

OPEN AUDITIONS

Monday, February 3

Tuesday, February 4

[Reserve an audition spot.](#)

PRE-AUDITION WORKSHOP:

Sunday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. (optional)

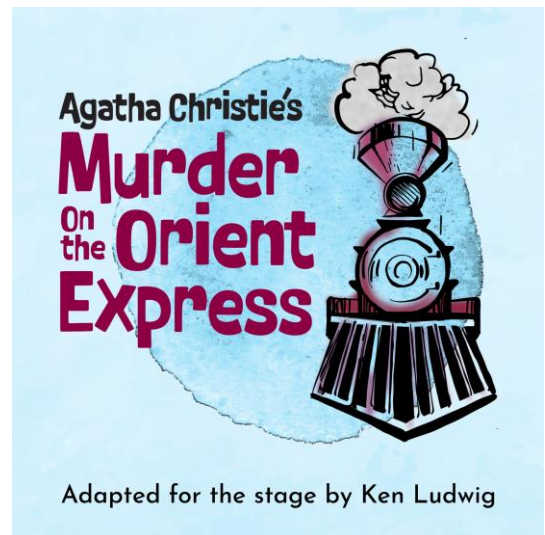
[Register for the workshop.](#)

CALLBACKS: February 5

REHEARSALS: February 9 – March 19

PERFORMANCES: March 20 – April 6

DIRECTOR: Ray Ficca



ABOUT THE SHOW: In 1934, the famed Orient Express is hurtling from Istanbul through wintry western Europe, with iconic detective Hercule Poirot among the passengers. The train becomes stuck in a snowdrift in Yugoslavia, and morning reveals an even more chilling discovery: an American tycoon found stabbed to death in his locked compartment. Over two terrifying days, Poirot investigates the eight suspects for this shocking crime, following the tracks of blackmail and revenge to the tragedy of a murdered child. All aboard for this classic murder mystery!

ROLES AVAILABLE: There are 10 roles (five men, five women).

- **Hercule Poirot:** Male, 50s-60s. The Inspector. Passport from Belgium. Occupation: Detective. Meticulous and exacting, Poirot is a keen observer of detail and an astute judge of character. Certain that the crime was committed by someone on the train, he confidently and patiently works his way to a shocking solution.
- **Samuel Ratchett/Colonel Arbuthnot:** Male, mid-30s. A double role.
 - **Samuel Ratchett:** Also Bruno Cassetti, the victim. Passport from the United States. A brusque businessman. Unforgiving, with a threatening demeanor and a whiplash of a voice. He's made plenty of enemies... almost everyone has wished him dead.
 - **Colonel Arbuthnot:** Passport from Scotland. Occupation: Colonel. Handsome and very matter-of-fact. He's hopelessly in love with Mary. Would he kill for her?

THE SUSPECTS

- **Countess Eléna Andrenyi:** Female, late 20s-30s. Passport from Hungary. Occupation: Royalty. She is out of a fairytale, brilliantly beautiful and always dressed to the nines in furs and diamonds. She seems too good to be true – but is she a murderer?
- **Monsieur Bouc:** Male, 40-50. Passport from Belgium. Occupation: Gentleman. A man of good humor, he is an old friend of Poirot's. He appears removed from the crime, often acting as Poirot's sounding board, but no one on the train is above suspicion.
- **Mary Debenham:** Female, late 20s. Passport from England. Occupation: Governess. An English beauty, she bears a certain sadness in her eyes. When she first appears, she is very anxious. Perhaps she is harboring a terrible secret.
- **Princess Natalya Dragomiroff:** Female, 60s-70s. Passport from Russia. Occupation: Royalty. She enters her compartment "like a galleon in full sail." Expensively dressed and handsomely bejeweled, she certainly wouldn't need to kill for money. But might she have another motive?
- **Michel/Head Waiter:** Male, 40s-50. A double role.
 - **Michel:** Passport from France. Occupation: Train conductor. Good-looking and with a quiet, almost grave sense of humor. He's seen a lot in his years on the Orient Express, and he knows his way around the train, making him particularly well-positioned to get away with murder.
 - **Head Waiter:** Occupation: Head waiter on the Orient Express. Professional in demeanor, he is knowledgeable and a bit overconfident. Mystery fans know it's a cliché, but never rule out the possibility that The Butler Did It.
- **Helen Hubbard:** Female, 50s. Passport from the United States. Occupation: Widow. Outspoken and well-dressed with a touch of flamboyance, she's a tough-talking broad with rough edges and a bold sense of humor. She seems the least likely to commit murder, but is there something about her that the others don't know?
- **Hector MacQueen:** Male, 30s. Passport from the United States. Occupation: Personal secretary and translator. Nervous, with a strained, rather beleaguered face, he appears to be suppressing something. Perhaps he knows more than he is willing to tell.
- **Greta Ohlsson:** Female, 30s-50s. Passport from Sweden. Occupation: Nurse and missionary. Plain and modest, she has a frightened, sheep-like quality about her. There is something odd about this woman. Could she be harboring a deadly secret?

