

## **Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original Indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization, Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

## A Note from the Director

I was fortunate enough when I was in high school to travel over to London, England, with my mother. She had the wisdom- or perhaps she was just tired of me complaining about my sore feet- to take me to the long-running production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. I would be lying if I said I had specific memories of the production now (it was some time ago, I sadly must admit) other than remembering I was completely engrossed in the magic that was this murder mystery.

*The Mousetrap* is the longest-running play of all time. This year marks its 72nd year running in London. Unfortunately, I am not collecting royalties on the original West End production, but I am happy to help bring this production to our UWSP and Stevens Point communities. *The Mousetrap* holds a unique place in our theatrical canon and its author a very unique place in our world. This is evidenced by one of the unexpected and fascinating facts I came across while researching the play for production. Agatha Christie is the 3rd highest selling author of all-time, behind only the Bible, and Shakespeare. Not bad company to keep, eh?

I hope our production allows you to sink into 1950's Britain, and of course the devilish delicious world of Agatha Christie. Watch your backs! There's a murderer about!!

Thank you for supporting live theatre,  
Tyler Marchant  
Director, *The Mousetrap*

## **A Note from the Dramaturg (SPOILER-FREE EDITION)**

Can you keep a secret? Can you keep it for 72 years, like audiences in London's West End have? Like audiences in high school and community theatre auditoriums across North America and in countless other performance spaces around the world have? Whodunit, you ask? Rest assured, you have entered a spoiler-free zone. This lowly dramaturg is not risking the wrath of the theatre gods by spilling the beans now.

And if I did, you certainly wouldn't thank me for it! For legions of mystery fans, the pleasure of reading a well-plotted mystery or watching one unfold on stage or screen lies in the puzzle itself. It's not only about the revelation of the guilty party in the final chapter or last scene. You can fast forward or turn to the back of the book for that. The fun is not in the solution, but in the solving.

Agatha Christie, the best-selling and most prolific of mystery writers in the English language, understood what her audiences wanted, and in 66 detective novels, 19 plays, and multiple volumes of short stories, she endeavored to give it to them in the form of "fair play mysteries." Christie believed that her readers and audiences should have a fair chance of solving the mystery along with the central investigator.

Which brings us to the hard part of my promise to keep this note spoiler-free, because if I lay out for you the conventions and characteristic traits of Christie's writing, I just might spoil the fun for you.

## **A Note from the Dramaturg Continued...**

Instead, I'll wind this up with two contextualizing points:

In 1930, a group of prominent British mystery writers – including Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, and G.K. Chesterton – founded the Detection Club. Upon entry into the Club, members were required to take an oath, penned originally by Sayers. On threat of expulsion, the writers pledged that their “detectives shall well and truly detect the crimes presented to them using those wits which it may please you to bestow upon them and not placing reliance on nor making use of Divine Revelation, Feminine Intuition, Mumbo Jumbo, Jiggery-Pokery, Coincidence, or Act of God.” Of course, had these writers taken their oaths seriously, the Club would have ceased to exist almost immediately. Even more than creating rules, writers love to break them – Christie included.

In 2024, some of the social and cultural attitudes expressed in Christie's work are not ours, but there is still immense pleasure to be found in playing armchair detective and solving the puzzle alongside Christie's investigators, professional or amateur.

So, can you keep a secret?

Laurie Schmeling  
Dramaturg, *The Mousetrap*

## About the Playwright

Renowned English novelist and playwright Agatha Christie (b.1890–d.1976) wrote her first detective novel during the first World War. Christie’s incisive brilliance was continuously on display in her intricate mysteries, earning her titles such as “Queen of Crime” and “Queen of Mystery.” With its focus on psychological analysis and acute observation in crime-solving, her work helped to establish high specificity in the emerging mystery genre and became a cultural phenomenon. Her other significant works include *And Then There Were None*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, and *The Mousetrap*, the longest-running production in the history of London’s West End. The prolific Christie remains the best-selling and most-translated novelist in history.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
Presents

# THE MOUSETRAP

by Agatha Christie

“The Mousetrap” is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights and actionable under united states copyright law. For more information, please visit: <https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

# THE MOUSETRAP

Cast (In Order of Appearance)

