“Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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Agatha Christie’s

Murder on the Orient Express

Adapted by Ken Ludwig

Originally staged by McCarter Theater Center, Princeton, NJ

Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director

The production subsequently transferred to Hartford Stage, Hartford, CT

Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director

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**Setting**

The principal action of the play takes place about the Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe.

**Time**

1934

**Act !**

Mid-day to morning

**Act II**

Morning to mid-day

**Characters**

Hercule Poirot - R. Andrew Strickland

Monsieur Bouc - Kendall Countryman

Mary Debenham - Tabitha Sewell

Hector MacQueen - Elliott Wall

Michel (and Head Waiter) - Alan Jaenz

Princess Dragomiroff - Pam Burkhalter

Greta Ohlsson - Elizabeth Lengel

Countess Andrenyi - Brooke Henson

Helen Hubbard - Rebecca Wilson-Gimeno

Colonel Arbuthnot and Samuel Ratchet - Nestor Jaenz

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**Production Crew**

**Director:  JP Haynie**

**Light & Scenic Design:  JP Haynie**

**Sound Design:  JP Haynie and Laura Voss**

**Assistant Director:  Sheniqua Freeman**

**Light Board Operator:**

**Sound Board Operator:**

**Props: Laura Graves, Cast Members**

**Costumes:  Chelsie Correll**

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Special Thanks:  Sylvia Haynie, Laura Voss, Shelley Kuhen, Theatre Macon, Mercer University, Kelley and Natalie Land, Tim and Anna Graves

Pam Burkhalter (Princess Dragomiroff) Pam is a semi-retired teacher who thinks being an adjunct at Mercer is the best retirement gig ever. As a lifelong Agatha Christie fan (Thank you, Scholastic Book Fair.), she is thrilled to be part of this show. This cast has been a joy to work with, and JP Haynie is an amazing director. As Hercule Poirot might say, “Use your little gray cells” and try to figure out this classic mystery.

Kendall Countryman (Constantine Bouc) is Deputy Tax Commissioner for Macon-Bibb County.  Kendall started his acting career on the MLT stage 40 years ago this year.  He has been appeared on stage at Macon Little Theater, Theatre Macon, Warner Robins Little Theater and with the Backlot Players in Forsyth.  Past roles he enjoyed playing were Professor Moriarty in Sherlock Holmes, Geoffrey in The Lion in Winter, Jack Worthy in the Importance of Being Ernest and John J. Astor in Titanic, the musical.  Kendall and his husband Richard enjoy traveling, antiquing, collecting and going to the New York to see Broadway shows along with theatre productions all over the south.  Kendall has enjoyed working with this cast and especially J.P., the Director.

Brooke Henson (Countess Andrenyi) is so excited to be back on stage after a three year hiatus! Her last production was *The Miracle Worker*in 2019. She has many theatrical credits under her belt including two other MLT Agatha Christie productions,*The Mousetrap*and*And Then There Were None.*Fun fact: she recently married her *And Then There Were None*costar! For work, she is a library media specialist at Dames Ferry Elementary School, and for fun, she spends a lot of time with her nose in a book. Many thanks to JP for his outstanding job as director, Jack for the endless love and encouragement, Elizabeth for being brave enough to jump back into all this with me, and Eva Gabor for providing inspiration for the accent.

Alan Jaenz (Waiter/Michel) is happy to be returning to MLT to participate in Murder on the Orient Express. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Nestor Jaenz (Ratchet/ Col. Arbuthnot) has served as Music Director and pit musician for various shows in the area. Murder on the Orient Express marks his return to the stage in many many years. He will be reprising his role as Music Director in the upcoming MLT productions of Carrie and Avenue Q.

Elizabeth Lengel (Greta) is thrilled to join the cast of Murder on the Orient Express and take to the MLT stage again for the first time post-Covid. She is a proud dog mom to the world’s best boy, Oswald, and cat mom to the world’s worst girl, Vinny. She funds her pets’ lavish lifestyles by working as a copywriter at M&R Marketing. She’d like to thank JP for the opportunity to play Greta—annoying Pam (the Princess) throughout the show is truly a dream come true!

