

Little Theatre of
VIRGINIA BEACH
The Beach's Playhouse since 1948

STAGE NOTES

SEASON 76 ISSUE 4 MARCH 2024

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

A Murder is Announced

March 22—April 14

Come see this Agatha Christie Whodunit!
This show is selling fast.

Thursday Night Pride Show, March 28th

Up Next!!

The Outsider

May 17—June 9

Auditions March 25th & 26th

Comedic Actors: 4 Men/3 Women

Volunteer Opportunities

There are so many opportunities and in this issue we are sharing the many way you can share your talents, on and off stage!

Want to usher or work concessions? Go to:
<https://signup.com/go/czpcjag> to sign up!



The President's Corner:

It's a great day for some Agatha Christie, don't ya think? This cast and crew have been working hard to bring the words and creative prowess of Agatha Christie to life on the LTVB stage. This theater is no stranger to murder mysteries, dating back to our beginnings in 1948. We have always indulged in the "whodunnit" scripts. You, the audience are loyal fans of figuring the twists and turns and surprises at every corner, both literally and figuratively. With the popularity of true crime in today's world, mysteries like the one currently on stage are seeing a renaissance. They are revitalized and re-thought as not only classics, but contemporary standards. Some are even comedies or musicals. They have become so popular that they have crossed genre borders, creating hybrid performances and unforgettable characters. I wonder what Agatha Christie would say about today's take on the murder mystery. I hope she would enjoy them as much as you're going to enjoy this retelling of Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*.

James Bryan ~ Board President

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March 22nd—April 14th

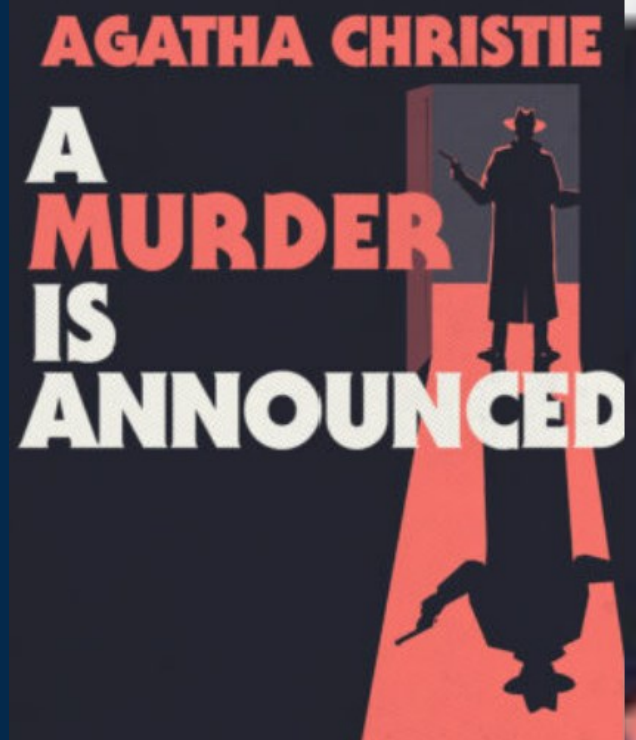
WRITTEN BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

DIRECTED BY KAY BURCHER

In the quiet little village of Chipping Cleghorn, an announcement in the local newspaper causes a stir among the residents. There is to be a murder in the home of Miss Blacklock that evening! As Miss Blacklock, her lodgers, and curious visitors begin to arrive, tensions mount and everyone wonders if it's all a silly joke. However, the victim proves to be an unexpected visitor and not Miss Blacklock or one of the villagers at all. With the arrival of Inspector Craddock, a murder investigation begins. Somewhat to his frustration, he is joined by amateur sleuth Miss Marple, who is always one step ahead. They reveal that Miss Blacklock is due to inherit a huge sum of money, but who would stand to gain from her murder? In a classic Agatha Christie tale of concealed identities, desperation, mixed motives, and another death, it takes a risky strategy to uncover the true identity of the murderer.

CAST:

Miss Marple	Ann Heywood
Letitia Blacklock	Alana Dodds Sharp
Julia Simmons	Grace Perry
Dora "Bunny" Brunner	Beth Buchanan
Patrick Simmons	Michael Mcosker
Mitzi	Destinee Kiara
Phillipa Haymes	Madeleine Dilley
Mrs. Swettenham	Lisa Annunziato
Edmund Swettenham	John Moss
Inspector Craddock	Marc Dyer
Rudi Scherz/ASM/US	Aaron Wells
Sergeant Mellors/ASM/US	Amanda Anderson



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Directors Notes:

Director: Kay Burcher

I've always enjoyed reading mystery novels and Agatha Christie, known as the Queen of Crime, is one of my favorites. Therefore, I was excited to take over the task of directing this adaptation of her seventh-ranked most popular novel, *A Murder Is Announced*. However, when I started re-searching the novel/ play, I found it different from some of her earlier works. Although it has the usual "whodunnit" element, Christie started to strike a lighter note with this novel. She starts to move away from the cold-blooded and ingenious puzzles to mysteries centered more around the psychology of her characters. *A Murder is Announced*, written in 1950, is the book that started all that – She started writing more about the world around her and the changing morals of the world after WW2, while still including the puzzles of her books from the 30's, the character novels of the 40's and the humor found in human nature in the 50's. Her focus on the foibles of humans in this novel added an element of humor that surprised me. I hope it surprises you, too.