**Mollie Ralston**.....Emily Hoepfner  
u/s Sanibel Harper

**Giles Ralston**.....Bingham Harper  
u/s Ryan Bouchard

**Christopher Wren**.....Jordan Linton  
u/s Zaden Scheer

**Mrs. Boyle**.....Vanessa Guillen  
u/s Morgan Stock

**Major Metcalf**.....Sam Calaway  
u/s Carlton Johnson

**Miss Casewell**.....Lenna Magdeline Wren  
u/s Olivia Weyenberg

**Mr. Paravicini**.....Cody Smogoleski  
u/s Joey Thuecks

**Detective Sergeant Trotter**.....Luke Calaway  
u/s Ryan Matz

*who do you think did it?*

# THE MOUSETRAP

## Creative Team

<b>Director</b> .....	Tyler Marchant*
<b>Assistant Director</b> .....	Katie Kloth
<b>Dramaturg</b> .....	Laurie Schmeling*
<b>Stage Manager</b> .....	Serena Alexander
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b> .....	Nessa Grant
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b> .....	Ana Wilson
<b>Scenic Designer</b> .....	Mattie Ruona
<b>Original Music Composer</b> .....	Kyle Norris*
<b>Scenic/Props Mentor</b> .....	Emily Lotz*
<b>Costume Designer</b> .....	Emily Bustamante*
<b>Lighting Designer</b> .....	Viviana Campos
<b>Assistant Lighting Designer/Board Operator</b> .....	Diana Gabriel
<b>Master Electrician</b> .....	Ike Smith
<b>Sound Designer/Lighting Mentor</b> .....	Andrew Brackett*
<b>Properties Designer/Manager</b> .....	Kayla Price
<b>Intimacy/Fight Director/Dialect Coach</b> .....	Greg Prager*
<b>Technical Director/Stage Management Mentor</b> .....	Ann Warren*
<b>Deck Crew</b> .....	Lydia Flanigan, Justin Lewis, Damian Liriano, Jacob Massart
<b>Wardrobe Crew</b> .....	Barrett Buck, Lee Bush, Soap Donnermeyer, Caitlyn Lahmann, Anna Nowatzki, Messiah Washington

*\*UWSP Faculty/Staff*



## 2024-25 Season Production Staff

**Costume/Hair/Makeup Design Mentor**.....Emily Bustamante\*

**Costume Shop Manager**.....CeCe Sickler\*

**Costume Shop Assistants**.....Maxine Danni, Cali Grant,  
Nessa Grant, Vanessa Guillen, Steph Hogan,  
Sophie Pitsch, Mattie Ruona,  
Aidan Sternberg, Messiah Washington

**Light/Sound Shop Mentor**.....Andrew Brackett\*

**Light/Sound Shop Assistants**.....Ace Ahlstrom, Zach Bruhn,  
Paul Been

**Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor & Prop Shop Manager**.....Emily Lotz\*

**Paint/Props Shop Assistants**.....Hayden Othmer, Anna Nowatzki,  
Mattie Ruona

**Technical Director & Scene Shop Manager**.....Ann Warren\*

**Scene Shop Assistants**.....Serena Alexander, Paul Been,  
Zach Bruhn, Barrett Buck, Bastien Howard

**House Manager**.....Erin Bohn

**Student Office Assistants**.....Erin Clementich,  
Lenna Magdeline Wren, Stephanie Skemp

*\*UWSP Faculty/Staff*

## Meet the Company

**Alexander, Serena** (*Stage Manager, She/Her*) Senior BA Drama and Psychology major and Women's and Gender Studies minor from Nashville, TN. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Drama, the Stages to Equity Scholarship, the Destination Wisconsin Scholarship, and the Pointer Partnership Grant.

**Bouchard, Ryan** (*u/s Giles Ralston, He/Him*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre and BA Philosophy major from Pulaski, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

**Calaway, Luke** (*Detective Sergeant Trotter, He/Him*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Art minor from Green Bay, WI.

**Calaway, Sam** (*Major Metcalf, They/Them*) Senior BFA Acting major and Media Studies minor from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Peet Faust Scholarship.

**Campos, Viviana** (*Lighting Designer, She/Her*) Senior BFA Theatre Design & Technology major and Spanish minor from Sparta, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship, Arts Bach Scholarship, Invest In Your Purpose Scholarship, Pointer Promise Scholarship, Presidential Purple Scholarship, and the Freshman Neale Alumni Honors Scholarship.

**Gabriel, Diana** (*Assistant Lighting Designer, She/Her*) Sophomore BFA Theatre Design & Technology major from Rome, WI. Recipient of the Leland and Beatrice Crosby Technical Theatre Scholarship and the UWSP Presidential Gold Scholarship.

**Grant, Nessa** (*Assistant Stage Manager, She/Her*) Sophomore BFA Theatre Design & Technology major and Arts Management minor from Ripon, WI.

