



A MURDER MYSTERY MUSICAL

Presented by Grand Ledge High School Musical Theatre



# A KILLER PARTY

Music

Jason Howland

Lyrics

Nathan Tysen

Libretto

Kait Kerrigan and Rachel Axler

Orchestrations and Arrangements

Jason Howland

Additional Orchestrations

Kim Scharnberg

Additional Arrangements

Billy Jay Stein

**A KILLER PARTY: A MURDER MYSTERY MUSICAL**

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All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

[www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)



# A KILLER PARTY

# Episodes

## Episode 1: Mayhem and Meatballs

Sleuth in Duluth ..... Detective Case  
A Killer Party..... Varthur, Cameron, Vivika, George, Lily, Clarke, Shea

## Episode 2: A Killer Outside The Door

Today's Detective..... Justine Case and Ensemble  
Stuck..... Cameron, Vivika, George, Lily, Clarke, Shea

## Episode 3: Stage Left is Your Right

Boom! Shout! The Lights Went Out ..... Clarke and Justine  
Circus on the Sea..... Shea and Ensemble

## Episode 4: The New Grand Dame

Breathe ..... Cameron  
Songus Interruptus..... Lily and Vivika

## Episode 5: Carl

Live Out Loud ..... Joan

## Episode 6: Follow Your Nose

Boom! Shout (Reprise)..... Justine and Detective Case  
Wait For My Cue ..... Vivika  
Never Miss My Mark..... Vivika and George  
I Did It For You ..... Vivika and George

## Episode 7: A Lion Needs His Pride

Big Cat ..... Jeremy Jordan and Cameron  
Hands Out! ..... Justine, Cameron, Vivika, George, Lily, Clarke, Shea

## Episode 8: Wait Until You See What Goes Down Now

Shipload of Fools ..... Shea and Ensemble  
Process of Elimination..... Justine

## Episode 9: A Very Final Farewell

A Killer Party (Reprise) ..... Arthur, Cameron, Vivika, George, Lily, Clarke, Shea  
Sleuth in Duluth (Reprise) ..... Justine and Detective Case



# A KILLER PARTY

# Production Team

Director/Producer/Costumes ..... Tracy Clark

Music Director..... Sheri Petersen

Music Recording/Sound Engineer ..... Dan Dade

Video Recording/Editing ..... Mike Arnold and Tracy Clark

## Production Assistants

Art ..... Taryn Riekse

Choreography .....Ava Wegenke

Graphic Design ..... Haley Kluge

Poster Design ..... Cyle Cornish

Asst. Videographer .....Josh Irwin

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all the parents and families for allowing us to film in your homes and for letting us rearrange your furniture and for the assistance while filming. It took many “Key Grips” to produce this show! Special thanks to the Sanchez Family for sponsoring our show!

\*All footage was filmed safely following COVID-19 guidelines. Video recording occurred in individuals’ homes in school on a green screen. Audio was recorded individually in a recording studio at school. Masking and social distancing protocols were followed. Family member body doubles were used for scenes involving 2 actors in close proximity.



# A KILLER PARTY CAST

In order of appearance



**Detective Case**

Elysia Azzi



**Varthur MacArthur**

JJ Sanchez



**Cameron Littlejohn**

Adrian Slear



**Shea Crescendo**

A'Miah Winston



**Lily Wright**

Maria Perez



**Clarke Staples**

Jacob Deal



**Vivika Orsonwelles**

Kat Platte



**George Murderer**

Josh Irwin



**Justine Case**

Hallie Ackerman



**Joan MacArthur**

Logan Underhill



**Jeremy Jordan**

Leo Ackerman



# **A KILLER PARTY** **ENSEMBLE**

Sarah Bovee, Addison Grostefon, Aaron  
Moore, Allison Morgan, Madison Mullen, Luke Nunez

## **Dancers/Gymnasts**

Luke Huisken, Avery Humphrey, Lizzie Maurer,  
Mia Thorne

## **911 Operator/ Carl**

Aaron Moore

## **Body Doubles**

Vivika - Sheri Irwin    George - Alex Platte    Varthur/Arthur - Joel Sanchez

# A KILLER PARTY

# Characters



## **VARTHUR MACARTHUR—ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:**

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.

