

THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP

presents

Agatha
Christie's

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

A BENEFIT STAGED READING

POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK

November 2 & 3, 2024



Norman Allen



Graville Wyche Burgess



Molly Garbe Brown



Jim Gordon



Sean Hannon



Susan Jacobson



Miriam Kulick



Matthew Mancuso



Robert Resnikoff



Emilie Roberts



Michael Sharits



Allan Zeller

Theatre Artists Workshop

presents a benefit staged reading of

Agatha Christie's **AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**

directed by

Andrea Lynn Green

Production Stage Manager

Kristen Kingsley

Assistant Director

Luisa Tanno

Production Assistant

Syd Young

Logo / Program Design

Dan Remmes

SETTING	ACT I	ACT II	ACT III
<i>The year 1939.</i> Living room of a house on Soldier Island, off the coast of Devon, England.	Summer evening in August.	<i>Scene 1:</i> Following morning. <i>Scene 2:</i> Same day, afternoon.	<i>Scene 1:</i> Same day, evening. <i>Scene 2:</i> Following afternoon.

And Then There Were None © 1939, 1943 Agatha Christie Limited All rights reserved.

'AGATHA CHRISTIE' and the Agatha Christie Signature Mark are trademarks of Agatha Christie Ltd. All rights reserved.
The rights to this play are controlled by Agatha Christie Ltd.

For further information about this play, others by Agatha Christie and about other stage adaptations of her stories, please visit www.agathachristie.com

Run time: approximately 2 hours 15 minutes including one 10-minute intermission. Recommended for ages 14+

Contains material that may be disturbing to some viewers, including references to, and depictions of, murder, manslaughter and suicide. Please also note that a prop gun and recorded gunshots form part of the production.

Recording or photography during the show is strictly prohibited.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A judge. A police officer. A General. A teacher. A soldier. A doctor. A pillar of the religious community. All figures of moral authority. Such respectable English people don't commit murder, right? Their actions are justified, even virtuous. Crimes are what *other* people do. Death happens to *other* people. As we find ourselves trapped together on Soldier Island, we are compelled to reflect on the ambiguous nature of guilt and justice.

And Then There Were None is Agatha Christie's darkest and most influential novel. One of the most famous crime stories ever written, it is considered to be Christie's magnum opus, and it is the world's best selling mystery of all time. Perhaps because it is not a traditional Christie whodunit, rather, it stands out as a true psychological thriller. Most chillingly though, is Christie's pulsing reminder throughout: that anyone has the potential to be a killer. All that is required is the right motive.

Set in 1939 off the coast of Devon, England, Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* is a witness to its time and place, weaving themes of colonialism, imperialism, classism, racism, and misogyny casually throughout the work. Yet here, she does not fall into the trope of the "base foreigner" as a guilty party. She has turned that on its head, condemning the "native" English to that role, and exposing the cozy hypocrisy of her characters. As such, one might argue that Christie was challenging the foundations of British society, perhaps even indicting the myth of British moral superiority on which colonialism is based. Perhaps this is too generous an interpretation, but regardless of Christie's intention when contemplating "the other" (otherness) in her novels, these questions inspired me to absorb *And Then There Were None* through a retrospective lens.

Much like the members of our Workshop, Agatha Christie did not shy away from the input of others. Not only is this thrilling mystery great fun for Workshop actors to perform, the history of this novel and Christie's writings as a whole are a fascinating example of a creative artist, their estate, or their adapters altering their work over time for TV, film, and the stage, for better or for worse. In regards to the play at hand, previous titles included racist terminology that were changed due to their offensive nature. Insensitive language sprinkled throughout earlier versions of the novel and play were mostly scrubbed. The ending was altered, ministering to a society deeply wounded by the horrors of WWII. These iterations remain a part of Christie's career and canon. Originally written in 1939, the novel had a much more disturbing ending than what Christie eventually wrote for the stage play version in 1943. Christie "took into account what was perceived to be the needs of audiences during a very dark time in history," according to her grandson Mathew Prichard. Post war audiences yearned to escape to a world where things worked out neatly. And so, we have two endings to consider. Which ending have we opted for? Could it be ... both? You'll find out soon enough.

