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THE Vernal THEATRE LIVE



Season 11
2026-2027

Presents



A Murder is Announced is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

a Murder IS ANNOUNCED

by Leslie Darbon
Adapted from Agatha Christie's novel

Specific Dates
Oct. 16-24
VERNAL THEATRE: LIVE
40 EAST MAIN ST.

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WWW.VERNALTHEATRE.COM

7:00 PM
Tickets:
Adults \$12
Children \$9



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menu

cookies

\$1.00 each 1 2 for \$1.50
12 for \$9.00 (mix or match)

Chai (GF)
Chocolate Chip
Chocolate Rolo
Peanut Butter Finger
Peanut Butter Kiss
S'more Cookie
Sea Salt Toffee
Sugar Cookie

bars / others

\$2.00 each

Brownie
Caramel Popcorn Balls (GF)
Caramel Marshmallows (GF)
Chocolate Covered Strawberries (GF)
Chocolate Pretzel Rods (\$5 each)
Fudge (\$3 each) (GF)
Homemade Oreo
Lemon Square
Mint Brownie
Scotcheroo (GF)

cupcakes / cheesecakes

\$1.50 each

Black Bottom Cupcake
Blueberry Mini Cheesecake
Brownie Cheesecake (\$3 each)
Cherry Mini Cheesecake
Raspberry Mini Cheesecake

frozen lemon shells

\$2.00 each

Key Lime Pie Frozen Yogurt (GF)
Pink Lemonade Sorbet (GF)
Strawberry Ice Cream (GF)
(flavors subject to change upon
availability)



**FRESH NEXT DOOR AT
THE CURTAIN CALL!**

USU UINTAH BASIN Events

Paying for College Night

October 29th, 2026 • 5-7 pm
USU UintahBasin Roosevelt Campus
987 E Lagoon St, Roosevelt, UT 84066

College costs money, but there's more help available than most families realize. Join USU Uintah Basin's "Paying for College Night," a free workshop that walks you through the scholarships, grants, and aid that can help you pay for college.

Speaker Series: Veteran's Day Panel

FreeLunchandLearn

November 4th • 12-1 pm
USU Uintah Basin VernalCampus Rm B101
320 N Aggie Blvd, Vernal, UT 84078

USU and You Radio Show

Every Thursday • 9 am
KVEL (104.5FM, 920AM)

USUand Youis a weekly radio program that brings together local leaders, experts, and community voices to inform, connect, and engage listeners on topics related to education, health, culture, and everyday life in the Uintah Basin.



UtahStateUniversity
Uintah Basin



Scan the QR Code to
access the USU Uintah
Basin events calendar.

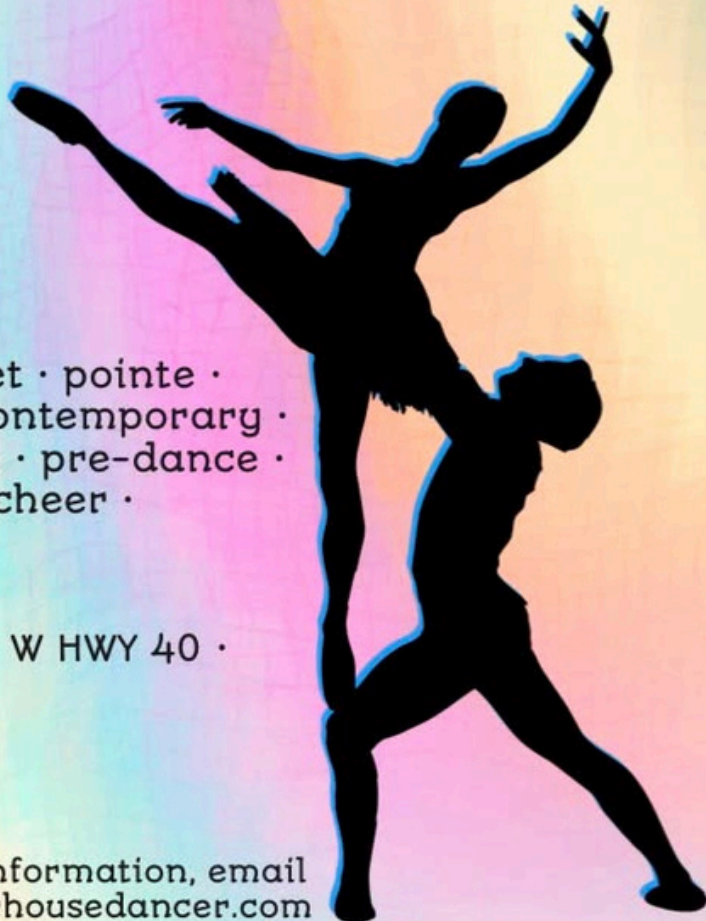
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Vernal Theatre: LIVE
proudly presents