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: RINGMASTER



## **CLARKE STAPLES—STAGE MANAGER:**

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? SONGS: 02 A KILLER PARTY, 04 STUCK, 05 BOOM! SHOUT! THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: STOWAWAY



## **SHEA CRESCENDO—DESIGNER:**

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.

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: TRAPEZE ARTIST



## **VIVIKA ORSONWELLES—LEADING LADY:**

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?

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: CLOWN



## **GEORGE MURDERER—LEADING MAN:**

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.

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: SHIP CAPTAIN



**LILY WRIGHT—INGENUUE:**

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.

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: LION TAMER



**CAMERON MITCHELLJOHN—ALWAYS IN THE CHORUS:**

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.

A Circus Steamboat Murder character: STEWARD



**JUSTINE CASE—DETECTIVE:**

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.



**JOAN MCARTHUR—DIRECTOR'S WIFE:**

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.



**DETECTIVE CASE:**

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



**JEREMY JORDAN:**

A fantasy version of himself



# A KILLER PARTY

## Synopsis

Detective Justine Case is finally sitting down to write her memoir and wonders where to begin. She takes us back many years ago to the home of Duluth theatre director Varthur McArthur, who's preparing for hosting murder mystery dinner party. He explains that he has sent the guests invitations with information on what role they're playing and their costumes for the party. One by one, the guests arrive to the party. Once they are all seated for dinner, the lights suddenly go out. When the lights come back on, Varthur slumps over in his seat and goes facedown into his soup. At first, the guests think he is giving an authentic performance, but they quickly realize Varthur is actually dead, shot in the shoulder with a dart!

Justine Case, a meter maid, is at home when she receives a call. She is thrilled to finally be called on to work as a detective. Tired of handing out tickets, Justine is ready for a new career. At the scene of the crime, Justine tells the party guests that they must self-isolate in separate rooms so she can question each of them separately. And much to their horror, she is confiscating their phones. One of the guests, George Murderer, thinks he recognizes Justine from somewhere. Alone in their rooms, the guests panic.

Justine interviews stage manager Clarke Staples (dressed as a stowaway) about what happened. Clarke gives a detailed recap of the night for her. Justine learns that Clarke went downstairs to the basement to turn the lights back on at the time of the murder. When asked about who has a motive for killing Varthur, Clarke explains almost everyone does due to Varthur's egotistical approach to running a theatre company. Clarke himself had hoped to finally direct a show during the season, only to be constantly let down by Varthur's false promises. Clarke then declares that he's certain that production designer Shea Crescendo killed Varthur. Justine finds Shea, who is still in character as Rosetta Stone (a performer on a circus steamboat). Justine learns that Shea screamed and ducked under the table when the lights went out. Shea admits that there was a fight with Varthur but tells Justine that he had another huge fight with new star Lily. Justine leaves, while Shea (as Rosetta Stone) sings for Varthur.

Justine finds chorus member Cameron Mitchelljohn in the kitchen, who aspires to be like Broadway and TV actor Jeremy Jordan. After Justine leaves, Cameron berates himself for stumbling over his words and looking so guilty. He coaches himself to calm down. Lily Wright, alone in her room begins a ballad only to be interrupted by Justine. Lily tells Justine that she has always talent, but diva Vivika always got the spotlight. Until recently, Lily was a licensed real estate agent. As Lily keeps going into song, Vivika interrupts. And then leaves. Lily concedes that Varthur gave her the leading role in exchange for doing a poor job selling the theatre. It turns out that Varthur's wife Joan hired Lily to sell the property. Because she hates Varthur's parties, Joan has been hiding upstairs the whole time. Before Justine leaves to find Joan, Lily tells her that George Murderer accosted her when the lights went out.

