

A black rotary telephone is shown from a high angle. A pair of silver scissors is positioned vertically, with its blades cutting through the center of the dial. The dial has numbers 1 through 9, 0, and an 'OPERATOR' button. Each number is accompanied by its corresponding letters: 1 (A, B, C), 2 (D, E, F), 3 (G, H, I), 4 (J, K, L), 5 (M, N, O), 6 (P, R, S), 7 (T, U, V), 8 (W, X, Y), and 9 (Z). The telephone's handset is on the left, and the coiled cord is visible. The background is dark and textured.

# Dial M for Murder

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher®

From the original  
by Frederick Knott

A wealthy woman with a secret.  
Her jealous husband.  
The perfect crime.

# Department of Communication

## Chair Note

Dr. Troy Comeau



Welcome to the 2023-2024 season of the Pitt State Theatre. We hope you find yourself immersed in a world of drama as our productions come to life in the beautiful Dotty and Bill Miller Theater and the PSU Studio Theatre. Our students have worked very hard to bring theatre to life and we hope you find the stage a canvas for their wonderful work. We extend our deepest appreciation to you for being here and supporting our students.

The Department of Communication also extends our gratitude to the actors, crew members, directors, and faculty who have made each performance possible. Dr. Megan Westhoff is in her fourth year leading our program and directs two productions this year. Mr. Linden Little will not only showcase his directing talents this year, but also continues as Technical Director and Designer of each performance. Finally, we are always thankful to have Ms. Lisa Quinteros lending her expertise as our

Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor.

This year's season opens on October 19-22 with *Blithe Spirit* directed by Dr. Megan Westhoff. Successful novelist Charles Condomine needs inspiration for his latest book, so he and his wife Ruth invite the eccentric medium Madame Arcati to their house for dinner with friends. The evening quickly takes a supernatural turn when the ghost of Charles' dead first wife, Elvira, is unwittingly summoned...and she has no plans to leave. Join us for this high-spirited comedy to see if they can exorcize the troublesome spook.

On December 1-2, we invite you to enjoy our COMM 544 Stage Direction class's "public final exam" as they present *Theatre Unplugged*. Always fascinating, always popular and always FREE of charge!!

Mr. Linden Little directs our third production on February 22-25, *Mrs. Dalloway*. In this 2017 adaptation of Woolf's modernist masterpiece, we follow Clarissa Dalloway as she prepares for a party on a London day in June. The play shifts perspectives from the characters' internal feelings to external observations in an attempt to translate Virginia Woolf's famous stream of consciousness writing style into staged action. A small ensemble portrays over twenty characters in this bittersweet taste of summer exploring if time or love are ever really lost.

The last production of the season on April 18-21 is *Dial M for Murder* directed by Dr. Megan Westhoff. Tony Wendice married his wife, Margot, for her money and now plans to murder her for it. In the play that inspired Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller film, this updated adaptation has plot twisting turns to keep you on the edge of your seat. Find out if Tony will get away with the perfect crime.

Once again, thank you for your support of Pitt State Theatre and we hope you enjoy this season's productions.

## Director's Note

Growing up, I watched a lot of classic movies and TV shows and became fascinated with Alfred Hitchcock's film thrillers, including *Rear Window*, *North by Northwest*, and, of course, *Dial M for Murder*. The suspense genre remains one of my favorites because the audience attempts to get one step ahead of the characters to figure out the plot and the ending. When I was later reintroduced to the story, I learned Hitchcock's film was based on Frederick Knott's original play, which first premiered as a TV program before it was produced on stage. Just a few weeks ago on March 23, it was the 72nd anniversary of the first TV performance.

We are presenting the 2022 updated adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher. While it's still Knott's iconic story set in 1952, it's told through a contemporary lens. Everything that I fell in love with about the original story remains, the characters are complicated people with secrets, the plot contains many twists and turns, and the action keeps you on the edge of your seat, yet Hatcher's version also feels current. The female characters are compelling with more agency and independence and the dialogue and plot are tightly constructed. The play is reminiscent of true crime stories, real or fictionalized, where you know the identity of the murderer and you wonder if they will get away with their crime. As you watch our production, I hope you feel the intensity of the moments within the play, as if you are in the action yourself!

