

# ***Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express***

Adapted for the Stage by **Ken Ludwig**  
Directed by **Melissa Rain Anderson**

**Sept 22 - Oct 7, 2023**

**SPOTLIGHT STUDY GUIDE**  
**For Teachers and Students**



Pioneer Theatre Company's Student Matinee Program is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts, and Parks Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, and The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund.

The title 'AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS' is rendered in large, blue, 3D block letters. The text is positioned in the center of the page, set against a background of a dark smokestack on the left that emits thick, white steam or smoke that fills the right side of the image.

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

# MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

## CHARACTERS - everyone's a suspect!

### Hercule Poirot

A retired Belgian police detective and Agatha Christie's most well-known sleuth. He is intelligent and incredibly observant. Poirot is famous for his ability to figure out even the toughest of cases.

### Monsieur Bouc

A younger Belgian man who is an old friend of Poirot's and director of the Orient Express's train company. Bouc is good-natured and accommodating to his guests and friends.

### Mary Denbenham

A young English beauty who is unassuming and charming. In love with Colonel Arbuthnot.

### Colonel Arbuthnot

A Scottish military man, handsome, and straight forward. In love with Mary.

### Hector McQueen

A nervous young American in the employ of Mr. Ratchett. Constantly on edge and stressed not only by his job, but something deeper.

### Michel the Conductor

A Frenchman who works for the Orient Express, making sure the needs of all of the passengers are met.

**SYNOPSIS:** Famous detective Hercule Poirot is called back from Istanbul to London on urgent business. He intends to book a first-class compartment on the Orient Express, run by his former friend and colleague, Monsieur Bouc. The train is surprisingly full, but Bouc manages to secure Poirot a spot in the first-class cabin. While aboard the Orient Express, Poirot meets a host of interesting characters. While aboard the train, the angry businessman, Samuel Ratchett, corners Poirot and demands Poirot to investigate a series of letters that have been sent to Ratchett, threatening his life.

As a snowdrift halts the Orient Express in its tracks, Ratchett is found stabbed multiple times in his locked train compartment. Monsieur Bouc asks Poirot to solve the murder, as the killer could still be in their midst on the train. As Poirot investigates, conflicting clues and alibis lead him to dead ends. Over the course of 48 hours, will Poirot be able to solve the case of the *Murder on the Orient Express*?

### Princess Dragomiroff

A Russian pre-revolution royal with all the airs and trappings that entails. She is older, entitled, and is no one's fool.

### Greta Ohlsson

Princess Dragomiroff's companion and servant. A Swedish missionary earning her way by assisting the Princess.

### Countess Andrenyi

A young Hungarian aristocrat, lovely and charming, who disarms everyone she meets.

### Helen Hubbard

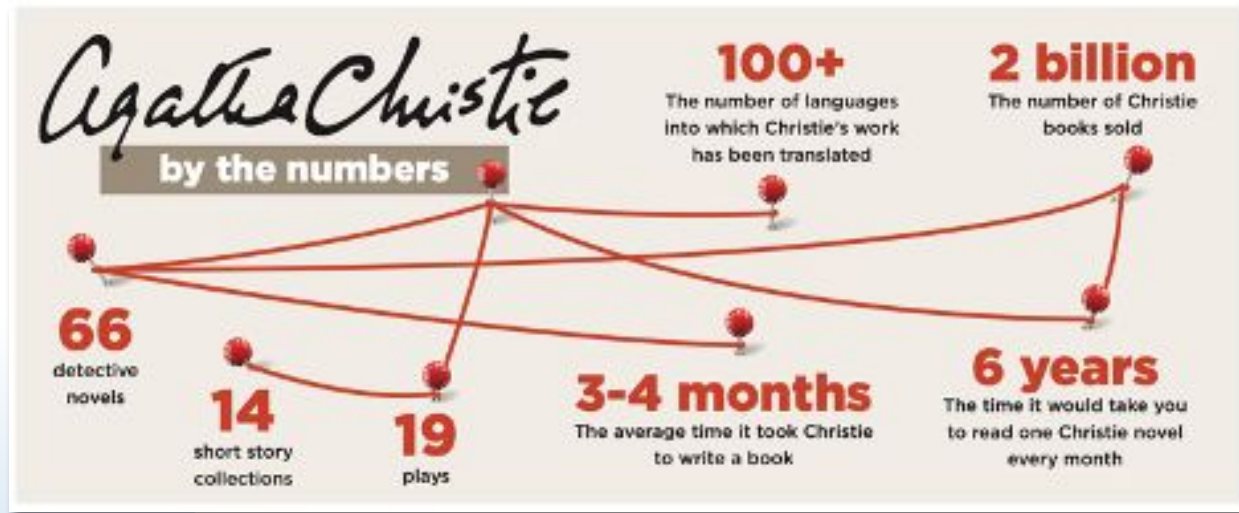
A Midwestern widow with a personality as big as the Mississippi.