Justine finds Joan finishing an ASMR recording for a client. She has no idea what happened downstairs. When Joan is told that her husband is dead, she jumps for joy - and quickly clarifies that she did not kill Varthur, even though she really wanted to. Joan gives Justine her alibi - a Zoom call at the time of the murder. After Justine leaves, Joan excitedly faces the prospect of a new life without Varthur.

While writing her memoir, Detective Case goes over the pivotal sixty seconds when the murder took place. We then see Vivika alone in her isolation room. No longer the leading lady and trapped in the room, Vivika has no choice but to "Wait For My Cue". George sneaks into her room and they kiss. Vivika says there's something she needs to tell him, but then Justine knocks on the door. George hides in the closet. Justine corners Vivika, telling her she has plenty of motive and that everyone knows she's good at darts. Just as Vivika begins a confession, George bursts out of the closet, claiming he's the one who killed Varthur. They both insist they did it with a poisoned dart. However, Justine figures out that the poisons they used were useless and that the soup must have been poisoned - and Clarke brought the soup to the party. Justine rushes off to find Clarke, leaving George and Vivika alone together.

In the kitchen, Cameron is in a food coma when he gets a vision - Jeremy Jordan appears to him in a container of cream cheese! Jeremy gives Cameron a pep talk. Cameron eats some soup when Justine bursts in and tells him to stop. Justine tests the soup for poisoning. Meanwhile, back at the crime scene, a mysterious set of hands begins to lift up Varthur. When the timer on Justine's poison test goes off, the hands put Varthur back down - but leave a handprint behind. The test shows the soup is not poisoned, leaving Justine back at square one. She heads to the scene of the crime and finds the handprint. She uses a paper towel to make a "copy" of the print. Justine goes to each suspect's room and to compare their hands with the handprint. But the only hand that matches it is Varthur's....

Still in character, Shea claims to know who committed the crime. At first, Justine brushes it off but then Shea shows pages from a script written by Varthur. The guests act out the script. Thanks to the lyrics, Justine finds a box in Varthur's desk with a V-shaped stamp inside it. Justine spots what appears to be two photos of Varthur as a young boy and figures it out.

Justine gathers everyone in the dining room to reveal who did it. Justine is about to reveal something in the coat closet when Varthur starts clapping and sits up! However just as everyone starts applauding his outstanding performance, Justine reveals he is not Varthur. She opens the coat closet to reveal Varthur's dead body. It turns out the living "Varthur" is Arthur - Varthur's twin! Arthur reveals all. As a child, Arthur played Gavroche in *Les Misérables* on Broadway, and one night, a jealous Varthur locked Arthur in his room and went onstage in his place. Varthur did so poorly, Arthur was fired from the show. Seeking revenge, Arthur had previously tried to shoot Varthur, only to miss and be imprisoned. Once he was out on parole, Varthur locked Arthur in his basement and made him ghostwrite his plays. Arthur's plan was to poison Varthur and switch bodies, allowing him to live a new life. Justine arrests Arthur, and we return to Detective Case writing her memoir. The phone rings, and once again Detective Case is summoned to a new case.



# A KILLER PARTY

# Cast Bios



## HALLIE ACKERMAN

Hallie is ecstatic to be playing the role of Justine Case for one of her final shows of senior year. She has been part of countless productions, but she is very excited to partake in this new experience of a virtual show. Hallie has been involved in theater at GLHS since she moved here sophomore year. You might have seen her as Katherine in Newsies, a lioness in Lion King, Rhoda in White Christmas, or Ginette/Rhonda in Almost, Maine. She is so grateful for everyone in her life, her supporters, and especially her mentors. She hopes you truly enjoy this killer musical!



## LEO ACKERMAN

Leo is more than excited to play Jeremy Jordan! Leo is a junior at Grand Ledge, and has been acquainted with the theatre since he was six years old. Leo enjoys writing music and playing guitar, writing, and napping. Enjoy the show!