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

by Leslie Darbon
Adapted from Agatha Christie's novel

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director – Taunia Wheeler

Stage Manager – Sundrina Barlow

Assistant Stage Manager – Spencer Johnson

Props – McKenna Christiansen

Costumes – Loretta Allen

Sound Technician – Matt Wallis

Light Technician – Bella Allred

Wigs & Makeup – Rachel Fuchs

Set Construction – Daniel Jackson, TC George, Raelynn Gaskill, Derek Meanea, Sundrina Barlow, Jeff Allen, Loretta Allen, Taysia Tello, Haiden Gaskill, Spencer Johnson, Emily Walker, Sundrina Barlow, McKenna Christiansen

Set Painting – McKenna Christiansen, Nashelle Jackson

Poster Design – Amber Young

Playbill Layout – Larissa Pearson

Headshots – Joie Madison

Special Thanks

Family & Friends & Supporters of 10 Years of VT:L

DIRECTOR NOTE

This is my second Agatha Christie production and I have discovered that I really do love directing a good "whodunit"! I love the clues, the secrets, the twists – and trying to keep the audience looking in the wrong direction at exactly the right time. But what I love most is directing here at Vernal Theatre: LIVE and being part of this wonderful theatre family.

Those who work with me know that when I suddenly have a better idea in rehearsal, I announce, "I changed my "other" mind!" This cast started keeping track. At last count, we're past twenty. Ha.

Theatre brings together the most wonderful people. We work hard, laugh a lot, change our minds occasionally (or 20 times), and somewhere along the way become family.

To my cast and crew, thank you for trusting all of my minds. And to our audience: watch carefully and trust no one.

After all...this is Agatha Christie.

Taunia Wheeler

CAST LIST

MISS MARPLE – Rachel Wells

LETITIA BLACKLOCK – Rachel Benjamin

DORA BUNNER – Emily Walker

JULIA SIMMONS – Taysia Tello

PATRICK SIMMONS – TC George

MITZI – Naomi Mortenson

PHILLIPA HAYMES – Raelynn Gaskill

MRS. SWETTENHAM – Myndee Hanberg

EDMUND SWETTENHAM – Derek Meanea

INSPECTOR CRADDOCK – Jeff Allen

RUDI SCHERZ / SGT MELLORS – Spencer Johnson

SETTING

The action takes place in two drawing-rooms in an early Victorian house in Chipping Cleghorn which have been made into one room.

ACT ONE

Scene I: The morning of Friday the 13th

Scene II: 6:10pm the same day

Scene III: The following Saturday morning

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Scene I: The following Sunday afternoon

Scene II: The following Monday morning

Scene III: 6pm the same day

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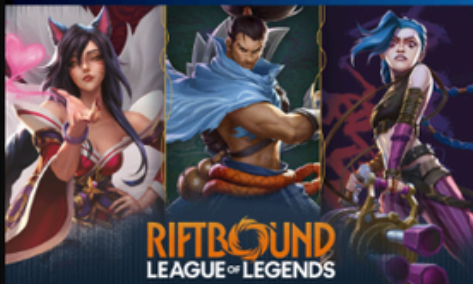


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Youth Storytelling Competition

**All 6th-12th grade youth in
the Tri-County area are
encouraged to participate.**

Questions? Talk to your school's librarian or email:
veyesc6.12@gmail.com

Final Competition

March 3, 2027

at the Museum of Uintah County
Finalists will get to tell their stories at the
Vernal UTAH Storytelling Festival
March 17-18

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Vernal UTAH Storytelling Festival