An example of what we do on Monday nights at Theatre Artists Workshop is about to play out before you in our typical staged reading style: scripts in hand, a few chairs, benches, rehearsal blocks, a music stand here or there...not too many bells and whistles (well ... I had to put in a few!). What I mean to say is ... It's about the work. I hope you enjoy.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Lynn Green

WHO'S WHO

NORMAN ALLEN* (Voice) Graduate, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Broadway: *Chips with Everything*; *Half A Sixpence*; *Borstal Boy*; *Comedians*; *Vivat, Vivat, Regina*; *Major Barbara*; *Get Thee To Canterbury*, and more. Off-Broadway: *Carrin Beginning* for Riverside Stage Company; Menelaus in *The Trojan Women*. At Stratford Shakespeare Theatre: *Hamlet* and *Henry VI* with Christopher Walken; *Henry V* with Christopher Plummer. Regionally: *Noises Off*, *Awake and Sing*, *Children of Darkness*, *The Faith Healer*, *The Miser*. He was seen in June 2022 Off Broadway as Pope John XXIII in *His Holiness*. Working with The Greenwich Theatre Co, along with Workshop member Susan Jacobson and Andrea Lynn Green as director, we brought Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* to life, and received critical acclaim for our Zoom production.

GRANVILLE WYCHE BURGESS* (Sir Lawrence Wargrave) is a playwright, lyricist, director, author, producer, composer, teacher, and author. He has directed, produced, acted in or written over 90 productions. Plays and musicals Off-Broadway and regionally: *The Freak* [Samuel French pub.], *Play It As It Lies* [Playscripts pub.] *Conrack*, *Battlecry*, *Common Ground*; teleplays on PBS, syndication [*Tales From The Darkside*], and network [EMMY nomination for soap opera, *Capitol*]. Awards/grants: CBS/Foundation for the Dramatist Guild production award; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (two times); the National Endowment for the Humanities; the US Department of Education. He was the Director of the Walnut Street Theatre School, teaching playwrighting, screenwriting, directing, and acting.

MOLLY GARBE BROWN (Vera Claythorne) Nat'l Tour: *Little Women The Musical*. Regional credits: *Doubt: A Parable* (Stray Kats Theatre Co) *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Lake Ontario Playhouse), *Parade* (Secret Theatre NYC). Recent local performance of *Mary Page Marlowe* at FTC and various readings with Play With Your Food (JIB Prod.s) Many children's theatre productions in CT and Westchester including originating the role of *Merrilee Mannerly* in *Merrilee Mannerly The Musical* at The Summer Theatre of New Canaan. Independent Film: *Local Warming* (Brooklawn Productions). Congratulations and thank you to the cast and crew of *AT-TWN*! All the love to Will and our 3 boys and Maple the cat!

JIM GORDON (General MacKenzie) Jim's plays have won or been finalists in over 70 national and international competitions. His published plays include several collections of one-acts. Among his awards, Jim received the "Alan Minieri Award for Playwriting Excellence" from The American Globe Theatre in New York City. Jim has a BS in Theatre Arts and an MA in Communications and is a member of the Theatre Artists Workshop in CT, and the Dramatists Guild.

SEAN HANNON* (Rogers) Prior to his first Equity show as George Gibbs in *Our Town* with Richard Dysart, Sean played the juvenile lead roles in many Shakespeare plays at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum. Off-Broadway, he was seen in the lead role of Charlie Galloway in *Life Anonymous* by N. Richard Nash. Regionally, he has appeared as Sgt. Foster in *Flights of Angels* at the Emelin Theatre, John Wilkes Booth in *Booth* at the Megaw Theatre, and in several productions at the Summer Theater of New Canaan, playing Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, Arthur in Camelot, and most recently as George Banks in *Mary Poppins*.

