

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
**MURDER
ON THE
ORIENT
EXPRESS**

ADAPTED BY KEN LUDWIG
DIRECTED BY MELANIE GLADSTONE



October 21-November 6, 2022

Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm

Sundays 2:00pm

Pay What You Can Thursday, November 3rd at 7:30pm

ASL Performance Sunday, November 6th at 2:00pm

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MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS DRINK SPECIALS

MURDER ON THE ORIENT ESPRESSO

Vodka, Kahlua and cream will definitely keep the passengers warm as they wait for the crews to clear the snowdrifts. We hope they work fast before another murder happens!



POIROT PUNCH

This mix of tequila and lime help Poirot stay focused as he solves his cases. It also puts a nice twist in his moustache!



Agatha Christie

Agatha loved sipping a Vodka Cranberry as she wrote her tales of mystery and murder.... You could say the color inspired her!



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*excludes water, tea, and coffee

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"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Adapted by Ken Ludwig

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express adapted by Ken Ludwig
was originally staged by McCarter Theater Center, Princeton, NJ
Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director.
The production subsequently transferred to Hartford Stage, Hartford, CT
Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE STAFF

Managing Artistic Director.....	Chris Serface
Office Manager.....	Karen Christensen
Technical Director	Blake R. York
Lead Carpenter	Frank Roberts
Education Director	Stephanie Kroschel
Production Manager	Dylan Twiner
Development Director	Diana George
Support Staff.....	Casey Brown & Nathan Lovitt
House Managers	Nena Curley, Dylan Twiner, Russ Coffey, Nate Lovitt, Mara Aveline, Ron Bauer



SINCE 1918

210 N I Street
Tacoma, WA 98403
253-272-2281

www.tacomalittletheatre.com

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

On a lovely sunny Sunday some months ago, I told a friend, "I think I'm going to start getting involved with more non-musicals to challenge myself," since I've spent most of my theatrical life working in/on musicals. "I think I'll start by auditioning for TLT's October show", I said. Cut to a few hours later when I received a phone call from Chris Serface, offering me this directing opportunity. Was the universe hearing my desires? I quickly agreed and still feel so fortunate that I was even considered for this production. It is quite an honor to work with such an incredible production team, leaving me stress-free (well, as stress-free as a director can be!) to mold, imagine, and create a world onstage for you today. This production is as beautiful as it is thanks to each team member's expertise and dedication to detail, and I am forever grateful.

Many of my childhood & adolescent memories include hearing Poirot solve mysteries from the BBC series, which my mother had on frequently in the house. Now, I have gotten the chance to collaborate with a talented, focused, and warm-hearted cast and crew, who joined me on this wild ride (pun intended) with fabulous energies! It is so exciting, too, to provide opportunities to many 'new to TLT' actors.

While the world may be quite different (or is it?) from 1934, when Agatha Christie wrote this story, after a trip to the Middle East, there are points about this story that resonate with a beauty in the name of Justice. Particularly in current times, what 'justice' is, is ever changing. When you leave the theatre today, we all hope you will leave with a fresh perspective on your own interactions and relationships with others. We are all only humans, and humans make many positive and negative decisions that have ripple effects for generations. My wish for you is that your choices come from love. *"No true love without justice and no true justice without love." (Adolph Kolping)*

Enjoy,
Melanie



**Please remember to silence your
cell phone and mobile devices.
No texting during the performance.
—Thank you**

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director	Melanie Gladstone
Stage Manager.....	Ellie Rutt
Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals	Blake R. York
Costume Designer.....	Michele Graves
Production Manager/Sound Designer	Dylan Twiner
Lighting Designer.....	Niclas Olson
Properties Designer	Robert Rostad
Lead Carpenter	Frank Roberts
Shop Assistant	Nate Lovitt
Scenic Artist.....	Jennifer York
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Janice Williams
Hair and Wig Consultant	Mauro Bozzo
Intimacy Choreographer	Jeanette Sanchez
Dialect Coach.....	Wade Hicks
Fight Choreographer	Derek Mesford
Photography.....	Dennis K Photography
Graphic Design	Blake R. York



