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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLAYERS



SEPTEMBER 8 - 23

Directed by DAVID SCHWARTZ

Produced by NANCY RIDGEWAY

"The Mousetrap" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals' on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com



RESERVE TICKETS

Tickets: Adult \$20 townandcountryplayers.org OR call 800-838-3006

LOCATION

Town and Country Players 4158 York Road Buckingham, PA 18912

SHOWTIMES

September 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 8:00 PM September 10, 17, 23 at 2:00 PM

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLAYERS is a 501 (C) (3) Not-For-Profit Organization

Town and Country Players

PRESENTS

THE MOUSETRAP

A Play by

Agatha Christie

with

Steve Runk Valerie Sharper Colin Jenei Kathryn Loveless Brandon Bacorn Tammy Tuckey Nick Cardillo Joseph Perignat Jennifer Ahr

Directed by **David Swartz**

Produced by Nancy Ridgeway

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Murder mysteries, from Edgar Allan Poe and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, through Dorothy Sayers, Dashiel Hammett, Hitchcock, King and beyond, have brought shivers of dread and made voyages into the murky swamps of dark souls for nearly 200 years. "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" was first published in 1841 and was followed in 1843 by "The Tell-Tale Heart". Poe's grasp of the perversities of the criminal mind and the strangeness of human nature would be the awakening of a literary age and the birth of an audience eager to witness the carnage, if from a safe distance.

Dr. Jekyll becoming Mr. Hyde: How shocking but I'll watch! Professor Moriarty, mastermind vs mastermind: Sounds like a fair fight. Flocks of ordinary birds: Who would have thought? Hannibal Lecter: Just spare me the gory details. Though, it's not only the villains who mesmerize the public's gaze, the continuing sagas of Sherlock Holmes, Sam Spade, Raymond Chandler, Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, Perry Mason and more have gathered their own adoring fans in their time. How delightful to visualize these characters. To exchange places with Sam Spade and track down the Maltese Falcon! To become a sleuth and win the day.

Agatha Christie was a master of the genre. Taunting with intricate detail, shocking by sudden turns and wholly laying bare the flaws and failures of the spirit. Her works include 66 detective novels, 14 short story collections and 6 novels written under a pseudonym (Mary Westmacott). The Mousetrap remains the world's longest continuous running play (albeit with a brief respite during covid), beginning in 1952. Tonight's production is performed as originally written but adapted to fit our unusual playing space. All else is to the best of our abilities as she intended.

CAST

In Order of Appearance

Mollie Ralston Kathryn Loveless
Giles Ralston Steve Runk
Christopher Wren Brandon Bacorn
Mrs. Boyle Valerie Sharper
Major Metcalf Joseph Perignat
Miss Casewell Tammy Tuckey
Mr. Paravicini Colin Jenei
Detective Sergeant Trotter Nick Cardillo
Radio Announcer Jennifer Ahr

Setting

Act One

Scene I: The Great Hall at Monkswell Manor. Late Afternoon

Scene II: The same. The following day after lunch

15 minute Intermission

Act Two

The same. Ten minutes later

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE

Production Team

Director	David Swartz
Producer	Nancy Ridgeway
Stage Manager	Theresa Swartz
Set Design	Jamie Bradley
Set Design	David Swartz
Props	Jennifer Ahr
Costume Design	Lynne Anne Donchez
Costume Design	Nancy Ridgeway
Hair and Makeup Design	Lynne Anne Donchez
Scenic Design/Painting	Barb Emch
Lighting Design and Board Operator	David Cassel
Sound Design	Jim McIntosh
Sound Technician	Nancy Ridgeway
Program	Kim O'Byrne Jean Laustsen Eric Raymond



WHO'S WHO



Kathryn Loveless

as Mollie Ralston

Kathryn is thrilled to be joining T&C in her first role since 2015. She's especially pleased that this part features her real passion: tinned food. She lives in New Jersey with her two cats (also big fans of tinned food.) Thank you to David, Nancy, Theresa and the entire cast and crew. Thank you also to Chef Boyardee, The Green Giant, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, and, of course, The Chicken of the Sea.



