

*Beloit Civic Theatre*  
*Now in its 92nd Year*  
*Presents*



By Jeffrey Hatcher, adapted from the original  
by Frederick Knott

*Dial M for Murder*  
By Jeffrey Hatcher  
Adapted from the original  
by Frederick Knott

January 30, 31 and February 1, 6, 7, 8, 2025  
@7:30 p.m.  
February 1, 2 & 8 @ 3:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre  
1225 Fourth Street, Beloit WI

## Director's Notes

When I first read that there was a new adaptation of Frederick Knott's 1952 classic *Dial M for Murder*, my immediate thought was "What is the point?" Indeed, the script has been adapted several times on stage and screen, most famously by Alfred Hitchcock in 1954. How can one improve upon one of the greatest thrillers in cinematic history? As I write this, the image of Grace Kelly standing there, innocently holding the phone to her ear as Anthony Dawson silently creeps up behind her, is flashing in my mind.

Then I read this brilliant script by Jeffrey Hatcher and realized how one can truly make a great story greater. The stakes are higher, the twists and turns are deeper, the reveals more shocking, and the payoff oh, so satisfying.

What you're about to see is not a Murder Mystery. Far from it. Indeed, within the first scenes we know precisely the who, what, when, where, why, and how. A plot laid out to the tiniest detail by a master manipulator with the cold logic of a mathematician solving a proof. The Perfect Murder. But is there such a thing as a perfect murder?

Matthew Tiritilli  
Director

Produced by Arrangement with Samuel French,  
an imprint of Concord Theatricals Corp.

### THE CAST

Margot Wendice .....	Melayna Berkman
Maxine Hadley.....	Anastasia Johnston
Tony Wendice .....	Christian Foss
Lesgate .....	Jeremy Ramsey
Inspector Hubbard .....	Rod McFall

## THE SETTING

The living room of the Wendice flat in London, 1954

### Act I

Scene One - A Friday evening in September.

Scene Two - Saturday evening.

Scene Three - Later that night.

*There will be a twelve-minute intermission between the two acts. Please enjoy refreshments in the lobby. All donations from refreshments go to the Helen Hayes Teed Memorial Scholarship fund, which is awarded to local graduating seniors entering college programs for the performing arts.*

### Act II

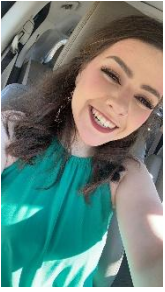
Scene One - The next morning

Scene Two - A few months later. Afternoon.

## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....Matthew Tiritilli  
Stage Manager ..... Doris Hunter Tropp  
Set Design, Stage Combat Director.....Rod McFall  
Set Construction .....Mike Fallon, Les Blumreich,  
Richard McFall, Joe Colletta, Rod McFall, Harold Pann  
Lighting and Sound..... Peter Tropp  
Costumes .....Donna Balsley, Mary Mowers  
Properties..... Les Blumreich, Deb Burns, Donna  
Balsley, Rod McFall, Doris Tropp  
Running Crew.....Les Blumreich, Donna  
Balsley, Mary Easland  
Makeup and Hair.....Sydney Winchester

## WHO'S WHO



**Melayna Berkman** (Margot Wendice) Melayna debuts with Beloit Civic Theatre in this production. Her previous performance experience includes work with the Christian Youth Theatre in Chicago, Gateway Performing Arts, and Byron Civic Theater. Melayna has appeared in *Shrek The Musical*, *Into the Woods*, *Honk!*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Beauty*

*and the Beast* to name a few. Since she began performing at age 9, Melayna has been involved in almost 30 musicals. While not on stage, she enjoys crocheting, drawing, reading and thrifting.



**Christian Foss** (Tony Wendice) appeared In Beloit Civic Theatre's season opener *Lucky Stiff* and last season's *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. What's Next?* Several years ago Christian also appeared in *Cinderella*, *See How They Run*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Camelot* and *Showboat* for BCT.

Christian works as Sales Support Manager at Blue Bunny Ice Cream. He is married to his wife, Amy, and has 2 daughters, Adeline and Olivia and enjoys golf and relaxing "next to water somewhere". Of his experience with BCT, Christian says, "after a long hiatus, it's been fun reconnecting with old friends and reliving old stories".



**Antastasia Johnston** (Maxine) Anastasia was just 9 years old when she appeared in *Working*, her first production with Beloit Civic Theatre. Years later, she returned to the stage in Beloit Civic Theatre's production of *The Fox on the Fairway*. She also performed in *Geppetto and Son* at

Starlight Community Theater and *Fiddler on the Roof* at Janesville Performing Arts Center. Anastasia is the daughter of Peter and Doris Tropp, both of whom are working backstage for this show, and she is the mother of Benjamin and Delilah. She works as an Event Logistics Account Manager for EBISS Inc, and also for Beloit College Catering Department. In her free time, she enjoys music, crafts and outdoor recreational activities. Anastasia was recently accepted into the online Berklee Music College.