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STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Melanie Gladstone (Director)

Melanie is overjoyed to be back at TLT, this time as director. Most recently she directed *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Lakewood Playhouse, and performed as Val in TLT's *A Chorus Line*. Melanie has directed, choreographed, and performed for over 30 years. In the daytime she is an elementary music teacher. You can also check out her T-shirts-turned-bags in the lobby (Broadway Bags)! Thank you to Chris Serface for trusting her with this piece, and to the whole staff at TLT for always creating a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment in which to do theatre. And thank you, audience, for supporting live theatre. We couldn't do it without you! Lots of love to her favorites at home for their constant love and support of pursuing her passions.

Ken Ludwig (Playwright)

Ken Ludwig has had six shows on Broadway, seven in London's West End, and many of his works have become a standard part of the American repertoire. His 28 plays and musicals have been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages and are produced throughout the United States every night of the year.

Lend Me a Tenor won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century by The Washington Post. *Crazy For You* was on Broadway for five years and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theater. His plays have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Hal Holbrook.

His stage version of *Murder on the Orient Express* was written expressly at the request of the Agatha Christie Estate, and his latest play, *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, won the 2020 Charles MacArthur Award for Best New Play of the Year and is optioned for Broadway.

His book *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays are published in the Yale Review.

He is a graduate of Harvard and Cambridge and is a frequent guest speaker for groups as varied as The Oxford-Cambridge Society, The Jane Austen Society of North America, The Folger Shakespeare Library, and The Baker Street Irregulars.

For more information, see his website at www.kenludwig.com.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Ellie Rutt (Stage Manager)

Ellie is beyond thrilled and honored that TLT has allowed her the opportunity to stage manage such an intense and wonderful show. With about five years of stage management experience under her belt, Ellie knows she still has a lot to learn, but is eager to know it all. Her previous shows as a stage manager include *Legally Blonde*, *Into the Woods*, *The Addams Family*, and *Little Women*. You may have seen Ellie on the stage rather than in the booth in things like *Assassins* (Sara Jane Moore), *Hay Fever* (Judith Bliss), *1984* (Syme), and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Charlie Davenport). She hopes you enjoy watching the show just as much as she's enjoyed working on it!

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 16 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing....*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sawyer*, *Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). Blake was named Best Director of the TLT production of *The Pillowman* at the AACT Regional Festival and won Best Scenic Designer in the AACT National Competition. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him. In 2022, Blake was recognized as one of the *40 Under 40* by South Sound Business.

Robert Rostad (Properties Designer)

Robert has enjoyed theater all his life. An actor & props designer, he discovers something new and wonderful in every performance. Appreciation to the talented cast & crew of *Murder on the Orient Express* and everyone who returns to the theater.

Frank Roberts (Lead Carpenter)

Frank is excited to continue at TLT as their Lead Carpenter and Properties Manager. His work with TLT started as a volunteer during the run of *Gypsy* and he enjoys the dynamic work and communal experience that this fine theatre provides. Frank wishes to thank Blake York, Allen Melo, Ana Quinn, and Jill Heinecke for all their contributions big and small. Additional thanks to his friends, family, Jill, and all who support local theatre.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Niclas Olson (Lighting Designer)

Niclas is an actor, playwright, director, and designer based in Tacoma. Recent regional designs include lighting for *Dragon Country* (Civic Rep); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (BroadwayWorld Award), *Clue*, *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Tacoma Little Theatre); *Oleanna*, *Tribes* (Tacoma Arts Live); and sets for *Clybourne Park* (Tacoma Arts Live/UW Tacoma); *The Seagull*, *Saint Joan*, *The Last Five Years* (New Muses); and *The Ghost Train* (Centerstage). He is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company, resident lighting designer at Tacoma Little Theatre, and a founding member of Green Theatre Now, an organization specializing in sustainable design solutions for the performing arts. www.NiclasOlson.com

Dylan Twiner (Production Manager/Sound Designer)

Dylan is glad to be returning as a designer for TLT. He grew up listening to old timey radio plays and has loved collaborative story telling ever since. His previous TLT sound credits include *Laura*, *A Doll's House*, *Macbeth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Dracula*, and *The Pillowman*. He has also been seen onstage in several productions in the area over the past decade, including with the improvised theatre group Muh Grog Zoo. Thank you for coming to see this show and supporting live theatre.

