

**UCA** Theatre

PRESENTS OUR 2023-24 SEASON

AGATHA  
CHRISTIE'S

**MURDER**  
ON THE  **ORIENT**  
**EXPRESS**

ADAPTED FOR  
THE STAGE BY  
KEN LUDWIG

WINDGATE CENTER FOR  
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS  
James M. Bridges Black Box Theatre

**NOV 10, 16 & 17 @ 7:30 PM**

**NOV 11, 18 @ 2:00 PM**



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS

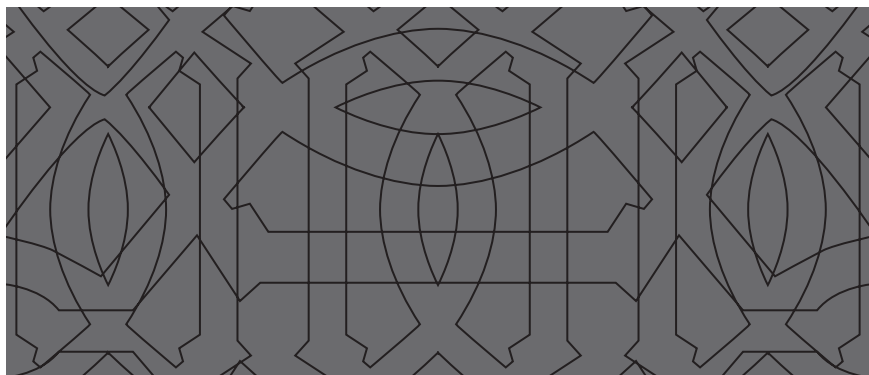
[uca.edu/theatre](http://uca.edu/theatre)



UCA THEATRE IS PART OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
This production is paid for in part with the UCA Fine Arts Fee



This production is dedicated to my mom,  
Nancy Lou Birch.  
—Chris Fritzges



Agatha Christie's

**MURDER**  
**ON**  
**THE** **O** **RIENT**  
**EXPRESS**

adapted by Ken Ludwig

Agatha Christie's Murder On The Orient Express adapted by Ken Ludwig was originally staged by McCarter Theater Center, Princeton, NJ Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director.

The production subsequently transferred to Hartford Stage, Harford, CT Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director

"Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express"  
is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director .....	Chris Fritzges
Stage Manager .....	Seth Trostel
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Hanna Greene
Assistant Stage Manager .....	William O'Neil
Lighting Designer .....	Wyatt Kernodle
Lighting/Sound Mentor .....	Austin Aschbrenner
Scenic Designer .....	Michael Moreton
Asst. Scenic Designer .....	William O'Neil
Scenic Mentor .....	Tania Barrenechea
Costume Designer .....	Keagan Styes
Asst. Costume Designer .....	Alexus Brand
Asst. Costume Designer .....	LaDiamond Maker
Sound Designer .....	Trey Ewart
Props Designer .....	Aislinn Christy
Hair/Makeup .....	LaDiamond Maker
Dialect/Intimacy Director .....	Lauren Carlton

## CAST

Hercule Poirot .....	Bryan Altstatt
Monsieur Bouc .....	Keiren Minter
Mary Debenham .....	Lucy Speer
Hector Macqueen .....	Zane Holloway
Michel the Conductor .....	Robin O'Banion
Princess Dragomiroff .....	Emberlynn Pendergraft
Greta Ohlsson .....	Leah Fimple
Countess Andrenyi .....	Kathryn Bale
Helen Hubbard .....	Kaitlyn Kelley
Colonel Arbuthnot .....	Ashton Fritzges
Samuel Ratchett .....	Takashi Ito
Head Waiter .....	Robin O'Banion
(Understudy/Swing) .....	Echo Mitchell

