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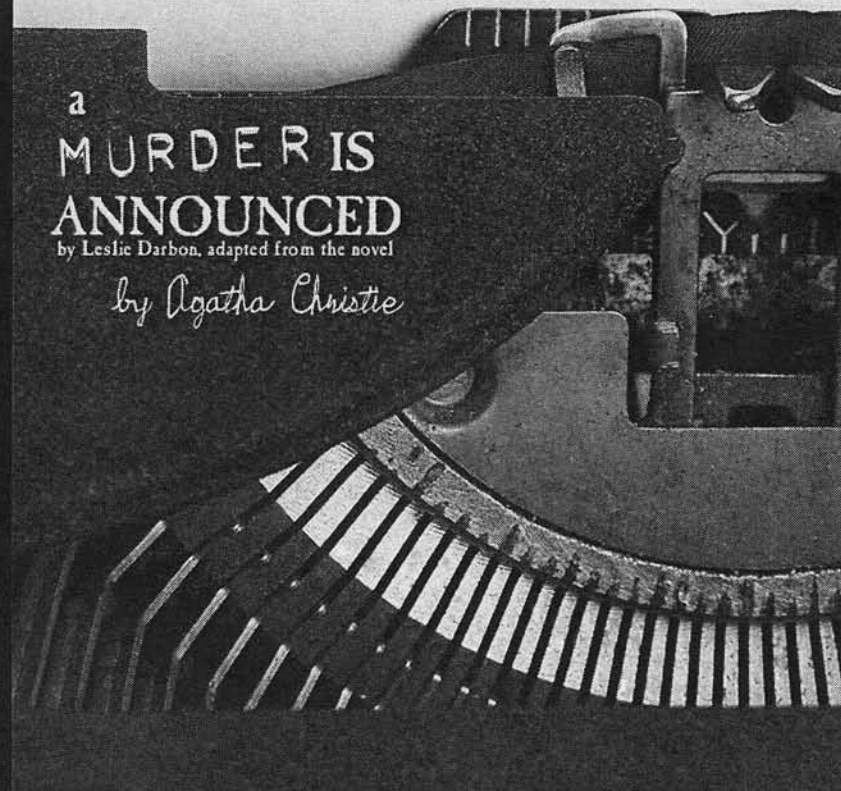


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a
**MURDER IS
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by Leslie Darbon, adapted from the novel

by Agatha Christie

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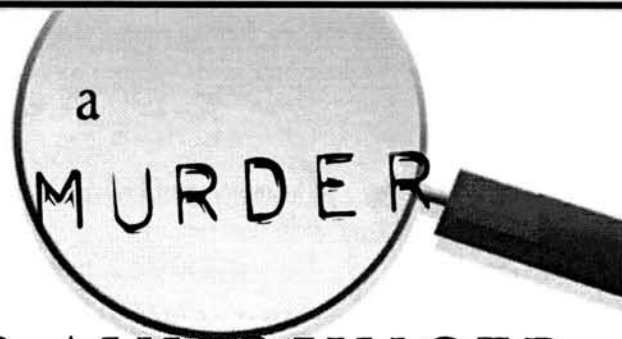
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IS ANNOUNCED

*From the book by Agatha Christie
Adapted by Leslie Darbon*

.....

Directed by MARGARET GUDMUNDSSON

Assist. Director SONJA LEHMANN

Stage Manager BOB GUDMUNDSSON

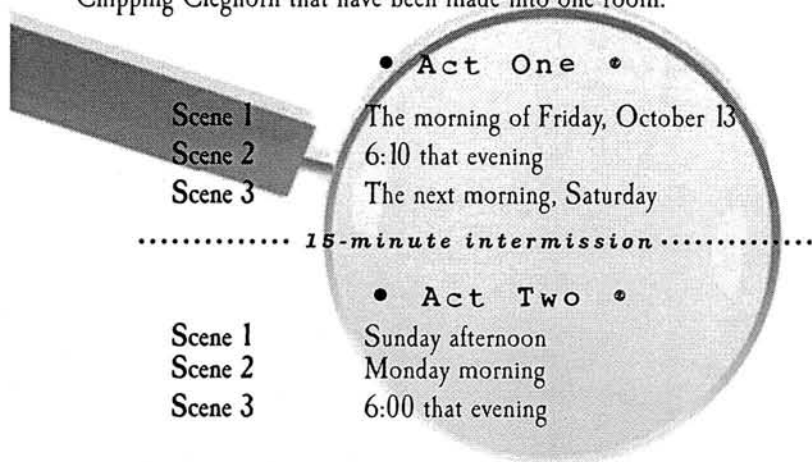
Costume Designer HELEN SLOMOWITZ

Properties Manager KIM STEWART

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.....