Michele Graves (Costume Designer)

As Resident Costume Designer for Tacoma Little Theatre, Michele has the pleasure of designing for a variety of shows, be they musicals, comedies, dramas or tragedies. Each genre affords her the opportunity to work with talented cast members and production staff. This is Michele's ninth season with TLT as Resident Costume Designer. Along with designing costumes for the mainstage shows, Michele provides costumes for the youth education program. She also costumes productions at several area high schools and Rosebud Children's Theater Conservatory.

Wade Hicks (Dialect Coach)

Wade received his MFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago before going on to teach a variety of theatre arts classes at Illinois Wesleyan University, the University of Oregon and the University of Puget Sound. Locally, Wade has appeared on stage with Toy Boat Theatre, Renton Civic Theatre, and Burien Actors Theatre. and has also served as dialect coach for a number of past Tacoma Little Theatre productions including *Jekyll & Hyde* and *A Christmas Carol*. He was most recently seen on stage in TLT's *The Happiest Song Plays Last*.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Jen York (Scenic Artist)

Jen has been a part of the local theatre community for over 14 years, serving as director, scenic artist, actor, stage manager, prop master, and youth educator for many of the area's theatres. Her most recent directorial credits include: *Seussical*, *The Underpants*, and *A Christmas Story* at Tacoma Little Theatre and *Inspecting Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Narnia* at the Lakewood Playhouse. She would like to offer love and thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support of all of her theatrical endeavors- both well planned and hare-brained. -xoxo

Mauro Bozzo (Hair and Wig Consultant)

Mauro has been a cosmetologist for over 10 years, and a part of the theatre community for even longer. He enjoys helping his fellow thespians with their hair and makeup, as well as performing on stage himself. He would like to thank Chris and Michele for the opportunity to continue contributing to future productions with TLT. Enjoy the show!


AMONG MANY WORLDS!

A MUSICAL THEATER TRIPLE FEATURE


WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE CITY OF ASYLUM



RAPTURE IN A DARK CHURCH



HIJINX & SUE



An Off the Shelf staged reading | Tacoma Little Theatre
7:30 PM, Thursday, October 27th, 2022
Free for TLT members | \$10 for the public
Music, lyrics and books by Daniel J. F. Wolfert, Maggie Lee, Deanna Martinez, & Jessi Pitts
Directed by Chris Surface, Deanna Martinez, & Nick Fitzgerald | Music directed by Daniel J. F. Wolfert

