

The action of the play takes place in two drawing-rooms in an early Victorian home in Chipping Cleghorn which have been made into one room.

ACT I:

Scene 1: The morning of Friday the 13th
Scene 2: 6:10 p.m. the same day
Scene 3: The following Saturday morning

INTERMISSION

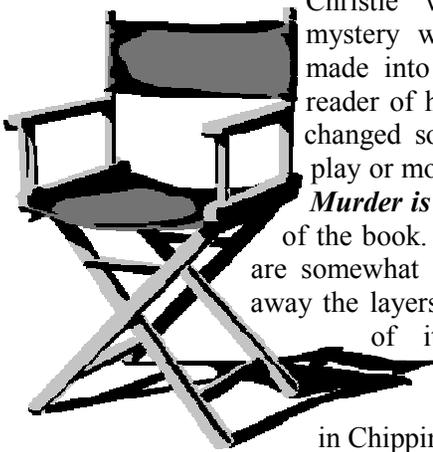
ACT II:

Scene 1: The following Sunday morning
Scene 2: The following Monday morning
Scene 3: 6:00 p.m. the same day



Director's Note on "A Murder is Announced"

Mysteries have always been a favorite genre of mine, beginning with Nancy Drew, then Erle Stanley Gardner and Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie was one of England's greatest mystery writers and her books were often made into movies and plays. If you are a reader of her works, you know that she often changed some of the plot when it became a play or movie. Leslie Darbon, who adapted *A Murder is Announced*, kept all of the intrigue of the book. I think that Agatha Christie's plots are somewhat like an onion. You keep peeling away the layers until you finally get into the core of it. Anyone can seem to be straightforward and then maybe not. Welcome to Little Paddocks in Chipping Cleghorn.



Many thanks,

Barbara Melzer

**Don't miss the other shows in our 2018 season...
(Audition for or attend the show!)**

July : **Barnum** by Cy Coleman and Michael Stewart ¹

BARNUM

Audition dates: April 23, 24 & 25

Performance dates: July 6,
7, 8, 13, 14 & 15



August: **Annual Variety Show**
written and directed by Barbara Jones *

Audition dates: July 9 & 11

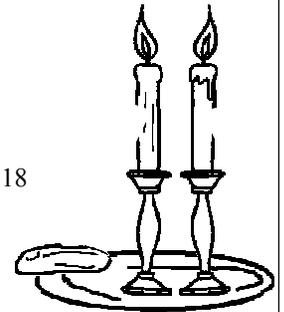
Performance dates: August 24, 25 & 26

November: **Shayna Maidel**
by Barbara Lebow ²

Audition dates: September 4, 5 & 6

Performance dates: November 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18

¹ Produced by special arrangement with Tams-Widmark, Inc.
² Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
* This fund raider is not part of the annual subscription



Suzelle Cobb (Costume Designer) Suzelle has been designing costumes for Coach House productions for most of the plays in the past twenty years. She also directed *Bell, Book and Candle* at the Coach House and assisted in the direction of several others. Suzelle also served on the board of directors and in several other backstage capacities.

Cricket Withall (Stage Manager) Cricket is a freshman in Kingston High School. This is her second show with Coach House Players. Her credits include *Our Town* (AD), *Hudson Valley Improv* (SM), *Sticky* (SM), *Little Shop of Horrors* (ASM), *Barnum* (ASM), *Once upon a Mattress* (Light board Op), *Evita* (Set Crew) and *Cinderella* (Set Crew).

Lena Schorr-Roztocki (Intern) Lena is a junior at Kingston High School and has been in multiple plays including *Footloose*, *Big Fish*, *Legally Blonde*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Music Man Jr.* She is excited to be an intern for *A Murder is Announced* as she will be experiencing a different side — backstage. She would like to thank her family for all the help and support throughout the years.

OUR DIRECTORS & DESIGNERS

Barbara E. Melzer (Director) Barbara has a Master's Degree in Theater Arts with a concentration in directing and set design. She has also studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and The British American Acting Academy in London. She has directed *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Hollow* and *California Suite* here and appeared in *Phantom of the Country Opera*. She has previously directed on Long Island at the elementary, high school, college and community theater levels. She is extremely excited about this production, and the fabulous acting ensemble that has come together here. Thanks to my right hand persons Quentin, who designed our lights, Cricket, my fabulous stage manager, Jeremy, my assistant stage manager, Julia who assisted on lights and sound, Suzelle Cobb, my costumer and the many folks here at Coach House who made this possible.

