CASCADES THEATRICAL COMPANY PRESENTS

THE MOUSETRAP

By Agatha Christie



MAR 28 - APR 13, 2025 THUR-SAT 7:30PM & SUN 2PM 541.389.0803

DIRECTED BY RICHARD CHOATE

"THE MOUSETRAP" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM



ABOUT THE WRITER: AGATHA CHRISTIE

Agatha Christie is known throughout the world as the Queen of Crime. Her books have sold over a billion copies in English with another billion in foreign languages. She is the most published author of all time and, in many languages, outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She is the author of 66 crime novels, 150 short stories, over 20 plays, and six novels written under the name Mary Westmacott. Her work includes *Murder on the Orient Express, Death on the Nile*, and the genredefining *And Then There Were None*.

The Mousetrap, her most successful play of all, opened in 1952 and is the longest-running play in history.

Agatha Christie was made a dame in 1971. She passed away peacefully from at the age of 85, on January 12,

1976 from natural causes.
She was at her home
'Winterbrook House' in
Winterbrook, Wallingford,
Oxfordshire at the time of her
passing. Her final resting place
is alongside her husband Sir
Max, in the churchyard of
St Mary's, Cholsey.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

My introduction to Agatha Christie was *The Mousetrap*. I played Mr. Paravicini in my Junior year of high school. That either says something about the enduring quality of Dame Agatha's works or my dogged attempt to "get it right".

The Mousetrap is a play a lot of people know about but don't remember if they've seen. There is some justification for this confusion. Of all Agatha Christie's stories, this is the only one that has never been recreated for either television or film. If you want to see this story, you must attend the theater.

The play opened in 1952 in the West End of London and has played continuously – with only a short hiatus during COVID – since then. That makes it the longest running play in London with nearly 30,000 performances to date. The fact that it's still running is a problem for some.

Agatha Christie, in her own personal correspondence, said the play would probably run for eight months. In the agreement with the theater, she provided that a radio, television or film version of the play would not be produced while the play ran in the West End. Needless to say, that agreement has never been altered and no production, other than stage, has been produced.

The popularity of Agatha Christie is because she was the master of what she did. Her book, And Then There Were None, is the sixth most sold book of all time. Readers and audiences continue to try and figure out "whodunit." She has spawned literally thousands of mystery writers, myself included. While working on my MFA in Creative Writing, I chose Mystery as the genre I wanted to focus on. One can learn a lot from Agatha Christie.

Our only request, besides enjoy the show, is once you know the ending keep it to yourself. Those who haven't seen the show will appreciate it.

Richard Choate Director

PLAY SYNOPSIS

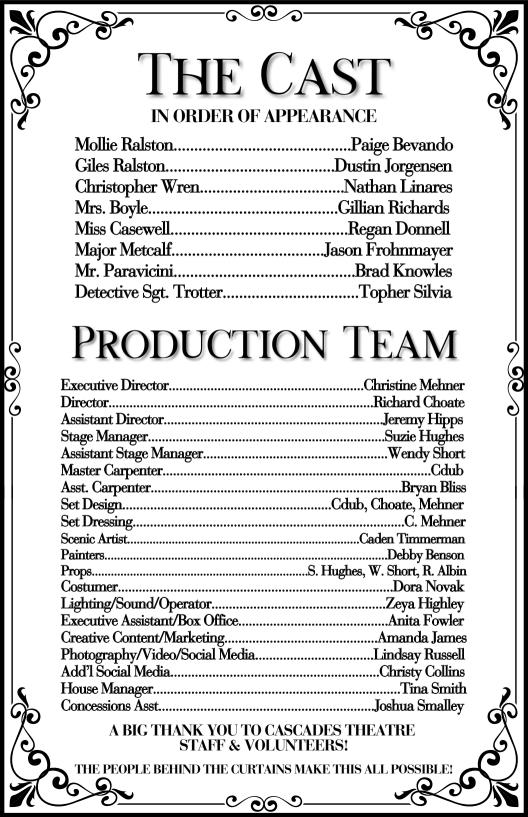
After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded during a snowstorm. It soon becomes clear that the killer is among them, and the seven strangers grow increasingly suspicious of one another. A police detective, arriving on skis, interrogates the suspects: the newlyweds running the house, a spinster with a curious background, an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef, a retired Army major, a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift, and a jurist who makes life miserable for everyone. When a second murder takes place, tensions and fears escalate. This record-breaking murder mystery features a brilliant surprise finish from Dame Agatha Christie, the foremost mystery writer of her time.

