

SGK LANDSCAPES  
AND STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENT

*Agatha Christie's*  
**MURDER ON THE  
ORIENT EXPRESS**



ADAPTED FOR  
THE STAGE BY  
KEN LUDWIG

DIRECTED BY JESSICA JOLLY

*AGATHA CHRISTIE'S*  
*"MURDER ON THE*  
*ORIENT EXPRESS"*

**ADAPTED FOR**  
**THE STAGE 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.**

*"Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express"*  
*is produced in special arrangement with*  
*Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.*

# THE CAST

HERCULE POIROT..... Paul Ruff  
MONSIEUR BOUC..... Thomas La Foe  
MRS. HUBBARD..... Cindy Ruff  
COUNTESS ANDRENYI ..... Mary Katherine Munn  
MICHEL / HEAD WAITER ..... Shane Tubbs  
COLONEL ARBUTHNOT..... Bradley Long  
MARY DEBENHAM ..... Caroline Court  
PRINCESS DRAGOMIROFF..... Madeline Golden  
GRETA OHLSSON ..... \*Reagan Hawkins\*  
HECTOR MACQUEEN..... Kylin Ellis  
SAMUEL RATCHETT..... Sean Dyess

*\*SCT Debut\**

## Featuring Additional Voiceovers by:

Ben Lang, Regan Plunkett, Yamil Hernandez Santos

&

**Anna Hudson Lang as “Daisy Armstrong”**

*There will be a 10-minute intermission  
between Act 1 and Act 2.*

# THE CREW

Director.....	Jessica Jolly
Assistant Director.....	Gabe Smith
Stage Manager.....	Emily Shand
Backstage Crew.....	Ramiya Ross, Emily Shand, and Gabe Smith
Lighting Operator.....	Lauren Trimm
Sound Operator.....	Gabbi Morelli
Scenic Design.....	Jessica Jolly
Costumes.....	Chris Harper
Lighting Design.....	Thomas La Foe
Sound Design.....	Gabe Smith
Props.....	Emily Shand
Poster Design.....	Jessica Jolly
Box Office.....	Paige Hunt, Cam McMillen, Gabe Smith, and Marsha Williams
Promotional Photography.....	Dianna Janus
Opening Night Party.....	Jansen Fair and Terry McDowell

## SET CONSTRUCTION

Cast and Crew, Wayne Durst, Liam Haug, Marty Haug,  
Michelle Jolly, Tony Jolly, Regan Plunkett, Dwayne Wise

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## ABOUT KEN LUDWIG

Ken Ludwig has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals are staged around the world and throughout the United States every night of the year.

His first play, "Lend Me a Tenor", won two Tony Awards & was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by The Washington Post. "Crazy For You" is currently on London's West End. It was previously on Broadway for 5 years, on the West End for 3, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award & the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year. His other plays include "Moon Over Buffalo", "Leading Ladies", "Baskerville", "Sherwood", "Twentieth Century", "Dear Jack, Dear Louise", "A Fox on the Fairway", "A Comedy of Tenors", "The Game's Afoot", "Shakespeare in Hollywood" and "Murder on the Orient Express". They have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Kristen Bell, Tony Shalhoub, Joan Collins & Henry Goodman.

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 on theatre are published in the Yale Review. He gives the Annual Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and he served on the Board of Governors for the Folger Shakespeare Library for ten years. His first opera, "Tenor Overboard", opened at the Glimmerglass Festival in 2022. Recent world premieres were "Lend Me A Soprano" and "Moriarty", & his newest plays & musicals include "Pride and Prejudice Part 2: Napoleon at Pemberley" & "Lady Molly of Scotland Yard".

His plays include commissions from the Agatha Christie Estate, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe Theatre, and the Bristol Old Vic. For more information visit [www.kenludwig.com](http://www.kenludwig.com).

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **Caroline Court (Mary Debenham)**

Caroline is thrilled to be aboard the Orient Express! She is a senior Aerospace engineering major at Mississippi State University who hopes to be an astronaut one day. A few of Caroline's favorite roles she has played are Jo March in "Little Women - The Musical" and Jerrie Cobb in "They Promised Her The Moon." She would like to thank her castmates for all the laughs and antics backstage; her director Jessy for the long nights (and early mornings); Gabe Smith for all the encouragement; and her girlfriend Emily for everything she does, on and off stage. Let's go on with the show!