Tom Tierney (Set Designer) Tom has directed on and off for the last twenty-plus years and has performed in many musicals and comedies with Coach House Players. He recently appeared onstage in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and as GI and Club Owner in *Miss Saigon* and Sir Danvers in *Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical* at The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck. Tom is currently serving as President of Coach House and "Jack of all trades!" He also has been a member of the Kingston Kiwanis Club for over 30 years and has written and directed over twenty shows for Kiwanis.

Quentin Champ-Doran (Lighting Designer & Operator) Quentin has consistently worked at many area Hudson Valley theaters in various technical capacities, including lighting assistant, lighting designer, sound board operator, and set construction. Quentin is a lighting intern at Coach House and has worked on previous shows here for the past 3 years. Other theaters he has worked with are The Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, Voice Theater, and Bird-On-A-Cliff Theater. Quentin would like to thank his parents, his sister, Barbara Melzer, who has and always is fantastic to work with, his lighting mentor Chris Beall, his Godparents, and his comic book hero, The Flash. ♪

Chris Beall (Lighting Designer) Although Chris has only appeared a few times on stage (in 2013 — in one case just his left hand, and in another to read a poem), he has been lighting designer and/or lighting consultant and/or sound designer in almost every Coach House production from 1971 to the present.

Julia Safron (Lighting Operator) Julia has enjoyed theater since 6th grade when she worked on her first show, *The Music Man*, at her school. She is currently a junior at Kingston High School, where she has worked backstage on *Damn Yankees* and has played viola in the pit orchestra for *Big Fish*. She had a lot of fun working with Coach House Players for the first time last year as an intern for *Little Shop of Horrors*, and wants to thank Barbara and Quentin for showing her the ropes at Coach House and being so welcoming.

Milo Witte (Lighting Intern) Milo has worked in and appreciated theatre since he was seven. He worked on a production of *The Wizard of Oz* at age seven, and followed up with learning how to act in the "Broadway Bound" class at Coleman High School the following years. At age eleven, his mother began bringing him to some shows at UPAC and Bardavon theatres (where she volunteered) to hand out programs. Now fifteen, he volunteers as an usher full time and is learning the technical aspects of theatre from Quentin Champ-Dorian, and the Hudson Valley Tech Meetup. Milo would like to thank his parents pushing him to be more, his friends for being so supportive, and Quentin for this amazing opportunity.

Who's Who (in alphabetical order)

Willow Alder (Miss Marple) Willow Alder acted in childhood and then resumed two years ago at the age of 60. She is a regular in community theatre and in murder mysteries. Her past performances have been mostly comedic roles, including *Skirt Job*, *Murder at the Mansion* and playing various historical characters. She had a major role in the award-winning play *The Language Archive*. Most recently, she starred in a musical entitled *A World War II Christmas Radio Show*. Based on her lifelong experience as a marriage and family therapist, Willow is currently writing a play about healing family relationships. She deeply appreciates The Hudson Valley Playwrights Circle and others who help her to hone her skills as a playwright and an actor.

Akasha Davis (Mitzi, the maid) Akasha has appeared at the Coach House as Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, in the *Annual Variety Show* and as Kitty in *Pride & Prejudice* (her first acting roles). She loves this new role as Mitzi, the maid, and is happy to have found many new friends within the cast and crew. Akasha plans on seeking more roles when this show has completed its run. Akasha would like to thank her family for their wonderful support of her Coach House experience.

Cindy Denise (Letitia Blacklock) This is Cindy's first appearance with the Coach House Players. She recently played Guido's mother in the Phoenicia Playhouse production of *Nine*, which was her first time on stage. She had so much fun, she's back for more. The challenge of this role reminds her of a favorite quote, "Be afraid, and do it anyway." Thank you to Barbara, cast and crew. She's especially excited to share the stage with her sister in law, Linda, who plays Bunny. A best friend in life as well, I love you! Thank you to my husband, George, family and friends for your continued encouragement and support.

Sarah Hale-Rude (Julia Simmons) Sarah is thrilled to perform in her first murder mystery with the Coach House Players! An avid actress in community theater since 5, her love and respect for acting as a powerful form of art motivates her for every new, and in many ways, life changing theatrical endeavor. A brief list of credits include: *The Cherry Orchard*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Oliver!*, *The Language Archive*, *Dark of the Moon* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. She would like to thank the wonderful Barbara Melzer, the talented cast, and her Aunt Becky for coming all the way from San Francisco to see her perform.