SETTING

London Countryside, 1952 Monkswell Manor Guest House

RUNTIME

Approximately 2 hours, including one intermission.



MEET THE CAST



Paige Bevando as Mollie Ralston

Paige returns to the stage as Mollie Ralston, a role her mother once played in high school. A Bend native, her passion for the theatre ignited in local productions at the age of nine. Recent stage credits include *Noises Off* and *La Cage aux Folles* (CTC), *Last Train to Nibroc* and *Here on the Flight Path* (ETC). Beyond the stage, Ms. Bevando dedicates her time to mentoring with Big Brothers Big Sisters and volunteering at St. Charles Oncology Center as a Reiki practitioner. She especially enjoys exploring the complexities of human nature, especially when a story has a twist.



Dustin Jorgensen as Giles Ralston

Dustin returns to the stage for his third production with Cascades Theatrical Company as Giles Ralston, the charming yet increasingly suspicious co-proprietor of Monkswell Manor. CTC audiences may remember him as Britt Craig in *Parade* or Mortimer in *The Fantasticks*. When he's not wrapped up in murder mysteries on stage, he also enjoys musical theatre, opera, and choral singing. He recently performed with Thoroughly Modern Productions in *Chicago* and *Cabaret* and sings regularly with the Central Oregon Mastersingers. Dustin would like to thank his family for their endless support of his musical and theatrical pursuits.



Nathan Linares as Christopher Wren

This has been an exciting year of theater for Nathan. He just gets to play himself in every role he has gotten and gets to add more to each character. Nathan is grateful and excited to play Christopher, a role that he can do, and he doesn't have to fake it. The fun of it all is Nathan's charisma, confidence, and his expressive personality make Christopher come alive naturally. The fun has only begun, let's continue the streak.



Gillian Richards as Mrs. Boyle

Gillian is delighted to join the incredible cast and crew of *The Mousetrap* for her debut on stage. Having witnessed her three children's growth through the Summit Theatre Company, she is eager to follow in their footsteps. When not on stage, Gillian feeds her soul through journeying beside her fellow veterans in her acupuncture clinic and getting healthy doses of Central Oregon's ample Vitamin N (nature). She is especially grateful for the steadfast support of her husband and kids, and the gracious guidance of our inspiring director, seasoned performers, and outstanding crew.



MEET THE CAST



Regan Donnell as Miss Casewell

Previous roles include Lydia in Shakespeare in Hollywood, Elsa in Go Back for Murder, Lucy in Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors, and now, Miss Casewell in The Mousetrap. Per Regan, "Theater, through its eclectic, accepting and uniquely talented community, has irrevocably changed me. I will be forever grateful to those that have contributed to my growth. A special thank you to those who support local theater, without which. I would almost certainly be up to no good."



Jason Frohnmayer as Major Metcalf

Jason is pleased to make his Central Oregon debut. Other regional credits include Senator 2 (guest artist) in the musical Spin at Oregon State U; in Portland, Peter in Dog Opera at 2-Boards, Colin in Christmas Revels, Otis in the musical Appalachian Ebeneezer at ART, The Man (guest artist) in Crackwalker, The Man (no relation) in Handler, and Len in Book of Days at the Actors Conservatory. In film: Rudy in The Question by Endless Sky Productions and Jonathan in Contingent by Sampo Films. Jason is an alumnus of both the Jefferson Acting Ensemble and the Portland Actors



Brad Knowles as Mr. Paravicini

Conservatory.

Recent audiences may remember Brad pulling double duty as Van Helsing and Mina in *Dracula: A Cornedy of Terrors* and as Philip Blake in Christie's *Go Back for Murder*. Brad's performance experience spans theater, stand-up comedy, and improv. He is delighted to be part of this production of *The Mousetrap* and he thanks you for attending. Without you his performance would be just a sad cry for attention in front of a mirror with the on-look of a very confused dog.



Topher Silvia as Detective Sgt. Trotter

Topher is thrilled to be portraying Detective Sergeant Trotter in *The Mousetrap*! A huge Agatha Christie fan, he's especially excited to bring one of her classic mysteries to the stage. When not performing on stage, he plays tuba in the Bend Pops Orchestra. This is his first production with Cascades Theatrical Company, and he's grateful for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew. He gives a big thanks to his friends, family, and everyone who made this experience so rewarding!



