

**NORDONIA DRAMA
FALL PLAY AUDITION INFO**



**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
4 – 6:30 PM**

WHERE: AUDITORIUM

FIRST REHEARSAL: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

**Director – Chris Simmons
Assistant Director – Julia Dulaney**

***A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED* Audition Info and Tips**

Auditions are being held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 4-6:30 pm.

**Sign up for an audition time slot on the Sign Up Genius.
The link to it can be found on the Nordonias Drama website.**

What you will need to bring to your audition:

- Audition form, completed. Front and back.
- Monologue
 - Please find and prepare a monologue of your choosing.
 - It does not have to be memorized, but you should not just read it either.
 - **It should be a dramatic monologue.**
 - Google is your friend. If you need assistance, try these sites.
 - www.backstage.com/monologues
 - www.ace-your-audition.com/dramatic-monologues.html
 - stageagent.com/monologues
 - www.monologuearchive.com
- During your audition time, you may also be asked to read a selection from the play, as well as attempt a British accent.

What we are looking for:

- Preparation for your monologue.
- A willingness to attempt a British accent. We understand not everyone will be comfortable with this. We just want you to give it your best try!
- Personality! Even though we are looking for a dramatic monologue, that does not mean you still cannot share your personality with us.

General Tips for Auditions:

- Take deep breaths, there is no need to be nervous.
 - If you forget part of the monologue, do not panic. Take a moment and start again.
 - Speak loudly and clearly. Enunciation and diction are key.
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- **Rehearsals start Monday, September 25, 2023.**
 - **Rehearsals will be Monday-Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings.**
 - **This is an ensemble show. Please be sure to list all known conflicts on your form.**
 - **Tech rehearsals will be the week of November 13th.**
 - **Performances will be November 17 & 18, 2023.**

If you have any questions at all about auditions, or if you would like a copy of the script to read before auditions, please feel free to email either of us at chris.simmons@nordoniaschools.org and julia.dulaney12@gmail.com.

PLAY SYNOPSIS

An announcement in the local paper states the time and place when a murder is to occur in Miss Blacklock's Victorian house. The victim is not one of the house's several occupants, but an unexpected and unknown visitor.

What follows is a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, a second death and a determined inspector grimly following the case's twists and turns. Fortunately, Miss Marple is on hand to provide the solution – at some risk to herself – in a dramatic final confrontation.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Leticia Blacklock

An older woman. Calm, collected, and a soothing influence to all. She is concerned with position and prestige and afraid of losing both. Sophisticated and well to do. She is the owner of Chipping Cleghorn, where the play is set.

Julia Simmons

Miss Blacklock's niece, a high spirited girl. Sweet, unmarried, a pleasant, but sarcastic young woman staying at her aunt's house with her brother. Opinionated, outspoken and somewhat spoiled. Patrick's sister.

Patrick Simmons

Julia's older brother. A handsome and self-assured young man, a smooth talker. Witty and sarcastic – a man of thoughts, not action. Professional student, prone to deception and pranks. He would rather create schemes and plots than work towards his own future.

Dora "Bunny" Bunner

Leticia's oldest friend. Somewhat dotty and confused, but with a wicked streak. Easily flustered and disordered. Forgetful and flighty, she is dependent upon Leticia.

Mitzi

Miss Blacklock's maid/cook. Of Eastern European decent, she is eccentric, excitable, emotional and melodramatic. Can be explosive and is often inclined to believe everyone is against her. She is deeply impressed with her own importance and apparent victimhood.

Phillipa Hames

Leticia's mysterious boarder. Serious minded, she is elegant with a touch of real class about her. Secretive, and a touch aggressive. A kind and loyal widow concerned for her son's future.

Miss Jane Marple

Leticia's neighbor and an amateur sleuth. An elderly lady with an over-inquisitive mind which gets her into all sorts of trouble. She is quick witted and quiet, but very perceptive. She can be seen as unassuming, but she has an iron will – she will not be deterred from the truth.

Mrs. Swettenham

Another of Miss Blacklock's neighbors. A bit of a busy body, she is very nose-y. Sophisticated, snobby and a social climber – she is primarily concerned with finding ways to improve her and her son's social standing. Edmund's mother.

Edmund Swettenham

Mrs. Swettenham's privileged son. A serious young man and a part time "writer".
Condescending upper class type. Thinks rather highly of himself.

Rudi Scherz

The mysterious stranger. He shows up with bad intentions.

Inspector Craddock

The police inspector. A bit of a short fuse but smart and persistent. Perhaps a bit unimaginative, but clever enough to know his own limits and is willing to consider all inputs for clues. He is definitely the person in charge. There is good chemistry between Craddock and Marple.

Sergeant Mellors

Craddock's right hand man. Has a sharp wit and a little sarcastic. He is good at his job and works well with Craddock.

*Some notes on casting and the roles.

- The roles of Rudi, Craddock and Mellors are open to actors of any gender.
- Due to the smaller size of the roles of Rudi and Mellors, they may be doubled and portrayed by one actor.
- This is an ensemble show. There are a lot of moving parts and quick dialogue, so we are looking for a group of people who will work well together and support one another.
- **We will be asking the cast to work on British accents. We will have resources available to help. We are not looking for perfection right off the bat.**
- Two of the characters do share a kiss on stage. It is a plot point for the show and will be a requirement of those roles. We will work with these actors to stage this moment so that everyone is comfortable.

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED Audition Information Sheet

Name (As you want it to appear in the program): _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Email: _____

Previous Acting Experience:

<u>Show</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Year</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Special Skills: (juggling, singing, musical instruments, accents, etc)

Are you auditioning for a specific role(s)? If so, please list: _____

Would you be willing to accept a different role if not cast in the role listed above? YES NO

Would you be comfortable accepting a role that shares a kiss on stage? YES NO

Are you a member of the Band, a capella, or participate in a fall sport? YES NO

****This will not affect your chances of being cast, it is simply to plan for scheduling. If yes, please be sure to list all activity related conflicts on the back.**

BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE BACK OF THE FORM WITH ANY CONFLICTS.

The tentative schedule for this production is listed below:

- **Rehearsals: September 25 – November 11**
 - Monday – Thursday evenings.
 - Rehearsals will be scheduled in the 3:30-7 PM timeframe, but will typically be 2-2.5 hours in length each day.
 - Some Saturday mornings will be utilized this year.
 - Rehearsals will not be held every day Monday-Thursday and Saturday for these 7 weeks. We are just asking for all known conflicts to make the best schedule.
- **Tech Week: November 13-16, 2023**
 - Plan for rehearsals to go until 8 PM.
- **Performances: Friday, November 17. 7:30 PM**
Saturday, November 18. 2 PM & 7:30 PM

Are you able to attend all tech week rehearsals and performances?

YES

NO

If no, please explain.

Please list below ANY AND ALL conflicts that you know you may have. Be as detailed and thorough as you can. Ask your parents about family obligations and doctor's appointments.

These conflicts will help us to create the rehearsal schedule. We will be as flexible as we can when it comes to conflicts and the schedule. So please be complete and honest.

Conflicts include but are not limited to: sports, other clubs, work, family commitments, doctor/dentist appointments, college visits, etc.