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to be!

The Amarillo Little Theatre  
proudly presents

## Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

# MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS



**"All aboard for this funny, fast-paced thrill ride!"**

#### PRODUCTION FUNDING BY

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Wax your mustache and hold onto your passport as the Amarillo Little Theatre presents the regional premiere of **Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express** as the fourth Mainstage production of the season. From the same author as ALT's fan favorite **Baskerville**, this popular mystery adaptation of Agatha Christie's suspenseful masterpiece comes to life in this stylish production.

All aboard! The exotic Orient Express is hurtling down the tracks...to a murder! **Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express** is a plot-twist masterpiece that has thrilled mystery lovers from television, radio, and film. Audiences now have the chance to experience this lush comedy live onstage. The famous novel is widely regarded as one of Agatha Christie's greatest literary achievements. First published in 1934, the stylish, suspenseful murder mystery about an unlikely cast of potential suspects - including a colonel, a princess and a countess, all with alibis - trapped aboard the luxurious Orient Express during a snowstorm features one of the most iconic fictional detectives of all time - Belgian private detective Hercule Poirot. Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed multiple times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer - in case he or she decides to strike again.

ALT has assembled a talented array of suspects for this production mixed with ALT veterans and newcomers. Performers include **Michael Newman** as renowned detective Hercule Poirot, **Rob Attaway** as Michel the Conductor, **Brooks Boyett** as Samuel Ratchett, **Mallory Corona** as Mary Debenham, **Jax Ebert** as Hector MacQueen, **Jeremy Hernandez** as the Head Waiter, **Carrie Huckabay** as Helen Hubbard, **Jenny Morgan** as Greta Ohlsson, **Sarah Olson** as Countess Andrenyi, **Sean Reneau** as Colonel Arbuthnot, **Melanie Sanders** as Princess Dragomiroff and **Michael Stafford** as Monsieur Bouc. Understudies for the production include **Kendall Carnahan**, **Jackie Llewellyn** and **Jeffrey Pickens**. Artistic Director for this production is **Jason Crespino** with **Ryce Garren** serving as Assistant Director and **Dennis Humphrey** and **Blake Nester** as Production Assistants. Scenic designer for this play is **Tana Roberson**.

Boarding for this thrill of a lifetime begins January 20th and continues on until the 30th! Recommended for ages 10+ due to some adult themes, violence, simulated smoking, gunshots and MURDER! Book your ticket today for the thrill ride of the season!

### Facts at a Glance

#### PERFORMANCE DATES:

January 20\* and 27 ..... 7:30 pm  
January 21, 22, 28 and 29\* ..... 8:00 pm  
January 23\* and 30 ..... 2:30 pm

\*\*NOTE: These 3 performances will require audiences to wear a mask while at ALT.

#### BOX OFFICE OPENS TO:

**Members** - Monday, January 3 ..... 10:00 AM  
**Public** - Monday, January 10 ..... 10:00 AM

#### LOCATION:

ALT Allen Shankles Mainstage  
2019 Civic Circle  
Box Office - 806-355-9991  
Rated - PG 10+

Order online at [amarillolittletheatre.org](http://amarillolittletheatre.org)

# Director's Notes

The end of the year already? Weren't we just celebrating with Patsy Cline and hearing about the hills being alive with the sound of music? It is crazy to think how the season is halfway done!



I want to congratulate **Peg Lovett** and her cast and crew on the fun trip they took us on to Doublewide, Texas. This holiday play was the fourth show ALT has produced of the Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten comedies. The residents of Doublewide were a riot and certainly brought their spirit of the holidays to our stage!

You will note that this curtain call announces the opening of our first show in 2022. ***Murder on the Orient Express*** was a script I was very excited about the first time I read it and I could not put it down. It is beautifully adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig and our extremely talented cast has tackled this show head on. All involved in this play are working hard to make this a wonderful "whodunit" night at the theatre filled with creative theatrical embellishments that I think our audiences will love. I hope you will plan to attend and if you do... don't give away the ending!

