

## Production Team



**Director:** Barbara E. Melzer  
**Stage Manager:** Tricia Franklin  
**Stage Manager Intern:** Katrina Ali

**Costumes:** Lynnann Madison, Sandra Daw,  
Angie Harelick, Angie Mahdavian,  
Ginger Martin, Linda Primiano  
**Costume Intern:** Mary Baker

**Lighting Designer/Operator:** Quentin Champ-Doran  
**Lighting Designer:** Chris Beall  
**Lighting Operator:** Julia Safron  
**Lighting Operator:** Milo Witte

**Set Design:** Tom Tierney, Linda Tierney  
**Set Construction, Décor  
& Painting:** Tom Tierney, Mike Harelick,  
Jack Madison, John Thayer

**Program, Posters, Lobby Videos  
& Ad Journal:** Michael Harelick  
**Publicity:** Terri Dwyer, Tom Tierney  
**Reservations:** Angie Harelick, Mike Harelick  
**Box Office:** Ann Papelian  
**Season Tickets:** Linda Tierney  
**Refreshment Chair:** Angie Harelick

"Please read the names of the production staff above. Without these folks the actors have little with which to work. Many thanks for your wonderful work." *Barbara*

### Thank you to:

WKNY ~ WGHQ  
Lou Trapani (The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck)

### 2018-2019 Coach House Players Board of Directors

#### Officers

President: Tom Tierney  
Treasurer: Rosie Interrante

Vice President: Susan Regan  
Membership Secretary: Barbara Surowitz  
Recording Secretary: Linda Primiano

#### Board Members

Terri Dwyer Paula Lucas Barbara E. Melzer David Rubenstein

April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14, 2019

Coach House Theatre

# Murder on the Nile



By Agatha Christie

Directed by Barbara E. Melzer

'Murder on the Nile' is produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, Inc.

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For further information about this play others by Agatha Christie and other stage adaptations of her stories, visit: <http://www.agathachristie.com>

This production is dedicated to **Yvonne Sill** and **Bob Ploss**.

Long-time member **Yvonne Sill** appeared in 20 Coach House productions and with her husband, Bill, were mainstays of the Coach House.

**Bob Ploss**, President and CEO of Colonial City Moving, donated his time and resources to moving Coach House productions FREE of charge for over 15 years before moving to our present location.

They are appreciated and will be missed.

**Coach House Players**

**12 Augusta Street, Kingston, New York**

- moving us FREE of charge for over 15 years before moving to our present location

The action of the play takes place in the Observation Salon of the palace steamer *Lotus*.

**ACT I:**

Scene 1: Late afternoon.  
Scene 2: Three days later.

**INTERMISSION**

**ACT II:**

Scene 1: Five minutes later.  
Scene 2: The following morning.



**Cast of Characters**  
in order of appearance

**Beadseller**, pesky peddler trying to get a buck ---- **Lawrence Miller**  
**Steward**, the head waiter ----- **Gregory Castro**  
**Helen Ffoliot-ffoulkes**, a wealthy snob ----- **Pearl A. Johnson**  
**Christina Grant**, Helen's niece ----- **Beatrice-Ann Amato**  
**Kay Ridgeway-Mostyn**,  
the "richest girl in England" ----- **Patricia Cohen**  
**Simon Mostyn**, Kay's husband ----- **Marshall Sheldon**  
**Louise**, Kay's maid ----- **Victoria Muller**  
**Dr. Bessner**, a doctor ----- **John J. Johnson**  
**Canon Ambrose Pennefather**,  
Kay's uncle and guardian ----- **Peter S. Pius**  
**Jacqueline de Severac** Kay's ex-best friend  
and Simon's ex-fiancée ----- **Julie Lichtenberg**  
**William Smith**, a wise-cracking "kid" ----- **Tom Muller**  
**McNaught**, the *Lotus's* captain ----- **Lawrence Miller**

**Don't miss the other shows in our 2019 season...**  
*(Audition for or attend the show!)*



July : **Ripcord**  
by David Lindsay-Abaire

Audition dates: April 29 & 30 and May 1

Performance dates: July 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14



August: **Annual Variety Show**  
more details coming

Audition dates: July 8 & 9

Performance dates: August 24, 25 & 26 \*



**The Matchmaker** by Thornton Wilder

Audition dates: September 3, 4 & 5

Performance dates: November 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17

<sup>1</sup> Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

\* This fund raider is not part of the annual subscription

**Katrina Ali (Intern)** This is Katrina's first show with Coach House Players.

**Agatha Christie (Playright)** Born in Torquay in 1890, Agatha Christie became, and remains, the best-selling novelist of all time. She is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, as well as the world's longest-running play – The Mousetrap. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language and a billion in translation.

Source: [www.agathachristie.com](http://www.agathachristie.com)

**Congratulations to the 2018 Coach House Players Scholarship Winners**

Kira Daniels (Onteora High School) Sydney Miller (Kingston High School)

Special thanks to the 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](http://www.CoachHousePlayers.org) website.

(Click "History" then "Scholarship") or just scan:



## 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 for Coach House *A Murder is Announced*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Hollow* and *California Suite* 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.

**Tricia Franklin (Assistant Director/Stage Manager)** is very happy to be back at the Coach House doing this extremely entertaining play with a fabulous cast and crew. Barbara as usual it's been great. Come in and enjoy the fun.

**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 several shows including *Barnum* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. He also appeared as a GI and as a Club Owner in *Miss Saigon* and as 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 for many area Hudson Valley theaters in various technical capacities, including lighting design, lighting assistant, follow spot, set construction, and sound board operator. Theaters he has worked at include, Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, Voice Theater, Bird-On-A-Cliff Theater, and The Arts Society of Kingston.