Steve Runk

as Giles Ralston

Steve is pleased to make his T&C debut. He has performed since 2012 with Neshaminy Valley Music Theater and serves on its board. He has also performed with New Hope Repertory Theater and Lawrence Twp. Library One-Act PlayFest. When not on stage, he is Director of Communications for the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University and on the board of Young Audiences.



Brandon Bacorn

as Christopher Wren

Brandon is thrilled to be back at T&C! He was a part of last season's A Streetcar Named Desire. Other credits include; The Book of Will, Richard II, Almost Love; an Evening of John Cariani, Gruesome Playground Injuries, The Bacchae, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. He is the writer/producer of the award-winning short film Aghast! Brandon thanks his family and friends for their support over the years.



Valerie Sharper

as Mrs. Boyle

Valerie is enjoying the opportunity to portray the guest you love to hate! She recently appeared in Newtown Theater's production of *Sister Act* as the oldest nun in the convent. Val serves as the executive vice president of the T&C board, managing the phone and box office. She is happy to be a part of this classic murder mystery that will keep you guessing. Break a leg everyone!

WHO'S WHO



Joseph Perignat

as Major Metcalf

I so love this Agatha Christie play that I've decided to perform it once again. What a blast to be involved in a production that features so much talent. A big shout out to Dave for casting me in this role. Break legs to all. All of this is only possible because of the never ending support of Eileen.



Tammy Tuckey

as Miss Casewell

Tammy Tuckey is excited to be solving another mystery at T&C with a cast that keeps her laughing! She was last seen as Not Dead Fred in Spamalot. Aside from performing, she hosts The Tammy Tuckey Show (youtube.com/TammyTuckey) & just released her Walt Disney World-themed cover album, "Glowing in Timeless Places" - get your copy at www.tammytuckey.com! Love to Terry, dad & mom!



Colin Jenei

as Mr. Paravicini

Colin is extremely fortunate to be in a production with such a talented Cast, Director and Production team. His favorite roles are Psuedolus in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Puck and Bottom in A Midsummer's Night Dream, and J. B. Bigley in How to Succeed In Business. Colin lives with his wonderful wife, Karen, in New Hope, PA. She has endured his insanity, theatrical productions, and Karaoke for 43 years.



Nick Cardillo as Detective Sergeant Trotter

Nick is excited to be in his first production at T&C. Favorite past roles include: Count Dracula, Father Flynn (Doubt), and Charles Marlowe (She Stoops to Conquer). A lifelong Agatha Christie fan, Nick is thrilled to be checking Sergeant Trotter off his list of dream roles. Thanks to family and friends for their constant support, to David, and the rest of the cast.

Jennifer Ahr

as Radio Announcer

Jennifer is thrilled to be working with David and Nancy again, especially on such an intriguing show with a wonderful and talented cast. Previously at T&C in A Christmas Carol. The Sound of Music, The Best of the Best, Oklahoma!, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, several Holiday Shows, and more. Much love to Paul, Madeleine, & Emilie & my sweet pups!



David Swartz Director

David Swartz, happily back directing another murder mystery, has appeared here as Big Daddy, Emil de Beque and Matthew Harrison Brady. Elsewhere, the Stage Manager, Willie Loman, and a number of happy ventures into Shakespeare's worlds. Of late performing leading roles with the Philadelphia Savoy Company and the Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Thanks T&C, once again, for the opportunity!

Nancy Ridgeway

Producer

Working with my childhood friend David Swartz has been an absolute pleasure, and I am super happy to assist in bringing his vision for *The Mousetrap* to life. Nancy's directorial work at T&C includes *Next to Normal, Other Desert Cities, A Few Good Men, August: Osage County, Good People, The Music Man, Sweeney Todd, Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Carousel*. Next up is *Assassins* in July 2024.

Theresa Swartz

Stage Manager

Theresa is happy to be supporting this great cast and crew in her stage management debut. She appeared on T&C's stage in *Good People* in 2015. Other roles include Joanne in *Company*, Guinevere in *Camelot*, Kate Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, *King Lear's* evil Regan, Ruth in *Blithe Spirit*, and Feste in *Twelfth Night*. She has also sung numerous Gilbert & Sullivan roles in the area.

Lynne Anne Donchez

Costume Design

It gives me great pleasure to do the make up and hair design for mouse trap. Great to work with my sister and longtime friend David Swartz.