SUSAN JACOBSON* (Stage Directions) performed her mash-up of memoir, Dorothy Parker and Politics, *The Waltz*, at the Westport Town Theater, *Bushwacked!* at GTC and *Imprint, Preconceived*, and *No Ordinary Mother* at the National Opera Center, NYC. Her monologues were broadcast on WPKN and her video, *Broken*, looped at the People, Politics and Planet Exhibition. *Collecting Driftwood*, her one-person show, received a United Solo Award for Best Physical Theater. Favorite roles: Sister Aloysius (*Doubt*), Cousin (*A Christmas Memory*), and Mom. Her choreography and performance in *Letting Go* premiered at Lincoln Center's Dance on Camera Festival. She studies with Lee Brock at the Barrow Group. susanjacobson.me

MIRIAM KULICK* (Emily Brent) Scene with Kevin Hart, *Night School* (film), scene with Dwayne Johnson, *Ballers* (TV), *Superstition* (TV) directed by Mario Van Peebles. Miriam wrote, and acted in *The Rock*, a short indie film. Playwright and actor *Open Hearts*, solo show directed by Obie-award winner Gretchen Cryer, Off-Broadway Theatre Row, Cherry Lane, (excerpt only) DC Capital, and Ft. Lauderdale Fringe Festivals. *Three Angels Dancing on a*

WHO'S WHO

Needle, Brick Theater (NYC). *Hunka* (readings with Eagle Project) at Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Primary Stages (NYC). Zoom trilogy acted and wrote, *Sunday Conversations a Family Gathering*. Miriam was recently seen playing five characters in the world premiere of *Liberty Talks* at WHAT in Wellfleet, MA. www.miriamkulick.com.

MATTHEW MANCUSO* (Fred Narracott/Anthony Marston) Matt is excited to be playing Marston and Narracott in *And Then There Were None*. Most recent credits include: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Valley Shakespeare Festival), *Ghost the Musical* (Music Theatre of Connecticut), *Clybourne Park* (Music Theatre of Connecticut), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (VSF), *Jersey Boys* (MTC), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (Theatre 2020). Other acting credits include: *Dessa Rose* (Chromolume Theatre) and *Dublin Carol* (Amaryllis Theatre Company). When not acting, Matt works as a professional ballroom dancer. Thanks, Andrea, for inviting me to play along!

ROBERT RESNIKOFF* (Dr. Armstrong) created the role of Igor Stravinsky in the world premiere of Frederick Stropel's *Small World* with the Stray Katz Theater Company in Newtown, CT, and the White Heron Theatre on Nantucket. Other stage roles have included Jack in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*; Adrian in *Private Eyes*, Claudius in *Hamlet*; Dr. Lyman Hall in *1776*; and Hersh in the NYC premiere of Brian C. Petti's *Masquerade*. Onscreen he has played Mr. Eddie in *A Matter of Opinion*, a psychotherapist in *Father*, and the Stolichnaya Master Distiller in a promotional video for the vodka company. He has also presented classical music on WQXR and WSHU radio.

EMILIE ROBERTS* (Mrs. Rogers) In NYC, Emilie starred in five original musicals. Regionally, she had leading roles in *The Respectful Prostitute*, *She Loves Me*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Oklahoma!*, and others, appeared in eight musicals at Summer Theatre of New Canaan, and in dozens of musical revues. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Emilie performed major roles in *The Magic Flute*, *La Juive*, and *Pagliacci*. She is an accomplished choral singer and has recorded with Naxos and Columbia. Emilie is Adjunct Professor of Music and Theatre at the University of Bridgeport. She's a member of NATS, and AEA, and past president of the Theatre Artists Workshop.

MICHAEL SHARITS (Philip Lombard) originally from a small town in Indiana, began his career in entertainment through modeling. With 20 years of industry experience, he has showcased his versatility in commercials, film, and television, delivering dynamic performances from intense drama to lighthearted comedy. Michael trained at the Deena Levy Theatre Studio in NYC, combining Meisner and Grotowski techniques to bring depth and authenticity to every role. When not on set, he enjoys family time, restoring classic cars, and sharing his passion for fitness and nutrition with his personal training clients.

ALLAN ZELLER* (William Blore) has worked in Theatre, Film, Television and Radio for over 40 years. Allan's last stage appearance was at the Greenwich Theatre Co. in *Bushwhacked!* in Honor of Playwright Rosemary Foley. Prior to that Allan was seen opposite his wife Kimberly Squires in their two-person show *Zeller & Squires* at the Legacy Theatre in Branford CT. Some other Theatres include: The Greenwich Theatre Co., The Sacramento Theatre Co., CitiArts Theatre, Theatre Artists of Marin, Roger Rocha's Music Hall, 2nd Space Theatre, Theatre Works, Music Theatre of CT., The Schoolhouse Theatre, Penguin Rep., Stray Kats Theatre and the Players Theatre (NYC). Allan is a long-time member and former President of the Theatre Artists Workshop.

