AUDITION PACKET

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
A MYSTERY PLAY IN THREE ACTS
BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

Directed by Merry Renn Vaughan

Audition Dates: November 8th and 9th
6:30 p.m. in the CSS Little Theatre

Production Dates: February 11th, 12th,
17th, 18th, & 19th at 7:30 p.m.
February 13th & 20th at 2:00 p.m.
And Then There Were None

Plot Summary:

When the play opens, a cluster of statuettes—ten little soldiers—sits on the mantelpiece of a weird country house on an island off the coast of Devon. A nursery rhyme embossed above them tells how each little soldier meets his death, until there was none.

To this odd Byzantine mortuary eight assorted guests are invited for a weekend by a mysterious host. The guests have never met one another before, nor have they met their host. Nor has the housekeeper, the butler, or the boatman ever met their employer.

While the guests are assembled for cocktails prior to dinner, a voice comes out of the air, accusing everyone present—including the two household servants, each in his turn of murder—not the sort of convicted murder in the courts but a murder just the same. And while they are exchanging data on themselves and on their host (who has sent word that he will be home the next day) one of the ten little soldiers breaks—and immediately thereafter—the giddy Oxonian chokes to death of cyanide that someone has dropped into his drink. One down and nine to go.

Then the excitement begins and doesn’t let up until the final curtain. The nerve specialist, accused of murder by operating drunk, is pushed off a cliff; the judge, who sentenced an innocent man to die, is found limp in a chair with a gunshot wound in his head; the spinster who drove a servant girl to suicide, is dispatched with a hypodermic; the detective, who caused an innocent man to die is crushed; the general, who sent his wife’s lover on a fatal mission, is stabbed, and so on, in a phantasmorgia of gruesome (and very comical) details, involving clues, explanations, suspicions, and terror.

THE CHARACTERS

Vera Claythorne  -  A good-looking girl in her twenties, she is one of the few people that make it to the end of the play. She is strong but occasionally succumbs to her nerves and is particularly affected by the poem about the “Ten Little Soldiers.”

Philip Lombard  -  A mysterious, confident, and adventurous man, Lombard is bolder and wittier than most of the other characters. He, along with Vera, makes it to the end. He has a strong connection with Vera, as well, which harms and helps him at the end.

Blore - A former police inspector, he comes to the island undercover but is quickly discovered, which harms his supposed innocence in the eyes of the others. He makes mistakes throughout the play and believes guilt of the wrong people, but his inquisitiveness and resourcefulness, and perhaps his fondness for drink, help him live longer than most.

Wargrave - An acting leader of the group, he does what he can to organize a plan of attack and get as much info about the circumstances as he can. He has suspicions about who the murderer may be but refrains from revealing them when he can. He takes charge but struggles with his own dark past and tendencies.

Dr. Armstrong  -  A target for suspicion right off the bat because of his extensive medical knowledge. He is a recovering alcoholic and somewhat timid. Although professionally successful, the doctor can be incredibly gullible.

Emily Brent  -  One of the few characters that feels no guilt about the crimes that she was accused of. She is unapologetically religious and feels no inhibition about sharing her ideas with anyone else, especially when they involve pointing out the sins of other people and how they will have to face judgement for them.

Rogers  - As the butler, Rogers serves the rest of the group and even continues his duties after his wife is found dead.

Mrs. Rogers  - Rogers’ wife. Ethel is a frail woman, and the death of Tony Marston causes her much distress. There is much suspicious about her death and whether or not her husband could have done it.
General MacKenzie - An older guest, MacKenzie is one of the first guests that doesn’t become distraught when the deaths are out in the open and everyone starts suspecting everyone else. He gives in and resigns himself to death early on and speaks of joining his dead wife.

Anthony Marston - A rich and spoiled young man. Marston likes to drive recklessly and seems to lack a conscience. He killed two small children in a car accident caused by his speeding, but shows no remorse.

Fred Naracott- Island caretaker, brings food the the island, and transports the guests to and from the mainland.

There is a possibility of gender bending a role or two to creat more opportunity for female actors.

**ABOUT AUDITIONS**

Scripts are available in the Library and it is recommended that you read the script before auditions so you become familiar with the plot and characters. See attached sheet for the audition scenes. In some cases, you will be given a scene assignment and time to run over it, but there may be some cold readings as well.

**REHEARSALS, SHOWS, AND CONFLICTS**

Rehearsals are held Sunday-Thursday evenings. (with the exception of one Friday tech rehearsal.)

Come to auditions prepared to write down all conflicts that you have as of right now. We will do what we can to work with your schedule, but we have to know what conflicts you have up front.

You must be able to attend the Tech and Dress Rehearsal as well as all of the shows.
AUDITION SCENES

Vera, Lombard, and Rogers page 10 - 11 and 87-89
Vera and Emily page 21-22
Vera and MacKenzie 55-56
Blore, Armstrong, and Rogers 18-19
Blore and Lombard 84-85
Blore, Lombard, Armstrong, Wargrave 71-73
Wargrave and Rogers 39-40
Rogers and Mrs. Rogers 8-9