



THE MOUSETRAP

WRITTEN BY:
AGATHA CHRISTIE

DIRECTED BY:
DON CARRIER

NOV. 15, 16, 22, 23 AT 7:30 P.M.
NOV. 17 & 24 AT 3 P.M.



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

Theater

The Case Western Reserve University
Department of Theater presents

THE MOUSETRAP

Written by: **Agatha Christie**

Directed by: **Don Carrier**

Scenic Design

Ben Needham

Costume Design

Sera Bourgeau

Assistant Costume Design

Jack Exline

Lighting Design

Josh Smith

Scenic Artist

Micaela Barrett

Sound Design

Ava Tallarida

Please help us keep the 72-year tradition alive and keep the ending a secret!

SETTING

ACT ONE

Scene I: The Great Hall at Monkswell Manor. Late Afternoon.

Scene II: The same. The following day after lunch.

ACT TWO

The same. Ten minutes later.

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CAST

MOLLIE RALSTON Rachel Greidinger
GILES RALSTON Dominic Monczewski
CHRISTOPHER WREN Easton Sumlin
MRS. BOYLE Ada Howard
MAJOR METCALF Raaghuv Vazirani
MISS CASEWELL Colette Hartman
MR. PARAVICINI Kosta Volas
DETECTIVE SERGEANT TROTTER Ian Jacobs

PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Manager	Mandalyn Stevens
Assistant Stage Manager	Marcus Black
Dialect Coach	Beth McGee
Acting Coach	Anaya Farrell
Intimacy Coordinator	Eliza Ladd Schwarz
Light Board Op	Carrena Spann
Master Electrician	Nathan Kunst
Sound Op	Francisco Fernandez
Head Wardrobe	Sophie Bruch
Wardrobe #1	Aliaksandra Turchak
Wardrobe #2	Katie Frick
Backstage Crew #1	John Shillingsburg
Backstage Crew #2	Reighan Bean
Scene Shop Technicians	AJ Williams, Kiera Larrieu-Loucks, Justine Moore, Jonah Halloran, Ella Merrill
Costume Shop Assistants	Ava Bee, Hunter Lin, Jessica Pan, Dominic Monczewski, Sophie Bruch, Elizabeth Odife, Carrena Spann, Karma Hairston, Gerald Onyedika
Construction and Lighting Crew	Students Enrolled in THTR 105, 185
Acknowledgments	CPH Props Department, Academy for the Performing Arts

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Since early childhood I have been fascinated with mysteries, starting with “The Hardy Boys” and then moving on, in my early teens, to Agatha Christie. I scoured rummage sales and second hand book shops to amass a collection which slowly built up over the years. I was unaware at that time that there were plays made from Christie’s books and once I knew that, I added them to my collection as well!

When I was in college, I co-founded a summer theatre and our first and most successful play was *The Hollow*, a Christie mystery that had the usual ingredients of colorful suspects, motives and surprises! In my career, I’ve performed in *The Mousetrap* in two different productions and it was tremendously satisfying to feel the audience hanging on every word trying to figure out “whodunit”!

The Mousetrap was adapted for the stage by Christie from a radio play and subsequent short story, and is probably most famous for being the longest running play on London’s West End (only taking a hiatus during COVID): it’s now as much of a London institution as Big Ben or Trafalgar Square! It remains a tightly structured play with fascinating characters, dynamic dialogue and of course an intricate plot that keeps the audience guessing until the very end. It also improbably (for a commercial mystery) contains a number of elements that often get lost in the shuffle. The plot is propelled by a past filled with child abuse and violence. We see flaws in the British judicial system as well as characters who struggle to express their own identities, and out-of-the-mainstream dreams. It’s a wonderful ensemble play that gives our students rich opportunities to characterize and make bold and dynamic choices.

As always, we ask any audience who sees the show to NOT REVEAL any information to anyone who might be coming to see it. Let them be surprised! Enjoy the show.

DIRECTOR BIO



Donald Carrier (Director) is an actor, teacher and director who has worked extensively in theatre and film across North America. He is the Director of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program.

