



MTHE Agatha Christie's **MOUSETRAP**

Directed by Drew Pittman



10 - 28 February, 2021

Program

An Amateur Production by arrangement with
ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

The Suspects

SUSPECT #1: Leslie Casewell (Emma Campbell)

Emma first began performing at Maitland Repertory Theatre in 2018 and has been involved in several productions including *Out of Order* (2018), *Arsenic & Old Lace* (2019) and *Australia Day* (2020).

"*The Mousetrap* is such a fantastic play and I am very grateful to work with such a talented cast, crew and of course our amazing director."



SUSPECT #2: Major Metcalf (Peter Eyre)

Peter has been involved in Newcastle theatre since 2009. His best-known role was as Inspector Lestrade in *Crucifer of Blood*. He performed his favourite role as Uncle Harvey in *Seasons Greetings* with Newcastle Dinner Theatre.

"I've been reading Agatha Christie since I was 11 and read *Three Blind Mice* when I was 14 so it was obvious I had to audition for this season!"



SUSPECT #3: Mollie Ralston (Jessica Gray)

Born and raised in the Hunter Valley, Jessica moved to Sydney to study acting and graduated from Wesley Institute in 2013 with a Bachelor of Dramatic Art.

Jessica's performance highlights include: *The Government Inspector* (2012), *As You Like it* (2012) *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (2015), *Alice* (2016) and *Gold* (2016). Jessica is excited to be back on the stage after a few years away.



SUSPECT #4: Christopher Wren (Ryan Hodges)

Ryan first began performing at Maitland Repertory Theatre in 2016 and has been involved in several productions such as *It's A Wonderful Life* (2018), *Lost in Yonkers* (2018) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2019). Ryan also won the Hunter Schools Film Festival (2020) for 'Most Creative and Engaging Performance' and 'Best Stage 5 Film'.

"I've enjoyed the rehearsal process thoroughly and look forward to sharing with audiences"



SUSPECT #5: Detective Sergeant Trotter (Hugo Brennan)

Like many things in Hugo's life, auditioning for *The Mousetrap* was a chance occurrence when the opportunity was introduced to him by a close friend. His previous productions include the University of Newcastle's annual Uni Revues in 2019 and 2020.

"I've loved murder mysteries for as long as I can remember. Everyone has worked so hard to bring this to fruition and I know people are going to be blown away by what we've created."



SUSPECT #6: Mr Paravicini (Matt Scoles)

Matt has acted in a number of productions at Maitland Repertory Theatre including *Out Of Order* (2018), *Lost In Yonkers* (2018), *The Taming Of The Shrew* (2019) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2019).

"I've been rehearsing this play for a year at this point so I can't wait to get out there and finally perform it for all my adoring fans."

SUSPECT #7: Mrs Boyle (Dimity Eveleens)

Dimity has been on the MRT stage for years in numerous productions such as *Run for Your Wife* (2007), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (2017) and *The Hollow* (2018).

She is also heavily involved behind the scenes and is MRT's prop master.

"I am thrilled to be in *The Mousetrap*. Not only is it an Agatha Christie (yay!) but it has snow effects. My favourite."



SUSPECT #8: Giles Ralston (Guil Noronha)

Guil has been active and committed to his theatre communities of Newcastle, Maitland and Sydney for over 25 years in more than 50 productions. Guil's experience and training in a diverse range of theatrical and dramatic forms is expansive.

Guil received a CONDA Award for his set design and co-direction of *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Maitland Repertory Theatre in 2017.

The Playwright

Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie, Lady Mallowan, DBE (née Miller; 15 September 1890 – 12 January 1976) was an English writer known for her sixty-six detective novels and fourteen short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*, which was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, as well as six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. In 1971, she was made a Dame (DBE) for her contributions to literature. Guinness World Records lists Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, her novels having sold more than two billion copies.

About the Play

A timeless tale of “whodunit,” Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap* strands seven strangers at Monkswell Manor during a blizzard. But a police sergeant unexpectedly arrives, worried that a murderer-at-large is among the guests of the Manor. Before he can investigate, one of the guests is killed, starting an investigation into the lives and histories of everyone there. One of them is the killer, and another one of them may be next. Will the police be able to solve the case before another “mouse” falls?

Setting

The great hall at Monkswell Manor.

Act 1 Scene 1 Late afternoon

Scene 2 The following day after lunch.

Act 2 Scene 1 Some time later

Run Time

The play runs for approximately 2 hours 20 minutes
including a 20 minute interval.

Director's Notes

I have been enthralled by Agatha Christie and the whole 'whodunnit' genre since reading *Murder on the Orient Express* when I was just a mere lad of 10. When the opportunity to direct, not only a Christie play but the longest running Christie play came about, I grabbed it with both hands.

It's been a long journey to bring this play to the stage at MRT, we began rehearsing over a year ago but due to COVID we were somewhat interrupted. The magnificent cast you see tonight is not the original cast that I started with by a long shot. Nonetheless "The Show Must Go On" as they say.

I am so very proud of what we have produced and am so happy that you the audience now get to experience it.

I would personally like to thank a few people, Amanda Woolford, Matt Harper, Joseph Manning and Sydney Davies who originally began this journey; Col Kirkman and Leilani Rose who kept me positive when I was having a moment. My wife, Karen, for just being. Robert Comber and Maitland Repertory Theatre for the opportunity, Alex Comber for being herself and most of all my magnificent cast and crew who have had to put up with me.

Drew Pittman



Behind the Scenes

Director	~	Drew Pittman
Production Manager	~	Col Kirkman
Stage Manager	~	Alexandra Comber
Props Manager	~	Dimity Eveleens
Lighting/Sound Technicians	~	Drew Pittman, Coldan Kirkman, Miles Punch
Lighting Operator	~	Coldan Kirkman
Sound Operator	~	Miles Punch
Set Design	~	Drew Pittman
Set Construction	~	Daniel Shaunessy, Ian Robinson, Dimity Eveleens, Robert Comber, Alexandra Comber
Costumes	~	Anne Robinson and cast
Make Up	~	Cast
Publicity	~	Alexandra Comber, Ian Robinson, Drew Pittman
Catering	~	Terry Allen and his team
Poster concept	~	Drew Pittman
Poster and program	~	Anne Robinson
Roster	~	Alexandra Comber

<p>Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP</p> <p>Feb 10 - 28</p>	<p>Reamus Youth Theatre</p> <p>Waiting for Lefty</p> <p>May 7 - 22</p>	<p>The Effect of GAMMA RAYS on Man-in-the-Moon MARIGOLDS</p> <p>Jun 30 - Jul 18</p>
<p>Junior Production</p> <p>Escape from Ragnarok Mountain</p> <p>Sept 24 - Oct 9</p>	 <p>MAITLAND REPERTORY THEATRE</p> <p>2021 Season</p>	<p>The Importance of Being Earnest</p> <p>Nov 24 - Dec 12</p>

Join Us

We're always looking for new members. To find out how to join, visit the **Get Involved** page of our website – www.maitlandreptheatre.org

Acknowledgements

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Patrons: Jenny Aitchison MP, Mayor Loretta Baker, Keith Cockburn, Margaret Sivyer OAM and Meryl Swanson MP.

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