MURDER  
ON THE ORIENT  
EXPRESS

**CREW**

**Technical Director**

Austin Aschbrenner

**Assistant Technical Director**

Liz Baker

**Light Board**

Alli Wildman

**Sound Board Op**

Jimmy Bowler

**Run Crew**

Audrey Mason

Danyal Renode

RJ Lewis

Dillon Swackhammer

Quincy Beard

Alexandra Boyd

**Lead Draper**

Keagan Styes

**Draper**

Eli Summers

LaDiamond Maker

**First Hand / Sticher**

Echo Mitchell

**Sticher**

Amy Young

**Wardrobe Supervisor**

Eli Summers

**Wardrobe Crew**

Emily Wallace

Mariah Foster

**Carpenter**

Xander Udochi

Trey Ewart

Dillon Swackhammer

Keiren Minter

Bryan Altstatt

Travis Cope

Peter Kha

**Paint Crew**

Michael Moreton

Wyatt Kernodle

**Props Artisan**

Lucy Speer

Daniel Nyberg

Sarah Habura

Rylee House

Nancy Miller

**Usher**

Forrest Breshears

Aaron Chesnut

**Office Assistant**

Kathryn Bale

**House Manager**

Joshua Gibby

**UCA THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF**

Chair / Associate Professor of Theatre ..... Shauna Meador

Associate Professor of Theatre / Program Coordinator ..... Chris Fritzges

Lecturer / Technical Director / Production Manager ... Austin Aschbrenner

Assistant Professor of Theatre ..... Tania Barrenechea

Visiting Professor of Theatre ..... Lauren Carlton

Lecturer / Costume Shop Manager ..... Keagan Styes

Theatre Business Manager ..... Joshua Gibby



Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, **CHRIS FRITZGES** (*Director*) has been a full-time educator at UCA in Conway since 2002,

where he teaches acting, voice and movement, and directs as an associate professor. He is a member of Actor's Equity Association and is an advanced actor combatant within the Society of American Fight Directors. Trained as an actor, Chris has been performing for audiences for over thirty years. Over the last several years, he has performed regularly with the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre and has been active in many other film, television, and radio projects in the region.



**KAITLYN KELLEY** (*Helen Hubbard*) is a freshman at UCA majoring in Theatre and Creative Writing. This is her first production with UCA Theatre.

She is originally from Alma, Arkansas where she was seen as Mrs. Wormwood in *MATILDA THE MUSICAL* with Alma High School, Lucy in *BRIGHT STAR* with the Young Actors Guild, and Celisse in *GODSPELL* with the Community School of the Arts Fort Smith. Kaitlyn enjoys singing, writing, and laughing extra loud. She would like to thank her parents for loving her all they can. With their support, she is able to have her heart in what she is studying. She is grateful for this opportunity in

the wonderful world of theatre and art.

**LUCY SPEER** (*Mary Debenham*) is a senior theatre major from Little Rock, AR. They have performed in many



shows previously at Henderson State University and The Weekend Theatre. This is their first time on stage at UCA!



**ROBIN O'BANION** (*Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter*) is a sophomore from Kingsland, Arkansas. Robin is currently studying Theatre at UCA,

and has previously participated in the Bear Bait Improv Troupe's Improved Shakespeare show. In his free time, Robin enjoys drawing, reading, and watching horror movies. This is his first production.



**TAKASHI ITO** (*Samuel Ratchett*) is an international student from Japan, and in his third year of UCA theatre major. He has appeared on

stage for UCA as Yuugeaux in student made play; *MADAME WILLANDORF* by Jimmy Bowler (2022). He also played in student films as Alex in *NICE TO MEET YOU* (UCA), Jayce in *SILVER SCREEN* (UCA), and Kazuya in *DEAD CITY* (UCA).

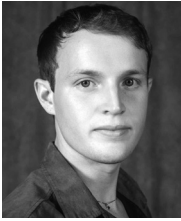


**KATHRYN BALE** (*Countess Andrenyi*) is a Junior classified student at UCA and is originally from Farmington, AR. Previous roles that Kathryn has had

with UCA theatre were Sarah in *THE MURDER AT TWICKNAM VICARAGE* and Judy in *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME*.

She is also involved in several theatre clubs such as Bear Bait Improv, APO (the theatre honors society), and Bear Brawlers (the stage combat club). She would like to thank her parents, James

and Rachel Bale, and her partner, John Thomas, for all of their ongoing support through this process!



**ZANE HOLLOWAY**  
*(Hector MacQueen)* is a junior Theatre Major here at UCA. On campus Zane is involved with other organizations such as Sigma Nu, Tau

Beta Sigma, and Alpha Psi Omega. Zane has been performing on stage for 10 years now, this being his UCA theatre debut. His previous roles include: Cat in the Hat, SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL, Eric in THE LITTLE MERMAID, and Jimmy in ALMOST MAINE.



