



PERSEVERANCE THEATRE
— Alaskan Regional Theatre —

KTOO PUBLIC MEDIA PRESENTS

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

by Seth Coppens

Adapted from the Novel by Agatha Christie

&

Super Big Show About Random Somethings



STAR 2022 STAFF

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STAR IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

KTOO Public Media

CBJ Youth Activities board

Sealaska Heritage Institute

Breeze In

The Alaska Community Foundation

Resurrection Lutheran Church

CAST

THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD

Anderson Murray
Cadence Ward
Chedi Giron
Calista Sellers
Elly Carpenter
Emilia Shelton-Walker
Fiona McFarlin
Freyja Shelton-Walker
Gracie Snyder
Israel Bey
Kainoa Thole
Kris Bey
Olive Buzard
Siena Farr
Tessa McAlister Lisowski
Violet Young
Zara Ritter

SUPER BIG SHOW ABOUT RANDOM SOMETHINGS

Ava Stell
Cedric Bollinger
Errol Culberth
Jack Bollinger
Juliet McMillan
Maisey Mar
Nora DeSloover
Nora Fortier
Samara Loomis
Vance Murray
Zoe Bliss

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

"It feels unfinished," quipped a seven-year-old in response to the premiere of the first play I wrote in 2019. Those three words have stuck with me throughout the pandemic, and throughout this entire season of STAR.

I began writing this adaptation directly from Agatha Christie's novel on June 1st of this year, just a little over two months before opening night. I didn't have anything I could copy and paste from the internet, I was going totally oldschool --- highlighting and bookmarking sections in the book I later transcribed into script-form. Luckily, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* is an incredibly dialogue-heavy story with about ten percent of the prose devoted to narration and description. It's meant to be a play.

Why this particular work by Agatha Christie? What sets *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* apart from other Christie mysteries is the character of the killer. Obviously, I don't want to spoil anything yet, but their involvement in the investigation of the murder is unprecedented. When I first read the book, I knew that it was them, but their participation made me question if it actually was them. I even began to suspect some of the other characters. *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* is definitely *the* most underrated Agatha Christie murder mystery for its dizzying twists and intricate character work.

When I completed the first draft of this adaptation, I knew for a fact that it was unfinished. I knew that there were going to be changes as soon as I started to see it be rehearsed by

living, breathing people. I felt terrible for making revisions to the script during the rehearsal process, but it wasn't my decision to make. Now that I adapted a novel into a script, I had to adapt this script to its players. The play you'll see tonight is the result of collaboration between artists of all ages and experiences. And it's still a work-in-progress. But I am proud to say that it is!

I am proud of everyone involved, especially the young actors. They did what many professional adult actors consider a great challenge, which is breathing life into a piece that has never been performed yet. And on top of that, they did it in three weeks. I am so grateful for their dedication and their willingness to work with the hurdles that come with producing a world premiere. I loved watching them rehearse and practice with their new friends. They asked me and the other members of the production team the most thoughtful questions, some of them I had never even thought of. They helped me develop not only this piece, but also the way I think about this piece.

And with that, thank you, dear audience member, for coming to see this play.

Seth Coppens, Playwright

SPECIAL THANKS

Betsy Sims, Bradley Perkins, Rev. Karen Perkins, and Resurrection Lutheran Church. STAR Faculty and Production Crew