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Richard Choate - Director

Directed the very successful production of *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* at Cascades Theatrical Company. He then had the privilege of appearing with his daughter, Molly, in TMP's production of *Cabaret*. Richard appeared as Robert in Greenhouse Cabaret's production of *Proof*. He directed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (abridged) (revised) (again), for Greenhouse Cabaret and *Fiddler on the Roof, Noises Off* and *You Can't Take It with You* for Cascades Theatrical Company. Richard came to Central Oregon from Minnesota in 2015 and has been involved in its theater community ever since. *The Mousetrap* is his 16th production.



Jeremy Hipps - Assistant Director

From crime in the streets to crime in the seats, Jeremy is thrilled to be Assistant Director of his second full-length show. A former police officer, and someone who jokes that he had worked 30 jobs by 30, Jeremy is happy to bring his diverse life experience to the Bend theater scene. He recently was Assistant Director for CTC's Grand Horizons under Desi Thrower and has worked on many sets for CTC (Fiddler on the Roof, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Winter Wonderettes, The Prom and Grand Horizons). He is grateful to Bend's theater community, and to Richard and Chris M. for this learning opportunity as he pursues his dream of directing a full-length show. He is thankful for his wife, Elizabeth's, continued encouragement and support.



Suzie Hughes - Stage Manager

Suzie moved to Bend from the San Francisco Bay Area where she was a stage manager in community theater for over 15 years. Here in Bend, she has worked with Shore Thing Productions (*Les Misérables*), BEAT Children's Theatre, Central Oregon Symphony, Mejaski Productions, Cascades Theatrical Company (*Fiddler on the Roof, Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*) and Ellipse Theatre Community (*Craig Fox Had a Wife*).



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Wendy Short (Assistant Stage Manager). As a long-term lover of Agatha, Wendy is excited to be back on the team for another twisty murder mystery. Previous Christie credits include *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Spider's Web* as Stage Manager and *Black Coffee* as Costume Designer. Non-Agatha Christie credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Crew), *Something Rotten* (Crew), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Stage Manager), *She Loves Me* (Crew), and *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Crew). Many thanks to a long-

suffering husband for his love and support.

Wendy Short - Assist. Stage Manager



Dora Novak - Costume Designer Dora grew up in Iowa and recently moved to Bend after a 10-year career in New York. Dora has designed and constructed costumes in NYC and LA. Most notably she's worked at the Metropolitan Opera, films The Irishman, West Side Story, and TV shows Gilded Age and Vinyl. Locally, you can also see her work with Ponderosa Players, OperaBend, and Greenhouse Cabaret. She is grateful for the experience of designing The Mousetrap and hopes you enjoy the direction in which she took the costumes. Working for CTC and Richard has given her artistic freedom, and she is thankful to the cast and crew for their support and trust. Inspired by the words of Agatha Christie, she had the actors' costumes represent characters from Alice in Wonderland — see if you can pick them out!



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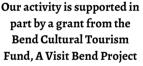












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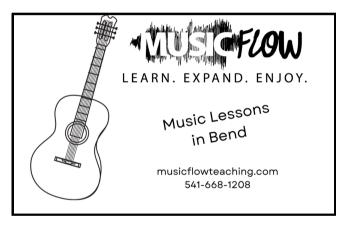




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Founded in 1978, Cascades Theatrical Company is the oldest performing arts theatre in Central Oregon. CTC laid the foundation for the theatre groups performing today and it is the only volunteer-based community theatre. We connect community by creating equal opportunity for all who want to participate in the education, collaboration, performance, and production of the Performing Arts. We are a theater for all. Cascades Theatrical Company is a 501[c][3] non-profit organization. We are a membership organization, where most of our productions, on and offstage, are created by volunteers.

Volunteer

Cascade Theatrical Company is almost entirely volunteer-run. We're is always looking for passionate people to help take our theatre and talent to the next level! Have you been looking for a way to help CTC, but weren't sure how? How about helping on our Membership Committee? If you're artistic, why not help construct our sets or design sound and lighting for our productions? Perhaps you're looking to direct, stage manage or work behind the scenes as part of our crew. No amount of help is too small or too great! Now is the perfect opportunity to share your talents and skills and help ensure CTC's success for another 40 years! please

volunteer@cascadestheatrical.org for more information!

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We would appreciate our audience of The Mousetrap to fill out a short online survey about the show to share your praise, opinions, observations, critiques, etc.

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