Fish

I will lead the standing ovation.

David B. Prother

DAVE PRATHER
President of the Board of Trustees

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Director's Note

've been thinking about murder mysteries, these curious things that many of us find intriguing. Who did it? How? Why? The questions reveal in us a want to explore the unknown and the safe thrill of exploring an abominable act from a distance. If you trace the origin of the word mystery, you will find it linked to mystical secrets and truth. In the same way, the word murder weaves a trail through Norse and Old English and can be associated with mortal sins. This little game that we play with Agatha Christie and many other



great writers of this genre is a way to explore our own mortality and sense of trust. It's also great fun!

Everyone has a secret. In this play it may be buried under layers of deceit, hidden in cracked dialects and details or out in the open for anyone to discover. In the large house with strange company, no one can be trusted – but everyone must be relied on to reveal the killer. Premiered in 1952, this production has enthralled and engaged audiences for 64 years. I hope you enjoy the game. Three blind mice...see how they run.

ROD ODEN
Director, *The Mousetrap*

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HONOREES

The Bayley Award

The "Bayley" was established by the Actors Guild with a two-fold purpose: first, to honor one of our "founding mothers" and most influential members - Suzanne Bayley. The other function of the Bayley Award is for our membership to express an annual, public "thank you" to an individual, group or business in the community for services to the Actors Guild above and beyond the call of neighborly duty.

Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to Jeff Baughan.

The Khalil Awards

For many years Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have made an annual contribution to ensure the continuation of live theater in our community and have championed the importance of the arts in our lives. The Khalil Awards were established to honor the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance of each season. An anonymous panel consisting of persons who have seen every show of the previous season selects the recipients of these awards.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg would like to congratulate Director Charlie Matthews and the entire cast and crew of *Moonlight and Magnolias* as the Best Show for the 2014-2015 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Tara Polan, for her portrayal of Violet Weston in August: Osage County.

The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

Barbara Full is the most recent recipient of the Grace-Marie Merrill Award for exceptional volunteerism to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. The award is named for a former drama teacher at Parkersburg High School who was an early member of the Guild, where she acted in and directed plays.

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

RAQUEL JACKMOND (Miss Casewell) is thrilled to be returning to the stage at the guild! She has performed in theaters from Los Angeles, CA to Big Rapids, MI. She has been seen on the Actors Guild's stage as Ivy in *August Osage County*, and Miss Poppenghul in *Moonlight and Magnolias* which received the Khalil for best show in the 2014–2015 season. She would like to thank her amazing partner, Rod Oden, for the incredible work he does behind the scenes and she is humbled by the chance to have him as a director for the first time.

COLE MAZAHER (Christopher Wren) is a student of Kent State University where he is studying musical theatre. Cole has been involved in theatre since he was eleven and plans on pursuing a professional career after graduation. He has been seen on the Actors Guild stage in Legally Blonde and Spamalot. Other roles Cole has played include Hyde in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and Mr. Wickham in Pride and Prejudice under the direction of the show's author Joseph Hanreddy. He is proud to be performing with this wonderful group of people and is ecstatic to be a part of this show.

JAMIE BELLE MECKLEY (Mollie Ralston) last appeared as Morticia Addams in the Guild's production of *The Addams Family Musical*. She also starred as Mina Murray in *Dracula* at the Actors Guild. Jamie is thrilled for the opportunity to be back on the stage and honored to perform alongside such a talented cast and crew in her first murder mystery. She resides in Waverly and teaches English at Jackson Middle School, as well as helps manage Meckley Farms in Sistersville. Jamie would like to

thank her husband, family, and friends for their constant love, support, and encouragement.

DAVID SCHEIMANN (Mr. Paravacini) is very excited to join the Actors Guild of Parkersburg after taking a two-year hiatus to earn his master's degree in higher education administration. By day he is a mild-mannered director of retention at Washington State Community College, and by evening...he does other things... that aren't quite as cool as what Batman does. He would like to thank Maggie Angle, his girlfriend, who supports his eccentricities.