**Guillen, Vanessa** (*Mrs. Boyle, She/They*) Super Senior BFA Musical Theatre major and Race and Ethnicity Studies minor from Kewaunee, WI. Recipient of the Stages to Equity Scholarship.

## Meet the Company

**Harper, Bingham** (*Giles Ralston, He/Him*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Green Bay, WI.

**Harper, Sanibel** (*u/s Mollie Ralston, She/Her*) Junior BFA Acting major from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting.

**Hoepfner, Emily** (*Mollie, She/Her*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre and BA Dance double major from De Pere, WI. Recipient of the First Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

**Johnson, Carlton** (*u/s Major Metcalf, He/Him*) Sophomore BFA Acting major and Media Studies minor from Appleton, WI.

**Kloth, Katie** (*Assistant Director, She/They*) Junior BFA Acting and Arts Management double major from Wausau, WI.

**Linton, Jordan** (*Christopher Wren, He/Him*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre and BA Dance double major from Daytona Beach, FL. Recipient of the Arlen and Florance West and Scholarship, the After the Flags Scholarship, and the Baruch/Bridgeman Outstanding Player Award.

**Matz, Ryan** (*u/s Detective Sergeant Trotter, He/Him*) Junior BFA Acting major from Reedsburg, WI.

**Price, Kayla** (*Properties Designer/Manager, She/They*) Senior BFA Theatre Design & Technology major from Sullivan, WI.

**Scheer, Zaden** (*u/s Christopher Wren, They/Them*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Wausau, WI.

**Smith, Ike** (*Master Electrician, He/Him*) Senior BA Dance and Drama double major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the Peet-Faust Scholarship and the James and Linda Martin Moore Dance Scholarship.

**Smogoleski, Cody** (*Mr. Paravicini, He/They*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Two Rivers, WI.

## Meet the Company

**Stock, Morgan** (*u/s Mrs. Boyle, She/Her*) Junior BFA Acting major from Manitowoc, WI.

**Thuecks, Joey** (*u/s Mr. Paravicini, They/Them*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Luxemburg, WI.

**Ruona, Mattie** (*Set Designer, They/She*) Junior BFA Design & Technology major and Creative Writing minor from Sheboygan, WI. Recipient of the WI Academic Excellence Scholarship, the Presidential Purple Scholarship, the Invest In Your Purpose Scholarship, the Jean DeRuyter Memorial Scholarship, the Alice Rabenhorst Memorial Scholarship, and the Pointer Incentive Grant.

**Weyenberg, Olivia** (*u/s Miss Casewell, She/Her*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Green Bay, WI.

**Wilson, Ana** (*Assistant Stage Manager, She/They*) First-Year Undecided major from Stevens Point, WI.

**Wren, Lenna Magdeline** (*Miss Casewell, She/They*) Senior BFA Acting major and Dance minor from Chicago, IL. Recipient of the COFAC Dedication Scholarship, the Arts Bash Dedication to the Field Award, and the After the Flags Scholarship in Acting, the Backstage Scholarship, the Pointer Partnership Grant, the Destination WI Scholarship, and the Point to the Future Grant.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance is to serve:

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

## Backstage Fund Donors

### Angel (\$1000+)

Dave & Amy Bakken  
Judith S. Carlson  
Valerie C. Cisler  
Susan H. Gingrasso  
Jack J. Hurrish & Joan Karlen  
Liz Kammer  
Meryl L. Nelson  
Mary Ann Nigbor  
Randy & Sally Olson  
Nadine & Scott Rambo  
Sentry Insurance Foundation, Inc.  
Team Schierl Companies

### Artistic Director (\$500+)

Karen Aldinger  
Richard G. & Carolyn Sommer  
Marvin J. Van Kekerix & Rebecca Wiegand

### Managing Director (\$250+)

Marilyn S. & James Buck  
David & Sharon Bruha  
Cynthia K. Porter  
Donna J. & Daniel Marx

### Director (\$100+)

Patti & Dave Becker  
Janet Breidel & Bruce R. Javenkoski  
Thomas R. & Barb Bruning  
Scott Crane  
Mark & Jacque Fredrickson  
Peter Graenins  
Jim & Madeleine Haine  
Cynthia A. Lindau  
Neenah Paper, Inc.  
Craig Niedenthal  
Randy W. & Sally Olson  
Elizabeth C. Parks  
Rachel Pretat  
Kathleen E. Radcliff  
David M. & Roseann Rosin  
Kimberly L. & Jason Shields  
Stevens Point Noon Lions Club  
Ann Stock

**CONTRIBUTE TO BACKSTAGE OR  
STAGES TO EQUITY FUND TODAY!**

see back of program for details