## ELYSIA AZZI

Elysia Azzi is so grateful to be playing her first speaking role as the “Detective Case”. She is a junior and has been participating in musicals since freshman year. Elysia was a member of the ensemble in Newsies, Lion King, and a dancer in White Christmas. Ever since Elysia was little, she’s had a big passion for music and singing. She was able to participate in honors choir, her church choir and church plays during elementary school. Elysia later had the opportunity to be in select and chambers choirs during middle school. Now, she is a member of the Bel Canto ladies choir. She has made a lot of great friends and memories, because of the wonderful arts programs that Grand Ledge High School provides. She hopes you enjoy this new virtual musical.



## SARAH BOVEE

Sarah is a freshman this year and “A Killer Party” is her third musical in the Grand Ledge Musical program. In seventh grade she played Zazu in the Lion King Jr. and in eighth grade she played Mrs. Gloop in the middle school's production of Willy Wonka Jr. Outside of musicals she has participated in several Honors Choirs, Musical Theater Festival, and Vocal Ensemble at GLHS. Sarah's favorite musical at the moment is Waitress and her favorite songs from the show are “I Didn’t Plan It” and “A Soft Place to Land”.



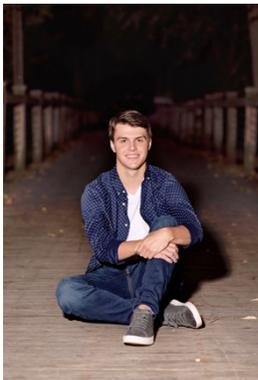
### **JACOB DEAL**

Jacob is a Sophomore at Grand ledge High School, and this will be the third musical he's been in. As an 8th grader, he participated in the joint high school/ middle school production of *The Lion King*, and as a freshman he was a tap dancer in the GLHS production of *White Christmas*. Jacob is a member of Madrigals. He has been played soccer since he was 4. He played for the club "Rush" since first grade, and for the Varsity Soccer team at Grand ledge since Freshman year. In his spare time, Jacob plays a lot of Xbox with his close friends, and when it's safe to do so he likes to go out and do things with his friends.



### **ADDISYN GROSTEFON**

Addisyn is a sophomore and *A Killer Party* is her third Grand Ledge Musical, but she has been in musical theatre in general for seven years. She spends most of her time singing, dancing, playing instruments, and occasionally composing music. Addisyn also likes to create art pieces such as paintings, knitting/crocheting, and scrapbooking. Her favorite thing to do of all time is help her neighbors with their goats, alpacas, ducks, chickens, and crazy dogs. You can also find Addisyn talking to nature. She hopes to attend MSU to study veterinary medicine. Addisyn is so excited to be working again with the wonderful people in the cast and behind the scenes, even though things are different this year.



### **JOSHUA IRWIN**

Joshua, a high school senior, will be playing the role of "George Murderer" in his 6th musical production with GLMusicals. Joshua participates in Grand Ledge High School's Madrigal Choir and swims varsity for Grand Ledge as one of the team's captains. In his downtime, Joshua enjoys singing, playing video games, streaming on Twitch, and hanging out with friends and family. His current post-high school plans are to go to LCC for two years and then transfer, getting a degree in Psychology or Computer Science.



### **AARON MOORE**

Aaron is elated to be in *A Killer Party Musical*. He is a junior and has been in musicals since freshman year. Aaron has been an ensemble member for *Newsies*, *Lion King Jr*, and a dancer in *White Christmas*. Aaron has been surrounded by music his whole life from being in church choirs to being the star in elementary school performances. In 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Aaron pursued the clarinet, but switched to Men's Choir in 8th Grade and became a member of Select Choir. Aaron has a love for music and performing which shows while he is on stage. One of Aaron's favorite musical memories is participating in GLHS 2019 Cabaret and performing his first lead song "Pandemonium" from the 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee. From all the support from his family and friends, Aaron has been able to achieve his dreams of being able to express his full self in the performing arts and hopes to for years to come.



### **ALLISON MORGAN**

Alli is a sophomore in the ensemble of a Killer Party Musical. This is her 3rd show with GL Musicals, having previously been in Lion King Jr and White Christmas. Alli is also involved in Wind Symphony and Drumline at GL, and loves to spend her free time reading, playing marimba, or dancing.



