AGATHA CHRISTIE is known throughout the world as the Queen of Crime. Her books have sold over a billion copies in English with another billion in foreign languages. She is the most widely published author of all time and, in many languages, outsold only by the *Bible* and Shakespeare. She is the author of 66 crime novels, 150 short stories, over 20 plays, and six novels written under the name Mary Westmacott. Her work includes Murder on the *Orient Express, Death on the Nile*, and the genre-defining *And Then There Were None*.

Agatha Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was written towards the end of the First World War, in which she served in the VAD. In it she created Hercule Poirot, the little Belgian detective who was destined to become the most popular detective in crime fiction since Sherlock Holmes. It was published by Bodley Head in 1920.

In 1926, after averaging a book a year, Agatha Christie wrote her first masterpiece. *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* was the first of her books to be published by Collins and marked the beginning of an author-publisher relationship that lasted for 50 years and well over 70 books. *Ackroyd* was also the first of Agatha Christie's books to be dramatized – under the title *Alibi* – and to have a successful run in London's West End. By 1930, Agatha had introduced a new character to act as detective. When she created Miss Marple, Agatha did not expect her to become Poirot's rival, but with *The Murder at the Vicarage*, Miss Marple's first full-length outing, it appeared she had produced another popular and enduring character.

The Mousetrap, her most successful play of all, opened in 1952 and is the longest-running play in history.

Agatha Christie was made a dame in 1971. She died in 1976.

COMING UP NEXT



THE BARNSTORMERS THEATRE **PRESENTS** THE STRANGER Agatha Christie JULY 27- AUGUST 5 **SPONSORED BY** THE WOODSHED

THE STRANGER

by Agatha Christie

Dan Winerman Director

Deirdre Benson* Production Stage Manager Sarah MacIntyre* Assistant Stage Manager

Gaya Chatterjee Scenic Designer
Lily Bitner Prop Designer

Kevin Dunn Lighting Designer

Chelsie Cartledge-Rose Costume Designer
Kimberly O'Loughlin Sound Designer

Robert St. Laurence Violence Coordinator, Fight Captain

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"The Stranger" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

> The Barnstormers Theatre 104 Main Street, Tamworth, New Hampshire 603-323-8500 · barnstormerstheatre.org

CAST

Aimee Doherty* Enid Bradshaw
Darien Crago* Doris West
Cheryl Mullings* Mrs. Huggins
Robert St. Laurence* Gerald Strange
John Long* Dick Lane
Jennifer Dorr White* Mrs. Birch

SETTING

ACT I

A flat in Kensington, a morning in spring.

ACT II

The living room of a cottage in the country, three months later.

SEASON SPONSORS

Grappone Automotive Group The Haynes Family Foundation

SHOW SPONSOR

The Woodshed

Concessions sponsored by Whippletree Winery and Tuckerman Brewing Co.

THE STRANGER

by Agatha Christie

Cheryl Mullings* will be performing the role of Mrs. Birch

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

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