CAST

in order of appearance

Letitia Blacklock.....*Martha Luehrmann*
Julia Simmons.....*Laura Jane Coles*
Dora "Bunny" Bunner.....*P.J. McCarty*
Patrick Simmons.....*Eric Carlson*
Mitzi.....*Elaine Pinto*
Miss Marple.....*Beverly Elkan*
Phillipa Haymes.....*Jennifer M. Rich*
Clara Swettenham.....*Dorothy Adams*
Edmund Swettenham.....*Don Corbin*
Inspector Craddock.....*David Spinner*
Sergeant Mellors.....*Thomas Allen*

PRODUCTION CREW

Set designer.....*Bob Gudmundsson*
Set painting.....*Jon Gudmundsson, Yutine Fung, Cast & Crew*
Set construction.....*Bob Gudmundsson, Christian Carter, Cast & Crew*
Lighting designer.....*Serafina Kernberger*
Light/sound technician.....*Sonja Lehmann*
Photography.....*Christian Carter*
House manager.....*David Stein*
Box office.....*Bill Martinelli*
Opening night gala.....*Margaret Gudmundsson*
Postcard design & program design.....*Wendy Welch*
Publicity.....*Ralph Miller*

SPECIAL THANKS

Easy Copy Center Susan Toth
Lynn Hammond UCB Theatre Arts Department

B I O G R A P H I E S

DOROTHY ADAMS (Clara Swettenham) has been acting on stage for over 20 years, having made her first appearance as the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*. Recent favorite roles include Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*. In real life, Dorothy is not mean and is no one's mother.

THOMAS ALLEN (Sergeant Mellors) is delighted to be appearing in this, his first AE production. Recently, he played Victor in *Private Lives* and Tilden in *Buried Child* at Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

ERIC CARLSON (Patrick Simmons) has long been shunned by the theatre establishment, publishing houses and Hollywood studios, but has recently found solace in Pennsylvania's Amish community. Unable to prevent his hair from curling, he was soon shunned there as well, and moved to Berkeley with wife Anne and daughter Boothe. To date, while disdainful, neither shuns him.

LAURA JANE COLES (Julia Simmons) is an attorney by day, drama queen nights and weekends. You may have seen her recently in the Three Wise Monkeys BOA Festival as Woman in *Ghost Trio*—the infamous “shower scene”—or at the Brava Theater as Ruth, housewife-turned-abortionist, in Planned Parenthood's inspiring production *Jane: Abortion and the Underground*. Visit LJ on the web at www.laurajanecoales.com.

DON CORBIN (Edmund Swettenham), modest grocery clerk by day, super thespian by night! This is Don's second appearance at Live Oak Theatre. This time he is delighted to be working with Actors Ensemble in his first Agatha Christie. He was most recently seen in *The Exonerated*. Other credits include *Death, King Lear* and *Laramie Project*.

BEVERLY ELKAN (Miss Marple) has appeared in a number of plays and independent films in San Francisco and Marin, but this is her first appearance in the East Bay, where she lives, and she is very happy to be here. Also, since acting is a career choice of her later and wiser years, she has had a plethora of roles requiring dying or dementia, and so she is especially delighted to play the lively Miss Marple.

BOB GUDMUNDSSON (Stage Manager/Rudi Scherz) is excited to be working both sides of the set for this production—while he usually works behind the scene building sets, designing lights, etc. Bob has previously appeared in *Camping*

B I O G R A P H I E S

with Henry and Tom. When he is not working on theatrical productions, he spends his time at Black Rock City or traveling up and down the Baja peninsula.

MARGARET GUDMUNDSSON (Director) is a 20-year member of the Board of Directors for Actors Ensemble. In 2003, she directed *Camping with Henry and Tom*, and prior to that she directed the very successful Miss Marple mystery, *Murder at the Vicarage*. Her most recent acting experience was as the Patchwork Girl in Jan Martin's *Talking With*.

