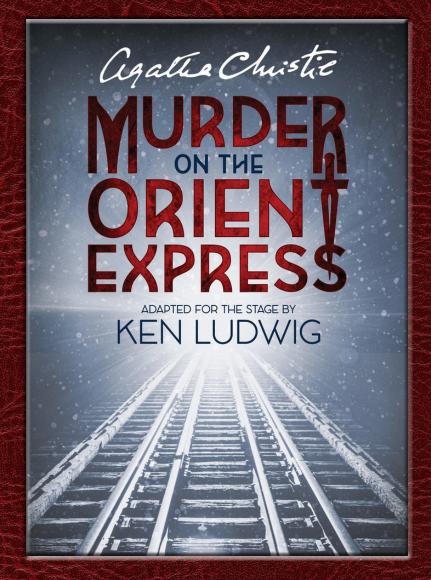
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Agatha Christie's Murder On The Orient Express

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Agatha Christie's Murder On The Orient Express adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig was originally staged by McCarter Theater Center, Princeton, NJ Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director. The production subsequently transferred to Hartford Stage, Harford, CT Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director

"Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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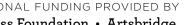
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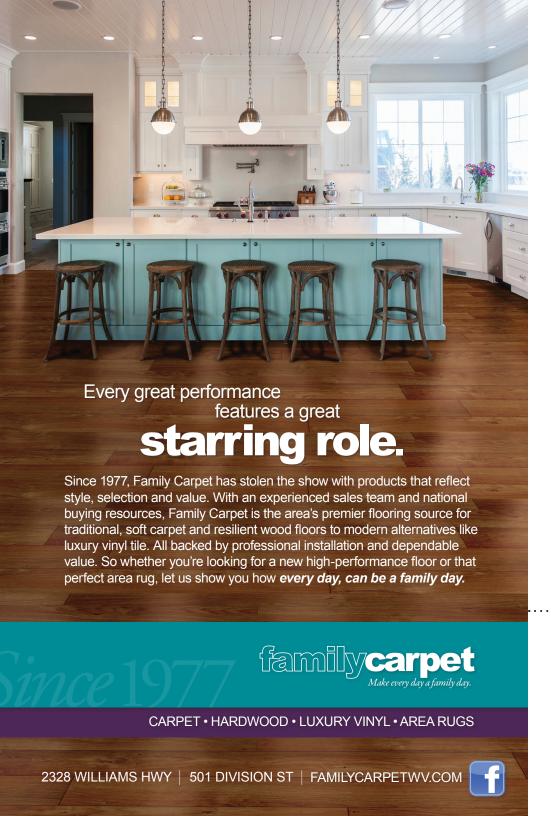






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SYNOPSIS & SCENES

Board the exotic and mysterious Orient Express as the luxurious passenger train takes off into the opulence and grandeur of the 1930s, traveling from Istanbul to Western Europe before it is stopped in its tracks...with a murder! A tycoon lies dead in a compartment, stabbed a dozen times, with the door locked from the inside. A train full of suspects, each with a motive and an alibi. It's the perfect mystery for Agatha Christie's beloved detective Hercule Poirot as his vacation is interrupted and he battles the clock to figure out "whodunit" before the murderer strikes again.

Setting: The principal action of the play takes place aboard the Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe. Time: 1934

Act I: Mid-day to morning Act II: Morning to mid-day

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CAST

Hercule Poirot	Joe Reeves
Monsieur Bouc	Josh Martin
Mary Debenham	JALIYAH TOWNSEND
Hector MacQueen	DANNY BAYER
Michel /Waiter	SEAN SHOOP
Princess Dragomiroff	RACHEL MARTIN
Greta Ohlsson	
Countess Andreyni	VANESSA RAKE
Helen Hubbard	
Colonel Arbuthnot	Jay Raber
Samuel Ratchett	BOB HOLLAND
Little Girl	GEORGIA MARTIN