### Samuel Ratchett

A brusque, off-putting American businessman. A bully and sketchy character who thinks he can get anything he wants through money or intimidation.

# From the Page...

**Agatha Christie** was born in Torquay, England on September 15, 1890. She was the youngest of three children in an upper-middle class home. Agatha was schooled at home by a governess and tutors—a lifestyle later reflected in her novels. She was married in 1914 to Archie Christie, a W.W.I fighter pilot. While he was at war, Christie worked as a nurse. She first worked with patients, but was eventually transferred to the dispensary where she gained an extensive knowledge of poisons. Before Agatha married Archie, Agatha had discussed writing a murder mystery with her sister Madge, but Madge thought it would be too difficult for her. Agatha devoted her downtime at the dispensary to proving her sister wrong and writing *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*.



*The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was not published until 1920. Agatha's first novel featured her most famous detective character, Hercule Poirot. Poirot became known for his eccentricities, waxy moustache and quick mind. He was a featured character in thirty of Christie's novels.

In 1926, Archie asked Agatha for a divorce. Agatha, already distressed by the recent death of her mother, drove off. Her car was found abandoned, with only a suitcase and some clothing in the backseat. Agatha's disappearance started a nation-wide manhunt, at one point 3000 people came out to look for the writer in the area her car had been found. About three weeks later she was found at a small hotel in a nearby town. Agatha claimed she had suffered a severe loss of memory, the British press claimed she had staged her own murder.

In 1930, Agatha married Max Mallowan, a young archeologist she met in Mesopotamia; much of Agatha's knowledge of the Middle East and archeology stems from her relationship and travels with her husband.



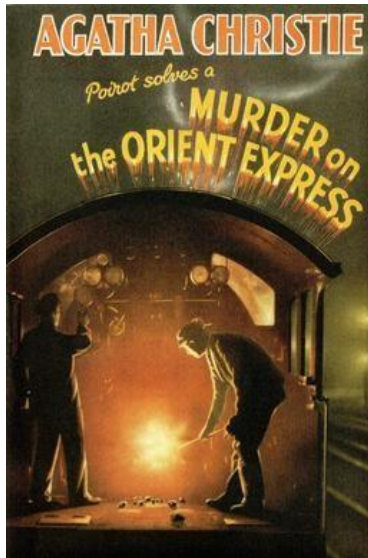


# From the Page...(cont.)

Christie is often regarded as the Queen of the Golden Age detective and mystery novels. *Murder on The Orient Express*, written in 1934, is considered a Golden Age classic mystery novel. As in *Murder on The Orient Express*, also known as *Murder on the Calais Coach*, Christie's novels accurately portray the life of upper-middle class, British men and women of this period. Her novels put little emphasis on the working class; the books typically describe the lives of leisure class, rich tourists. In her later work, she attempted to script the lifestyles of the coffee bar, beat generation kids, but with less success.