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- COMM 205 PERFORMANCE STUDIES
- COMM 254 ACTING
- COMM 363 STAGECRAFT
- COMM 544 STAGE DIRECTION



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Margot Wendice (Megan Reed) looking confident



Stirling Luckey (Lesgate) and Drew Cormier (Tony Wendice) looking over their scripts



Tony Wendice (Drew Cormier), Inspector Hubbard (Eli Bell), and Maxine Hadley (Amiah Roberts) discussing important buisness

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1034 South Broadway Street  
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# Dial M For Murder

Directed by.....Megan Westhoff\*  
Scenic and Lighting Design by.....Linden Little  
Costume Design by.....Lisa Quinteros

## Cast

Margot Wendice.....Megan Reed\*  
Maxine Hadley.....Amiah Roberts  
Tony Wendice.....Drew Cormier  
Lesgate.....Stirling Luckey  
BBC Radio Host.....Gavyn Nybakken  
Inspector Hubbard.....Eli Bell

## Setting

The living room of the Wendice flat in London, 1952

### Act I

Scene 1: A Friday evening in September

Scene 2: Saturday evening

Scene 3: Later that night

There will be a 10 minute intermission between acts

### Act II

Scene 1: The next morning

Scene 2: A few months later, in the afternoon

# Production Crew

Stage Manager.....	Korah Calvin
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Mia Garrett
Props Manager.....	Leah McDonald
Running Crew.....	Easton King
Light Board Technician.....	Jerry Middleton*
Sound Board Technician.....	Hailey Goodrich
Scene Shop Carpenters.....	Jude Dammerson Jenna Russell* Ethan Yoakem
Set Construction.....	Eli Bell Korah Calvin Gavyn Nybakken Megan Reed Amiah Roberts
Costume Construction.....	Barb Davis Diann Mazurek Amiah Roberts Jarod Sheko Grace Springer*

# Pitt State Theatre Staff

Production Assistant.....	Milo Black
Artwork Designer.....	Brianna Tureaud
Advertising Manager.....	Shelby Sogaard
Production Photographers.....	Azaria Pishny Marissa Dick

Dial M for Murder (Hatcher) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

\*Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, national theatre honor society.

No photography or video recording is permitted during the performance.

Please make sure cell phones are silenced.





Maxine Hadley (Amiah Roberts) and Tony Wendice (Drew Cormier) discussing something important



Margot Wendice (Megan Reed) and Tony Wendice (Drew Cormier) looking concerned

# Scenic Designer Note

Two major modes of thought went into the creation of the design for this production. One, the manipulation of proximity, and two the establishment of a design using mid-century modern elements.

The suspense of a good thriller comes from what is hidden in plain sight. This is heightened by moving the action as close to the audience as possible. Every movement and every item could be significant. It is up to the viewer to sleuth out the important from the mundane, a key part of the fun.

The mid-century modern furnishings work as a bridge between contemporary aesthetics and the original story. While the action is set in the 1950s, the plot unfolds like any great true crime podcast. Both of these genres are comfortable in the simple and abstract lines of the furniture. This creates a blend of the fresh with the classic. We hope you find it thrilling.



Amiah Roberts, Drew Cormier, and Korah Calvin reviewing blocking

# Costume Designer Note

The 1950's was a fashion era that represented hopeful peace, progress, and innovation. People were building families, homes, technology and the Atomic Age was born. After the harsh years of WWII, people were excited about access to brighter colors, swathes of different fabrics both natural and synthetic, and an escape from the rationing restrictions they had been laboring under, especially in Europe. Lines were elegant, feminine, and full for women, and sleek, shiny and in an array of new patterns and colors for men.

The Wendice's live a comfortable life, and have embraced the color, pattern and lines of modern clothing. This is reflected in the costume design pattern and color choices, and Margot definitely is a woman who enjoys her shoes! They enjoy leisure activities, and all that modern London has to offer...unfortunately, just not together....

*Dial M for Murder* is a thriller and the noir edge lends to our favorite murder author with a nod to darker toned clothing, and a love for red and black, making Maxine a lovely contrast to her friend Margot.

We hope you enjoy the twist and turns that make the sordid tale of *Dial M for Murder!*

# Serving Our Community

This season, Pitt State Theatre is partnering with affiliated organizations of Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas. During the run performances of *Dial M for Murder*, donations of canned vegetables or other nonperishable foods will be collected for Wesley House. Please help us serve this important community resource!



Inspector Hubbard (Eli Bell) on the “phone”

# *Special Thanks*

Alan Ross

Mimi Little

The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts Staff

Chelle Rae

We would also like to thank everyone who provided services,  
materials, and support to this production.

Our apologies if anyone is inadvertently omitted.

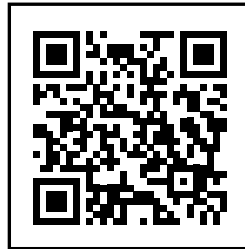
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