



WEST ALLIS PLAYERS PRESENTS

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

THE STRANGER

Directed by
Mary Beth Topf

October 3, 4, 10 & 11 at 7:30 pm

October 5 and 12 at 2:00 pm



Director's Notes

Welcome to the West Allis Players production of *The Stranger* by Agatha Christie.

This play is based on Ms Christie's *Philomel Cottage*, an intimate psychological thriller, where a fly is entrapped by a spider and we don't know if it will get free.

I love mysteries and this one is quite fun. It's not really a "whodunnit", but more of a "will he do it?" The cast and I enjoyed delving into the characters of Enid and Gerald, their why's and wherefores, their reasons and motives - building the suspense. I had forgotten how different it is to direct a drama verses a comedy. In a comedy the characters are pretty much superficial. In a drama there are many layers to peel off to get at the basis for the character's actions. Please sit back and enjoy our version of *The Stranger*.

—Mary Beth Topf / Director

From the Board President

Welcome to the start our 56th season! On behalf of The West Allis Players, I want to thank you for joining us as we raise the curtain on another season of storytelling, laughter, drama, and community.

For over half a century, this group has been filled with volunteers who love the arts, our audiences, and the joy of live theatre. Whether you're a longtime supporter or joining us for the first time, your presence tonight means the world to us.

As a proud non-profit organization, The West Allis Players relies on the generosity of people like you to keep the magic alive. Ticket sales cover only a portion of our costs, and every donation—no matter the size—helps us build sets, design costumes, support local talent, and continue offering affordable, high-quality performances to our community.

And if you've ever wondered what it's like to be part of the show behind the scenes, we'd love to have you join us! Stop by the table in the lobby to learn more about how you can help with costumes, lights, set construction, ushering, or even stage crew. No experience necessary—just a love for theatre and a willingness to pitch in.

Enjoy the show, and thank you for being part of our story.

-Mary Beth Topf

President, The West Allis Players

Cast



Enid Bradshaw

Dakota Terry

Mrs. Huggins

Jacqueline Sanders-Allen

Mrs. Birch

Barbara Stigler

Dick Lane

Randall Tranowski

Gerald Strange

Noah Merry

Doris West

Moon Sullivan

Show Overview



Act 1

A spring morning in a flat in Kensington

Intermission: 15 Minutes

Act II

An afternoon three months later in the living room of a country cottage

Intermission: 10 Minutes

Act III

The evening of the same day in the country cottage



Noah Merry (*Gerald Strange*) is thrilled to be performing in Agatha Christie's *The Stranger* with the West Allis Players. His recent credits include *A Broadway Journey 2* with the West Allis Players and *Death of a Salesman* with CUW theatre. While not on stage, Noah teaches 5th grade in Wauwatosa, and enjoys playing piano and violin.

Jacquelin Sanders-Allen (*Mrs. Huggins*) Retiring after 38 years as an English and Performing Arts teacher and high school Drama Director, selling her hobby horse farm and packing up credits in over 50 community theater productions gave Jacqueline pause to relocate from Ohio to Wisconsin in



2024. The move, however, has delivered every blessing Jacqueline could hope for--children and grandchildren, outdoor activities and her passion for community theater. The last has generously welcomed her, from Menomonee Falls' Patio Players in *Miss Holmes Returns* (Mrs. Hudson) to Sunset Playhouse in *Miss Holmes* (Mrs. Featherstone) and now West Allis Players, all in a span of one year! Thank you, Wisconsin for such talented performers and appreciative audiences. My love to my family for their enthusiastic support.



Barb Stigler (*Mrs. Birch*) is happy to be on stage with the West Allis Players in *The Stranger*. She has many theater credits, with favorite roles as Violet Weston (*August Osage County*) at Sunset Playhouse and Mavis Miller (*The Hallelujah Girls*), with the Wauwatosa Players. As of late, she has had several roles, supporting and as an extra, in over ten movies.

Some of these are on Amazon Prime Video. Perhaps you have seen her winning big in the current Ho-Chunk Casino commercial. She loves each and every opportunity to be on stage or screen. Thanks for coming to our show! Enjoy!



Moon Sullivan (*Doris West*) is excited to be back in the state and performing in "The Stranger". They've been bouncing around, keeping up with their art to not lose their acting ability. Their last show, "Layover" had them playing the fun Beverly as a representative of Heaven. Off the stage, Moon has fun talking art with friends, loving their cat Xilran, playing video games and writing fun stories

Dakota Terry (*Enid Bradshaw*) is thrilled to be back onstage with the West Allis Players! You may have seen her perform recently in the West Allis Player's production "A Broadway Journey 2" Prior to that show, she had taken a backstage role, being a production assistant for the Whitman/Montessori Players! While Dakota loves seeing her students shine, she's grateful to be able to be in the spotlight and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Randall Tranowski (*Dick Lane*) is delighted to return under the dictatorship—er, "directorship"*—of Mary Beth in bringing this Agatha Christie story to the stage. Having encountered many a stranger throughout his life, Tranowski admits he has yet to meet one quite like the character you're about to

witness. That said, he can neither confirm nor deny that he himself may, at times, have been "The Stranger." But let's ask the question: If you "meet" a stranger...are they truly still a stranger? After all, everyone was once a stranger—before they weren't. You can't exactly be lifelong friends with someone you've never met. Right?...Or can you? Find out. Immerse yourself. And as the mystery unfolds, consider this: how might you become a friend, not a foe, in a world where we're all just one meeting away from connection—or from danger. Welcome, and prepare to meet..."The Stranger."