Barb Emch

Scenic Design/Painting

Barb has been a member of T&C for many years doing many of the set decorations and artistic canvases for most of the shows. She loves working with all of the talented people who make T&C and it's productions possible. Break a leg Cast & Crew!

David Cassel

Lighting Design and Board Operator

David is an experienced lighting and sound technician making his return to Town & Country players for this production. Most recently David was the Technical Director for Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan Society's presentation of *The Mikado*. Previous T&C favorites are *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Murder on the Nile*.

Jim McIntosh

Sound Design

Jim has been involved in the entertainment industry for over 35 years. After earning a B.A. in Theater from Rutgers University, he has worked as a Performer, Stage Manager, Light and Sound Technician, and Scenic Carpenter. He has been a member of Town & Country Players for 9 years, taking on roles both onstage, behind the scenes, and as a former Treasurer on the board for T&C.

SEE A SHOW FOR FREE

Interested in seeing Town & Country shows for **FREE**? Each show requires a staff of five "Front-of-the-House" volunteers. We are always looking for **ushers** (to help people find their seats and pass out programs), **raffle sellers** (to offer patrons the opportunity to buy raffle tickets and win a prize), and **parkers** (to help direct patrons as they park in our parking field).

No prior experience is necessary as you will be trained before you're put to work. It's a great way to get to know T&C from the inside. The best part of these Front-of-the-House volunteer spots is that they earn you tickets to see our shows for FREE!! Visit the Town & Country website https://townandcountryplayers.org/ and choose "Volunteer" under the "Get Involved" tab for more information.

Welcome to the Town and Country Players' 2023 Season. This season is our 76th season of bringing quality community theater to the Bucks County Area.

Last year, we celebrated our 75th Anniversary Season with a full schedule, including five mainstage productions, a One Act Festival, a 24-Hour Play Festival, a Ballet, and a Holiday Show. This year, we once again have a full calendar of events, with five mainstage shows, the return of our One Act Festival and Holiday Show, and a new-to-T&C Youth Musical this summer. In addition, we are continuing to offer our Youth Workshops this summer, and other workshops on all aspects of theater throughout the year.

But none of our productions would be possible without the having a location to perform in. This winter, we accomplished major upgrades in our space to both improve the patron experience and the quality of the product presented on stage.

The major upgrade this winter was a \$20,000 improvement to our front parking lot. As you may be aware, due to environmental concerns and the need to control storm water runoff, our parking areas are not paved, but grass covered. In general, this works well, but in times of heavy rain, can cause issues.

To address this, we installed environmentally friendly permeable pavers to stabilize the handicapped and front parking areas and improve the experience for our patrons. We were also able to significantly upgrade our electrical system in support of our stage lighting needs.

Of course, we never want to stop improving our unique facility. Our next planned capital improvement project is the installation of an ADA compliant handicap ramp to allow easier access to our facility for all. To get this ramp built, we will continue to rely upon the support of our patrons and donors to enable us to provide high quality community theater to all the residents of the Central Bucks area for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our patrons, season ticket holders, Gold Patrons, and donors over the years. Your generosity has enabled us to keep the lights on, improve our infrastructure, and weather hard times.

Matthew Schultheis
President, Town and Country Players

Become a Friend of Town and Country Players

This year Town and Country Players is celebrating its 76th Season.

Our theatre is run by volunteers and we rely on your generous, taxdeductible financial support to help defray the cost of our lovely facility.

Please add your name to our "Circle of Friends" so that we can continue to provide you with high quality productions and theatre workshops for many years to come.

Your donation will be acknowledged on our "Circle of Friends" page next season.

We are deeply grateful for your generous support.

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Director's Chair

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Vice President of Productions

David Sharper
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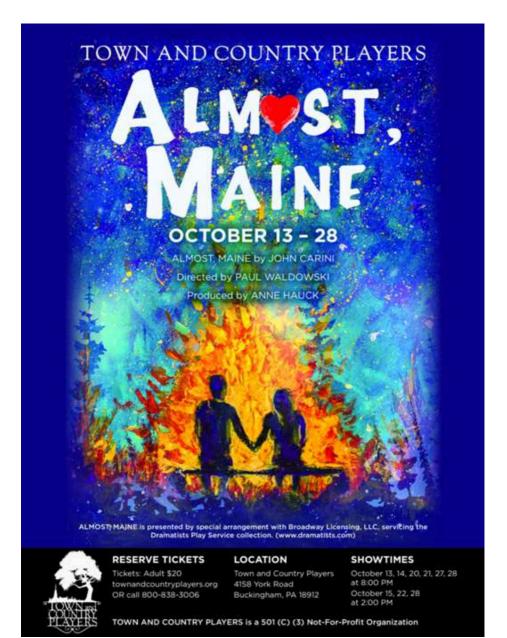
Deborah Glick Supporting Cast

