

# CHARACTERS

**VARTHUR MCARTHUR – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR (pronouns: he/him):**

Once a Gavroche on Broadway (and not seen on Broadway since), this director is now in Middle America bringing culture to Philistines. Pompous, arrogant, loves being a big fish in a little town.

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Ringmaster

**JUSTINE CASE – DETECTIVE (pronouns: she/her):**

Lowly metermaid promoted to detective when everyone else on the force is unavailable. This is her big break and she's determined and quirky. The suspects have disdain for her because she has ticketed them all. Knows nothing about theatre.

**CLARKE STAPLES – STAGE MANAGER (pronouns: he/him, she/her, they/them):**

Has been working as a stage manager, assistant director, assistant to the director, box office manager, concessions, barback, and typist for Varthur for ten years. Beleaguered and loyal, could he have finally snapped?

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Stowaway

**SHEA CRESCENDO – DESIGNER (pronouns: he/him, she/her, they/them):**

Works at theater full-time – costumes, sets; a visionary with too few resources. Shea goes all the way with everything they do, whether they're designing a show or playing a role in the murder mystery dinner party. It's all or nothing for Shea.

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Trapeze Artist

**VIVIKA ORSONWELLES – LEADING LADY (pronouns: she/her):**

Pharmacist by day, star by night. When she finds out that Varthur cast Lily, an ambitious upstart, as the lead in the murder mystery dinner party instead of her, she is fuming. Is she mad enough to take revenge?

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Clown

**GEORGE MURDERER – LEADING MAN (pronouns: he/him):**

A trust-fund kid who fancies himself a musical theater writer. In fact, he believes he has written the next *Hamilton*. The AD has been stringing him along, taking his family's money, making him think that they would be doing his musical next. When the cast list went out and it wasn't for his musical, he was livid.

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Ship Captain

**LILY WRIGHT – INGENUE (pronouns: she/her):**

Real Estate Broker by day and aspiring leading lady by night. She's tired of playing second fiddle to Vivika. She wants her own spotlight and tonight she's finally gotten it.

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Sexy Lion Tamer

**CAMERON MITCHELLJOHN – ALWAYS IN THE CHORUS (pronouns: he/him):**

Cameron took off work tonight – as a cater/waiter – because Varthur promised him a role in the Murder Mystery. Only, lo and behold, he’s playing the mute Steward – so he’s still taking coats, serving canapes, and waiting for his moment to shine.

MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME: Steward

**JOAN MCARTHUR – DIRECTOR’S WIFE (pronouns: she/her):**

An estate lawyer, who prefers to work with dead people, Joan has bankrolled this entire theater venture and she’s fed up. She’s been trying to sell the building and everything they own goes to her in Varthur’s will.

NO MURDER MYSTERY COSTUME – she would rather die.

**JEREMY JORDAN – A fantasy version of himself (pronouns: he/him)**

**DETECTIVE CASE (pronouns: she/her):**

A latter day version of Justine, now a grand dame of policework who is alternately procrastinating and writing her memoirs.

REMOVABLE / EXPANDABLE ENSEMBLE

**A NOTE ON CASTING AND INCLUSIVE STORYTELLING:**

This show is intended to be performed by a multi-racial cast. We acknowledge that the identities and embodied realities of the actors will deepen how we read many implicit character dynamics in the story, and we encourage casting directors to be intentional and sensitive to those specific realities.

We want to be inclusive in our overall approach to representation across race/ethnicity, gender, body type, and ability. We recognize that many of these characters are written on the binary (using he/him or she/her pronouns) and gender non-conforming, genderqueer, transgender, and non-binary actors should be encouraged to submit for the roles they most identify with; pronouns can be changed as needed.