In her lifetime, Christie wrote over sixty-six novels, short stories, screenplays and a series of romance novels under the pen of Mary Westmacott. In 1971 she was named Dame of the British Empire. Agatha Christie died on January 2, 1976.

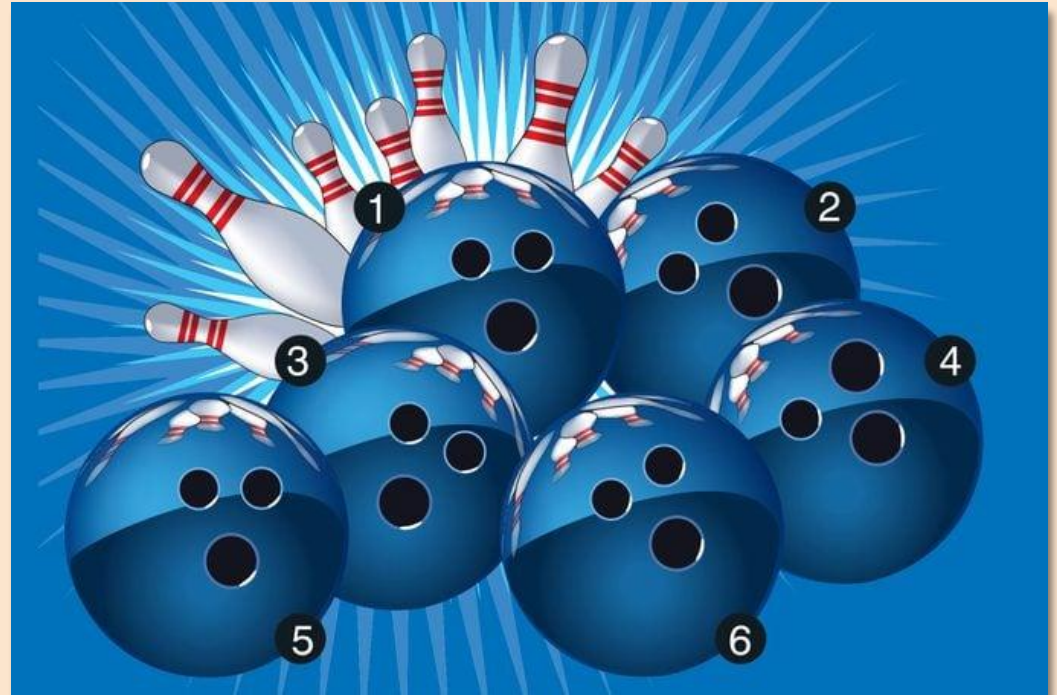
**Activity:** Throughout the play, every character lies to Poirot, either to deliberately deceive or misdirect his investigation. Is there ever a good reason to tell a lie? Write an essay that defends your answer using real life examples.



The first edition cover of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*.  
(Photo: [Collins Crime Club/WikiCommons](#))

## You are the Detective

### What doesn't belong?



This visual brain teaser is all about finding the one image in a series of images that isn't the same as the others. The problem is...finding the odd man out is not always obvious! For example, can you spot which bowling ball doesn't belong in the above image?

<https://www.rd.com/article/visual-brain-teasers-and-puzzles/>

# ...to the Stage & Screen

As one of the most famous mystery novels of all-time, *Murder on the Orient Express* has enjoyed many different adaptations since its publication almost ninety years ago.

## RADIO

- Soviet state radio: 1966
- BBC Radio 4: A five-part series, airing from December 1992 - January 1993
- Audible: novel dramatization, 2017

## TELEVISION

- CBS: modernized made-for-television film, 2001
- BBC/PBS: film-length episode of Agatha Christie's Poirot series, 2010
- Japanese television: mini-series, 2015

## FILM

- 1974 film adaptation: starred Albert Finney, Sean Connery, Lauren Bacall, Anthony Perkins, John Gielgud, Michael York, Vanessa Redgrave, and many other notable talents. The film was a critical and commercial success.
- 2017 film adaptation: starred Kenneth Branagh, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Penelope Cruz, Josh Gad, Sir Derek Jacobi, Daisy Ridley, Dame Judi Dench, Leslie Odom Jr., Willem Dafoe, Olivia Coleman, and several other notable actors. Branagh also directed the film. Several unusual choices were made with this adaptation, specifically with character backstories and identities.