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SPECIAL THANKS

Pete & Cheryl Burgess

Gene Connor

Paul Sobrie

Jeremy Fayne

Marni Fayne

Reese Fayne

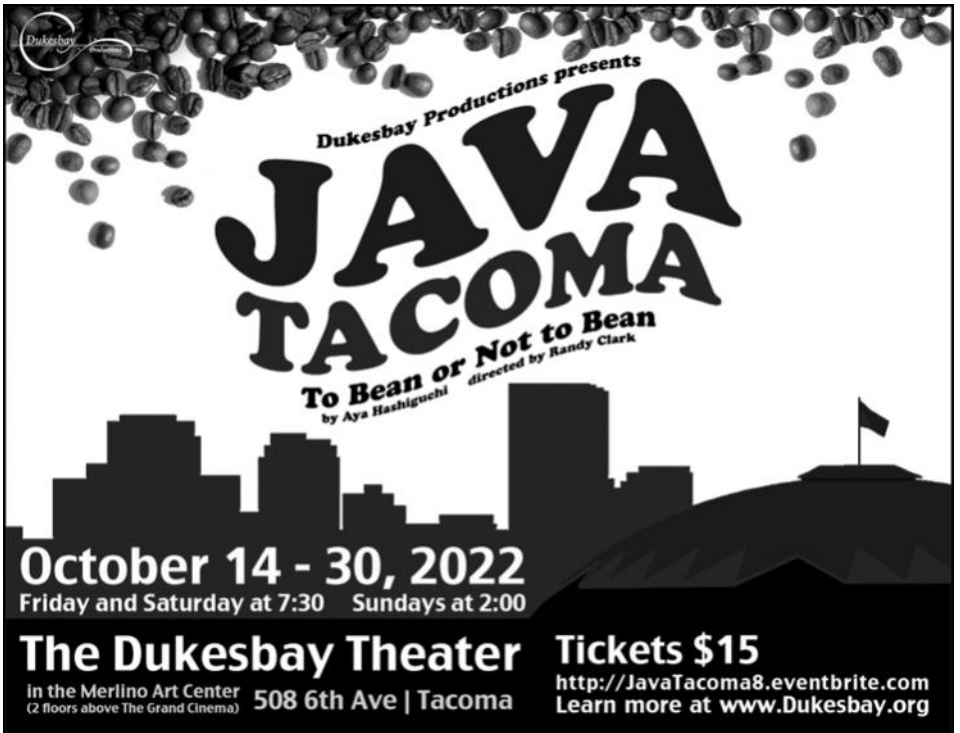
Dukesbay Productions

Tacoma Musical Playhouse

Dennis Kurtz

Lakewood Playhouse

Debbie Armstrong



Dukesbay Productions presents

JAVA TACOMA

To Bean or Not to Bean
by Aya Hashiguchi directed by Randy Clark

October 14 - 30, 2022
Friday and Saturday at 7:30 Sundays at 2:00

The Dukesbay Theater **Tickets \$15**
in the Merlino Art Center <http://JavaTacoma8.eventbrite.com>
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This production of



is rated for all ages 12 and up

This show contains the following:

LOUD SCREAMS AND NOISES

VIOLENT THEMES

GUNSHOT EFFECTS

A FANCY MOUSTACHE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

<i>Hercule Poirot</i>	Craig Rock
<i>Monsieur Bouc</i>	Jacob Tice
<i>Mary Debenham</i>	Andrea Gordon
<i>Hector MacQueen</i>	Ton Williams
<i>Michel, the Conductor</i>	Alan Plaster
<i>Princess Dragomiroff</i>	Rosalie Hilburn
<i>Greta Ohlsson</i>	Marisa-Clare Hissey
<i>Countess Andrenyi</i>	Canae Mabelle Gray
<i>Helen Hubbard</i>	Jenifer Gillis-Rifenbery
<i>Colonel Arbuthnot</i>	Brandon Fair
<i>Samuel Ratchett</i> (<i>Understudy: Poirot/Michel/Colonel</i>)	Josh Johnson
<i>Head Waiter</i> (<i>Understudy: MacQueen/Bouc</i>)	Josie DeRosier
<i>Ensemble</i> (<i>Understudy: Princess/Helen</i>).....	Haylee Gregory
<i>Ensemble</i> (<i>Understudy: Greta/Countess/Mary</i>)..	Jean-Michele Gregory

SETTING & TIME

The principal action of the play takes place aboard the Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe in 1934.

ACT I (1:00)

Mid-day to morning

—15-minute intermission—

ACT II (0:45)

Morning to mid-day

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Josie DeRosier (Head Waiter, *u/s: MacQueen/Bouc*)

Josie is excited to be taking part in his first TLT performance! You may have seen him in *Heathers*, *Fun Home*, and *Sweeney Todd*. He wants to thank his family for all of their support, and his coworkers for being flexible with rehearsal schedules!



Brandon Fair (Colonel Arbuthnot)

Born in Portland, Oregon, Brandon now has dwelled in Tacoma, Washington, since an early teen. After making a name for himself in the community, creating and performing his music and becoming a socialite through various social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, he's finally making his first theatrical appearance in *Murder on the Orient Express*. Cast as Colonel Arbuthnot, this will be quite the murderous debut.