One of the things that makes Christie's works so enjoyable is her use of plot twists/red herrings and of clues. Christie is a master at pointing us in the wrong direction– mistaken identities, accepting the innocence and goodness of a character - go a long way in setting us up for a surprise. And her cleverness at front-loading clues before we are aware of their significance is masterful. This adaptation is no exception. Be sure to pay careful attention to the scenes of mild domestic strife and/or bliss where Christie hides her plot twists and clues under the guise of normalcy. If you watch and listen carefully enough, you may be another "Miss Marple" and discover who the real killer is.

A big shout out to the cast and crew who worked tirelessly to bring this production to life, carefully crafting a show faithful to Agatha Christie's vision. Our hope is that it "keeps you on the edge of your seat".

Enjoy the show!

Kay Burcher

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Pride Night At The Theatre

We have had 2 very successful Pride Night Shows and looking forward to our next, *A Murder Is Announced*

March 28th @7:30 PM

AGATHA CHRISTIE
A
MURDER
IS
ANNOUNCED



LGBT
LIFE
CENTER



Join us for a fun filled night of theatre, while supporting some local non-profits! We have partnered with Hampton Roads Pride, LGBT Life Center, & Stonewall Sports for a non-profit fundraiser for each of our shows this season.

Tickets for this show are \$30

6:30PM –7:30PM *hours d'oeuvres*

There will be silent auction items and a 50/50 raffle. Cash bar will be open and selling your favorite libations, and of

course...there will be a deadly drink special!

We'd like to thank some of our local businesses for their support:

- * Wegman's for providing cost relief for the hours d'oeuvres
- * Trader Joe's and Sam's Club for providing funding for the Silent Auction

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Up Next!

The Outsider!

March 22nd—April 14th

WRITTEN BY PAUL SLADE SMITH

DIRECTED BY :

TAMMY SMITH

Ned Newley doesn't even want to be governor. He's terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for... the worst candidate to ever run for office. A timely and hilarious comedy that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.



Auditions: March 25 - 26, 2024, 7:00 pm
Place: LTVB 550 Barberton Dr., Virginia Beach
Callbacks: March 27th, 2024, 7-9:00 pm

AUDITION DETAILS:

Looking for 4 Men & 3 Women who are great comedic actors with, great energy & memorization skills! Non-traditional casting will be considered.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Headshots & Resumes accepted.

Audition Form: <https://forms.gle/AWgcpzLCH25cfxAP6> (Forms available on site, as well)

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Volunteer Opportunities!!

As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on our amazing volunteers to keep the theatre running. Are you interested in sharing your talents? There are so many opportunities, on and off stage.

Are you creative, or handy, but you don't want to be on stage? We can use your assistance in many different areas. We are always looking for people to help with:

- ♦ Lighting or Sound Design
- ♦ Running Lights or Sound
- ♦ Back Stage Crew
- ♦ Set Construction & Tear Down
- ♦ Painters
- ♦ Concession & Bartenders
- ♦ Ushers
- ♦ Costumes

To Volunteer:

Please send an email to:
volunteers@ltvb.com

Want to usher or work concessions for the current show? We need volunteers!

- 1) Copy and paste the following link into your browser to see our opportunities on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/czpcigag>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.

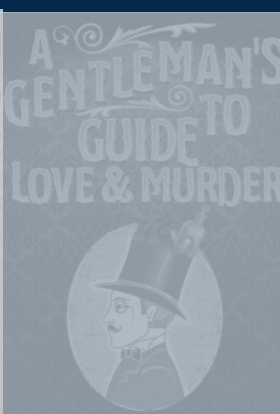
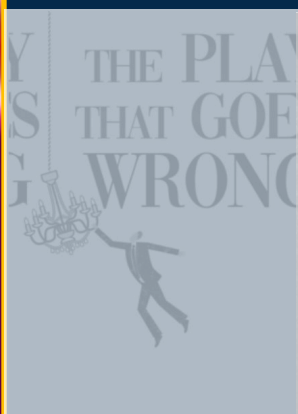
Note: SignUp does not share your email address. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Kay Burcher, at VPBuisness@ltvb.com and she will sign up up manually.

Haven't done it before, but want to learn! Great! Let us train you!! Each year we have a Volunteer Appreciation Party to celebrate our wonderful volunteers! Come join the fun, meet new people and be a part of this amazing theatre community!

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2023 - 2024 Season



Season Passes are no longer available, and the season has been so great that we are selling out quickly. Call, or go online to ltvb.com to get your tickets before the show you want to see is sold out! Already sold out? We have a wait list at the door for each performance.

Adult—\$20/\$22

Senior/Military/Student—\$17/\$20

Child - Under 12—\$9/\$12

Pride Night Tickets—\$30

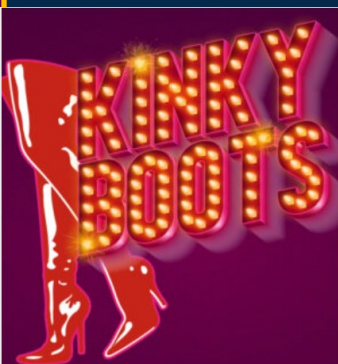
Buy Tickets at LTVB.com or call 757-428-9233

Summer Show: **Kinky Boots!**

July 19, 2024 - August 11, 2024

The Summer Show is not a part of the Season Pass

Tickets are on sale Now!



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Season 2024-2025

Misery

September 13 - October 6, 2024

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

November 15 - December 8, 2024

Into the Breeches!

January 17 - February 9, 2025

45 Seconds from Broadway

March 21 - April 13, 2025

Ripcord

May 23 - June 15, 2025

The Producers

July 18 - August 11, 2025