**BRYAN ALTSTATT**  
*(Hercule Poirot)* is a transfer student in his second year as a Theatre major at UCA. He has recently appeared on stage for UCA as

Ed Boone in THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME and as Poirot in MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS at the Adam Robinson Black-box Theatre in Pine Bluff. Other roles include Lloyd Dallas (NOISES OFF, Maumelle), Will Parker (OKLAHOMA!, Arts & Science Center Pine Bluff), and Tybalt (ROMEO & JULIET, ASC).



**ECHO MITCHELL**  
*(Swing, with a focus on Greta)* is a freshman theatre and psychology major studying in the Schedler Honors College.

She is from Fox, AR. Echo has a focus in acting/performance and costume design. Along with performing as a swing, she works as a first-hand and stitcher in the costume shop. Echo is trained in a variety of dance styles and

enjoys choreographing jazz, ballet, and contemporary pieces. Outside of the theatre, she enjoys reading and writing fiction, playing music, teaching sewing, and drawing. She hopes to explore all aspects of theatrical production during her time at UCA. Echo would like to thank her family for supporting her in her journey to pursue theatre. She would especially like to thank her Granny for introducing her to her passion for sewing and performance.



**KEIREN MINTER**  
*(Monsieur Bouc)* is a freshman majoring in theater with an education minor. He is so excited to be doing his first show here at UCA!

He is from Pine Bluff, AR and is the son of Angelic Smith and Keith Minter. His acting credits include THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION (Dennis/Perkins), AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (Hector MacQueen), THE OUTSIDERS (Dallas), THE MIRACLE WORKER (Captain Keller), THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD (Townsguy), A SEUSSIFIED CHRISTMAS CAROL (Jake Marley and SVEN), RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA (Ensemble), and ROCK OF AGES (Hertz Klinneman) all produced at The Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas. Keiren would like to give a huge shoutout to his ASC family for all of their love and support.



**LEAH GRACE FIMPLE** *(Greta Ohlsson)* is a sophomore at UCA. She is studying to get a major in Theatre and a minor in creative writing. Some

of her favorite roles she has played are Grandma Addams in THE ADDAMS FAMILY, James in JAMES AND THE

GIANT PEACH and Olaf in FROZEN. Some of her hobbies are writing, acting and dancing. Leah would like to thank her family, friends and teachers.



**EMBERLYNN PENDERGRAFT** (*Princess Dragomiroff*) is a junior at UCA from Blevins, AR. They are a former Digital Media Production major

from Henderson State University, but transferred to study Film, Theatre, and Creative Writing at UCA last year. This is Emberlynn's second production with UCA Theatre, previously performing in *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME*.



**ASHTON FRITZGES** (*Colonel Arbuthnot*) is a Junior at UCA. He is most recently known for his role as Francisco in Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's *THE*

*TEMPEST*. This will be his third show in the Wingate Center and he is excited to continue performing in this space.



**KEN LUDWIG** has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals are staged around the world and

throughout the United States every night of the year.

His first play, *LEND ME A TENOR*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by The Washington Post. *CRAZY FOR YOU* is currently running on London's West End. It was previously on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award, and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year. His other plays include *MOON OVER BUFFALO*, *LEADING LADIES*, *BASKERVILLE*, *SHERWOOD*, *TWENTIETH CENTURY*, *DEAR JACK*, *DEAR LOUISE*, *A FOX ON THE FAIRWAY*, *A COMEDY OF TENORS*, *THE GAME'S AFOOT*, *SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD* and *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*. They have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Kristen Bell, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Henry Goodman.

His book *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays on theatre are published in the *Yale Review*. He gives the Annual Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and he served on the Board of Governors for the Folger Shakespeare Library for ten years. His first opera, *TENOR OVERBOARD*, opened at the Glimmerglass Festival in July 2022. His most recent world premieres were *LEND ME A SOPRANO* and *MORIARTY*, and his newest plays and musicals include *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE PART 2: NAPOLEON AT PEMBERLEY* and *LADY MOLLY OF SCOTLAND YARD*.

His plays include commissions from the Agatha Christie Estate, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe Theatre, and the Bristol Old Vic. For more information visit [www.kenludwig.com](http://www.kenludwig.com).





## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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