Briana O'Handley Supporting Cast Bob & Florence Dolceamore Supporting Cast

> Gordon Shankman Supporting Cast

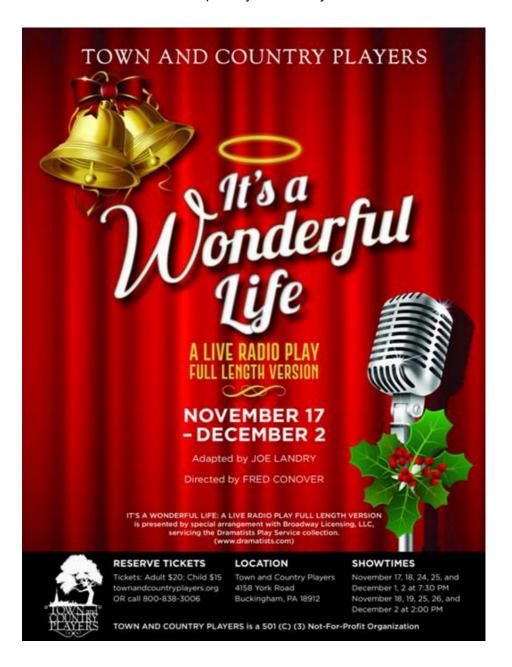
On Stage Next Month at T&C

A Romantic Comedy by John Carin

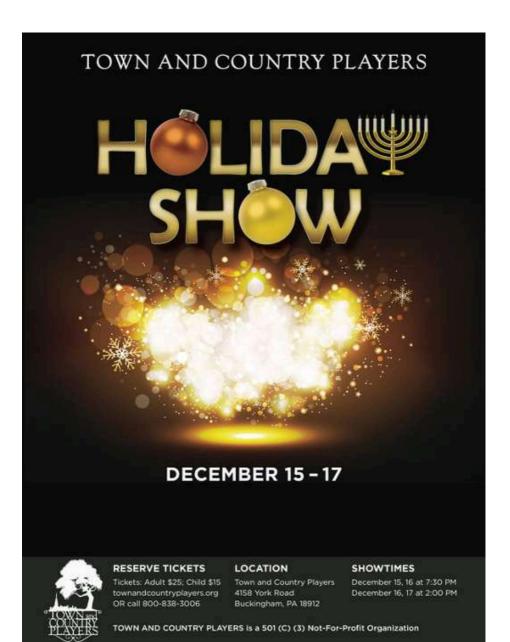


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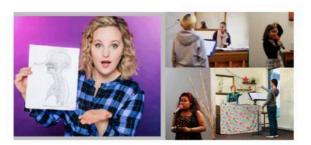
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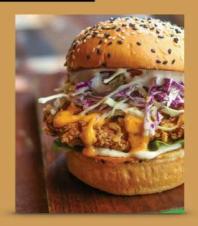
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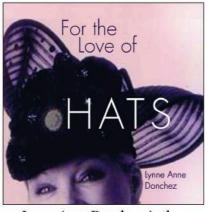
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For the lats



Lynne Anne Donchez, Author

Book description: For the Love of Hats showcases dozens of chic and unique hats from the collection of Lynne Anne Donchez, professional hair stylist, salon owner, teacher and hat connoisseur of Bucks County, PA. Her hat collection spans cloches, pillboxes and fascinators to pork pies, Mr. John hats and men's toppers. The book also intertwines some of Lynne Anne's fond memories about individual hats and stories of their origins.



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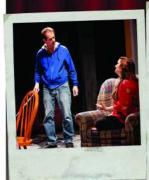
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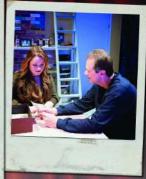


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