STAFF & CREW

Director	
Assistant Directors	PAM PIGGOTT, NICOLE RABER
Production Assistant	Nora Corra
Technical Director	John Gradwohl
Sound Designer	WILLIAM D. ROBERTS
Light Designer	
Costume Designer	NANCY BLOOMER
	PAM PIGGOTT
Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	Dayna Cooper
Dialect Coach	Bobby Holland
Advisor	
Hair and Makeup	Shauri Morrison, Mollie Bleakley
Set Construction	Brenda Gerenday, Staff, Cast, Crew
Scenic Painter	Lexi Raber
Backstage Crew HILARY ELLIOTT, RACHEL McClung, ISAAC PENNINGTON, BELL BERGUM	
Lightboard Operator	
	Patrick Arnold , William D. Roberts
Projections Operator	Grace Miller
Follow Spot Operator	Grace Miller
Book Holder	
Photographers	RACHEL MARTIN, PETE MYERS
Playbill Layout and Design	Brett Meade



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- ★ Nora Corra
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- **★** Sabrina Dye Robert Francis
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- **★** Teri Robert
- **★** Susan Schuchts
- ★ Dixie Showalter
- ★ Linda Smith Deanna Spring
- **★** Marqueta Stephens Jaliyah Townsend Miranda Wilson

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WEEKEND SERVICES

Saturday - 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Music

> Sunday - 8:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday - 10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Choir

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Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

DANNYBAYER (Hector MacQueen) was last seen in the Actors Guild Productions of Shout! and Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella. He has worked on The Showboat Becky Thatcher, Lexington Musical and The Dayton Opera. He has performed at the Kennedy Center, National Theater and the Grand Ole Opry. He has won several Association of Community Theater (ACT) and Ohio Community Theater Association (OCTA) awards. Danny teaches first grade at Jefferson Elementary School. He shares a home with his 18 year old shih tzu, Lucy.

LORI VENABLE CLARK (Helen Hubbard) is appearing in her 10th production with the Actors Guild, most recently as Hold Me Touch Me in *The Producers*, Yenta in Fiddler on the Roof, and Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours in Sister Act. Ensemble roles include *Mamma Mia!*, Company, The Addams Family, Young Frankenstein, and 9 to 5 The Musical. Lori played guitar in *Tom Sawyer*, *Company*, and Bye Bye Birdie. Others include God*spell* and *The King and I* with the Pied Piper Players. Lori works as release of information specialist for Ciox Health at WVU Medicine and as a guitarist at Trinity Episcopal Church.

BOB HOLLAND (Samuel Ratchett/Dialect Coach) is not new to the Guild stage. Older patrons will remember him with brown hair, a slimmer waistline, and no limp! He played Felix in *The Odd Couple*, Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Dickinson in 1776, Freddie in Noises Off, and many others. He has directed An Inspector Calls, Death Trap, The Grandest Canyon, and Agatha Christie's Black Coffee. Bob works at Marietta Memorial Hospital and is active in the 19th Street Church of God.

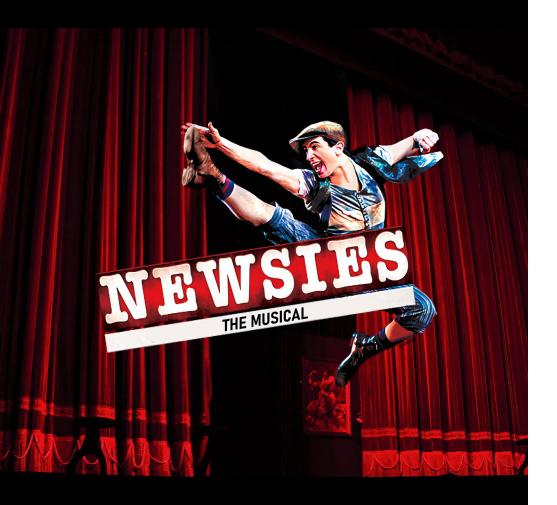
GEORGIA MARTIN (Voice of Little Girl) was last seen on stage as a skunk in her spring preschool production at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. This fall, Georgia will be a first grader at Mineral Wells Elementary. She enjoys gymnastics, swimming, baking cookies, watching YouTube Kids, and playing video games on her iPad and Nintendo Switch. Her favorite video game is Little Nightmares II. Georgia is the daughter of Josh and Rachel.

