

# HARLEQUIN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Release Date:** 09/03/2025

**End Date:** 10/26/2025

## **All Aboard for Murder and Mystery: *Murder on the Orient Express* Rolls into Harlequin**

**Olympia, WA** – September 3, 2025 – Harlequin Productions presents *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*, adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig, October 3 – 26, 2025 at the State Theater. Directed by Scott Nolte (*Building Madness*, 2023).

*Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.*

*What do you get if you combine an international cast of characters, a world-renowned detective, and a murder on a cross-country train during a snowstorm? It should be clear to anyone that this lethal concoction produces one of the most famous and heart-racing mysteries of all time, by one of the greatest authors of all time, Agatha Christie.*

First published in 1934, [Murder on the Orient Express](#) is among Christie's most celebrated works featuring her legendary Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, who will be portrayed at Harlequin by veteran actor John Serembe. Poirot's sharp wit, fastidious habits, and unmatched deductive skills have made him one of the most enduring figures in detective fiction. Harlequin's staging of Ken Ludwig's theatrical adaptation promises all the intrigue and elegance of Christie's classic.

The production features an ambitious and visually stunning set designed by Bruce Haasl, which Director of Production Gerald B. Browning describes as "a Rubik's cube of a set – lots of moving parts." Its complexity will allow for multiple locations, transporting audiences through the dazzling luxury of the world-famous locomotive. From costumes dripping with 1930s glamour to detailed set dressing that captures the smallest touches of opulence, the world of Christie's novel will come vividly alive. Says director Scott Nolte: "*Well, first, there are nine—nine!—distinct settings in this story, which happens over just two days, and the action needs to move at a swift pace to seize our focus on the story. That's an enormous creative challenge for me and our terrific team of scenic, costume, lighting, prop, and sound designers. From lapel pins to jewelry to table settings, we're casting a spell to draw our audience into a foreign place of opulence and intrigue.*"

[Click here for publicity photos for the production](#)

[Click here for a link to the ORIENT EXPRESS show page](#)

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## Production Information

**WHAT:** Harlequin Productions presents *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*, adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig. Directed by Scott Nolte.

**WHEN:** October 3 - 26, 2025

**WHERE:** State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

**TICKETS:** Available online at [harlequinproductions.org](http://harlequinproductions.org), by phone at 360-786-0151, or in person 12–5:30 pm, Tuesday–Saturday at the State Theater Box Office.

General admission: \$48

Senior 60+/Military: \$45

Student/Youths Under 25: \$33

Rush Tickets (2 hours prior to showtime): General \$24; Teens/Under 20 \$5

### **SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:**

**Opening Night:** Friday, October 3 at 7:30 pm

**Pay-What-You-Choose:** TBA prior to Opening

**Closing:** Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 pm

**CATEGORY:** Mystery Thriller

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 12 and older with guidance for violence and mature themes

### **CAST:**

John Serembe\* – *Hercule Poirot*

Russ Holm – *Monsieur Bouc*

Cassie Jo Fastabend – *Mary Debenham*

Levi Redmill – *Hector MacQueen*

Ben Stahl – *Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter*

Jana Tyrrell – *Princess Dragomiroff*

Audrey Herold – *Greta Ohlsson*

Big Anderson – *Countess Andrenyi*

Ann Flannigan – *Helen Hubbard*

Adam Martin – *Colonel Arbuthnot/Samuel Ratchett*

\*Member of the Actor's Equity Association

*Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.*

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