## VIDEO GAMES

- 2006 A computer game is released with a playable character who has to take Poirot's place in solving the murder as he is ill and recovering in his compartment.

## STAGE

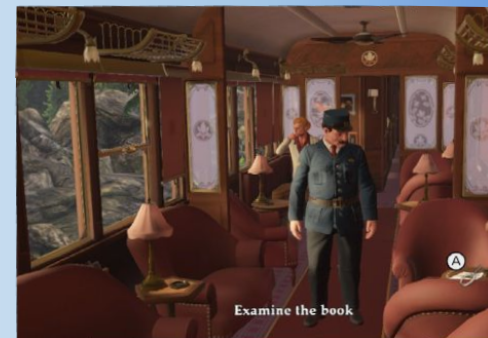
- 2017 *Murder on the Orient Express* adapted by Ken Ludwig first premiered at McCarter Theatre Center for the Performing Arts.



Cast of the 2017 film adaptation. / Photo Credit: 20th Century Studios.



Cast of the 1974 film adaptation. / Photo Credit: The Guardian.



Screenshot from the 2006 game. / Photo Credit: The Raven Remastered.



# Inspired by Real Life



## The Lindbergh Baby

Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* is one of her most well-known mysteries. Christie was inspired by the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh's child, a case that had rocked the nation and had not yet been solved when she wrote the book.

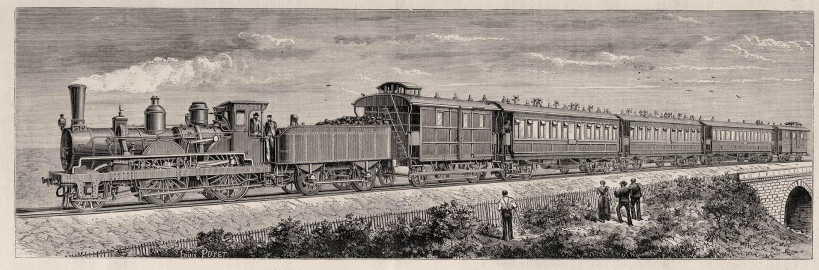
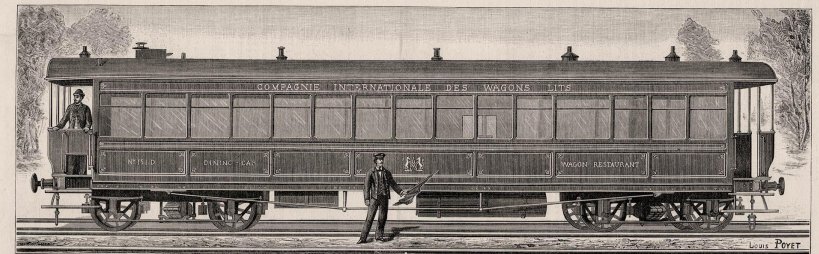
Charles Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of the famous pilot Charles Lindbergh, was snatched from his New Jersey home on the night of March 1, 1932. An hour later, the child's nurse discovered an empty nursery, muddy footprints, an ill-spelled ransom note demanding the Lindberghs pay \$50,000 to get their son back. Soon, the world's attention had turned toward this case; President Hoover was notified, Al Capone offered his assistance from prison. The ransom was paid, but unfortunately Lindbergh's son was never returned.

After becoming the focus of police attention, Violet Sharp, an English maid working for the Lindberghs, ended up taking her life. Agatha Christie ended up using the kidnapping story and the fate of the real life maid working for the Lindberghs to be the inspiration for Daisy Armstrong and Daisy's maid in *Murder on the Orient Express*.