JOSH MARTIN (Monsieur Bouc) was last seen on the Actors Guild stage in the musical revue Opening Up. Other Guild appearances: Clue, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, Fiddler, Shrek, Dracula, Avenue O, The Full Monty, The Secret Garden, Alice in Wonderland, Tuesdays with Morrie, Leading Ladies, The Story of My Life, RENT, Man of La Mancha, It's the Reel Thing, Big: The Musical, The Civil War, Seussical, and Monky Business. Additional Guild Credits: Director - The Play That Goes Wrong (2023), The 39 Steps, All Shook Up, The Boys Next Door, Music Director - Sweeney Todd, Hairspray, The Rocky Horror Show.

RACHEL MARTIN (Princess Dragomiroff) is making her Actors Guild debut in *Murder on the Orient Express*! She also serves on the marketing committee and has taken promotional photos for several AGP productions. Rachel operates her own photography business, Simply Rachel Photos, and is a nurse education coordinator for Memorial Health System. Rachel would like to thank the production staff for this opportunity!

MEGANNEWBANKS (Greta Ohlsson) is excited to be joining this production for her first acting role in nearly six years. She has a bachelor's degree in theatre from Berea

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College in Kentucky and a master's degree in arts administration and cultural policy from Goldsmiths, University of London in the United Kingdom. Previous shows with the Actors Guild include *Boeing Boeing* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Spamalot* (Assistant Stage Manager), *9 to 5* (Costume Crew) and *Hairspray* (Ensemble).

JAY RABER (Colonel Arbuthnot) previously appeared on the Guild stage in La Cage Aux Folles. He also appeared in The Death of Dr. Pepper and Funeral of a Gangster for Consumer Credit Counseling of the MOV's annual mystery dinner theater fundraiser. He is here under duress and does not think that patrons read these, but would appreciate someone orchestrating a rescue mission. His theatrical pursuits are thanks to the forceful encouragement of his wife and three children, all of whom have been involved in Guild productions. Jay works at a local law firm and enjoys boating.

VANESSA RAKE (Countess Andrenyi) has previously been seen on the AGP stage in 2020's streamed *Clue: Stay-At-Home Version*, so this marks her first show here with a live audience! She last appeared as Grand Duchess Olga Katrina in *You Can't Take It With You* at the Mid-Ohio Valley Players Theater. Other acting credits include Gwendolyn Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Annie/Shelly in *Evil Dead: The Musical*, Vernadette Simms in The *Sweet Delilah Swim Club* and Catherine Sloper in *The Heiress*. She assistant directed another Agatha Christie favorite, *And Then There Were None*.

JOE REEVES (Hercule Poirot) – Long ago, Joe worked as a stand-up comic. That did not last long. His real job is senior network analyst at WVU Medicine Camden-Clark. His current passion is restoring pinball machines and thinks there's always room for another. He proudly serves as president of the Guild's Board of Trust-

ees. Joe was previously on stage in *A Christmas Story, Little Shop of Horrors, La Cage Aux Folles*, and most recently as Roger DeBris in *The Producers*. He recently directed the Guild Builders production of *The Wizard of Oz* and is incredibly thankful for his Guild Builder family.

SEAN SHOOP (Michel the Conductor / Waiter) is appearing for the first time on the Actors Guild stage. Some of his favorite roles include MOVP's *All My Sons* (Chris Keller) and *And Then There Were None* (Phillip Lombard). He most recently performed at the MOVP in *Robin Hood* as Will Scarlet. He would like to thank his beautiful wife, Angela, family, friends, and especially his cat sons, Russell and Artemis.

JALIYAH TOWNSEND (Mary Debenham) is excited to be back on the Guild stage! In the past she has appeared in Legally Blonde: The Musical, Monty Python's Spamalot, Scrooge: The Musical, Hairspray, To Kill a Mockingbird, Little Shop of Horrors and A Christmas Story, Mamma Mial, and Mary Poppins. She has also served on production staff and technical crew in various capacities. Most recently, she was seen starring as Deloris Van Cartier in ABC Players Production of Sister Act. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support.

DIXIE SHOWALTER (Director) has been actively involved with the Actors Guild for over thirty years. In that time, she has directed multiple shows, most recently *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Games Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays*. Her onstage performances have included *Nunsense, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Driving Miss Daisy*, plus others. She has had a lot of fun over the years on the technical crew, backstage crew, and production crew. She has also served on committees, currently on directors support. In every area of in-

volvement here, Dixie has been encouraged to learn and have FUN.

