

Ann Arbor
Civic Theatre
Presents



THE MOUSETRAP

A Thrilling Masterpiece by Agatha Christie

Directed by K L Grismer

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

September 12-15, 1990 at 8pm
Saturday Matinee at 2pm


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**Ann Arbor
Civic Theatre**
presents

THE MOUSETRAP

By Agatha Christie

Directed by **K L Grismer**

Original music composed and performed by

Charles Heard

Place: **Monkswell Manor Guest House
Berkshire County
England**

February 21, 1947

There will be one intermission

The University of Michigan forbids smoking in any part of the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

It's Not a Play! It's an Institution!

Director's notes

by **K L Grismer**

After 38 years, Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP is still on London tourists' "must-see" list along with Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and the Crown Jewels.

Originally written in 1947 as a radio play to celebrate Dowager Queen Mary's 80th birthday, Christie adapted it first into a short story then a play. When it opened, Christie thought it "quite a nice little play," but was a little depressed that she had put in too many humorous situations and thought that the laughter would take away from the thrill. She forecast a run of 8 months. That was in 1952 and almost 16,000 performances ago. Clever promotions kept the show alive after its stars Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim departed. Six years after it opened, THE MOUSETRAP became the longest-running production in British history and took on a life of its own.

Will you see THE MOUSETRAP in the movie theatre? Not likely. The film cannot be released until 6 months after the end of the London run — and that's nowhere in sight. It is now the longest-running show in the world.

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THE CREW

Set Construction

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Dennis Gunaca
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THE MOUSETRAP TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1** Of the 20 plays Christie wrote, THE MOUSETRAP is one of her three major theatrical successes. What are the other two?
- 2** THE MOUSETRAP was adapted by the Queen of Crime from one of her short stories. What is the title?
- 3** After 13 years, THE MOUSETRAP is also this country's longest-running play. What country is it?
- 4** What was unique about both the performance and the audience at the May 14, 1981 matinee of THE MOUSETRAP?
- 5** How often is the cast of THE MOUSETRAP changed and the play restaged by a new director?
- 6** How many actors and actresses have performed in THE MOUSETRAP since it opened in 1952.
- 7** One actor who played Major Metcalf established a record for the longest single engagement by any actor in the world. How long was he in THE MOUSETRAP?
- 8** How many performances did the original actress who played Mrs Boyle do?
- 9** In its first third of a century, how many people have seen the London production of THE MOUSETRAP?
- 10** In how many countries has THE MOUSETRAP been produced?
- 11** How many tons of programs were used in the first 34 years?
- 12** After 13 years of performances, what had to be replaced?
- 13** Why is the date of our closing performance, September 15, 1990, significant?
- 14** The actor who played Det. Sgt. Trotter in 1961 came back in 1982 to play what character?
- 15** What is unique about the woman who sold tickets for 20 years to THE MOUSETRAP?
- 16** Who did it?

(a guide through the mystery of Mousetrap Trivia)

ANSWERS

1. "Ten Little Indians" - 1944
"Witness for the Prosecution" - 1953
2. "Three Blind Mice"
3. Canada
4. It was signed for a deaf audience
5. Annually - on the anniversary of its opening
6. 238 and 111 understudies
7. 11 years from 1956-1967
8. 4000 in 12 1/2 years with a year break

9. 7 million
10. 42
11. 227 tons
12. The theater's seats, curtains, and set.
13. It would be Christie's 100th birthday.
14. Mr. Faravini
15. She never saw the show
16. Now, that wouldn't be sporting. The British have kept the secret for 35 years. Keep the tradition — don't tell!


CAST

Mollie Ralston	Cathy Lee Collins
Giles Ralston	Chris Korow
Christopher Wren	Tom Underwood
Mrs. Boyle	Sandy Hudson Thomasson
Major Metcalf	Bob Starring
Miss Casewell	Sandra K. Geyer
Mr. Paravicini	Charles Sutherland
Detective Sergeant Trotter	Frederick J. Bock
Radio Voices	Beverly Poole

STAFF

Director	K L Grismer
Assistant Director	Tracy Hudson
Composer/Musical Consultant	Charles Heard
Producer	Julie Miller
Set Designer	Jeff Zuppan
Set Builder	Patrick Hancox
Costume/Makeup	Kerry Graves-Smith
Lights	Steve Krawcke
Sound	Bob Carbeck
Stage Manager	Peter D. Halloran
Props	Liz Kermarski
Program Editor	Susan Bellinson

Special thanks and acknowledgements: Beverly Pooley for his radio voices; Russell E. Smith for his set design consultation; Charles Heard for his original compositions and music; Liberty Lighting and Fireplace.