## The Orient Express Train

Agatha Christie also loved the Orient Express and first traveled on it in late 1928. She made note of the details of the carriages and clues such as the position of door handles along the train to be featured in her novels. She noted that a blizzard near Turkey that marooned the Orient Express for six days in 1929 contributed to her idea of isolating the passengers onboard the train.

In December of 1931, flooding from rainfall washed away sections of track on one of Agatha's trips from one of her husband's archeological digs for twenty-four hours. In a letter to Max she writes, "My darling, what a journey! Started out from Istanbul in a violent thunderstorm. We went very slowly during the night and about 3 a.m. stopped altogether." She notes in her biography how several of the passengers on her train inspired both the plot and characters in her novel, including the outspoken character of Mrs. Hubbard, an American named Mrs. Hilton.



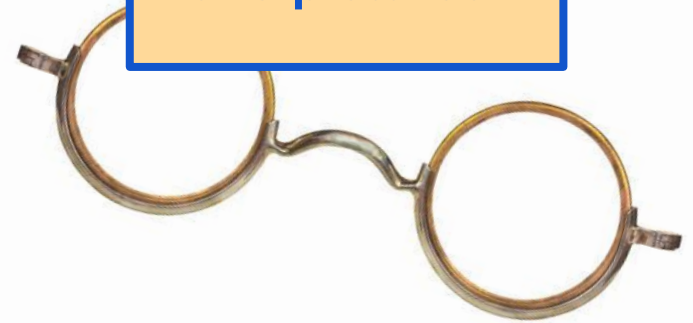
The first Orient Express featured in *L'Illustration*, 1884 (Photo: Arjan den Boer)



# You are the Detective - *International Traveler*



Find the 8 differences between these two pictures.



