

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express
by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Nick Albrecht
Performs March 13th – 15th, 2025

ABOUT THE 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 eight times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

Advisory: *Murder on the Orient Express* contains adult content in terms of staged violence and intimacy. Some actors may be asked to perform expressions of staged intimacy during the show, these will be blocked with industry practices and are indicated under the character descriptions. No violence or intimacy will be asked for at auditions.

Character Breakdown: (5 (or 6) Men, 5 Women)

Detective Hercule Poirot – Male - Age Range – 40's-65 - Accent - Belgian (think French-ish)

Poirot is fastidious, thorough, sometimes a tad ridiculous, incredibly observant, and intelligent. He is an observer of people, astute at analyzing why people behave as they do, and firmly believes that most crimes can be solved primarily by observation, psychology, and thinking them through. He values the rule of law above all else.

Monsieur Bouc – Male – Age Range – 40's-60's - Accent – Belgian (think French-ish)

Bouc is a middle-aged man with a youthful vigor and attitude. Gregarious, honest, and forthright, he puts his friends and customers above profit, although he is concerned about his company's image. He is not a match for Poirot in intelligence, however.

Mary Debenham – Female - Age Range – mid 20's-30's - Dialect – English (Received Pronunciation)

A governess. Anxious, but also cool and determined. Mary has a certain sadness about her, as well as many secrets. She is carrying on a secret affair with Colonel Arbuthnot. **(May need to kiss onstage.)**

Colonel Arbuthnot (may double as Samuel Ratchett) – Male - Age – 30s - Dialect – Scottish

A military man of the old-fashioned type, possibly old-money, and used to being obeyed without question. He is strong, charismatic, but also problematic in some of his personal views. Has a temper. **(May need to kiss onstage.)**

Hector McQueen – Male - Age Range – 23-35 - Dialect – American

Personal assistant and secretary to Samuel Ratchett, McQueen is a nervous character with a stutter that appears when he is especially anxious. Seems rather new to his profession. Talks a bit too much.

Michel (doubles as Head Waiter) – Male - Age Range – 40s - Accent – French (Michel) & Turkish (Head Waiter)

Competent and organized, Michel is the conductor for the first-class carriages of the Orient Express. Handles himself well in a crisis, and is very good at his job.

Note: This actor will double as the Head Waiter of the Tokatlian Hotel, and will also need to be able to do a Turkish accent.

Princess Dragomiroff – Female - Age Range – 60s-70s - Accent - Russian

Displaced Russian nobility. The Princess is a battleship: determined, arrogant, and accustomed to getting her way. She travels a great deal, and holds very decided opinions.

Greta Ohlsson – Female - Age Range – 30s - Accent – Swedish

A Catholic missionary and baby nurse, currently serving as a companion to Princess Dragomiroff. She would like to help small children in Africa. Deeply devout.

Countess Andrenyi – Female - Age Range – 25-35 - Accent – Hungarian

In addition to being married to a count, she also is a doctor. Educated, charming, and intelligent enough to match wits with Poirot. Must also be able to do an American dialect.

Helen Hubbard – Female - Age Range – 45-60 - Dialect – American

Not exactly what she seems, Hubbard comes across as a gregarious, loud, obnoxious American busybody who has been married multiple times. Must be able to sing and do a little dancing. Should also be able to pull off a cooler, more calculated version of this character with a very standard or even cultured American accent.

Samuel Ratchett (may double as Colonel Arbuthnot) – Male - Age Range – 35-50 - Dialect – American (New York)

A dangerous and unlikable man, full of entitlement, with a hair trigger temper. Must have a forceful personality, and come across as someone not to be trusted or crossed. As the murder victim, this actor may be required to remain on stage and still for an extended period of time.