For the Cleveland Play House, he has appeared in *What the Constitution Means To Me*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *All the Way*, *Luna Gale*, *The Crucible*, *The Little Foxes*, *Lincolnesque*, *Noises Off!*, *Ten Chimneys*, *In The Next Room*, or *The Vibrator Play* and *Yentl*.

Directing credits include: *Middletown*, *The Liar*, *Passage*, *Fifth of July*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Misanthrope* and *Too True To Be Good*, CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program; *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Notre Dame University; *Twelfth Night*, Colorado College; Assistant Director for *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Stratford Festival; *The Crucible*, *As You Like It*, *Cymbeline*, CWRU Theater Department; *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Really, Really*, *Seminar*, Beck Center; Becky Shaw, Dobama Theatre; *Othello*, Texas Shakespeare Festival; *Ellis Island: An American Dream*, *Violins of Hope* and *Discovering Romeo and Juliet* with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Don is a 2016 Lunt Fontanne Fellow.

CAST BIOS



Rachel Greidinger (Mollie Ralston) is a third-year student majoring in Theater and Mathematics. She is so excited to be performing in her fifth production with the Theater Department, and could be most recently seen as Ivy in *John Proctor is the Villain*. She would like to thank Don for unleashing her upon the Roe Green Theatre again, Mandi for

managing to put up with her this many hours outside of class, and all her castmates for their dedication and support.

CAST BIOS, *continued*



Dominic Monczewski (Giles Ralston) is a third-year student studying Theater and Sociology. You may have seen him previously as Herr Schultz in *Cabaret* or Mr. Smith in *John Proctor is the Villain*. Outside of the department, Dominic is a member of IMPROVment, Case's improv comedy troupe. Dominic is delighted to be a part of this

production and to have worked with a wonderful team of actors and crew. As always, he wants to thank his friends and his family for their endless support over the years and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Easton Sumlin (Christopher Wren) is so hyped to be a part of the cast of *The Mousetrap* for his CWRU debut! Although this is his first time on a Case stage, this is definitely not his first time on the theater scene, being a part of many productions at local theaters including Heights Youth Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ensemble



Theatre, and even helping with wardrobe for CWRU's production of *Electra* last year. Easton is a second-year, majoring in English and Theater and minoring in Marketing. When he's not studying or asleep, you can find him playing video games, making original characters, or hanging out with his Quidditch team. He would love to thank Don, Mandi, Marcus, all the cast and all the crew for helping bring this production to life and his mother, father, sister, and dog for supporting him and always pushing him to be the best he can be. Enjoy the show!



Ada Howard (Mrs. Boyle) is a first-year student, majoring in Theater and possibly double-majoring with Nutrition . Her first role ever was playing a little star in her kindergarten school's production at age six, and since then she has been hooked. She is ecstatic to continue acting at Case in her first department show, and she hopes to do many

more! She would also like to thank her family and best friends for keeping her sane, and the wonderful cast & crew of *Mousetrap* for welcoming her so kindly and patiently. In her spare time, you can find her fumbling through whatever Opera she is trying to learn, or roller-skating around Cleveland. She hopes you enjoy the show!!

Raaghuv Vazirani (Major Metcalf) is a third-year Computer Science and Cognitive Science student.

He is so excited to be performing in his third production with the Theater Department! You may have recently seen him in *Cabaret* (Herman) or producing PTG Live. He's always loved being in front of an audience, and hopes to keep performing wherever life takes him. He'd like to thank his family, and is so grateful for this amazing opportunity. Outside of theater you'll often find him napping, spreadsheet-ing, or playing too much Mario Kart.



Colette Hartman (Miss Casewell) is a second-year majoring in International Studies and Political Science with a minor in Theater. She is absolutely thrilled to be in her third main stage production at CWRU, having danced her way through her first year as a member of the Revenge Chorus in *Electra* and Frenchie in *Cabaret*. She is so so proud of all

the hard work her cast mates have put into the show and has loved watching their accents go from questionably to certifiably British! She would like to extend a special thank you to Don, Mandi & Marcus, and the entire crew for making this show possible. She hopes you thoroughly enjoy the show!

