

## **Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile*, May 25-June 4, wraps 24th season at Clayton Community Theatre; 25<sup>th</sup> season announced**

Clayton Community Theatre (CCT - [www.placeseveryone.org](http://www.placeseveryone.org)) will conclude its 24th season with *Murder on the Nile* by the great mystery writer Agatha Christie, directed by Nada Vaughn.

Performances of *Murder on the Nile* are Thursday-Sunday, May 25-June 4, 2023 (8:00 pm Thurs-Sat; 2:00 pm Sun) at Washington University South Campus Theatre, 6501 Clayton Rd, Clayton MO 63117. Tickets: \$15-\$25 (discounts for season tickets, group sales, seniors and students) - available via [SimpleTix](https://www.SimpleTix.com), or from CCT online at [www.placeseveryone.org](http://www.placeseveryone.org) or by phone at 314-721-9228. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

Love, money, meddling, politics, betrayal, and violence are all on the itinerary in this international whodunit romp, *Murder on the Nile*, by master of mystery Agatha Christie. Heiress Kay Mostyn and her new husband, Simon, relish having it all: youth, good looks and wealth. They embark on their grand honeymoon journey down the Nile River for a euphoric start to their new life together. But things quickly become very complicated, and nothing is quite as it seems.

The newlywed pair are beset by constant interference on their trip. The groom's former (and jilted) fiancée - who is also the bride's former best friend - is following them, boldly and intrusively, every step of the way. In addition, it seems that several other outspoken and colorful passengers know the newlyweds and harbor ill will against them.

In classic Christie style, once murder and mayhem occur, the author dares you to discover the whodunit and the why before the end of the tale - no easy task here. In fact, if you see this ending coming you probably should be writing your own murder mysteries.

"Mystery is one of my favorite genres of literature, and I'm a longtime fan of Agatha Christie," says Nada Vaughn, director of *Murder on the Nile*. "I'm thrilled to have an extremely talented cast for this production. They are full of energy and creativity and have what it takes to make an ensemble piece like this work. And I think our set is going to be spectacular and do full justice to the story locations."

The play *Murder on the Nile* is based on Christie's 1937 novel, "Death on the Nile." It was first produced in Scotland in 1944 at the Dundee Repertory Theatre, under the title *Hidden Horizon*, and in 1946 had its London premiere at the Ambassadors Theatre in the West End.

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was born in Torquay, England and authored 66 detective novels and 30 plays, including the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*. She created the iconic crime-solving characters Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. Christie retains the status of best-selling novelist of all time, her books having sold more than one billion copies in the English language, and another billion in translation.

Director Nada Vaughn has a lifelong involvement in theatre and music as performer, director, educator, producer and manager. Vaughn has a penchant for mysteries, and *Murder on the Nile* is the third Agatha Christie play she has directed for CCT (the first two were *The Unexpected Guest* in 2014 and *Black Coffee* in 2012). Vaughn's directing work for CCT also includes *A Soldier's Play* in 2019, *Night Must Fall* by Emyln Williams in 2016, and three plays by August Wilson: *The Piano Lesson* in 2015, *Two Trains Running* in 2017 and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* in 2021. Vaughn has been a CCT Board Member since 2006 and served as President from 2007-2011.

**Members of the press:** Visit the [CCT Media Resources Page](#). For additional materials, info and reviewer tickets, reach out to CCT media contacts Nathan Schroeder and Judith Rubin, [media@placeseveryone.org](mailto:media@placeseveryone.org); tel. [314-721-9228](tel:314-721-9228).

### **Murder on the Nile cast and crew**

Steward	Panagiotis Papavlasopoulos
Miss Helen Ffoliot-Ffoulkes	Ann Egenriether
Christina Grant	Kaytlin Doscher
William Smith	Michael Stephens
Louise	Caitlin Souers
Dr. Bessner	Paul Schultz
Kay Mostyn	Annie Valuska
Simon Mostyn	Brett Hanna
Canon Ambrose Pennefather	Colin Nichols
Jacqueline deSeverac	Liv Lewis
Captain McNaught/Bead seller	Mark A. Neels

Producer	Marilyn Albert-Hack
Asst Director	Carolyn Bergdolt
Costumer	Jean Heckmann
Lighting design	Nathan Schroeder
Set design	Andrew Cary
Sound design	Gene Rauscher
Egyptian statues	Kate Mago

### **Covid policy – 2023 update**

You are important to us at Clayton Community Theatre! We all continue to navigate the ebb and flow of COVID times. For everyone's protection, Clayton Community Theatre respectfully asks audience members to continue to be masked while in the theatre.

### **CCT announces 25<sup>th</sup> season (2023-2024)**

- ***The Cemetery Club*** by Ivan Menchell, directed by Sam Hack; September 14–24, 2023
- ***The Play That Goes Wrong*** by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields, directed by Tim Kelly; April 4–24, 2024
- ***Twelfth Night*** by William Shakespeare, directed by Heather Sartin; July 11–21, 2024
- Season tickets: <https://www.placeseveryone.org/membership>
- More information about the plays: <https://www.placeseveryone.org/next-season>
- NOTE: For the 25<sup>th</sup> season, evening performances will start at 7:30 pm

### **About CCT**

Clayton Community Theatre was founded in 1998. CCT's purpose is to provide a vehicle for all members of our community to be involved in the production of top quality live theatre. Through its annual productions and program of community outreach, CCT has involved hundreds of individuals in productions that have played to consistently enthusiastic reviews and crowded houses. CCT believes that our successful history as a theatre company has proven that there is an important place in our community for a volunteer theatre company that is open to all and driven by a commitment to excellence.

CCT productions take place in the Washington University South Campus Theatre, an outstanding 210-seat venue at 6501 Clayton Road with handicap accessibility, elevators, and a lighted parking lot. CCT operates on the Washington University campus as an independent community theatre company and is not affiliated with the Washington University Performing Arts Department.

Clayton Community Theatre is incorporated as a Missouri nonprofit corporation and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Membership in the organization is open to any interested individual. CCT receives financial assistance from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.