



presents

**MURDER
ON THE
ORIENT
EXPRESS**

Agatha Christie

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

March 6-9, 2025
The Rylander Theatre

Director's Note

Published in 1934, *Murder on the Orient Express* is among Agatha Christie's most famous novels. Combining her first-hand experiences of the Orient Express, the world's most luxurious train, with a shocking kidnapping and murder case, Christie creates a compelling tale that invites us to consider our own understanding of law and justice.

Christie based her novel on the horrifying 1932 Lindbergh Baby case, in which the two-year old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh was abducted from their Long Island home and later found dead, even though Lindbergh had paid the ransom. Christie reimagines Charles Lindbergh, Jr. as Daisy Armstrong, the five-year old daughter of Colonel Armstrong and his wife. This case sets in motion the harrowing events that occur on the train, and Poirot is confronted with a baffling set of suspects and clues that keep the audience guessing to the very end.

Ken Ludwig's stage adaptation pays homage to this classic, injecting knowing humor that winks at the audience and that invites us to enjoy once again this most familiar of detective stories: the story that traps an improbable group of characters in a place they can't exit, with harrowing results. Helping us navigate the mysterious events is the consummate detective, Hercule Poirot, who applies his "little grey cells" to the crime, and, in solving it, restores order to the chaos unleashed by murder. Or does he? As Poirot says, "What a wonderful way to spend an evening!"

The cast and the technical crew brings together Sumter Players stalwarts and several new faces. Working with them has been a joy, and together we have created one of Sumter Players' most ambitious productions to date. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their talents and skills to creating this beautiful production. It has been a labor of love, and we hope you enjoy it.

Irmgard Schopen-Davis, Director

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

15 minute Intermission

Please visit George's Soda Fountain

Act II

Morning to mid-day



Photography or video recording of this show is strictly prohibited. Professional photographs from dress rehearsal will be shared via our website at: SumterPlayers.org

Our Cast

Hercule Poirot	Barry McConatha
Monsieur Bouc	Jacob Peed
Mary Debenham	Melanie Rigsby
Hector McQueen	Ray Smith
Michel the Conductor	Nathan Jackson
Princess Dragomiroff	Becca Jones
Greta Ohlsson	Madelyn Dunston
Countess Andrenyi	Jacqueline Devaney
Helen Hubbard	Nichole Walker
Colonel Arbuthnot	Brandon Price
Samuel Ratchett	Jesse Griffin
Head Waiter	Nathan Jackson
Mother	Lezlie Poole
Little Girl	Samantha Slenker
Father	Ashley Goodin
The Nanny	Madelyn Dunston
Man	Jesse Griffin
Eric Bryant	Conductor
Jennifer Pierson	Understudy for Greta Ohlsson & Princess Dragomiroff
Ashley Goodin	French Officer, Belgrade Radio Operator, Conductor

Our Crew and Production Staff

Director: Irmgard Schopen-Davis

Assistant Director: Lezlie Poole

Set Design: Irmgard Schopen-Davis, Katt Devaney

Set Construction and Decoration:

Martha Augood, Alan Brown, Ellen Cotter, Katt Devaney,
Elliot, Evan & Rebecca Ferguson; Bo Forehand, Gary Fisk,

Anne Jacobs, Kevin Mournighan,

Barry & Laura McConatha, Sharon McFarland,

Wendy Peacock, America Salvatore, Mark Simmons,
Shannon Valentine

Props: Martha Augood, Ellen Cotter, Laura McConatha

Marketing: Kristyn Griffin, Madelyn Dunston,
Laura McConatha, Alwen Yeung

Costumes: Susie Sernaker, Rebecca Ferguson

Hair: April Sampson

Makeup: Jennifer Hilton

Light Operation: Julia Walker

Sound Operator: Taylor Poe, Jasper Poole

Backstage/Tech Crew:

Wade Barr, Katt Devaney, Sophie Jenkins, Kevin Mournighan,
Jennifer Pierson, William Perry, Nigel Poole

Photography: Sydney Baker, Savannah Lowell

Set Load-in: Jaqueline Devaney, Katt Devaney, Martha Augood,
Wade Barr, Gary Fisk & Ellen Cotter, Rebecca Ferguson,

Bo Forehand, William Perry, Nathan Jackson, Mark Simmons,
Nichole Walker, Jacob Peed, Hudson Boothe,

Jesse & Kristyn Griffin, De Dantley, Anne Jacobs, Susie Sernaker,
Barry & Laura McConatha, Kevin Mournighan, Scott Leemis,

Irmgard Schopen-Davis, Jennifer Pierson

Special thanks to:

April's Hair Boutique

Thank you to our newest partner!



Funding to host the March 8th special SAM Shortline mystery dinner train came in part from a Vibrant Communities Grant from Georgia Council for the Arts. This first-ever partnership between Sumter Players and the SAM Shortline Excursion Train represents a focus area adopted as part of a 5 year strategic plan for Sumter Players – creating opportunities for engagement and collaboration.

SAM Shortline Dinner Train Excursion Cast

Lieutenant Timothy Allen, Alan Brown,
Rachel Cotton, Max Dyson, Natasha Ellis,
Rebecca Ferguson, Bo Forehand, Kim Fuller,
Laura McConatha, Josh & Katie Minich,
Tami Peavy Owen, Doyle Peek, Katelyn Poe,
America Salvatore, Vicky Szuflita,
Shannon Valentine, Sheila Yarbrough

SUMTER PLAYERS
WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SCAN NOW



We truly value your opinion, and will use your feedback to help us improve how we serve our community. Your responses are anonymous, so please share honestly. Thank you!



cordially invites you to attend the event of the year!

Steel Magnolias

Mother's Day Weekend

May 8, 9, 10 at 7 pm

May 11 at 2:30 pm

The Historic Rylander Theatre

Tickets go on sale April 8

Rylander.org