**Rod McFall** (Inspector Hubbard) Rod would like to thank everyone involved with BCT for their kindness and hard work, from the board of directors to each and every audience member, this IS community theatre. Rod previously appeared for Beloit Civic Theatre in *Catch Me If You Can*, *Carnival*, *Cocktails with Mimi*, *Mary, Mary*, and most recently in *The Outsider*. He has worked professionally in a variety of capacities in film, television and theatre and has several professional affiliations including SAG (Screen Actors Guild). Rod has also worked as an IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) Prop Master, Production Designer and PGA (Producers Guild of America) Production Manager in a variety of projects from 1986 until recently, when he returned home to Beloit to be with his parents. He enjoys "making things for fun and profit," and says that he is "...old enough to know better, and young enough to try!"



**Jeremy Ramsey** (Lesgate) Jeremy previously appeared for Beloit Civic Theatre in this season's production of *Lucky Stiff* and last season in *Elvis Has Left the Building*. His experience with other theatre groups includes *Brigadoon*, *Don't Drink the*

*Water, The Hiding Place* and *Who's on First?* In addition, Jeremy has spent time as a stand-up comedian and a public speaker at multiple events. He is an attorney, licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, and has his own practice in Loves Park, Illinois. Jeremy "...appreciates all of the help and support of his fellow cast members, the director, the stage manager and everyone who has made this production possible."



**Doris Hunter Tropp** (Stage Manager) Doris is a member of the Board of Directors of Beloit Civic Theatre where she is a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer, filling in wherever the need is greatest, and her skills allow. Last season, Doris directed *Elvis Has Left the Building* and she was also stage manager of *Steel Magnolias*. Doris works as the Administrative Assistant at Roscoe Methodist Church. She and her husband, Peter, have three grown children, two cats, four grandchildren, two grand-cats and two grand-dogs, all of whom they enjoy playing with frequently. When she is not busy directing, working on plays, or spending time with her grandchildren, Doris enjoys singing in a band, directing skits at church, reading and binge-watching TV series online.



**Matthew Tiritilli** (Director) Matthew is very happy to be directing again for Beloit Civic Theatre, having directed last season's production of *Steel Magnolias*. Matthew also appeared in BCT's fall production of *Lucky Stiff*. Matthew has been involved with BCT for many years, with some favorite productions being *The Outsider*, *Kitchen Witches*, *Sylvia*, *Being Earnest*, *Private Lives*, *All My Sons*, *Bus Stop*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, and *Mame*. With Gateway Arts in Rockford,

Matthew appeared in *Hairspray* and *Newsies* and Co-Directed *Shrek* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. With Byron Civic Theatre, Matthew was Assistant Director for *Mary Poppins the Musical* and *Beauty and the Beast*. This summer, Matthew will be returning to Byron to Assistant Direct their production of *The Little Mermaid*. Matthew would like to thank the Beloit Civic Theatre Board of Directors for this wonderful opportunity, his family and friends for their continued support and Ellen and Andrew, for their inspiration.

## BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Doris Tropp..... Vice President  
Les Blumreich..... Secretary  
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**No photography is allowed during performance.**

**Please set your cell phone to silent mode during the performance.**

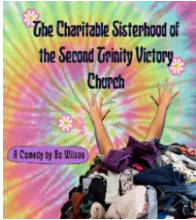
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## AUDITIONS FOR THE SPRING SHOW

Auditions for *The Charitable Sisterhood of the Second Trinity Victory Church* will be held on Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the BMHS Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre. The script requires 5

women. Doris Hunter Tropp will be directing this comedy. Please contact her if you are interested in auditioning but are unable to be at either of the audition dates. She can be reached at 815-543-1037 or emailed at [kiradorys@gmail.com](mailto:kiradorys@gmail.com)

**You may request to be added to our actor database, if interested.** Postcards announcing auditions are mailed before each show's auditions. Just give your name, phone number and postal mailing address to anyone working in the lobby or email us at [beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com](mailto:beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com)

## Beloit Civic Theatre Angels

Beloit Civic Theatre wishes to thank the following members for their additional financial contributions to the theatre. If there are any errors or omissions in this list of supporters, please call Beloit Civic Theatre at

608-201-3084. This list was compiled on September 6th, so if your name is not listed, we may have received your donation after that date. Thanks again to all of you for your generous support! The following donors have contributed over \$10,000 towards our operating budget this year.

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Beloit Memorial High School Theatre Department  
Andrew Mahan for the BCT's Dial M logo  
Thank you to Kathy Vogel, Marlene Skinkle,  
Penny Kennedy, and Pat Hall for donating cookies  
for our fall musical, *Lucky Stiff*.

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