

CASTING/AUDITION INFORMATION

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express

Adapted by Ken Ludwig
Directed by Dwight Chiles

PRODUCTION DATES:

Open Auditions: Feb 22 10am-4pm and Feb 23 1pm-5pm 2020

Callback Audition Date: TBD

Company Meeting/1st Rehearsal: July 26, 2020

First Tech: August 16, 2020

Performance Dates: August 22-September 5, 2020 (weekends only)

School Performances: None

SUMMARY OF SHOW:

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

AUDITOR(S): Dwight Chiles (Director)

CHARACTERS/CASTING NEEDS:

6 men, 5 women, 1 girl (10 years old)

Hercule Poirot (male) 55-65: a famous Belgian detective; a “Big” personality; authoritative, witty, charismatic and slightly pompous; driven to find the answers, good or bad, with a strong moral sense; very aware of his ability and his well deserved reputation.

Monsieur Bouc (male) 30-59: an English or French man of good humor; playful, proud, generous; a predilection for grandeur; a whirlwind of energy; must be an excellent comedian.

Mary Debenham (female) 30-40: an English beauty; a governess, capable yet romantic; a sadness around her eyes and a hardness about her person.

Hector MacQueen (male) 30-40: an American; tightly wound, edgy and nervous; he seems to always be on the verge of falling apart or coming unwound.

Michel the Conductor/Marcel (male) 35-59: one actor will play two roles: Michel: a good-looking Frenchman, about 40, a quiet, almost grave sense of humor; unfailingly polite; Marcel: a Turkish waiter, snooty, smooth; must have great comic timing.

Princess Dragomiroff (female) 60-79: a Russian dowager; very formal, a sweeping, impressive presence; imperial, impatient.

Greta Ohlsson (female) 25-60: inherently odd, and very devout Swedish woman; a frightened, sheeplike quality; must be an excellent comedienne with an impeccable Swedish accent.

Countess Andrenyi (female) 25-39: brilliantly beautiful, like something out of a fairytale; impeccably put together, with a warmth that wins over everyone she meets; her delicacy belies a steely edge; she is no wilting flower; Hungarian accent.

Helen Hubbard (female) 40-65: an outspoken and flamboyant American from the Midwest; jovial, obnoxious, domineering, deliciously nosy and brash; unapologetic; must be an excellent comedienne.

Colonel Arbuthnot (male) 35-59: Scotsman, also middle aged, handsome, very matter of fact, occasionally tender; must have great comic timing.

Samuel Ratchett (male) 35-59: middle-aged American businessman, evil at heart and frightening, brusque, unforgiving, stern demeanor; pushy, domineering.

Young Girl (female) 10: American

AUDITION PROCEDURES:

Professional actors should be prepared to present a monologue and have a headshot/resume that details their credentials. All actors should be prepared to read from the script. Actors may be asked to attend a callback audition at the discretion of the director.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS:

Rehearsals will be held at the Mountain Heritage Center located at 113 Green Mountain Drive in Burnsville and at Parkway Playhouse, located at 202 Green Mountain Drive. Performances will be at Parkway Playhouse. Any/all known conflicts should be disclosed prior to or at auditions and confirmed at the first company meeting.

Additional calls for the purposes of costume fittings, research, PR, and other issues pertaining to production will be scheduled as needed by the Production Manager/Stage Management.

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL DAYS AND TIMES:

Sundays-Thursdays 6:30pm

Saturdays 10am

Tech Week - Sunday-Friday 6pm

COMPENSATION:

Actors who present a professional audition and meet the associated criteria will be paid a modest stipend.

NOTIFICATION:

ASAP via email or phone call no later than March 31. Due to time constraints the theatre will only notify those persons we intend to cast. Actors may be asked to attend a callback audition at the discretion of the director.