**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 Operator)** 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)

**Beatrice-Ann Amato (Christina Grant)** This is Beatrice-Ann's first production with Coach House Players and she is new to the Hudson Valley. She has loved plays and movies since I was a young grasshopper. Beatrice-Ann attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts West in Los Angeles, CA and has been in a number of different plays.

**Gregory Castro (Steward)** Greg appeared at the Coach House as Major Hillgrove in *The Enchanted Cottage* and Detective Sergeant Penny in *The Hollow*. Before that as The Detective in *She Loves Me* and has also had the pleasure of being a part of *A Comedy of Errors*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Camelot*, *Julius Caesar*, *1776*, *Henry VIII*, *The Wisest Man in the World*, *Cinderella*, *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, *Sound of Music* and *The Odd Couple*. Many thanks to my wife, Susan, and my talented cast mates and crew for a fun-filled experience.

**Patricia Cohen (Kay Ridgeway-Mostyn)** Patty last appeared onstage at the Coach House as Dr. Grayburn in *Something's Afoot* and before that in ten other shows, including three Musical Reviews. As a lifetime member of Coach House, she has also helped direct and work behind the scenes on many other productions. Other theater associations include Up in One Productions, KHS Musical Theatrics, MacHaydn Theater, HV Gilbert & Sullivan, and as soloist in the Old Dutch Church *Messiah Sing In*. Patty has directed many choruses, as well as community and professional theater groups across the state, and was honored to perform at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Lincoln Center, as well as sing in the Papal Choir for his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Yankee Stadium in April 2008. Recently retired, she is an active guest clinician/conductor, performer and soprano soloist across the region. Favorite roles include Esther in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, Cousin Nettie in *Carousel*, Mother Superior in *Sound of Music* and Meg in *Damn Yankees*. Patty is also a voice over artist and the cantor and soloist at St. Peter's Church in Rosendale. She thanks her Mom, John and Sam for all their patience, love and support!

**John J. Johnson (Dr. Bessner)** This is John's first role with Coach House Players. His love of theater includes both acting and directing. Before his retirement, he directed theater productions at Yorktown Central High School for 18 years. His favorites include *A Few Good Men* and *Shadowbox*. Several of John's students have gone on to study acting after graduation and he has enjoyed seeing their success in college performances. John also loves to perform, especially in productions in which his wife, Pearl, also had a part (*A Man for All Seasons*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*). After 47 years of marriage, John and Pearl are still having fun performing, most recently in this play.

**Pearl A. Johnson (Helen Foiliot-ffoughts)** This is Pearl's first role with Coach House Players. She has appeared in many local productions including Hand to Mouth Players, County Players, Shadowland, City Lights Productions, Cornwall Community Theater, Just Off Broadway (Newburgh), and others, enjoying them all. Pearl has also had a little fun appearing in short films and had a blast appearing on the Daily Show with Jon Stewart. Favorite roles include Lady Alice in *A Man for All Seasons* and Mrs. Van Daan in *Diary of Anne Frank*. In *Diary* she had additional fun playing opposite her real-life husband, John, who also appears in this production.

**Julie Lichtenberg (Jacqueline de Severac)** This is Julie's fourth show at Coach House previously appearing in *Natalie Needs a Nightie*, *Phantom of the Country Opera*, and an *Annual Variety Show*. She would like to thank Barbara for casting her in this show 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.

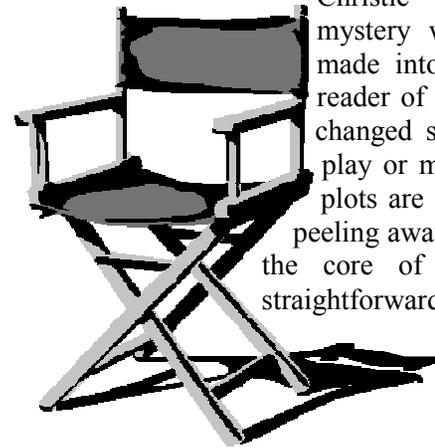
**Lawrence Miller (Beadseller/McNaught)** Lawrence is once again delighted to return to Coach House Players, having appeared as a number of characters in productions of *A Murder is Announced*, *Phantom of the Country Opera* and *Pygmalion*. In the fall of 2017 he achieved the apex of his theatrical 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* (reprised last summer - again atop Bannerman Island!), *Plaza Suite* and *The Producers*, all at the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. Just swell to be working with friends old and new!

**Tom Muller (William Smith)** Tom's last role with Coach House Players was as Julius Goldschmidt in *Barnum* and before that as Mr. Wickham in *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Victoria Muller (Louise)** Victoria has appeared on stage countless times since she was able to walk. She has had solos in both voice and piano, has had several roles in various Russian plays, at the Cunneen-Hackett theater, with the Mid-Hudson Russian Community Association, played the Wizard in the musical *Munchkin Mediation* at Rondout Valley Middle School, and has had multiple roles in *The Nutcracker* at the Bardavon, hosted by the New Paltz Ballet Theatre. Currently, Victoria is in the ensemble of *The Little Mermaid*, produced by the Rondout Valley High School.

## Director's Note on "Murder on the Nile"

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. 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.



Many thanks,

*Barbara Melzer*

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**Peter S. Pius (Canon Ambrose Pennefather)** This is Peter's fifth appearance at the Coach House. He has appeared as Inspector Craddock in *A Murder is Announced*, 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!

**Marshall Sheldon (Simon Mostyn)** Marshall last appeared with Coach House Players as Bailey in *Barnum* and before that in *A Murder is Announced* and 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.