

Auditions will consist of readings from the script sides. Sides should NOT be memorized. Call backs are by director invitation only.

Characters

Regarding ages: some age flexibility is possible, with the following exceptions:

1. Michel must be believably old enough to have an adult child.
2. Helen Hubbard must be believably old enough to have an adult child in their mid-late 20's.

Regarding accents: Casting will not be made based on accent abilities. You may be asked to perform the scene with and without the accents, so we can see your acting ability. Perfection isn't needed at audition; we just want to see how well you can attempt it. Accent/dialect work has an important place in this show, and we want to see your best attempt at the correct accent for each character. However – It is more important to have the character right and no accent than have an accent.

- **HERCULE POIROT** Male presenting, **40-65**, French-Belgian accent, any ethnicity. Iconic character. Agatha Christie's most famous detective. Poirot is fastidious, thorough, a touch ridiculous, and incredibly observant and intelligent. He is both arrogant and humble to fault. He is an observer of people, astute at analyzing why people behave as they do, and firmly believes that most crimes can be solved primarily by observation, psychology, and thinking them through. He values intelligence and the rule of law above all else.
- **MONSIEUR BOUC** Male presenting, **40-65**, English or Belgian accent, any ethnicity. The owner of Wagon Lit, Orient Express. Bouc is a middle-aged man with a youthful vigor and attitude. Gregarious, honest and forthright, he puts his friends and customers above profit, although he is concerned about his company's image. He is not a match for Poirot in intelligence, however.
- **MARY DEBENHAM** Female presenting, **mid 20s-30s**, English (standard) accent, any ethnicity. A governess. Anxious, but also cool and determined, Mary has a certain sadness about her, as well as many secrets. She is carrying on a secret affair with Colonel Arburthnot. Must be comfortable kissing on stage.
- **COLONEL ARBUTHNOT** Male presenting, **30s**, Scottish accent, any ethnicity. A military man of the old-fashioned type, possibly old-money, and used to being obeyed without question. He is strong, charismatic, but also problematic in some of his personal views. Has a temper. Must be comfortable kissing on stage.

- **HECTOR MCQUEEN** Male presenting, **23-35**, American accent (any), any ethnicity. Personal assistant and secretary to Samuel Ratchett, McQueen is a nervous character with a stutter that appears when he is especially anxious. Seems rather new to his profession. Talks a bit too much.
- **MICHEL** Male presenting, **40s**, French accent, any ethnicity. Competent and organized, Michel is the conductor for the first-class carriages of the Orient Express. Handles himself well in a crisis and is very good at his job. **NOTE:** *This actor will double as the Head Waiter of the Tokatilian Hotel and will also need to be able to do a Turkish accent.*
- **PRINCESS DRAGOMIROFF** Female presenting, **60s-70s**, Russian accent, any ethnicity. Displaced Russian nobility. The Princess is a battleship: determined, arrogant, and accustomed to getting her way. She travels a great deal and holds very decided opinions. ***Note:** *As written, the character is Swedish with somewhat broken English, but we will also consider actresses who have accents other than English or Swedish (Spanish, Italian, etc.)*
- **COUNTESS ANDRENYI** Female presenting, **25-35**, Hungarian accent, any ethnicity. In addition to being married to a count (and thus, nobility), she also is a doctor. Beautiful, educated, charming, and intelligent enough to match wits with Poirot.
- **HELEN HUBBARD** Female presenting, **45-60**, American accent, any ethnicity. Not exactly what she seems, Hubbard comes across as a gregarious, loud, obnoxious American busybody who has been married multiple times. *Must be able to sing and do a little dancing.* Should also be able to pull off a cooler, more calculated version of this character with a very standard or even cultured American accent.
- **SAMUEL RATCHETT** Male presenting, **35-50**, American accent (mobster - possibly Brooklyn or Chicago style) A dangerous and unlikable man, full of entitlement, with a hair trigger temper. Must have a forceful personality and come across as someone not to be trusted or crossed. **As the murder victim, this actor may be required to remain on stage and still for an extended period of time.**