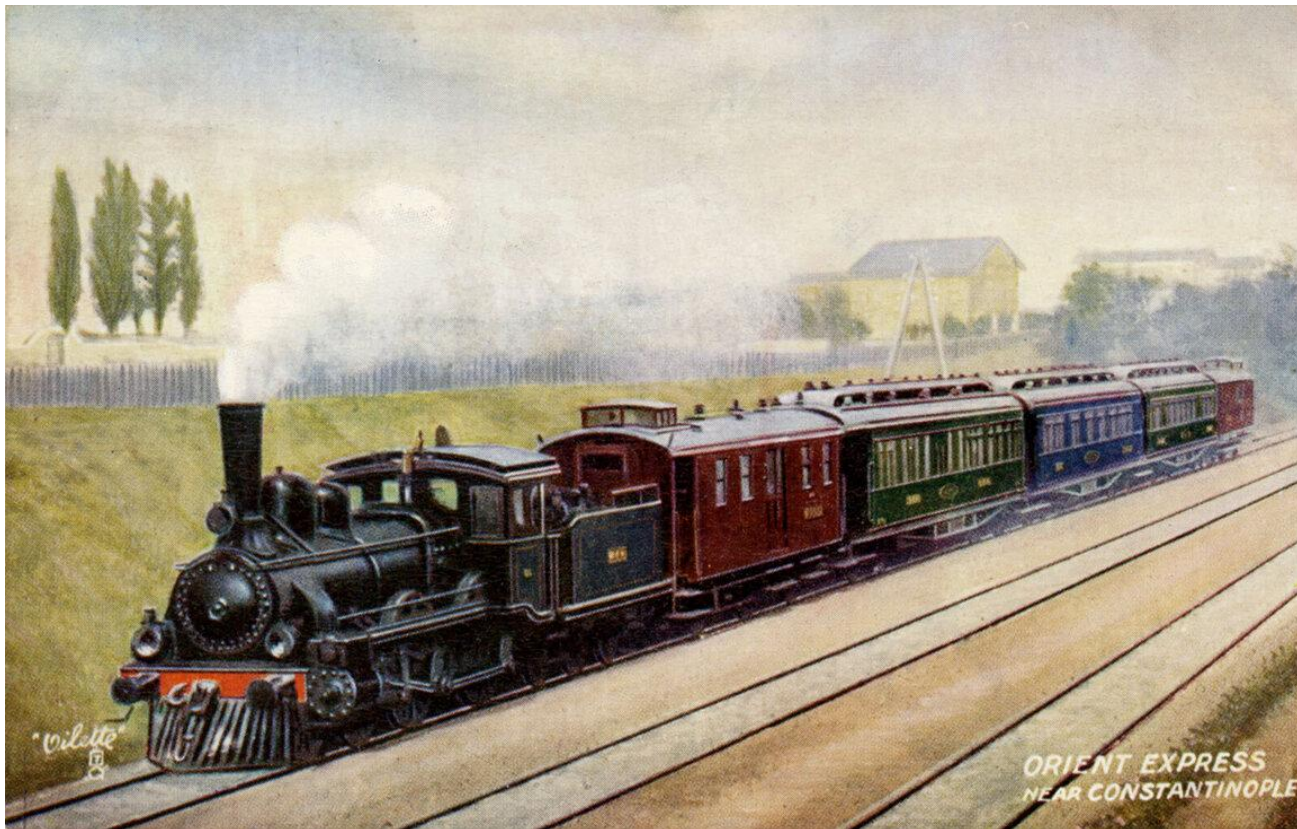


# The Actual Orient Express

**THE ORIENT EXPRESS, A LUXURY** train service connecting Paris to Constantinople, remained closely connected to European history throughout the 20th century. It wasn't fully fiction though: real artists and spies did travel by Orient Express and some actual murders did take place.

The first official Orient Express left Paris on October 4, 1883. Around 30 people were invited for the inauguration: officials, diplomats, journalists and railway directors. The host was Georges Nagelmackers, founder of the Wagons-Lits company. In 1868 the young Belgian banker's son had traveled the US by Pullman sleeper and saw a gap in the European market.

After several experiments he reached an agreement with eight railway companies—from France to Romania—in 1883. They provided the rails and locomotives, Wagons-Lits supplied the sleeping and dining cars.



A postcard for the Orient Express, c. 1900. (Photo: Arjan den Boer)

“The bright-white tablecloths and napkins, artistically and coquettishly folded by the sommeliers, the glittering glasses, the ruby red and topaz white wine, the crystal-clear water decanters and the silver capsules of the champagne bottles—they blind the eyes of the public both inside and outside,” wrote one of the guests, Henri Opper de Blowitz, about the inaugural dining car.

**Activity:** The majority of this play is set in a train stuck during a Yugoslavian blizzard during the winter of 1934. **How does time and place affect this story?** Would the story be the same if it was set in summer and the train had kept moving, stopping at different cities? How would today's technology (cell phones, Internet, social media) change the story?



# The Actual Orient Express (cont.)



1st Orient Express poster by Jules Chéret, 1888  
(Photo: Arjan den Boer)

## Golden Age

The opening of the new Constantinople station in 1890 marked the beginning of the Golden Age of the Orient Express. The direct train between Constantinople and Paris was a fast alternative to boat travel — but only for those who could afford it. Converted to today's value, a ticket cost around €19,000, a quarter of the annual income of the average Frenchman.

The Orient Express was primarily a link between the major Central European cities. The luxury train ran daily from Paris to Munich, Vienna and Budapest. Constantinople was only a destination twice a week.

In 1929 the Simplon Orient Express was snowed in for five days at a small station in Turkey. This incident inspired Agatha Christie, although she chose Yugoslavia as the location for her 1934 novel *Murder on the Orient Express*. In fact, the first known murder on the train did not occur until one year after the publication of her novel.

In her memoirs of Syria, where her husband was an archaeologist, Agatha Christie contrasted the luxury of the Taurus Express to the desert hardship: “The train starts! I follow the conductor along the corridor. He flings open the door of my compartment. The bed is made. Here, once more, is civilization. Le camping is ended.