CAST BIOS, *continued*



Kosta Volas (Mr. Paravicini) is ecstatic to be playing the whimsical role of Mr. Paravicini in *The Mousetrap*. He recently worked on *Anastasia* as Count Ipolitov at the North Canton Playhouse and performed in the previous Roe Green Theater productions, *Cabaret* (Victor) and *Electra* (Chorus).

Kosta is currently majoring in electrical engineering and minoring in Theater at CWRU. Outside of school, Kosta is also a new member of IMPROVment, Case's Premier Improv Comedy Troupe, and a Greek folk dancer. Kosta would like to thank the cast and crew of *The Mousetrap* for making this such a fantastic and fun production, his parents, family, and friends for always supporting and loving him, and finally, the North Canton Playhouse for continuing to support his passion for the theatre.

Ian Jacobs (Detective Sergeant Trotter) is a third-year student studying Cognitive Science, Business, Film, and Theater. He hails from Colorado and wants to recognize the love and support that got him here today. This is Ian's 33rd theatrical production, credits include Ernst in *Cabaret*, Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Jimmy in *Almost, Maine*. When not on a scripted stage Ian performs weekly(ish) for IMPROVment, CWRU's musical improv comedy troupe. To learn more about his shenanigans check him out at ian-jacobs.com. Enjoy the show!



DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BIOS



Mandalyn Stevens (Stage Manager) is the stage management lecturer here at CWRU. She has over 20 years of experience in educational, regional, and professional theatre. She has taught at Cleveland State University, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, and Florida Atlantic University. She holds a BA in Theatre from The Ohio State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Technical Theater and Design

Technology from Florida Atlantic University. Currently she is one of

the resident Stage Managers at Near West Theatre. She spends the daytime at Vincent Lighting Systems as an Account Executive.



Marcus Black (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first year double major in computer science and theater, and he's very excited to be a part of his first department show! Back in Columbus OH, he has done numerous shows with Short North Stage and Gallery Players. Marcus has also been a playwright, director, ASM, and SM. When he's not in rehearsals, you can find him with IMPROVment.

Ben Needham (Scenic Designer) currently serves as the Program Director for the Academy for the Performing Arts. For the past 17 years, he has been the Academy's Resident Designer, overseeing the technical theatre and film aspects of the program. Ben holds an MFA from the University of Georgia in Theatre Design and a BA from Case Western Reserve University in Theater Arts. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Georgia, Case Western Reserve University, Lakeland Community College, Lake Erie College, and Kent State University. He is the Owner and Principal Designer of Digital Squirrel Studio (www.digitalsquirrel.net). Ben has designed over 1000 theatre productions in a career spanning 28 years. His film and television projects include set design for Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, *Kill the Irishman*, *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy*, *Killing Reagan*, ABC's *The Kingmakers*, Meg Ryan's *Ithaca*, Amazon's Original Series *Point of Honor*, PBS's *Mercy Street*, and AMC's *Turn: Washington's Spies*. Most recently, Ben worked as a set designer on the films *The Outpost*, *Son of the South*, and the CW TV series *Valor*. He has also produced a number of immersive theatre shows with his company SHADOW OF THE RUN. Ben would like to thank his wife and children for their ongoing support.



DESIGN AND PRODUCTION , *continued*



Sera Bourgeau (Costume Designer) Previous CWRU design credits: *Electra*, *Blood at the Root*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Additional design credits include productions with Capital Repertory Theatre, The Long Wharf Theatre, Northern Stage, ACT of Connecticut, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and Theatre at Monmouth

among others. Associate/Assistant Design credits with New York Theatre Workshop, Emursive Productions, Target Margin Theatre, Soho Rep, The Guthrie Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, George Street Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and The Santa Fe Opera. Member of USA Local 829. MFA: University of California - Irvine BA: University of New Hampshire.

Jack Exline (Assistant Costume Designer) is a second year Theater and Psychology double major, and is ecstatic to be assistant costume designing *The Mousetrap* this semester. In the past, Jack has appeared in the CWRU theater department's productions of *Electra* and *Cabaret*, as well as various other productions on campus with Players' Theater Group and Footlighters. He would like to thank all of the members of the production team and cast for this wonderful opportunity and amazing show.