Production Team



Director	Mary Beth Topf
Stage Manager	Amy Wickland
Production Coordinator	Mary Beth Topf
Scenic Designer	Scott Fudali
Master Carpenter	Scott Fudali
Lighting Designer	Mike van Dreser
Sound Designer	Scott Fudali
Props Designer	West Allis Players Board
Costume Designer	Shawn Anderson
Set Construction/ Decoration	Cast and crew
Lighting Technician	Pat Kaiser
Sound Technician	Pat Kaiser
Run Crew	Bill Kaiser Lilly Sullivan
Graphic Design	Kimberly Fudali
Social Media	Jon Goltz
Box Office Manger	Michael Jablonski

We regret any omission due to printing deadlines.

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

Meet the Crew



Mary Beth Topf (*Director*) has directed a number of productions around the Milwaukee area, most notably with West Allis Players, Falls Patio Players, and Memories Ballroom in Port Washington. Mary Beth has a Bachelors degree in Speech/Drama, a Masters degree in Theatre Arts and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Directing. Originally from Iowa, Mary Beth interned at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in Milwaukee and has directed several successful productions in the area. Some of her favorites include: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *The Nerd*, and *Always a Bridesmaid*. She is now enjoying retirement after 42 years of working as a registered nurse.

Amy Wickland (*Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be working backstage with the West Allis Players. Amy is no stranger to working backstage as she has previously worked with Oconomowoc Community theatre and Acacia theater. She hopes you enjoy *The Stranger*!



Scott Fudali (*Scenic & Sound Designer*) has been working on the technical side of theater for over 15 years designing lights, sound, and sets for different organizations including SummerStage of Delafield, Carroll University, Waukesha Civic Theatre and The West Allis Players. Some of his favorite designs have included *33 Variations*, *Music Man* and *42nd Street* at WCT; *Rumors* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* with the West Allis Players; and *Boeing Boeing* at SummerStage of Delafield. He hopes you enjoy the show and would like to thank his wife and parents for their continued support in all his theatre endeavors.

Shawn Anderson (*Costume Designer*) is happy to be providing costumes for the West Allis Players. She costumes shows regularly for New Berlin West Middle/ High School. This is her second Agatha Christie show!

Pat Breed Kaiser (*Lighting and Sound Technician*) is happy to once again be working with Mary Beth after having run the lights and sound for WAP's Fox on the Fairway this past spring. She always enjoys working on a show when she gets a chance to work with her husband Bill who is on the running crew.



Bill Kaiser (*Run Crew*) started acting at the age of 12 when his first role was "Nels" in West Allis Players production of I Remember Mama and he has been performing and directing in the Milwaukee area ever since. He is happy to once again be working on another show with his wife Pat who is running the lights and sound.

West Allis Players Angels

Katie Bivens

Katherine Beeson


Please consider becoming an Angel of the West Allis Players with your tax-deductible gift to our non-profit organization. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Board of Directors



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Secretary & Membership	Michael Jablonski
Treasurer	Mary Beth Topf
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	Scott Fudali
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Special Thanks



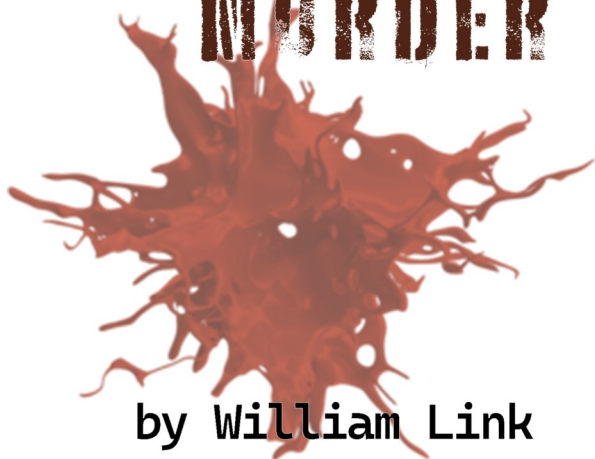
Carroll University Theatre	David Robins
Carroll University Reservation and Events	West Milwaukee Intermediate custodial staff
New Berlin Eisenhower Theater	

The West Allis Players



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Prescription:
MURDER



by William Link
& Richard Levinson

APRIL 17 - 28
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Before *Columbo* became a household name, he made his debut in this gripping stage thriller. A brilliant psychiatrist and his mistress plot the perfect murder... but Lt. Columbo is no ordinary detective. With quiet persistence and razor-sharp instincts, he peels back the layers of deception in a battle of wits that builds to a shocking climax.

Join us for a night of psychological intrigue, clever twists, and vintage suspense. You won't want to miss it.

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S



**THE
STRANGER**

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**exciting
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season!**

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to find out!*

Summer 2026

**Join
us for
our**

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MURDER

by William Link
& Richard Levinson

SPRING 2026

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Other Local Theater



If you love theater, why not show your support by checking out one of these other upcoming local community theater mainstage shows?

Anastasia the Musical

Lake Country Playhouse

September 26th thru October 12th

www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org

Laughter on the 23rd Floor

Waukesha Civic Theatre

October 17 thru November 2

www.waukeshacivictheatre.org

Terror by Gaslight

The Haylofters Community Theatre

October 17th thru October 26th

www.thehaylofters.com

Pippin

Sunset Playhouse

October 16th thru November 2nd

www.sunsetplayhouse.com

Boeing Boeing

Carroll University

November 7th thru November 8th

www.carrollu.edu

***This Page?
Yup...
Intentionally Left Blank***

***Well, except
for this text of course.***

***Use it to collect actors
signatures in the lobby
after the show maybe?***

***Or do a doodle during
intermission.***