Jenifer Gillis-Rifenbery (Helen Hubbard)

Jenifer is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful production and to be allowed to play with so many talented friends, old and new! It feels like a long time since previous shows on this stage, *Noises Off* (Brooke/Vicki), *Annie* (Lilly St. Regis), *Buddy Holly* (Vi Petty), and *Night Watch* (Blanche), as well as a few "Off the Shelf" productions. She hopes you enjoy this wild train ride!



Andrea Gordon (Mary Debenham)

This is Andrea's first show with TLT but she has done numerous productions around the Sound. She was seen last year in Auburn's production of *Elf: The Musical*. Her favorite roles include Nora Morton (*Brighton Beach Memoirs*) at Lakewood Playhouse, Laker Girl (*Spamalot*) at Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Barbara Jane Erickson (*The Originals*) at Olympia Little Theatre, Edith (*Blithe Spirit*), & Suzette (*Don't Dress for Dinner*) both at Evergreen Playhouse in Centralia. She has worked with Tony-Nominee Loretta Ables-Sayre in *South Pacific* at Diamondhead Theatre in Honolulu while working on her BA at University of Hawaii.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Canae Machelles Gray (Countess Andrenyi)

Canae is an actress, writer, producer, and director from Little Rock, AR. She is a graduate of Little Rock Central High School, and Dillard University in New Orleans where she was a recipient of the Denzel Washington Scholarship. She received her B.A. in Theater with a concentration on acting. She recently graduated with her MFA in Filmmaking from University of Central Arkansas and is currently teaching Video Editing and Production at Franklin Pierce High School. She has recently launched her company Electric Diva Studios and is set to release her recent short films early next year. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Haylee Gregory (Ensemble, u/s: *Princess/Helen*)

Haylee has performed on The Moth Mainstage, hosted The Golden Pineapple storytelling competition in Brooklyn, NY, and dabbled in stand-up comedy. When Haylee isn't onstage, she's solving plumbing emergencies as a TIG welder and pipe fitter throughout Western Washington. She's also a proud mom of a snuggly little fur baby named Diego that she raises with her love, Jean-Michele. This is Haylee's very first theatrical production.



Jean-Michele Gregory (Ensemble, u/s: *Greta/Countess/Mary*)

Jean-Michele earned her B.A. in Drama from the University of Washington and then spent two decades in New York City developing and directing solo performance. She is currently a story director for the Jewish Food Society and a community instructor with The Moth. She recently relocated to Tacoma and is so happy to have been welcomed into the TLT community.



Rosalie Hilburn (Princess Dragomiroff)

Rosalie is delighted to be back at Tacoma Little Theatre where audiences may remember her as Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* and Madame Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Rosalie began her career in theater in her native New Zealand and has appeared in several theaters in the Puget Sound area. Favorite roles include: Dotty (*Noises Off*), Ethel (*On Golden Pond*), Ouiser (*Steel Magnolias*), Eleanor (*The Lion in Winter*), Aunt Abby (*Arsenic and Old Lace*), Daisy (*Driving Miss Daisy*), and Lady Bracknell (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). Rosalie holds a BA and MFA in Drama from the University of Washington.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Marisa-Clare Hissey (Greta Ohlsson)

In her hometown of Sydney, Marisa-Clare enjoyed being a part of the theater community, and even met her husband through her first musical. Her favourite roles include Hope (*Anything Goes*), Christmas Eve (*Avenue Q*), Sally Brown (*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*), Mabel (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Josephine (*HMS Pinafore*), Belle (*Beauty and the Beast*), Sorrel (*Hay Fever*), Abigail (*The Crucible*), and her Dad's favorite Beatrice in a "true-blue" Aussie Musical: *The Venetian Twins*. Since moving to the USA, Marisa has appeared in several dinner theatre shows in Georgia and historical performances. She is delighted to murderously (or not!) appear for the second time in Seattle.