The conductor takes my passport, brings me a bottle of mineral water, says: We arrive at Alep at six tomorrow morning. Bonne nuit, Madame.”

## Decline

From the 1960s onwards the Orient Express gradually lost its shine. In 1977, nearly 100 years after the first journey, the last direct train left Paris for Istanbul. There was no dining car anymore; passengers had to bring their own supplies for several days.

“The Orient Express really is murder,” complained travel writer Paul Theroux. The contrast to the sophisticated 1930s Simplon Orient Express could not have been greater.

## New Start

Publicity surrounding the last trip resulted in a revival: the private Venice-Simplon Orient Express (VSOE), started by an American-British entrepreneur. Since 1982 this luxury “rail cruise” has chugged between London, Paris and Venice using restored Wagons-Lits carriages.

# Orient Express Train Trivia

## **It set off in the 19th century.**

The Orient Express was a long-distance passenger train service created in 1883.

## **Travel wasn't always easy when the Express first launched.**

It is interesting to consider that the Orient Express was a great showcase of luxury at an era when traveling was overall much rougher and with more danger than later times.

## **Its journeys have varied in length.**

It is best known for its journeys from Paris to Istanbul. However, shorter journeys were also possible such as London to Paris. The train is also known for making trips around European nations that include Vienna, Berlin, and Prague.

## **One of the classic journeys was actually a rarity to book.**

The 6-day journey from Paris to Istanbul and back again could only be selected once a year!

## **The routes switched up regularly.**

The route of the train was to change several times during its years of service.

## **What did the train look like inside?**

If you are trying to picture the layout of the train, it was made up of:

- 1 Baggage car
- 1 Sleeping coach with 16 beds
- 1 Sleeping coach with 14 beds
- 1 Restaurant coach
- 1 Sleeping coach with 13 beds
- 1 Sleeping coach with 13 beds

## **Warmth wasn't a problem.**

With the assistance of coal stoves, each carriage was kept nice and warm. A small radiator was also included in the carriages.



## **Cooling down wasn't a problem either!**

A fan was included in every carriage compartment to help passengers to keep cool. Passengers were also allowed to open their window should they want to.

## **There were no bathing facilities on board.**

The train, although very luxurious in many ways, does not include showers or baths but passengers do have access to washbasins and toilet facilities.

## **The Express paused due to the War.**

Due to the First World War, in 1914 the Orient Express' services were suspended.

## **There were multiple services in the 30s.**

The 1930s was when the Orient Express was at its peak of popularity. At this time there were three parallel services running under the 'Express' group.

## **It paused for further conflicts, too.**

At the start of the Second World War, the service was once again interrupted, this time not resuming action until 1945.



# Orient Express Train Trivia (cont.)



Belmond Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

## It was an extremely popular restauranting experience

It is said that more than 1.1 million dinners have been served on the Orient Express which comes to almost 4 million courses!

## What was the first-ever menu on board?

The first tasty-sounding menu served on board the train consisted of oysters, soup and Italian pasta, a fillet of beef with 'château' potatoes, turbot with green sauce, chicken 'à la chasseur' and 'chaud-froid' of game animals. Sweet options included a buffet of desserts. Sounds yummy!

## Sadly, it's no longer running.

On the 14th December 2009, the Orient Express ceased to operate. The main reason at the time that was provided was due to the increase in high-speed trains and cut-rate airlines.

## However, its legacy lives on.

A private venture courtesy of Belmond runs the Venice-Simplon Orient Express train that uses original CIWL carriages from the 1920s and 1930s and continues to run to this day. Its route includes the original Orient route from Paris to Istanbul. Let's go!

<https://factcity.com/facts-about-the-orient-express/>



## You are the Detective

Rebus puzzles are visual brain teasers based on common words or phrases, and your job is to figure out the word or phrase by looking at the puzzle image, which is often a combination of words, numbers, and symbols arranged in such a way that they have a deeper meaning.

