

# **MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET**

### **AUDITION DATES**

1. Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 7:00 PM; please arrive by 6:45PM to be photographed and to complete the audition form.
2. Callbacks (if necessary) will be held on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:00 PM.

Location: Roycroft Pavilion in Hamlin Park—166 South Grove Street, East Aurora

### **AUDITION PREPARATION**

- Actors of any race and gender identity are encouraged to audition for any role.
- Character ages listed in character descriptions are approximate; any actor may audition for any role.
- The nationalities of the characters are important to the story. Accents are preferred. Suggested reference videos are linked on the Aurora Players website.
- Audition sides from the script are available on the Aurora Players website.

### **SHOW DATES**

Fridays 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 at 7:30 pm

Saturdays 3/14, 3/21, 3/28 at 7:30 pm

Sundays 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 at 2:30 pm

### **REHEARSALS**

- First read-through will be held on January 5, 2026 at Aurora Players' Roycroft Pavilion Theatre. Headshots for publicity and the show program will be taken at this time. Please dress accordingly.
- Rehearsals begin Tuesday, January 6. Please indicate *all* dates you are not available for rehearsal on the audition form (see tentative rehearsal schedule at the end of this document.)
- All rehearsals will take place Monday-Thursday between 6:30 PM and 9:30-10 PM at the Aurora Players Roycroft Pavilion. Rehearsal dates will be confirmed at the first rehearsal.

### **DATES THAT CANNOT BE MISSED**

January 5 (Monday)

January 6 (Tuesday)

February 28 (Saturday)

March 2-March 5 (Monday-Thursday)

March 9-11 (Monday-Wednesday)

March 29 (Sunday)

Read-through/headshots/measurements

First rehearsal

Tech rehearsal (all day with lunch provided)

Tech week

Full dress rehearsals (senior preview Wed.)

Set strike & clean-up

## **SYNOPSIS**

Just after midnight during the winter of 1934, the luxurious Orient Express train is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. In the morning, a passenger is discovered murdered in their bunk—stabbed eight times, and the cabin locked from inside. Isolated, and with a killer in their midst, the unusual assortment of passengers must rely on famed detective Hercule Poirot to identify the killer before they strike again!

## **CHARACTERS & DESCRIPTIONS**

**Hercule Poirot** (40+) - world-famous detective. Eccentric, romantic, appreciative of luxury in life. Often underestimated, but fiercely intelligent and concerned with the moral good. **(Belgian)**

**Constantine Bouc** (40+) - friend of Poirot. Accustomed to luxury; owner of the train. **(Belgian)**

**Mary Debenham** (25+) - governess; cool and capable. Involved with Arbuthnot **(British RP)**

**Hector MacQueen** (25+) - personal secretary to Ratchett. Nervous, put-upon, very competent. **(American)**

**Pierre Michel** (40+) - train conductor. Charming and attentive to the passengers, extremely efficient and competent at his job. **(French)**

**Princess Natalya Dragomiroff** (50+) - imperious, domineering princess of the old school; exiled after the Bolsheviks took power. **(Russian)**

**Greta Ohlsson** (40+) - meek and pious missionary; companion to Dragomiroff. **(Swedish)**

**Countess Elena Andreyni** (20+) - medical doctor; commoner who married into the aristocracy and became a countess. **(Hungarian)**

**Helen Hubbard** (50+) - brash, uncouth, sardonic middle-aged midwesterner. **(American)**

**Colonel James Arbuthnot** (30+) - officer in the British military stationed in India; clichéd in the era's ideal of imperialist masculinity; romantically involved with Debenham. **(Scottish)**

**Samuel Ratchett** (35+) - owner of a vaguely defined import-export business. Vulgar, chauvinistic and unpleasant. **(American)**

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

*Questions? Please don't hesitate to email us: [info@auroraplayers.org](mailto:info@auroraplayers.org)*