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WHO'S WHO

THE CAST

FREDERICK J. BOCK (Detective Sergeant Trotter) recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a double major in Theatre Arts and Telecommunications and Film. At EMU he appeared in numerous productions including "Dooley's Deli", "The Trial of Tom Sawyer", "The Dining Room", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", "Tartuffe", and "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight". Fred has worked behind the scenes as well. Among his favorite assignments at EMU were directing David Mamet's "Reunion", and stage managing "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Greater Tuna". Since leaving EMU Fred has appeared in a few industrial videos, designed scenery for PASS Sports, and is currently working for Pro-Vision, a video production facility in Ann Arbor.

CATHY LEE COLLINS (Mollie Ralston) is very happy to be back in Wolverine Country, having lived in Ohio for the past 5 years. She has a BFA in Theatre from Otterbein College and has appeared at various theatres in shows such as "Camille", "A Chorus Line", "The Common Pursuit", "Brighton Beach Memoirs", "Lady House Blues" and the east coast premiere of

"Frontiers". Cathy spent this past year performing a four show season with Art Research Touring Theatre, and loved the opportunity to see a great deal of the U.S. Her favorite spot was Lake Placid, NY where the company was snowed in for three days! This is her debut AACT performance.

SANDRA K. GEYER (Miss Casewell) makes her first appearance on AACT's stage in this production. She has played Mammy Yokum in "Lil' Abner", Nancy Twinkle in "Little Mary Sunshine", Joan McDonald in "Onions in the Stew", Aunt Cathy in "Aunt Cathy's Cat," Sheridan Whiteside's secretary in "The Man Who Came to Dinner", and various other roles at Barrier Free Theatre. Sandy is a social worker in private practice and with Chelsea Community hospital.

CHRIS KOROW (Giles Ralston) has done everything from slinging paint to assistant directing to appearing locally in 16 productions since 1985. He has last seen in Peninsula Productions "The Anastasia Affaire" as Sir Archibald Douglass. Last year Chris was honored with AACT's Best Actor Award for his portrayal of Alan Felix in "Play it Again Sam". Other

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WHO'S WHO

roles include a Gentleman Caller in "The Glass Menagerie", Mr. Mushnik in "Little Shop of Horrors", Ray in "Lone Star", and Billy Bob in "LuAnne Hampton Lavery Overlander". During his off hours, Chris is a senior software engineer for Huron Systems, Inc., a local software firm in Ann Arbor.

BEVERLEY POOLEY (radio voices) first appeared on AACT'S stage in our 1959 production of "Major Barbara"! His most recent AACT roles include the elder Salieri in "Amadeus", Mr. Applegate in "Damn Yankees", and Judge Brack in "Hedda Gabler". His theatrical credits also include a huge list of U of M Gilbert and Sullivan Society roles, where he most recently portrayed Pooh-Bah in "The Mikado". He also set the town afire as Captain Hook in Peninsula Production's "Peter Pan". Bev is a professor at the U of M Law School.

BOB STARRING (Major Metcalf) appeared most recently in "Born Yesterday". Other AACT appearances, going back to 1968, include "The Visit", "Brass and Grass Forever", "The Unexpected Guest" (another Christie mystery), "Antigone", "Follies", and "The Crucible". He is a graduate of Wayne State

University (BA and MA in theatre) and the University of Michigan (AMLS). Bob played many roles at Wayne State and was a member of their theatre tour company sent to India, sponsored by USIS, one of the nation's first cultural exchange programs. He is retired from a 20 year career as a librarian with the University of Michigan. His last position was Head, Rare Books and Special Collections. He has performed in several Michigan Media TV productions including a ten-part series based on the "Twelve Caesars of Suetonius".

CHARLES SUTHERLAND (Mr Paravicini) has won awards at AACT for acting and directing. He produced the first three seasons of MainStreet Productions at AACT. He directed Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte" for Papagena Opera Co. He appeared in the new American Theatre production of "Back to Back" and "The Ugly Duckling" for Peninsula Productions. He was Rev. Crisparkle in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" last season when he was picked for the murderer 4 out of 6 times.