AGATHA CHRISTIE (Playwright) Born in Torquay, England in 1890, Agatha Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. With over one billion books sold in English and another billion in over 100 languages, she is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She wrote 80 crime novels and collections of short stories, over 25 plays (including *The Mousetrap*, the world's longest running play), and six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. Her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, introduced the world to the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, followed a decade later by the shrewd and often-underestimated Miss Marple.

ANDREA LYNN GREEN (Director) Andrea has produced and co-directed several Theatre Artists Workshop benefits, including *Bushwhacked! And Other Short Plays* by Rosemary Foley (2023, in partnership with Greenwich Theatre Company), and three playwrights festivals. Andrea is co-artistic

WHO'S WHO

director of the burgeoning Greenwich Theatre Company, where she directed *A Christmas Memory* (digital production) which was named one of the best professional Connecticut productions in 2021 by the late Connecticut Critics Circle member Jim Ruocco. Andrea has directed several readings including her play *Welcome Home* at Primary Stages. Notable acting credits include Broadway: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* directed by Joe Mantello, as well as several top regional theatres and T.V. and film productions.

KRISTEN KINGSLEY* (Stage Manager) is a Connecticut based Stage Manager. She's been involved in many aspects of theatre for the last 25+ years and has been trained by several mentors along the way. PSM credits include *Jimmy & Lorraine: A Musing*, *Possessing Harriet* (Hartbeat Ensemble), *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (VSF), *Elf Jr. The Musical* (Newtown Stage Company), *The Importance of being Earnest*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Adventures of Pericles*, *Henry VIII*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Valley Shakespeare Festival), *Bushwhacked*, *7 Easy Pieces* (Greenwich Theatre Company), and *Play with Your Food*, a series of Staged Readings out of Fairfield County during their 2024 and 2023 seasons. Kristen has been a member of Actor's Equity Association since 2019.

LUISA TANNO (Assistant Director) is a choreographer, teacher of joyous dance classes, movement coach, and a lifelong theater lover. She has a BFA in Musical Theater from the New School and is a writer of plays, personal essays, and songs. Luisa has worked as a dancer, actor, and singer on stage, and has worked behind the scenes as a spotlight operator, dresser, or whatever was needed in the moment for the show to go on. She is always seeking to cultivate inspiration and she finds it endlessly in the people around her.

SYD YOUNG (Production Assistant) is excited to be joining the team. With a lifelong passion for the arts, and a predominant interest in the "behind-the-scenes," Syd has a creative background as a Videographer/Photographer, Graphic Designer, and Video Editor. She is delighted to have the opportunity to dive into the world of theater and join the *And Then There Were None* team, as her first theater production.

* Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

Special Thanks

Theatre Artists Workshop wishes to express its gratitude to the following people and organizations:

Amanda Quaid, founder of The Talk Shop, LLC, where performers and non-performers alike can learn skills to expand their capacity for expression. Amanda is a New York-based speech, voice and breath coach. Learn more at www.talkshopnyc.com

Deborah Burke and The Town Players of New Canaan for their generosity, consideration, and for graciously hosting this event.

Susan Jacobson for providing our production with a wonderful rehearsal studio.

And special gratitude to the performers unions, for their cooperation in permitting union artists to appear in this fundraising production via

Theatre Authority, Inc.



SAG-AFTRA.





THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP

Celebrating
41
Years

Proceeds from this production benefit the
THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP OF WESTPORT, INC.
a non-profit theatre arts organization celebrating its
41st YEAR as a workshop for professional **actors, writers**
and **directors** to experiment and develop new work.

Plays developed at The Workshop have gone to
BROADWAY, OFF-BROADWAY, REGIONAL and
INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS.

The Workshop was founded in 1983 by Keir Dullea and
his wife, the late Susie Fuller. Its **membership legacy**
includes Phoebe Brand, Morton Da Costa, Theodore
Bikel, Sandy Dennis, Christopher Durang, June Havoc,
Susan Granger, Lucille Lortel, Shirley Knight, Ring
Lardner, Jr., James Noble, Brett Somers, Mia Dillon, and
James Mapes, among many more storied personalities.

Thank you for helping to support this legacy.

TAWorkshop.org

TheatreArtistsWorkshop@gmail.com