### **Sean Dyess (Samuel Ratchett)**

Sean is excited to be on the SCT stage once again, having appeared in shows such as "Clue", "Into the Woods" and "Greater Tuna" in years past. He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support, especially his daughters Arianna and Zoë.

### **Kylin Ellis (Hector MacQueen)**

Kylin is a sophomore at Starkville High School making his second appearance in a SCT Production. He is very excited to preform with this great cast and crew.

### **Madeline Golden (Princess Dragomiroff)**

Madeline is happy to return to the SCT stage as the old goat, errr Royal Princess of the Orient Express cast! And while it is her character's nature to suffer no fools,

## ABOUT THE CAST

describe others as bird brains and proclaim, “You’rrrrreee drrrriving me crrrrazzy,” she could not enjoy her castmates more! “I’ve loved working with some of my favorite SCT family, and getting to welcome so many new ones to our fold. We’ve had a wonderful time bringing this classic story to life and I hope you enjoy! The arts are so important, now more than ever! We appreciate your support of SCT and look forward to entertaining you for years to come.”

### **Reagan Hawkins (Greta Ohlsson)**

Rea is excited to make her debut with SCT. Though new to the area, she has performed in many productions with various theatre companies, including portraying Belle in "Beauty and the Beast". When not on stage, Rea works as a Board Operator and Audio Engineer on the radio. She would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to her fiancé for his unwavering support.

### **Thomas La Foe (Monsieur Bouc)**

Working on numerous shows backstage and on, traveling across the country and winning technical and directing awards here and there, Thomas is thrilled to be back onstage again bringing Constantine Bouc to life at SCT. “Thank you to my fellow cast mates and the crew for all the work it has taken to get us here. And thank you Jessica and Gabe for pulling all of this together.” In his life away from the theatre, Thomas is the Technology and Innovation Director at the MaxxSouth Digital Media Center at the MSU Library.

# ABOUT THE CAST

## **Bradley Long (Colonel Arbuthnot)**

Bradley is excited to take the SCT stage again and perform with such incredible talent. He was previously seen in this season's productions of "The Producers" and "On the Verge". Bradley thanks his family and friends for their continued support of his acting and reluctant acceptance of his "accent".

## **Mary Katherine Munn (Countess)**

Mary Katherine is excited to be appearing back on the SCT stage. She thanks everyone involved in putting on this production and creating a wonderful environment to be a part of. She would also like to acknowledge and thank her family for their never ending support.

## **Cindy Ruff (Mrs. Hubbard)**

Cindy is an SCT veteran who has graced our stage more times than she might wish to count. Some favorite past performances include "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", "The Drowsy Chaperone", and "The Dixie Swim Club". Lately, she's been on kind of a "death kick", with her last three SCT shows being "Clue", "Blithe Spirit", and now this! She has also served on various SCT committees and loves to host a cast party. She would like to thank everyone in the cast for making this process so much fun & also Jessica & the crew for all the hard work.

## **Paul Ruff (Hercule Poirot)**

Paul has been involved in over 50 productions at SCT to date. He has also served in several administrative roles,



## ABOUT THE CAST

but MUCH prefers to be on stage. He always enjoys working with fresh talent and got to meet some great new folks this time. He also thinks that Jessica has been amazing as a first-time director. He'd like to thank the cast and crew for making this an incredible experience. And, as always, to Cindy - "I love you, babe!"

### **Shane Tubbs (Michel / Head Waiter)**

Beginning in 2010 with Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth" (Tom Jr.), Shane has appeared in seven Williams' Tribute shows in nearby Columbus, and a gaggle of shows for Columbus Arts Council and MUW. This is his 4th production with SCT, and he hopes for many, many more. Shane is an actor, musician and songwriter, skateboarder, gaming speed-runner, handyman, and a proud husband/dad.

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Directing "Murder on the Orient Express" has been an incredible experience, and I can only hope we have made Agatha Christie proud. I am so grateful for this cast and crew and the dedication they have shown every step of the way, their willingness to volunteer their time, and the hard work and patience they've shown with me as a first-time director.

A special thank you to my assistant director, Gabe, for his guidance; my parents for their constant encouragement; my stage manager, Emily, for keeping everything running smoothly; and my dog, Pepper, for still wagging her tail when I come home at midnight after another long night of painting the set.

Thank you for being here and joining us on this journey.  
I hope you enjoy the show!

— Jessica Jolly

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