ELI TRACEWELL (Giles Ralston) previously appeared on the Guild stage most recently as Lancelot in *Spamalot*, as the UPS driver in *Legally Blonde*, Richard Hannay in *The 3g Steps*, an Ancestor in *The Addams Family*, Huck Finn in *Tom Sawyer*, Tobias in *Sweeney Todd*, as well as several Guild Builders productions. He has also appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Unexpected Guest*, and *James and the Giant Peach* at WVUP and *Zombie Prom, Harvey, The Wizard of Oz*, and *Footloose* at Parkersburg South.

charles wilcox (Major Metcalf) returned to the Actors Guild in last year's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* after an absence of some 19 years. In reprising the role of Dr. Einstein he played once again the very first part he ever played at the Guild. During his long time away, Chuck has worked at several Florida theaters in the Tampa and St. Petersburg area. He currently divides his time between West Virginia and Florida. He is a previous winner of awards from SETC and OCTA.

DREW WILLIAMS (Detective Sergeant Trotter) is a West Virginia native who has been volunteering with The Actors Guild of Parkersburg for many years. He was most recently seen on stage in Marietta, Ohio as Andrew Rally in *I Hate Hamlet*. You have also seen him in other shows such as *The Full Monty, Lombardi*, and *The Secret Garden*.

STEPHANIE WINLAND (Mrs. Boyles) began her stage experience by winning a raffle for a walk-on part in *Guys and Dolls*. She has since appeared on stage in *Oliver, Black Coffee, Annie, Honk, A Streetcar Named Desire, South Pacific, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *White Christmas*. She has also worked backstage on *Little Women, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, Ten Little Indians*, and *The Dinner Party*. Stephanie is a soloist at St. Margaret Mary Church and is employed by Westbrook Health Services.

ROD ODEN (Director) is pleased to be making his directorial debut with the Actors Guild. Although Guild Technical Director by day, Rod has had the pleasure of directing on stages from Los Angeles to Lexington. Some of his more known directions include *Rumors*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Music Man*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Annie*. Rod is humbled at the chance to direct

with the Guild and thanks his amazing wife Raquel for her support of and participation in this endeavor.

DAVID B. PRATHER (Assistant Director) is a long-time member of the Guild, and has appeared in and directed several shows. He received Khalil awards for performances in *Honk!* (The Cat), *Chicago* (The Jury), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank), and *The Boys Next Door* (Lucien P. Smith). He has directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Leading Ladies, August: Osage County*, and last season's *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Dave studied acting at The National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York and writing at Warren Wilson College near Asheville, NC.

MARY LUCAS (Stage Manager) had the privilege of seeing Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* at St. Martin's Theatre in London in 2012. Mary has appeared on the Guild's stage as a member of the ensemble in *Young Frankenstein* and as Bitsy Hargis in *The Red Velvet Cake War*. She has also worked as assistant director, production assistant, assistant stage manager, and props runner on other shows at the Guild since 2013. Mary has a love of animals, and currently has eight indoor cats. She also loves to read, walk half marathons, and travel, and she is learning to play the piano.

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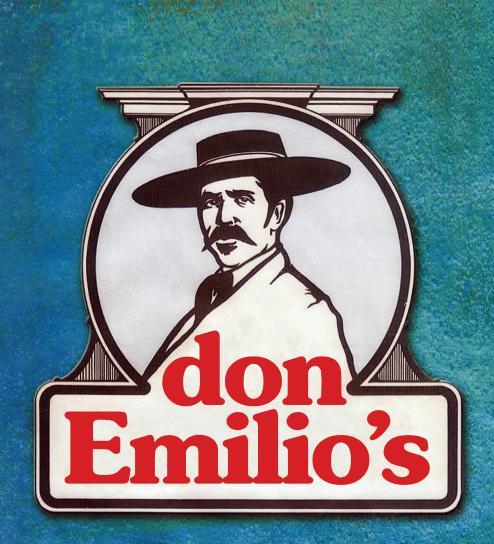
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crooge! the Musical, with book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse, is closely adapted from the music and screenplay of the 1970 musical film Scrooge starring Albert Finney. Bricusse was nominated for an Academy Award for the song score he wrote for the film, and most of those songs were carried over to the musical.

Like the film, the musical closely follows the plot of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, in which the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of a Christmas Eve night, after being visited by the ghost of his former partner Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

Leslie Bricusse spent several months with the director Bob Tomson adapting the screenplay for the stage. Tomson and designer, Paul Farnsworth established a Victorian theatre style for all the locations, illusions and characters.

The original production starred Anthony Newley as Scrooge and opened in 1992 at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. The 2005 West End production at the London Palladium starred Tommy Steele in the title role. The musical was revived at the London Palladium in October of 2012 with Steele reprising the role, and ran until January 2013.



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