The holidays are here and it is certainly a time for us to reflect on friends, family and the blessings that surround us every day. How lucky are we to have a staff and board of directors that is so dedicated to ALT. ALT has businesses who donate to our theatre with their services such as **Krause Landscaping** who keeps our lawns looking fantastic, **Pestcon** who provides our pest control services, **Jones Press** who helps with printing needs we have, **Missouri Valley, Inc.** who donates services and time towards helping create challenging aspects of our sets, **AAA Electric** for services they have provided, **Reed Beverage** for their donations towards our specialty cocktails and of course **Sparkman Orthodontics**, **The Ruffled Cup** and **Palace Coffee** who donate concession items so that ALT can have 100% of the profits. This, along with the financial support of our donors who provide funding to help purchase equipment, fund shows or offset expenses for special events, is phenomenal. All these things add up to help make ALT as successful as possible. I again want to thank these businesses as well as everyone who made an end of the year donation through The Panhandle Gives campaign and through our box office. I am always amazed and appreciative of the support our theatre gets from all of you. If you have a business that can help ALT in a service or would like to make a donation, please reach out. I would love to chat with you and find the best relationship you and our theatre can have.

In reflecting on 2021, we of course also have to thank our volunteers. How exciting has it been this year to see our ALT family grow. We have new Academy students taking classes, new actors taking the stage in their ALT debut and new volunteers helping build sets and hand out programs. Our veterans are also doing exceptional work by tackling new roles, volunteering for production team positions and helping our newcomers feel welcome. It warms my heart so much to know that our theatre is growing with more and more fantastic volunteers. Thank you all for the time you spend at ALT.

In a recent end of the year letter, I reminded everyone of my start here. ***West Side Story*** is the reason I found my place at ALT. I hope you have found your place as well. Maybe it's by being a volunteer who greets our audiences or a donor who makes a yearly contribution. Maybe it's a patron who sees every show we produce or an Academy student who loves to run the spotlight of big musicals. Wherever it is, know that we see you and appreciate you so much. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and happy new year!

See you on the Orient Express soon,  
Jason Crespin  
ALT Managing/Artistic Director  
[jason@amarillolittletheatre.org](mailto:jason@amarillolittletheatre.org)

## Panhandle Gives Campaign Donors

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# Academy Spotlight

Happy December to you all! I hope your holiday celebrations have been lovely and continue to bring joy to you and your friends and family. Here at the Academy, we are celebrating a wonderful semester that has come to a close and the promise of a new, exciting semester beginning very soon.



Mikayla Garren

The beginning of our 2021-22 Academy season brought the much anticipated production of **Newsies** to audiences. The cast of 41 students, instructors, and alumni filled the stage with bright energy and incredible skill, making this show unforgettable. Soon after closing **Newsies**, area high schoolers attended our final camp for the Summer and presented a hauntingly beautiful showcase production of **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane**. We introduced four new classes in our Fall schedule including two for adults. I am proud to say they all ended their semesters thriving, and three will be returning in the Spring. October brought the classic stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to our stage in **Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular**. 35 Academy students, including several first-timers, brought heart and humor to Doyle's classic mysteries, and made my first play to direct truly special. Finally, after show choir gigs, mock dance auditions, the study of Greek theatre, and so much more, our Academy classes ended at the beginning of December with brilliant showcases and fantastic final classes.

Looking ahead to the second half of our season, Academy students have just as many wonderful opportunities to learn and perform, if not more. The beginning of the year brings us the Academy's first **Winter Theatre Camp**. Students in K-4th grades will learn about music, costume and set design, and the basics of theatre while also rehearsing for their end of camp showcase. This camp will run the third week of AISD's winter break, Monday, January 3rd – Friday, January 7th. Classes start back strong two weeks later as we prepare for recitals, competitions, and more showcases and gigs. Also in January are auditions for our Spring musical, **Tuck Everlasting**. Audition information can be found in the **Tuck Everlasting** Audition Packet on the Academy's website. Remember, only enrolled Academy students may audition, so ensure your students are signed up for their favorite classes now since auditions happen before the first day of class.

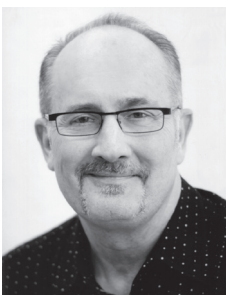
I remind you of everything we have accomplished and plan to accomplish because I would also like to remind you that the Academy would not experience this level of success without the help of its incredible volunteers and sponsors. If you are someone who has given your time or monetarily, I personally thank you so much. The Academy instructors and I get to see first-hand the difference you have made and continue to make with your giving. I promise you, every little bit helps.