Tabitha Sewell (Mary Debenham) is a senior at Wesleyan College this year, and she is filling the year with as much theatre as she can. Though this is her first show with Macon Little Theatre, she has been performing on stage for around 8 years and loves every second of it. Past favorite productions include The Revolutionists (Wesleyan College) and Dark Road (Baldwin County High School). When not lounging on a train, she is often drowning in either homework for school, coffee at work, or the fluff of her cat, Theodore. She'd like to thank JP for giving her this opportunity to work with MLT as well as her friends and family for their support throughout the years.

R. Andrew Strickland (Hercule Poirot) is a veteran of more than 200 theatre productions as an actor, director, choreographer, fight director, music director, designer, playwright, and publicist. He has previously appeared at Macon Little Theatre in *She Loves Me* (Steven Kodaly), *Willy Wonka* (Grandpa Joe), *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Rev. Crisparkle). Dr. Strickland is the Director of Fine Arts at First Presbyterian Day School where he has been a theatre and dance instructor for 20 years. In the rare moments that he manages to not be in a theatre, he is known as the Puppet Runner due to his rather unusual hobby of running marathons and other distance races while performing puppets. He is forever thankful for his wife Janet and sons Luke and Caedmon for supporting his theatre addiction with their love, patience, support, and participation. A lifetime Agatha Christie fan and admirer of Hercule Poirot, Strickland would like to thank JP Haynie and the amazing cast and crew for this incredible journey.

Elliott Wall (Hector MacQueen) is a music therapist practicing at the medical center here in Macon. Elliott has been enjoying a re-introduction to the the theater over the past few years and was most recently seen playing Matthew Cuthbert in Anne of Green Gables at Macon Little Theater.  Elliott would like to thank JP Haynie, this wonderful cast, and his wife Sheree’ and daughter Lorelai for allowing him to continue his theater journey.

Rebecca Wilson-Gimeno (Mrs Hubbard) is excited to perform for the third time with Macon Little Theatre (and her third collaboration with JP Haynie). She has previously performed as Mrs. White in Clue and multiple characters in The 29 Steps. She would like to thank her husband, Robert, for helping her prepare for this role. He is her #1 fan (which is still up for debate in her family) and consistently supports Rebecca by doing everything from running lines to taking care of the housework in her absence. He even offered to clean the litterbox. When she is not onstage, Rebecca spends her free time traveling, reading, and working out. She feels lucky to be part of this ensemble of amazing actors and technical crew and hopes that you all enjoy the show.

Ken Ludwig (Playwright) 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.

Chelsie Correll (Costumer) is delighted to make her debut with Macon Little Theater. Recent shows include *The Royal Gambit*at Theatre Macon, Tyler Perry’s *Madea’s Farewell Stage Tour,*and various concert tours while here in Macon.

Sheniqua Freeman (Assistant Director) is a wife and mother and when she is not acting she enjoys spending time with her husband and son. Some of her MLT work includes the Addams Family, Ragtime, Hunchback of Notre Dame, and most recently Ronette in Little Shop of Horror. She is Chair of the Board of Directors here at MLT and loves all things theatre. She is excited and honored to be supporting such an amazingly talented cast.

JP Haynie (Artistic Director) This is JP’s second full season as Artistic Director here at MLT. JP graduated from Stratford Academy and Mercer (here in Macon) and has a master’s degree from UCF. Select credits include Film/tv: Men in Black III, The Good Wife, Boardwalk Empire, New York: Cat Gets Credit Card, Kriep, Regional: Thin Air Theatre Company, Canterbury Theatre, American Family Theatre, Seaside Music Theatre. After 12 years working in New York as an actor, JP returned to Macon in 2019 to start a family with his wife Ashlee. They welcomed their daughter Lumi in January of 2022 and cannot wait to get her on the same stage where her dad grew up.