

CHARACTERS

[Descriptions courtesy of Theater Tallahassee, with some slight modifications]

Cast of 6 men and 6 women, joined by one Foley artist (creating live sound effects) and one live musician. All dialects and accents will be taught for the show; prior experience with these dialects and accents is not required. Actors who naturally speak English with an accent or dialect not listed below are also encouraged to audition. Ages listed are suggested age ranges for the characters; younger actors will be considered for all roles, regardless of character age.

AGATHA CHRISTIE

Female presenting, late 30s to early 50s, British (elevated standard) dialect, European white
World-famous British mystery writer. Agatha will host the radio show and read the stage directions, creating the mood and visual intensity of the play.

The actors playing the following roles in our production will create both their 1930s radio actor personae, as well as their character in Agatha Christie's gripping tale:

HERCULE POIROT

Male presenting, 40-65, Belgian accent, any race/ethnicity

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

Male presenting, 40-65, Belgian accent, any race/ethnicity

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. Although an old friend of Poirot, he is not a match for Poirot in intelligence.

MARY DEBENHAM

Female presenting, mid 20s-30s, British (elevated standard) dialect, any race/ethnicity

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. Must be comfortable kissing on stage.

COLONEL ARBUTHNOT

Male presenting, 30s, Scottish dialect, any race/ethnicity

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. Must be comfortable kissing on stage.

HECTOR MCQUEEN

Male presenting, 23-35, American dialect (any), any race/ethnicity

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

Male presenting, 40s, French accent, any race/ethnicity

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.

NOTE: This actor will double as the Head Waiter of the Tokatlian Hotel, and will also need to be able to do a Turkish accent.

PRINCESS DRAGOMIROFF

Female presenting, 60s-70s, Russian accent, any race/ethnicity

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

Female presenting, 30s, Swedish accent, any race/ethnicity*

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.

*Note: As written, the character is Swedish with somewhat broken English, but we will also consider actresses who naturally speak English with accents other than Swedish (Norwegian, Spanish, Afrikaner, Italian, etc.).

COUNTESS ANDRENYI

Female presenting, 25-35, Hungarian accent, any race/ethnicity

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

Female presenting, 45-60, American accent (any, possibly Minnesota or Wisconsin?), any race/ethnicity

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.

SAMUEL RATCHETT

Male presenting, 35-50, American accent (mobster - possibly Brooklyn or Chicago style), any race/ethnicity

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.

NOTE: This actor may also play some additional brief character voices in the play.