### **MADISON MULLEN**

Maddy Mullen is currently a sophomore at GLHS. This is her second GL musical, her first being "The Lion King Jr." in 2019. She enjoys musical theater and cross stitching, and despises writing about herself in the third person. Her favorite musical is "Dear Evan Hansen" or any musical by Team Starkid.



### **LUKE NUNEZ**

Luke is super excited to be in this production! He first started doing musicals at his church in East Lansing. He was Joseph and the Third Wiseman in the Christmas production. Since then, Luke also got to be in the middle school production of Willy Wonka Jr. as Mike Teavee. While doing this production, he hopes to grow to be more of a part of the Grand Ledge High School community.



### **MARIA PEREZ**

Maria is a junior and this will be her fourth musical at Grand Ledge. Along with musicals, she is also a member of National Honors Society, Bel Canto, and the schools archery team. In her free time, she hangs out with her dog Olive and finishes up her AP classwork. Maria is so excited to be playing Lily Wright in "A Killer Party" and hopes you enjoy the show.



### **Katherine Platte**

Katherine is honored to get her first lead role as Vivika. She is a junior, and has been in musicals since freshman year. Katherine was an ensemble member in Newsies, Lion King, Jr., and White Christmas. However, her love for music began at a very young age when she and her father would sing together, as well as when she was able to watch her sister participate in GLHS musicals and Madrigals. Katherine has been singing ever since. In 8th grade, she participated in the All State Honors Choir and was a member of Hayes Middle School Select Choir. Since attending Grand Ledge High School, where she is on the A Honor Roll with a 4.0+ cumulative GPA, she has been a member of Vocal Ensemble, Bel Canto, and now Madrigals. She finds being a member of Grand Ledge High Schools' music/musical program to be one of the highlights of her high school career. Her second love is lacrosse where she has found her niche as the goalie. Her favorite musical is The Phantom of the Opera and she loves to sing these songs in the car when traveling with her mom.



### **JJ SANCHEZ**

JJ is a senior at Grand Ledge High School and has been in the musical program since his sophomore year. JJ has played many very different roles, from Henry in Newsies to Scar in The Lion King Jr. JJ is very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this new virtual musical experience and hopes everyone feels like they're seeing a genuine Grand Ledge High School musical in the comfort and safety of their own home.



### **ADRIAN SLEAR**

Adrian is a senior at Grand Ledge High School. He has been a part of the school's prestigious musical program for 3 years now, and is so glad that he got involved! The musical community here at GLHS is an incredibly welcoming one, filled with some of the most talented directors, actors, actresses, and crew he has ever met. In addition to taking part in GLHS musicals, Adrian is a member of the GLHS Madrigals and Wind Symphony, as well as the Grand Ledge Marching Band. He is also a veteran member of the Grand Ledge Boys' Swim Team. In his spare time, he enjoys playing his drumset, and reading political theory. This musical has been so exciting to produce, and every member of the cast has been a joy to work alongside. While the production method was definitely different than what we all were used to, this is absolutely one of the most engaging, exciting, and unique musicals ever presented by the Grand Ledge theater department! Enjoy the show!



### **LOGAN UNDERHILL**

Logan is a senior, and is very excited to be a part of her fourth and final production at Grand Ledge High School. This is her third speaking role, and she's really proud of her fellow cast mates for making this crazy production work. She will be attending LCC next year in the Transfer Studies program with hopes of studying Education or Business in the future. She wants to thank her loud and crazy family for their continuous support of her and her dreams, and all of her friends for tolerating her fangirl attacks and info dumps.



### **MIAH WINSTON**

Miah, sophomore, is a lover of coffee, golf, music, and all things Ariana Grande. She loves to spend her time with family and friends whenever possible and indulges in Chick-fil-a almost too much. She thoroughly enjoys watching YouTube, Netflix, and Hulu and her favorite musicals are "The Lion King" and "Hamilton".