THE CITADEL THEATRE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Murder on the Orient Express opens the Citadel's 2026/27 season with mysterious characters, covert investigations, and plot twists

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Edmonton, Alberta – The classic murder mystery, based on the original story by **Agatha Christie** and adapted for the stage by **Ken Ludwig**, will open the Citadel's 2026/27 Season this September.

Agatha Christie's greatest literary whodunnit comes to the stage. Detective Hercule Poirot has boarded the luxurious Orient Express along with a cabin full of mysterious characters from the beautiful Countess and boastful Mrs. Hubbard to the brash Colonel Arbuthnot and aristocratic Princess Dragomiroff. After a shocking murder in the night, the legendary detective must use his keen eye and attention for detail to gather the evidence and solve the case to catch the murderer in their midst. Along the way he uncovers secrets, clues, motives, and hidden identities in this story of revenge and justice.

The protagonist and famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is "a psychological detective, and indeed *Orient Express* is a masterful lesson in human behaviour," says director **Kelly Thornton**, Artistic Director of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Internationally acclaimed playwright Ken Ludwig's adaptation of the famed novel is a co-production with Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, which finished its run in Winnipeg this past February. Citadel audiences may recognize Ludwig from the 2016/17 Season musical, *Crazy For You*. While some Winnipeg-based cast members are making their Citadel debuts including **Donna Fletcher** as Helen Hubbard, Citadel audiences may recognize **Alex Poch-Goldin** (*Network*) playing Hercule Poirot and **John Ullyatt** (Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*), playing Constantine Bouc.

The set, designed by **Brian Perchaluk**, features a breathtaking train car that will transport audiences to the snowy mountains of eastern Europe. Audiences can also look forward to costume designs by **Joseph Abetria** *(Life of Pi)* and lighting design by **Hugh Conacher**, who recently received an award for Outstanding Lighting Design at the 2026 Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards.

Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. and plays in the Shoctor Theatre September 19 – October 11, 2026. Tickets are available online at citadeltheatre.com or by calling Box Office at 780.425.1820.

The Pay What You Choose in person night will take place on Sunday, September 20, 2026. Pay What You Choose is presented by Alberta Blue Cross and more information can be found at citadeltheatre.com.

There is one Accessible Performance happening on Saturday, October 10, 2026 (Sensory Informed and Captioned). More information can be found at citadetheatre.com/accessibility.

Production photos will be available by Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

CAST

Jill Agopsowicz	Mary Debenham
Rodrigo Beilfuss	Michel the Conductor, Headwaiter
Daniel Briere	Colonel Arbuthnot
Donna Fletcher	Helen Hubbard
Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks	Countess Andrenyi
Kristin Johnston	The Nanny
Tom Keenan	Hector MacQueen
Ian Leung	Samuel Rachett
Alex Poch-Goldin	Hercule Poirot
RobYn Slade	Greta Ohlsson
Davina Stewart	Princess Dragomiroff
John Ullyatt	Constantine Bouc

UNDERSTUDIES

Daniel Briere	Constantine Bouc
	Hector MacQueen
	Samuel Rachett
Donna Fletcher	Princess Dragomiroff
Kristin Johnston	Greta Ohlsson
	Countess Andrenyi
	Helen Hubbard
Ian Leung	Hercule Poirot
	Michel the Conductor/Headwaiter
	Colonel Arbuthnot
RobYn Slade	Mary Debenham
	The Nanny

CREATIVE TEAM

Kelly Thornton	Director
Brian Perchaluk	Set Designer*
Joseph Abetria	Costume Designer
Hugh Conacher	Lighting Designer*
Dave Clarke	Sound Designer
April Viczko	Associate Lighting Designer*
Jacquie Loewen	Fight Director
Sharon Bajer	Intimacy Director
Jane Gooderham	Dialect Coach
Tom Keenan	Fight Captain
Donna Fletcher	Intimacy Captain
Chase Winnicky	Assistant Director (Edmonton)
Ava Darrach-Gagnon	Assistant Director (Winnipeg)
Katherine Hochman	Assistant Costume Designer

Victor Snaith Hernandez	Assistant Lighting Designer
Katie Hoppa	Stage Manager
Christine Leroux	Assistant Stage Manager
Sarah Austin	Apprentice Stage Manager

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:
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Sponsors

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

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