**Celebrate the Vernal Equinox
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**March 17-18,
2027 6:30 PM**

Vernal Middle School
Auditorium

**Different Show
Each Night!**
Wednesday - Thursday



Symposium
Friday the 19th
scan for info

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Tim Lowry **Mo Reynolds**

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fairy tales with folk tales, tall tales, her own lived
experienc-



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CAST BIOS



Derek Meanea *Edmund Swettenham*

"Hello all! Thank you so much for coming to my show. You know, it was quite an endeavor writing this book/play. There are many meticulous details I had to get right or else it would all fall apart! The murder that is. I, Edmund Swettenham, sincerely hope you enjoy my book—I mean play, and if it is your birthday, happiest of birthdays to you!"



Emily Walker *Dora Bunner*

Emily is thrilled to be back onstage at Vernal Theatre: LIVE! Last seen as "Wendy" in Peter Pan, you may recognize her as "Harriet" (Emma), an "Angsty Clown" (Matilda), or a "Singing Nun" (Sound of Music). Emily also loves helping backstage with costumes, props, directing, and more. Emily would like to send a huge thank you to her family for supporting her: "I love you more than grapes!"



Jeff Allen *Inspector Craddock*

You might remember Jeff from such films as The Concrete Asphalt and The Sun Never Sweats. He's glad to be back on stage in Season 11 here at VT:L as "Inspector Craddock". Enjoy the show and tell all your friends!



Myndee Hanberg *Mrs. Swettenham*

"What an adventure! I'm so grateful to be part of this wonderfully mysterious production. A huge thank you to my family for surviving the rehearsals, repeated lines, and my occasional flair for the dramatic—strictly for character research, of course. It's been unforgettable! Now, welcome to Little Paddocks... where everyone has a secret, nothing is quite what it seems, and the truth is waiting in the wings."



Naomi Mortenson *Mitzi*

"Oh you like to see me on stage, yes? I make show extra special for you tonight! But you must know, I not speak English too good so try to listen! And if you listen close, you find out who the murderer is too. Enjoy my show! Thank you! You're welcome! Szeretlek T és Zell!"



CAST BIOS



Rachel Benjamin *Letitia Blacklock*

"If you have to have a difficult conversation with someone, try using a British accent. You will either gain their respect, or they will "die" laughing. I would say "no pun intended," but this is Agatha Christie, after all."



Rachel Wells *Miss Marple*

"I'm thrilled to portray Agatha Christie's most famous amateur sleuth. As a nursing student who has spent most of my life living next to cemeteries—and even living inside an actual mortuary for a few months—playing a character obsessed with death feels strangely normal! Sending a massive thank-you to my wonderful husband and kids for holding down the fort while I play detective every night. Enjoy the mystery!"



Raelynn Gaskill *Phillipa Haymes*

"I am so thankful for this experience, and have loved every bit of it. Never would I imagine my second role would be this large. From backstage, in the booth, to on stage, I have loved being part of this amazing community and am grateful to everyone who believed in me, supported me, and gave me a chance. Shout out to my mommy for pushing me to audition when I wasn't sure."



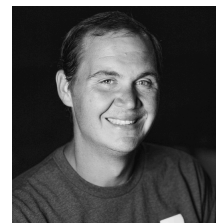
Spencer Johnson *Rudi Scherz / Sgt Mellors*

Spencer has enjoyed appearing on this stage about once a year since his VT:L debut in The Music Man in Season Two, and appreciates his family for supporting him in these adventures. He hopes you enjoy trying to figure out "whodunnit!"



Taysia Tello *Julia Simmons*

Becky is a mom of 9, and she is grateful to be in this show with her husband and son. She loves singing, playing the piano, reading, making jewelry, playing games with her family, and watching a good show with popcorn. "Thank you to my big kids for taking charge at home these past several weeks. I love you guys!"



TC George *Patrick Simmons*

"Oh, I love this magical time of year, the leaves change color, the weather gets cooler and Murder mysteries abound! I absolutely love being in theatre, whether it's on stage behind the scenes or in the tech-booth. There is nothing like working in this amazing theatre with such an amazing cast and crew. Thank you to my family and friends who support me!"