PRE-AUDITION WORKSHOP: There will be a free, optional, pre-audition workshop on Sunday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. Led by director Ray Ficca, this practical workshop is ideal for both newcomers and experienced performers to meet the show's creative team, learn about the audition process, and practice your monologue. [Register for the workshop.](#)

AUDITIONS & CALLBACKS: Auditions will be held on Monday, February 3 and Tuesday, February 4. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Please prepare a one-minute monologue. [Reserve an audition spot.](#) For those who are called back, callbacks will be held on Wednesday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m.

You may check out a copy of the script from the box office for one week with a \$10 refundable deposit. Please call ahead to make sure a script is in stock. Scripts checked out the week before auditions must be returned by 2 p.m. on Friday, January 31.

No experience is necessary. Newcomers and theatre veterans alike are welcome and encouraged to audition. If you are unable to attend the scheduled auditions, please contact the Theatre at (352) 236-2274 about making a separate appointment. Be prepared at auditions to list any conflicts with the rehearsal schedule.

If you need any specific accommodations to audition, please contact Craig James, Director of Guest Services and Operations, at (352) 236-2274, ext. 102, or cjames@ocalacivictheatre.com to make your request. Examples of accommodations made in the past are a wheelchair-accessible audition space, large-print materials, prompters in the audition room, volunteers to help fill out forms, and auditions by appointment.

REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES: Rehearsals will begin with a table read of the script on Sunday, February 9. Rehearsals are Sunday through Thursday. Sunday rehearsals are 5:30-9:30 p.m., while Monday through Thursday rehearsals are 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tech rehearsals are March 13-15, with an all-day tech rehearsal on Saturday, March 15. Dress rehearsals are March 17-19. There will be 15 public performances, Thursdays through Sundays, March 20 – April 6 at OCT.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN CASTING: As we strive to make choices that reflect the best of our community, showcasing the incredible talent and rich diversity, there is always more to learn and more to do. As members of this community, we prioritize our continuous education, reflection, and action. OCT is committed to casting diverse artists who reflect the demographics of our city and our society.

OCT POLICY: All cast and crew ages 16+ will be subject to a background check. This is required for shows with anyone age 15 or younger in the cast.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR: **Ray Ficca** has been an actor, director, and producer in the Washington, D.C. area for 35 years. With more than 150 professional productions to his credit, his regional theater highlights include *The Sunshine Boys*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *The Complete History of America (Abridged)*, *Sylvia*, *Proposals*, *The Underpants*, *The Cotton Patch Gospel*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *I Hate Hamlet*; *Bell, Book, and Candle*; *Barnum*; *Red, White and Tuna*; *Honus and Me* (Totem Pole Playhouse, Fayetteville, PA); *Anything Goes* (Olney Theatre, MD); *The Baltimore Waltz* (Keegan Theatre, DC), *Proof* (1st Stage, VA), *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Wayside Theatre, VA), *Rough Crossing* (Metro Stage, VA), *Barefoot in the Park* (Theater on the Hill, MD), *How to Write a New Book for the Bible* (Round House Theatre, MD), *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* (Next Stop Theatre Co., VA), *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding* (Mechanic Theatre, MD & Hanna Theatre, OH), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Way Off Broadway Theatre, MD), and *Sleeping and Waking* (Charter Theatre, DC). Ray has also appeared in several films by noted sitcom director John Putch, including *Route 30, Too!*; *Route 30 3*, and *The Father and the Bear*. Most recently, he reunited with John in Asheville, NC, for Hallmark Channel's *A Biltmore Christmas*, which premiered in November 2023. Ray served as Artistic Director of Totem Pole Playhouse from 2008-2013. He is the President of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Washington, D.C. Learn more at rayficca.com.

CALLING ALL CREW FOR *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*

We need crew for *Murder On the Orient Express*! This may include a stage manager, assistant stage managers; sound, light board, spotlight, and rigging operators; deck crew, costume dressers, and more. No prior experience is necessary.

Crew will begin attending rehearsals on March 12. The show runs March 20 to April 6. All crew members must be 16 or older and are required to work all performances.

Interested? Please contact Craig James, Director of Guest Services & Operations, at (352) 236-2274, ext. 102, or cjames@ocalacivictheatre.com.