PAMELA PIGGOTT (Assistant Director/Props) has been active at the Guild for 17+ years. She has appeared on stage, worked backstage, and worked in technical positions for many shows. Most recently she was assistant director for *Shout!* and *Hallelujah Girls*, props for *Elf*, and costumes for *A Few Good Men*. Pam is a Guild board member, serving as VP of administration and co-chair of props. She is retired and enjoys spending time with family, friends, and has her three dogs, Raven, Roxy, and Daisy. Enjoy the show!

NICOLE RABER (Assistant Director) is a mother of three, a strong advocate for families in the MOV, works at a local law firm, and serves on the board of Consumer Credit Counseling Services of the MOV. At the Guild she has assisted with props, crew, sound, and construction, plus been stage manager for Wizard of Oz YPE, Madagascar, JR., The Game's Afoot! or Holmes for the Holidays, A Christmas Story! The Musical, To Kill a Mockingbird, Sister Act, and Big Fish. While this is her first-time assistant directing, she has enjoyed being bossed around by Dixie before.

JOHN GRADWOHL (Technical Director) served as the technical director for the Guild from 2003-2005 and again from 2008-2015. He has appeared on the Guild stage several times and now tours fairs and festivals throughout the eastern United States performing as Professor Bubblemaker.

GRACIE PARKS (Stage Manager) is a sophomore attending WVUP. She has been involved in theater for nine years. Gracie plans to finish her degrees in criminal justice to pursue a career in social work. She was on stage for many shows at BMS and recently as Ms. Darbus in High School Musical, JR. Recently, she choreographed High School Musical JR.

for BMS, *Footloose* for PSHS, and more. Gracie was also on stage at PSHS in *Trap*. This show will not see her on the stage, but off stage as the stage manager. She wants to thank everyone for these opportunities.

KEN LUDWIG (Author) has had six shows on Broadway, seven in London's West End, and many of his works have become a standard part of the American repertoire. His 28 plays and musicals have been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages and are produced throughout the United States every night of the year.

Lend Me a Tenor won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century by The Washington Post. Crazy For You was on Broadway for five years and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical. In addition, he has won the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theater. His plays have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Hal Holbrook.

His stage version of Murder on the Orient Express was written expressly at the request of the Agatha Christie Estate, and his latest play, Dear Jack, Dear Louise, won the 2020 Charles MacArthur Award for Best New Play of the Year and is optioned for Broadway. His book How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays are published in the Yale Review. He is a graduate of Harvard and Cambridge and is a frequent guest speaker for groups as varied as The Oxford-Cambridge Society, The Jane Austen Society of North America, The Folger Shakespeare Library, and The Baker Street Irregulars.

THE CAST









DANNY BAYER

GEORGIA MARTIN

JALIYAH TOWNSEND

JAY D RABER









JOE REEVES

JOSH MARTIN

LORI CLARK

MEGAN NEWBANKS







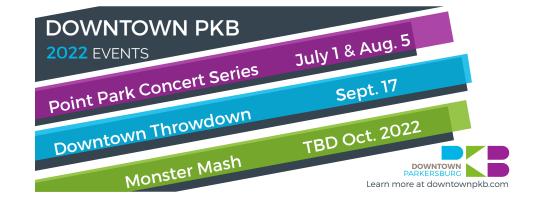


RACHEL MARTIN

ROBERT

SEAN SHOOP

ANESSA RAKE



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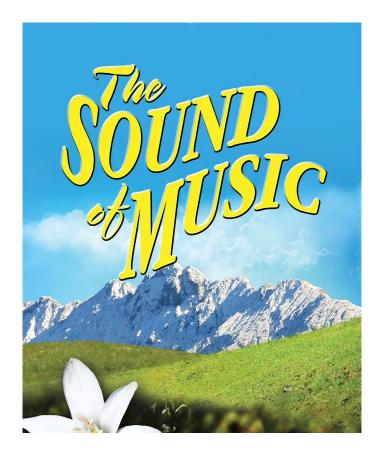
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