Julie Lichtenberg (Mrs. Swettenham) This is Julie's fourth show at Coach House previously appearing in *Natalie Needs a Nightie*, *Phantom of the Country Opera*, and *The Annual Variety Show* last fall. She would like to thank Barbara for casting her in the role of Mrs. Swettenham in *A Murder is Announced* and the amazing cast she has had the privilege of performing this show with. A big thank you to her family for their unending love and support, especially her son, Tom Roberts, who plays Sergeant Mellors. Enjoy the show everyone!

Lawrence Miller (Edmund Swettenham) Lawrence is once again delighted to return to Coach House Players, having appeared as a number of characters in productions of *Phantom of the Country Opera* and *Pygmalion*. This past fall saw him achieve the apex of his theatrical career to date (literally and figuratively) as the Studio Announcer, in a re-enactment of Orson Welles' iconic radio play, *The War of the Worlds* - atop Bannerman Island! Other favorite productions over the years have included *Annie, 1776, Plaza Suite* and *The Producers*, all at the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. Just swell to be working with friends old and new!

Jeremy G. McLaughlin (Rudi Scherz) Jeremy has been in numerous theatre productions throughout the Hudson Valley, ranging from New Paltz to Phoenicia. A *Murder is Announced* marks his second production with the Coach House Players, after operating the Audrey II puppet in last autumn's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Michelle Orifici (Phillipa Haymes) This is Michelle's first show with Coach House Players. She has played various roles all over New York, both in college and community plays. She started at the age of 5 as Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan* and fell in love with the theatre ever since. In her grade school years she played in *Grease* and *The Wizard of Oz*. While majoring in Psychology she minored in Theatre in college and played Molly Ralston in *The Mousetrap* another Agatha Christie murder mystery. She also played various roles in a series of shorts called "A Case of the Ives", and one of her favorites *All Shook Up*. While trying to grow her own business providing various services for weddings, she hopes to continue acting with the Coach House Players and is very excited about her current role as Phillipa Haymes. She would like to thank her family and friends who support in her passions, especially Peter Klatt, Gina Leonaggeo and Laura Defraia who have helped her really develop her role in this production. She wants to say I Love You to all of you and Thank you for supporting me!

Peter S. Pius (Inspector Craddock) This is Peter's fourth appearance at the Coach House. He has appeared as Inspector Colquhoun in *The Hollow*, Sidney Nichols in *California Suite* and Mr. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*. He has performed in numerous comedies, dramas and musicals at the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck. He has also toured the Hudson Valley from Phoenicia to New Paltz and all points in between in other productions. His other credits include appearances on television and in movies. He is also a playwright having written several short plays and two 2 act plays. He thanks Barbara for this wonderful chance to continue to stretch his abilities in acting. To this wonderful cast, it has been a pleasure. To his wife Susan, who has endured his passion for acting and writing, I love you!

Linda Primiano (Dora Bunner - aka Bunny) Linda last appeared as Muriel Bingham in *The Fox on the Fairway*. Her first performance with Coach House Players was as Clair Schmidt in *Nana's Naughty Knickers* and in the *2012 Variety Show*. Since then she has worked behind the scenes on lights, sound and costume design. She is currently on the board of directors of Coach House Players and serves as secretary. Linda took theater arts classes at UCCC and performed in a few productions, but her main roles have been as a classroom teacher at Woodstock Elementary School, wife to Nick and mom to Nicole and Michelle.

Tom Roberts (Sergeant Mellors) Tom last appeared on the Coach House stage in the *2016 Annual Variety Show*. Before that in *Phantom of the Country Opera*, as Tommy in *Natalie Needs a Nightie*, as Justin in *The Fox On the Fairway* and Bruce in *The Second Time Around*. He played Harry Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* at the Rhinebeck Center of Performing Arts. He would like to thank Barbara for the opportunity to perform for the wonderful folks at Coach House. He would also like to thank his awesome parents and brother for always believing in him and for their love and support. Enjoy the show!

Marshall Sheldon (Patrick Simmons) Marshall first appeared with Coach House Players as Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. Before that he performed in the Kingston High School musical *Anything Goes* and before that in *Marat/Sade* with Woodstock Performing Arts. He is thrilled to be back on stage after taking many years off to pursue graduate school and now works as a licensed mental health counselor. Many thanks to Coach House, to the Mitchell family for encouraging his return to theatre and to his supportive friends and family.

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED



Congratulations to the 2017 Coach House Players Scholarship Winners

Ava Hricisak (Coleman High School) Taylor Robey (Kingston High School)

Special thanks to Wilfred LaVoie legacy foundation and family
for their support of the Coach House Players Scholarship Fund

The names and schools of all recipients (where known) since the inception of the Scholarship in 1950 can be found on the www.CoachHousePlayers.org website.
(Click "History" then "Scholarship") or just scan:

