

Different Stages presents

Agatha Christie's

The MURDER of Roger Ackroyd

Adapted by
Mark Shanahan

November 14 -
December 6
2025



FEARLESS
THEATRE
EXCHANGE
EST. 1988

DIFFERENT STAGES

The VORTEX • 2307 Manor Rd • 78722 • Tix @ VortexRep.org • 512.478.5282
More info at DifferentStagesTheatre.org

Different Stages presents

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

by Agatha Christie

Adapted Mark Shanahan

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Norman Blumensaadt
Stage Manager.....Tamara Farley
Set Design Charlie Boas
Light Design..... Amy Lewis
Costume Design..... Ann Shelley Ford
Sound Design..... Jeff Miller
Fight ChoreographyMike Ooi

CAST

Dr. James Sheppard Rick Felkins
Caroline Sheppard Bernadette Nason
Hercule Poirot..... Gabriel Maldonado
Ralph PatonReed Syzdek
Helen Russell.....Alexandra Russo
Roger Ackroyd Frank Rivira
Flora Ackroyd.....Shanaya Dixon
Major Hector Blunt Zachary Gamble
Ursula Bourne Haylee Myers
Parker Stephen Fay
Gertrude AckroydKatherine Schroeder
Inspector Raglan Adam Martinez
Stand by for Gertrude.....Kristen Fern Johnson

The action takes place in the village of Kings Abbot, Dr Sheppard's house and office, and Fernly Hall, Roger Ackroyd's house.

The play is in two acts with one intermission.

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals www.concordtheatricals.com

PRODUCTION TEAM

Set CrewDaniel Hernandez, Joe Mastropieri
WebmasterLaura Sandberg Simpson
Hercule Poirot..... Gabriel Maldonado
Photography Steve Rogers
Graphic Design..... Melissa McKnight
Publicity Bernadette Nason, Norman Blumensaadt
Properties Norman Blumensaadt, Rick Felkins
Stitcher Jackie Hardee
Model MakersRobert More and Iain Gillies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rehearsal Space, Violet Crown City Church, Royce Gehrels, Bob Tolaro and Joe Mastropieri.

FUNDING AND DONATIONS

Director Level \$5000+ - Ann Blumensaadt , Paula Gilbert

Actor Level \$1000 - \$5000 - Karen Jambon & Jennifer Underwood, Connie McMillan, The Friends of the Forest, Bobby and Larry Oliver

Stage Manager Level \$500-\$999 - Harvey Guion, Carol Ginn, Robert M. Singleton, Kerry Brosnihan, Greg Ginther Birthday Fundraiser, Andrea Smith, Amado De Hoyos, Scare for the Cure

Designer Level \$200-\$499 - Steve Chapman, Bruce McCann, Michael Meigs, MD Christopherson, Julius Horvath, Bipin & Rita Avashia, Dipu Bhattacharya, Bethany Harbaugh , Bernadette Nason

Stage Hand Level \$100-\$199 - Kathy Rose Center, Diane Herrera, Katherine Schroeder, Laurei Stiggers, Jerrold Buttrey, Ev Lunning, Tom Chamberlain, Ann Edwards, John Thomason, Michael Harkins, Laura King, Sarah Seaton, Peggy Little, Robert Tolaro, Tristin Caramiho, Miriam & Larry Rubin, Emily & Kent Erington, Bobby Hudson, Tom White & David Smith, Dina Sherzer, Beverley Rose, Bill McMillin, Andy Brown, William Garner, Lemuel Johnson, Bernadette Nason, John B. Payne, Mary Alice Carnes, Jesse Griffin, Charles & Kathleen Boad, Sue Paul, Everett Lunning, Kristen Fern Johnson,

Audience Level \$10-\$99 - Debbie Torres, Martin J. Reyes, Pam Friday, Charles Stevens, Suzanne Balling, Katherine Sangster, Melissa McKnight, Inge Rider, Margaret Hoard, Jennifer Rogers, Trevor Bissell, Nancy Elder, Karen Roe, Amy Lewis, Tom Chamberlain, Craig Kanne, Diana Phillips, Circe Sturm, Miriam Segura, Jeff Miller, Myra Mcilvain, Mary Alice Carnes, Lisa Scheps, Marcia Evers, Linda Stade, Paula Gilbert, Lou Ann Looney, Lana Dieterich, Janey Vincent Lee, Laurence McGonigal, Katherine Schroeder, Lleita Lilly, Rupert Reyes, Ann Ciccolella, Laura Esparza, Margaret Hoard

ABOUT DIFFERENT STAGES

Different Stages, Inc. has been a community-based organization since its inception in 1981 and incorporation in 1984. It produces works by playwrights who we believe to be defining forces in theatre. We seek to entertain with performances that reveal life in all its comedy, tragedy and intensity; and we hope to educate by choosing plays that provide exceptional insight into the human condition. By challenging ourselves as artists, and our audiences as participants, as we endeavor to provide the community with vigorous and exciting live theatre.

Producing Artistic Director - Norman Blumensaadt

Board of Directors - Karen Jambon, T.J. Moreno, Norman Blumensaadt

Operating Board - Norman Blumensaadt, Katherine Schroeder, Royce Gehrels, Paula Ruth Gilbert

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

SHANAYA DIXON (Flora Ackroyd) is thrilled to make her Different Stages debut as the ever-enigmatic Flora Ackroyd in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (because every good mystery deserves a little charm and a well-timed secret). Recently seen as the sharp-tongued Elmire in *City Theatre's Tartuffe*, she loves bringing clever, complicated women to life. Previous

credits include The Last Night of Ballyhoo and Dancing at Lughnasa - both with City Theatre. Endless thanks to Norman, our director and to her family, and friends for their constant support.

STEVEN FAY (Parker) appears in his 28th Different Stages production. Previous DS Christie appearances include A Murder Is Announced, Murder on the Nile and Appointment With Death (B. Iden Payne nomination). Other DS projects include Heartbreak House, A Doll's House, When We Are Married and You Can't Take It With You. He has also appeared with VORTEX and paper chairs.

RICK FELKINS (Dr. James Sheppard) Rick Felkins first stepped on a stage in 1970 before he could drive and has been in a show ever since. He just never stopped. Make of it what you will. You can google the name, but we all have better things to do...like vote. Thanks for coming.

ZACHARY GAMBLE (Major Hector Blunt) is happy to be making his Different Stages debut. Previous Austin credits include Orgone in City Theater's Tartuffe, Lesgate in Jarrot Production's Dial M for Murder, and the title role in The Lighthouse Theater Company's production of Ibsen's Brand. As always, thanks to his Mom and Dad for their support.

GABRIEL MALDONADO (Hercule Poirot) has been a Vortex company member for over thirty years and this is his first production with Different Stages. Some of his favorite productions have been ,Trickster, Troades, Wake for the Dark Poet: The Antonin Artaud Project, 'belle, Humpty, Atlantis, MotherTree as well as all the Elemental projects, Air, Earth, Fire, Water and Spirit. In addition he has directed several summer youth productions as well as choreography for several Vortex productions. He is most know for portraying Salvador Dali for the past 10 years for the Vortex annual fundraisers.

Gabriel would like to dedicate this production to his Dad who recently passed away. I got my mustache from him. Thank you Dad I love you. And thank you to all my friends who have supported me through all my Theater adventures. Love and peace to you all.

ADAM A. MARTÍNEZ (Inspector Raglan) is a local theatre maker, educator, clown, poet and south paw. Born and raised in East Austin, Adam graduated from UT El Paso, and clown college at Dell'Arte International. Most recent credits include The Man From Earth with Bottle Alley Theatre, Papakö: The Journey with Indigenous Cultures Institute, and Beto, Beto el Abeto with Teatro de la Tierra. Adam is super excited to be part of his second Different Stages production.

HAYLEE MYERS (Ursula Bourne) is incredibly excited to perform with Different Stages for the first time. This is her second production in Austin, her first being City Theatre's production of *Tartuffe* earlier this year. She would like to thank her friends and family whose support continues to drive her passion.

BERNADETTE NASON (Caroline Sheppard) last performed with Different Stages as "Miss Marple" in *A Murder is Announced*, and before that in *The Art of Martyrdom*, winning a B. Iden Payne award. She's a company member of Austin Playhouse, where she recently played the Library Lady in *Tomas and the Library Lady*. Nason has appeared with Jarrott Productions, St. Edward's University, Austin Shakespeare, and Onstage Theatre, among others. She's a professional storyteller, a published author, and received the Critics' Table Award for "Conspicuous Versatility" but is probably best known for being in *Miss Congeniality*.

FRANK RIVIRA (Roger Ackroyd) returned to the stage in 2025, after years teaching English to middle and high school students. While he loves education, the opportunity to work with adults who aren't constantly yelling "6-7!" and singing K-Pop Demon Hunter songs is too enticing an offer to pass up. Previous productions include *Lipstick: A Queer Farce* (with Austin Rainbow Theatre) and *Tulsa '21*. He's proud to have written for the Austin Chronicle and KXAN; served on a SXSW education panel; been featured in an EducationWeek cover story; and testified in front of the Texas House and Senate.

ALEXANDRA RUSSO (Helen Russell) is thrilled to be back with Different Stages. Previous productions include, *When the Rain Stops Falling* and *Is Life Worth Living?* Some other company favorites include *The Real Inspector Hound*, *No Exit*, *1940s Radio Hour*, and *Something Rotten*. Much love to her family who supports her in all her theatrical ways.

KATHERINE SCHROEDER (Gertrude Ackroyd) Back again for another Agatha Christie and really happy about it, Katherine was most recently seen in Different Stages' *A Murder is Announced* and *Miss Lulu Bett*. Since her arrival in Austin in late 2012, Katherine has performed in many Different Stages productions, including *When the Rain Stops Falling*, as well as *The Children* and *The Mother of the Maid* with Jarrott Productions. She hopes for more of the same!

REED SYZDEK (Ralph Paton) is performing with Different Stages for the third time. He performed in their 2023 production of *Miss Lulu Bett* and their 2024 production of *A Murder is Announced*. With a big thanks to all friends

and family for their support, he is excited to be back on the Vortex stage!

DIRECTION AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

CHARLIE BOAS (Scenic Design) is happy to continue to work with Different Stages. His first of many set designs with Different Stages/ Small Potatoes was Talking With in 1984. He is a member of Jackalope Live Action Studios where he does Tech Direction and Stage Management, most recently for their 2024 production of The Night in Question 5. He is also a volunteer at Scare for a Cure, where he does effects work, electrical work, carpentry, and performance, including 2024's Nightmares of Legend, where he appeared as The Green Man, and the upcoming Quest Night 2025.

NORMAN BLUMENSAADT (Director) As an actor he has worked in Shakespeare Festivals in Odessa, Tx., Madison, New Jersey and Dallas, TX. For Different Stages he has recently appeared in Heartbreak House, The Dresser, The Language Archive, You Can't Take it with You, Humble Boy, Eurydice, A Number, The Miser, Arms and the Man and The Playboy of the Western World. Among the numerous shows that he has directed are Frankenstein, A Doll's House, The Magic Fire, John Gabriel Borkman, Fallen Angels, When the Rain Stops Falling and the first Austin productions of Arcadia and Cloud Nine. He is a 2018 inductee into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. In celebration of his long and outstanding work in the Austin theater scene, the Austin Circle of Theaters bestowed upon Norman the 1998 Deacon Crain/John Bustin Award. His productions of The Normal Heart and The Goat or Who is Sylvia won B. Iden Payne Awards for Best Production of a Drama.

TAMARA FARLEY (Stage Manager) thinks she stage managed another Different Stages production, but she can't remember the title.

ANN SHELLEY FORD (Costume Design) is happy to be designing her 14th Different Stages production. Previous productions for the company include A Murder is Announced, Miss Lulu Bett, The Tavern, The Art of Martyrdom, Heartbreak House, When We are Married, The Dresser, Fallen Angels, Quills, and Pygmalion, for which she was nominated for a B. Iden Payne award. She was nominated for a Critics Table award for her designs for Austin Lyric Opera's production of A Streetcar Named Desire.

AMY LEWIS (Light Design) holds a BFA from McMurry University in theater. Recent credits include A War of the Worlds with Penford Theater (B. Iden Payne Award winner for outstanding Light Design), Caberex2 and 3 (B. Iden Payne nominee for Outstanding Light Design), Feast with Shrewd

Productions (Austin Theatre Critics Awards Nominee) and most recently The Wizard of Dogz with Circus Chicken Dog and The Vortex, Pillar for Fire with La Fence, and Fracturados with Borrego Red.

JEFF MILLER (Sound Design) is pleased to be working again with Different Stages. Jeff has over 40 years of experience and has served as sound engineer on Broadway and National Tours of A Chorus Line, South Pacific, Zorba, Singin' in the Rain and The Mystery Of Edwin Drood. As well as shows at Radio City Music Hall, New York Shakespeare Festival and numerous films, videos, and national commercials

His regional credits include Sound Design for over 300 productions at Zach Theatre, TexArts, Tilt Performance Group, Austin Jewish Repertory Theatre, Austin Theatre Project, Ground Floor Theatre, City Theatre, Austin Theatre for Youth, Second Youth Theatre, Summer Stock Austin, UT, Texas Arts Project, Abby Productions, Trinity Episcopal School, St. Andrews Episcopal School, Leander High School, McCallum Fine Arts Academy, Capitol City Playhouse.

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DIFFERENT STAGES 2025-2026 SEASON

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

By Agatha Christie, Adapted for the stage by Mark Shanahan

**November 14-December 6, 2025
at The Vortex**

Man of the People

By Dolores Diaz

**January 9-24, 2026
at Trinity Street Playhouse**

Spring Free Reading

A Woman of No Importance

By Oscar Wilde

Date and Location TBA

Stage Blood

By Charles Ludlam

**June 28-July 18, 2026
at The Vortex**