SONJA LEHMANN (Assistant Director/Lighting Technician) is working as an intern for AE's production of *A Murder is Announced*. This is her first experience working in theater. However, she's been fascinated by drama for a long time which is why she decided to major in British Literature. She's just finished her junior year at UCB as an International Exchange student from Germany.

MARTHA LUEHRMANN (Letitia Blacklock) This is Martha's first Actors Ensemble show. Her other roles have included Mrs. Gibbs in Wilder's *Our Town*, Lady Bracknell in Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Sonya in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* and Mildred in Robert Reich's *I Met Her Only Yesterday in the 84th Street Sewer*. She did a great deal of acting in the 60s, including a summer stock stint with Merrill Streep, but her children made her quit acting in 1972. She thanks her children who are allowing her to go back into acting now that she is old and retired. Martha is a member of Theatre Bay Area.

P.J. McCARTY (Dora “Bunny” Bunner) is performing for the second time with Actors Ensemble, having started her acting career four years ago in AE's production of *Inherit the Wind*. She is delighted to be returning “home.” P.J. has appeared in nine plays to date, including *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* and an all-female production of *Julius Caesar*. She dedicates her performance as she does her life, to Nikki, Malik and Malcolm.

ELAINE PINTO (Mitzi) loves acting, and she is very excited about performing in *A Murder is Announced*. The acting bug bit her seven years ago when she started taking voiceover classes in Sausalito. Elaine never dreamed that it would take her this far in her journey as an actor.

JENNIFER M. RICH (Phillipa Haymes) is happy to be making her first appearance with the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. She has trained at ACT, the Jean Shelton Actors Lab, and Full Circle Productions. Jennifer is the mother of two spoiled dogs. She would like to thank Rob for all of his support and encouragement.

B I O G R A P H I E S C O N T ' D

HELEN SLOMOWITZ (Costume Designer) is truly excited to be working with Actors Ensemble on her fourth show this season. Helen would like to thank each and every one of the cast & crew on *A Murder is Announced*—they have been helpful, creative and true geniuses! Without their help...well, they certainly would not have looked so great!

DAVID SPINNER (Inspector Craddock) returns to the stage after a fifteen-year hiatus (during which he started a family, edited and wrote, and developed and performed in seasonal public rituals and comic safer sex workshops). After studying at the Jean Shelton Actors Lab, he appeared in several Bay Area productions, including the lead in Lewis Carroll's biography, *Looking Glass*. David's family, the Marx Brothers, and early Farrelly Brothers movies inspire him.

KIM STEWART (Properties Manager) most recently stage managed AE's last show, *Working*, and was newly elected to the AE Board of Directors. Having performed most all roles associated with the theatre, she says, "Whether I'm in the front, back, or audience of the 'house,' what is passed between the 'fourth wall' empowers me."

S P E C I A L T H A N K S

*to the following donors who made contributions to
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Howard & Cindi Goldberg	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Vargo
Bob Gudmundsson	Sara Baretto-Worthing

A B O U T A E

Actors Ensemble is Berkeley's oldest theatre group—having produced plays since 1957. We exist solely thanks to your generous patronage and to the work of our all-volunteer "ensemble."

Why should you keep supporting AE shows? Not only will you see a quality show at a great price, but by buying an AE ticket, you've helped your community. Every AE play this season supports a local charity. And many AE shows are free to low income groups. So thank you for coming, making theatre even more powerful—and please tell your friends.

Actors Ensemble membership is open to the community! If you're interested in learning about or supporting this theatre and its organization, please call Margaret Gudmundsson at (510) 233-8283.

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Actors Ensemble of Berkeley's mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend, participate in and be helped through theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round.

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley Board of Directors: Christian Carter, David Cohen, David Fenerty, Bob Gudmundsson, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bill Martinelli, Ralph Miller, Stan Spenger, David Stein, Kim Stewart, Wendy Welch



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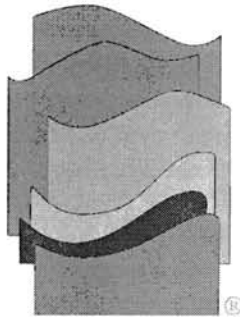
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