Ava "Ave" Tallarida (Sound Designer) is a second-year student studying Psychology and Cognitive Science with a minor in Theater Directing. This is their first time working with the department, but they are involved with student theater clubs as the Secretary for Players' Theatre Group and a member of the campus improv troupe, IMPROVment. Ave

has multiple acting, directing, and sound design credits with Players' Theatre Group, but they had never tried sound design until their time with the club. They are absolutely thrilled to be involved with this production for the opportunity to expand on their knowledge and learn more about sound design under Nicholas Drashner!



Josh Smith (Lighting Design) With more than 300 productions in the last 10 years and degree specializations in technical theatre, youth theatre and puppetry, Josh's work has been seen on Broadway (*Anastasia, 1984, Hello Dolly*), ESPN (*E:60, Outside the Lines, SC6, The Fantasy Show*) and museums across the country. Other favorite projects include

The Mere Distinction of Color at President Madison's Montpelier, *Lathrop Place* at the Paul Revere House Museum in Boston, and *Seachange* at Mystic Seaport. Josh has mixed for national touring acts, taught high school (and middle school), been a prop maker, graphic designer, production photographer, and videographer and at one point even a safari zoo keeper. Local credits include Cleveland Public Theatre: *The Outstretched Hand* (Lighting), *Troubled Waters* (Lighting), *Alter* (Sound), *Talespinner Children's Theatre: Last Stop on Market Street* (Scenic), *Toothpaste Millionaire* (Video).

Beth Mcgee (Dialect Coach) is a member of Actor's Equity and a voice, speech, and dialect coach. She was the on-set dialect coach for Cinemax's 2016 television series *Quarry*, directed by Greg Yaitanes. She has served as dialect coach for many Cleveland area theaters and dialect coached the 2002 film *Welcome to Collinwood* starring George Clooney, and directed by the Russo Brothers. She has coached and/or acted in productions at numerous Cleveland area theaters. She was one of the co-founders of Cleveland's first immersive theater company Shadow of the Run LLC, and was the playwright for their first immersive piece, *Wanderlust*. She is a Professor of Voice and Acting at CWRU. Devotees of folk music can find her 1980 Folkways album *Love is Teasing* housed in the archives of the Smithsonian Institution. McGee is an active member of Actors' Equity Association.





Anaya Farrell (Acting Coach) is a professional actor and teacher with extensive film and theatre credits. Anaya was a co-founder of Horizontal Eight Theatre Company led by Russian director Vladimir Mirzoev playing leading roles in his productions of *The Inspector General*, *The Possibilities*, *Salome*, *Epic* and *Caligula*. As a composer, Ms. Farrell has had a number of her works performed including the musical *Evangeline*, for which she wrote the music and co-wrote the book and lyrics; *Evangeline* was developed and presented in concert form by the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Anaya has performed in over seventy film, television, radio and commercial projects and has done lots of voiceover work as well as narration for documentaries, and national print campaigns. She was a recurring character on Gene Rodenberry's *Earth: Final Conflict* and played guest lead roles on many television series including *Smallville* and *Honey I Shrank the Kids*, and most recently the Netflix series, *Archive 81*. Last summer, she worked on the horror film *PIG HILL* which was a lot of fun! Anaya has appeared in both big screen and television features and has worked opposite such actors as Brian Dennehy, Treat Williams, Whoopi Goldberg, Christopher Plummer, Charles Durning and Sam Waterston.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER

Department Chair	Jeffrey Ullom
Artistic Director	David Vegh
Managing Director.....	Angelina Herin
Administrator	Elizabeth Rickel
Production Manager and Technical Director.....	Homer J. Farr
Scene Shop Manager and Assistant Technical Director	Nathan Kunst
Costume Shop Manager	Rainie J. Wilkes
Wig Design	Wigs and Whiskers
Theater Coordinator	Gregory Przybylak
House Manager	Ashley Rosinski
Usher	Sydney Raby

BEHIND THE SCENES

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