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WHO'S WHO

SANDY HUDSON THOMASSON (Mrs. Boyle) has done several shows at AACT over the years, but her most recent roles were Bella in "Angel Street" and Aunt Julia in "Hedda Gabler". She has appeared in several other AACT mysteries: the Scottish housekeeper in "Witness for the Prosecution" and Mary Nelson in "ingenue" in "Seven Keys to Baldpate". Unfortunately she is unable to work in theatre as much as she would like due to the rigorous examinations her job as an actuary in training requires her to take every six months.

THE CREW

K L GRISMER (DIRECTOR) directed AACT's "Born Yesterday" and was among the Ann Arbor News' Annual Critic's Choice for her performances in AACT'S "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", "Chicago" and "Side by Side by Sondheim". She also appears in commercials and training videos. K L received her training at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

TRACY HUDSON (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) has been a member of AACT for what seems like all her life. She has ushered over and over again and has been involved in such productions as "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and "Inherit The Wind". Behind the scenes she has worked props for "Angel Street". This is her second assignment as assistant director, the first being for "The Wiz" at Greenhills School where she is a student in her senior year.

CHARLES HEARD (COMPOSER/MUSICAL CONSULTANT) has composed original scores for theatre, educational videos and choral groups. His vast background includes conducting choral, orchestral and musical theatre works and guest lecturing for U of M and EMU where he recently composed the score for "Jane Eyre".

JULIE MILLER (PRODUCER) Having first appeared as an office volunteer and then administrative secretary, Julie's first meaty role was as producer for MainStreet's "Playboy of the Western World". She went on to produce such hits as "Mame" and "The Lion In Winter." Her most recent role at Civic Theatre was as assistant director for MainStreet's "Jacques Brel," although she has appeared in the same position for "Bullshot Crummond", "Arsenic and Old Lace" and Comic Opera Guild's "Die Fledermaus" and "Bataclan". She is currently a full-time student at EMU.

JEFF ZUPAN (SET DESIGNER) Over the past four years, Jeff has spent so much time at AACT that most people think he lives here. Jeff's primary functions have included set design for such notable shows as "Born Yesterday", "The Mystery of Edwin Drood",

TOM UNDERWOOD (Christopher Wren) appeared in "Spoon River Anthology" where he played four parts. A veteran of Reader's Theatre, Tom has been a script editor and specializes in writing and performing his own monologues. Tom caught the acting bug from old movies, particularly films from the 40s and 50s that feature character roles, his favorite actor being the venerable Boris Karloff.

and "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940". His design for "Plaza Suite" won him an AACT "best set" award. Switching hats, he worked as stage manager for "Born Yesterday", "Arsenic and Old Lace", "The Lion In Winter", "Play It Again, Sam," and "Brigadoon." He does a bang-up job building sets for the Comic Opera Guild and has appeared on stage in "Amadeus" and "Mame".

KERRY GRAVES SMITH (COSTUME/MAKEUP) AACT audiences are used to seeing Kerry onstage, most recently as Mame in "Mame", but two knee surgeries last year forced her into different area of the theatre. This year she directed two productions for the Junior Theatre Company, "Cinderella", an original musical for which she designed the costumes and sets as well as wrote the music and lyrics, and "The Elves and the Shoemaker" which she co-authored. "The Mousetrap" is her first design experience with AACT.

STEVE KRAWCKE (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a theatre tech major at Western Michigan University and is working with AACT for the first time. He was assistant director for "Dracula: Curse of an Aching Heart" at Carlson High School. He is most interested in integrating sound and light with computers.

ROBERT CARBECK (SOUND) is a native Ann Arborite and has been involved with AACT for three years, working sound for such shows as "The Real Thing", "I'm Not Rappaport", "The Lion In Winter", "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" and "The Mystery of Edwin Drood". Bob looks forward to another great year with AACT.

PETER DANIEL HALLORAN (STAGE MANAGER) is currently technical director for the The Young People's Theater, an electrician for Complete Production Systems and a freelance artist. He has worked throughout the country as master carpenter, master electrician and technical director. In Georgia he worked with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Horizon Theatre, Theatre Outfit and Scott Ross Enterprises. In York, Pennsylvania he acted as lighting director for the Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center.

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