Josh Johnson (Samuel Ratchett, u/s: Poirot/Michel/Colonel)

Josh is excited to return to the TLT stage after almost a decade. Past TLT shows include *Frost/Nixon*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, and *Jekyll and Hyde*. In addition to acting, Josh sings with multiple choirs and performs opera throughout the region. Favorite roles include The Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Mr. Sowerberry in *Oliver!*, El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, and Ira in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Next up is Tacoma Opera's premiere of *The Tacoma Method* in March. Josh is the choir director at Frontier Middle School. He would like to thank his friends, acting coach Pamela Roza, family, colleagues, students, and most important his wife Julie for all their love and support.



Alan Plaster (Michel the Conductor)

Alan is thrilled to be returning to Tacoma Little Theatre. He has previously appeared in *Scrooge!* and *A Chorus Line*. Elsewhere he has appeared as Harry in *Mamma Mia!* & Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show* with the Auburn Community Players, and as Warwick in *Saint Joan* with New Muses. He would like to thank his parents Steve and Nadine, his wife Illene, and kids Matilda and Rory for all their support.



Craig Rock (Hercule Poirot)

Because he holds TLT in the highest regard, Craig is thrilled to make his debut here in this play. After taking a 27-year hiatus from acting, Craig returned to the theater in 2018. Since that time, he has played Sir Charles Baskerville (*The Hound of Baskervilles*), Kris Kringle in (*Miracle on 34th Street*), Archbishop (*Saint Joan*), Duke of York (*Richard II*), Shallow (*Henry IV Parts 1 & 2*), and most recently Putti Van Dann (*The Diary of Anne Frank*). Craig aspires to create and act in a solo-show which centers on his career as an addiction counselor. He is eternally grateful to the director, Melanie, for helping him evolve as an actor.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Jacob Tice (Monsieur Bouc)

Jacob is thrilled to be returning to Tacoma Little Theatre for this glamorous and dramatic romp. He has been performing in the South Sound since 2011, and was recently seen in *God Said This* at Dukesnay Theatre and *The Pillowman* at Tacoma Little Theatre. He hopes you have as much fun on this wild train ride as he has!



Ton Williams (Hector MacQueen)

Ton is thrilled to finally be making his TLT debut in their production of *Murder on the Orient Express*. Ton has been working in the region since 2016, when he made his first appearance as Gary Coleman in Lakewood Playhouse's *Avenue Q*. Other credits include Buddy (*Elf the Musical*) at Auburn Community Players, Isador "Buzz" Crenshaw (*A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol*) at CenterStage Theatre, and Brad Majors (*The Rocky Horror Show*) at Burien Actors' Theatre. After three productions of Rocky, he'll happily tell you that it's his favorite musical to perform! When not performing, Ton spends his time at home, gaming with his partners Joshua and Stefan or hanging out with his close friends performing karaoke. Ton dedicates this performance to his partners and his friends: Travis, Rico, Allen, Gunnar, and Tristen, who have continued to show him utmost support, both in and out of the theater scene! "I love y'all! Never change!"

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AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

MURDER
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ADAPTED BY KEN LUDWIG
DIRECTED BY MELANIE GLADSTONE

Oct. 21
THROUGH
Nov. 6
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CAST BY
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LEIGH BROWN,
& JOE CLARK

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THEATRE

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TANGO

BY
KENNETH LIN

DIRECTED BY
DAVID HSIEH

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THROUGH
FEB. 5
2023

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AGES

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JOSHUA
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APR. 21
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PERFORMANCE
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857 Adults | 850 Students/Season/Military | 850 Children 12 & under

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THE
SHAWSHANK
REDEMPTION

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE
BY OWEN O'NEILL & DAVE JOHNS

BASED ON THE NOVELLA RITA BASTOS AND THE SCREENPLAY
BY STEPHEN KING

WRITTEN BY
BLAKE R. YORK

June 2
THROUGH
June 18
2023

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PLAY BY
PHILIP GRECIAN

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WRITTEN BY
**JEAN SHEPHERD,
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& BOB CLARK,**

IN GOD WE TRUST: ALL OTHERS
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