

## **LTA Announces Auditions for *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express***

By Agatha Christie, adapted by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Stefan Sittig

Produced by Kadira Coley and Luana Bossolo

*Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com).

### **Audition Location & Dates**

The Little Theatre of Alexandria  
600 Wolfe St., Alexandria, VA 22314

**Saturday, December 16, 1- 4 pm**

**Sunday, December 17, 1-4 pm**

**Click here to sign up for an audition slot:** [AUDITIONS SIGN UP](#)

**Auditions will be held in the Academy Space and Green Room.**

**Please download, complete, and bring your [audition form](#).**

**Callbacks:** Monday, December 18, 7:00 PM; *by Invitation Only*

**First read-through and costume measurements:** December 19, 20 or 21 at 7:00 PM  
(Date will be determined based on the cast conflict schedules.)

**Rehearsals:** January 17 through March 21, 2024

**Performance Dates:** March 23 – April 13, 2024

(Performances are Wednesdays through Sundays. LTA has three Partners in Performing Arts nights reserved for private performances for local organizations for Friday, March 22, Tuesday, March 26, and Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The cast is asked to hold Tuesday, April 9 for a possible makeup performance due to inclement weather or Covid.) Tuesday through Saturday performances are at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3:00 p.m.

If you cannot make in-person auditions and would like to submit a video audition, please email the producers.

**For questions regarding this production and auditions, please email producers:  
Luana Bossolo [luanabossolo@gmail.com](mailto:luanabossolo@gmail.com) and Kadira Coley [giggles5677@gmail.com](mailto:giggles5677@gmail.com).**

### **Audition Notes:**

Actors are asked to prepare a monologue (no longer than 60 seconds), showing their acting range and ability to inhabit a character. Actors should also be ready to do cold readings from the script as requested. This play has several characters who speak in dialect, so if you have proficiency in Belgian, British, Swedish, Scottish, French, Russian, and Hungarian

dialects, please be ready to demonstrate that during your audition, either during or after your monologue.

Please bring a headshot and resume, if you have them, and be ready to list all conflicts on a provided schedule. Rehearsals will usually be held Monday– Thursday nights and weekend afternoons until tech week depending on director and cast conflicts.

**No rehearsals during the holiday period of December 23-January 1.**

### **Synopsis:**

Famous detective Hercule Poirot is called back from Istanbul to London on urgent business. He intends to book a first-class compartment on the Orient Express, run by his former friend and colleague, Monsieur Bouc. The train is surprisingly full, but Bouc manages to secure Poirot a spot in the first-class cabin. While aboard the Orient Express, Poirot meets a host of peculiar characters: an aging Russian princess, her Swedish companion, a Hungarian countess, a Minnesota housewife, a Scottish colonel, an English governess, a French conductor, a disagreeable American businessman, and his anxious secretary. While aboard the train, the angry businessman, Samuel Ratchett, corners Poirot and demands Poirot to investigate a series of ominous letters that have been sent to Ratchett, threatening his life.

As a snowdrift halts the Orient Express in its tracks, Ratchett is found stabbed multiple times in his locked train compartment. Poirot is tasked by Monsieur Bouc to solve the murder, as the killer could still be in their midst. As Poirot investigates, conflicting clues and convoluted alibis lead him to dead ends. Over the course of 48 hours, will Poirot be able to solve the case of the Murder on the Orient Express?

**Casting 11 actors to play characters described in detail below.** Actors do not need to be the chronological age of the characters but need to be able to accurately portray the listed age range(s).

### **Character Breakdown – Casting**

**Hercule Poirot (40s-60s)** 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. Dialect required.

**Monsieur Bouc (30s-60s):** A Belgian man of good humor; playful, proud, generous; a predilection for grandeur; a whirlwind of energy; must be an excellent comedian. Friend of Poirot. Dialect required.

**Mary Debenham (30s-40s):** An English woman; a governess, capable yet romantic; a sadness around her eyes and a hardness about her person. Dialect required.

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

**Michel the Conductor/Marcel (30s-60s):** One actor will play two roles: Michel: a good-looking Frenchman, with a quiet, almost grave sense of humor; unfailingly polite; Marcel: a Turkish waiter, snooty, smooth; must have great comic timing. Dialects required.

**Princess Dragomiroff (50s-70s):** A Russian dowager; very formal, a sweeping, impressive presence; imperial, impatient. Dialect required.

**Greta Ohlsson (20s-60s):** Inherently odd, and very devout Swedish woman; a frightened, sheeplike quality; must be an excellent comedienne with an impeccable Swedish accent—dialect required.

**Countess Andrenyi (30s-40s):** Hungarian, 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; Dialect required.

**Helen Hubbard (40s-60s):** An outspoken and flamboyant American from the Midwest; jovial, obnoxious, domineering, deliciously nosy, and brash; unapologetic; must be an excellent comedienne.

**Colonel Arbuthnot (40s-50s):** Scotsman, also middle-aged, handsome, very matter-of-fact, occasionally tender; must have great comic timing. Dialect required.

**Samuel Ratchett (40s-60s):** A middle-aged American businessman, evil at heart and frightening, brusque, unforgiving, stern demeanor; pushy, domineering.

### **Audition Notes**

LTA is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. As such, we encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, abilities, and ages, as well as d/Deaf, to attend every audition.

Those cast must be, or become, members of the Little Theatre of Alexandria at the performers' rate (\$20), or higher if desired. This membership helps to defray the cost of LTA's liability insurance and entitles you to a ticket to give to a friend or family member for this show. If this membership presents a financial hardship, please notify the producers, as exceptions can be made.