

ABC PLAYERS PLAY PROPOSAL FORM
2025-2026

Play: Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express

Author: Agatha Christie; Adapted by Ken Ludwig

Director: TJ Johnston

Check Preferred Time(s): ☒ Fall ☐ December ☐ Winter ☐ Spring

Cast Requirements: (provide number needed)

5 Men, 5 Women

Plot Synopsis:

It's Winter 1934 and an avalanche stops The Orient Express dead in its tracks. A murder. A train full of suspects. An impossible case. Trapped in the snow with a killer still on-board, can the world's most famous detective, Hercule Poirot, crack the case before the train reaches its final destination?

Duration	Target Audience
More than 120 minutes (2 hours)	Appropriate for All Audiences

Unusual Technical Aspects (set, costuming, music, lighting, dialect, etc.):

Optional European Accents.

Names/Positions of Committed Staff (Optional):

TJ Johnston - Director

Jodi MacNeil – Assistant Director/Stage Manager/Awesome Person

Budget Estimates:

Costumes	\$ 150	Royalties	\$ 390
Lights	\$ 400	Scripts	\$ 145
Programs	\$ 30	Set	\$ 300
Props	\$ 0	Sound Effects/Video	\$ 0
Publicity	\$ 0	TOTAL	\$ 1405

Characters/Roles:

Detective Hercule Poirot

Gender – Male

Age Range – 40-65

Accent - Belgian

Analysis: Iconic character. Agatha Christie's most famous detective. Poirot is fastidious, thorough, a touch ridiculous, and incredibly observant and intelligent. He is both arrogant and humble to fault. 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 intelligence and the rule of law above all else.

Monsieur Bouc

Gender – Male

Age Range – 40-64

Accent - Belgian

Analysis: The owner of Wagon Lit, Orient Express. 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.

Colonel Arbuthnot (DOUBLE as Samuel Ratchett)

Gender – Male

Age Range – 30s

Accent - Scottish accent

Analysis: 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.

Samuel Ratchett (DOUBLE as Colonel Arbuthnot)

Gender – Male

Age Range – 35-50

Accent – American (mobster – possibly Brooklyn or Chicago-style)

Analysis: 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.

Mary Debenham

Gender – Female

Age Range – mid 20s-30s

Accent - English (standard)

Analysis: 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.

Hector McQueen

Gender – Male

Age Range – 23-35

Accent – American

Analysis: 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 (DOUBLE as Head Waiter)

Gender – Male

Age Range – 40s

Accent – French (Michel)

Analysis: 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.

Head Waiter (DOUBLE as Michel)

Gender – Male

Age Range – 40s

Accent – Turkish

Analysis: Head waiter of the Tokatlian Hotel. Competent and organized, very good at his job.

Princess Dragomiroff

Gender – Female

Age Range – 60s-70s

Accent - Russian

Analysis: 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

Gender – Female

Age Range – 30s

Accent – Swedish

Analysis: 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. This character may be funny but should not be played as a caricature for laughs.

Countess Andrenyi

Gender – Female

Age Range – 25-35

Accent - Hungarian

Analysis: In addition to being married to a count (and thus, nobility), she also is a doctor. Beautiful, educated, charming, and intelligent enough to match wits with Poirot. Must also be able to do an American accent.

Helen Hubbard

Gender – Female

Age Range – 45-60

Accent - American

Analysis: 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.