Finally, I will remind you one last time to register for classes. Even if a student was enrolled in the Fall, that does not guarantee a spot in the Spring. If your desired class is full, get on a waitlist. Not only does this allow students to enroll if someone drops, but it also helps us see which classes have high demand so that we can potentially add another class. And don't forget our **Winter Theatre Camp** for your K-4th graders! I wish you a very happy new year and can't wait to see you all back at ALT in 2022!

Mikayla Garren  
Academy Director  
[mikayla@amarillolittletheatre.org](mailto:mikayla@amarillolittletheatre.org)

## My View From the Backseat!

It has been a while since I have made a contribution to this space, as I have had a few medical issues that have taken me out of the loop for a few weeks. I am just trying to hold on for dear life. On a higher note, ALT is one of the busiest places in town. We have two large and spectacular productions coming up that will usher in 2022 with a bang! In January, we will stage a truly breathtaking production of **Murder on the Orient Express** at the ALT Mainstage. February ushers in the opening of **Cabaret**, which will run for three weeks at the Adventure Space. Both shows will demonstrate clearly why ALT is among the finest theatres in the country! I hope that you will attend both.



Allen Shankles

Very soon, you will be getting information regarding the **CABARET EXPERIENCE!** It will be an immersive experience that will make the production have an even greater impact on our audiences. It is going to be different than anything you have ever seen at ALT.

Finally, over the past few years at ALT it has become increasingly more and more difficult to be as "politically correct" as some would have us be. We deal with these issues daily and are committed to being a model for inclusiveness and welcoming to every member of our population. It is difficult at times to be as good at this as we want to be, but it is worth it. Despite what a few may say, ALT strives every day to get it right. Over the course of my 38 year career, I have always simply

tried to treat every person participating at ALT with love and respect. I believe it has served me well.

**I look forward to seeing you at the theatre(s).**

Allen Shankles, Associate Director  
[allen@amarillolittletheatre.org](mailto:allen@amarillolittletheatre.org)

# AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!

Amarillo Little Theatre is pleased to announce auditions for our final Adventure Space and Mainstage productions of the 2021-22 Season!



by Yasmina Reza



## TENTATIVE AUDITION DATES:

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 22 and 23 at 7:30pm  
ALT Adventure Space – (2751 Civic Circle)

## PRODUCTION DATES:

April 7-16, 2022 — ALT Adventure Space

## DIRECTED BY:

Allen Shankles

## The following roles are available:

**Marc:** (Male presenting) A practical and down to earth man in his 30s or 40s, not a fan of modern art.

**Serge:** (Male presenting) A man who has found peace in modern art where the old rules are thrown out and acceptance and instinct govern what is valuable. Also in his 30s or 40s

**Yvan:** (Male presenting) A man in his 20s or 30s who is moved by the painting and finds himself in the middle of his friends' feud.

*\*Those wishing to audition that are currently unvaccinated are asked to wear a mask.*

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. All ethnicities are invited to audition. Ages and genders indicated are how the characters will be perceived, not necessarily the age/gender of the actors. Amarillo Little Theatre is rooted in reflecting the Amarillo community through art and authentic storytelling. We recognize that in order to do that, every member of our community must be represented by our productions. We invite you to join us in providing art that challenges, entertains and represents us – Amarillo. **Perusal scripts are available at the ALT Box Office for a \$10.00 refundable deposit. Please contact the ALT Box Office for more information.**

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# AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!



Music by Jeanine Tesori  
Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire



## TENTATIVE AUDITION DATES:

Monday and Tuesday, March 7 and 8, 2022 at 7:30pm  
ALT Mainstage

## PRODUCTION DATES:

May 5-22, 2022 — ALT Allen Shankles Mainstage

**DIRECTED BY:** Jason Crespino

**MUSIC DIRECTION BY:** Jennifer Akins

**Information regarding ages and roles will be available a month before auditions.**

*\*Those wishing to audition that are currently unvaccinated are asked to wear a mask.*

Auditionees will also learn and perform a short choreography routine and possibly cold readings from the script. All ethnicities are invited to audition. Ages and genders indicated are how the characters will be perceived, not necessarily the age/gender of the actors. Amarillo Little Theatre is rooted in reflecting the Amarillo community through art and authentic storytelling. We recognize that in order to do that, every member of our community must be represented by our productions. We invite you to join us in providing art that challenges, entertains and represents us – Amarillo. **Perusal scripts are available at the ALT Box Office for a \$10.00 refundable deposit. Please contact the ALT Box Office for more information.**