**Brain benefits:** Rebus puzzles challenge both the left and right areas of your brain by combining language skills with critical thinking/logic skills, plus a dash of creativity, which is why they're so much fun (and so tricky!) to solve.

TRAVEL  
CCCCC

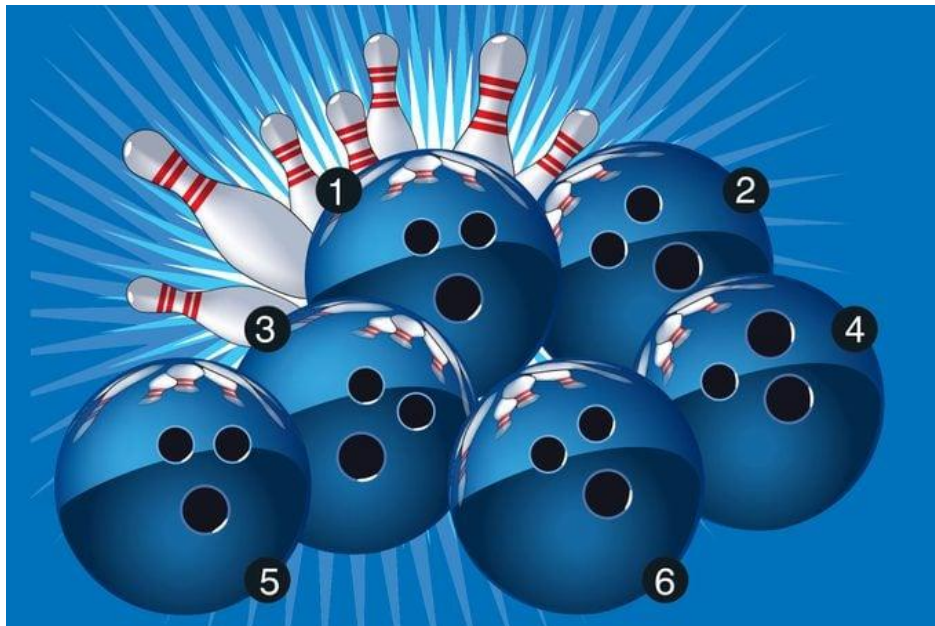
<https://www.rd.com/article/visual-brain-teasers-and-puzzles/>

# You are the Detective -ANSWERS



**TRAVEL**  
**CCCCC**

If you deciphered that the above image means "Travel Overseas," good job!



Can you spot which bowling ball doesn't belong in the above image? (Hint: Look at the size of the finger holes on each bowling ball.) That's right, #4 has two thumb-sized holes, whereas the others only have one like they should, which is why it's the one that doesn't belong.

**Activity:** Write a review of the play. A well-rounded review includes your opinion of the theatrical aspects—scenery, lights, costumes, sound, direction, acting— as well as your impressions of the script, the impact of the story and/or themes, and the overall production. What moments made an impression? How do the elements of scenery, costumes, lighting, and sound work with the actors' performance of the text to tell the story? What ideas or themes did the play make you think about? How did it make you feel? Did you notice the reactions of the audience as a whole? Would you recommend this play to others? Why or why not? To share your reviews with others send to: [Eric.Jackson@PTC.Utah.Edu](mailto:Eric.Jackson@PTC.Utah.Edu)



# Meet Our Cast



**BONNIE BLACK\*** (Princess Dragomiroff) is delighted to return to PTC, having performed here in *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Peer Gynt*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Comedy of Errors*. Recently, Off-Broadway: *Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet...* (Siggy at the Flea), *Strings Attached* (Pulse Ensemble), *Citizen Wong* (Pan Asian Rep). Select regional and stock: residency with Adrian Hall's Trinity Square Rep; company memberships with the Alley Theatre and Great Lakes Theatre Festival (*The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*); The Old Globe (*Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Broadway Bound*); six productions of *Midsummer* (Shakespeare Theatre Company DC, et al.); CATF, Theatre Virginia (*Black Coffee*), Cincinnati Playhouse, Riverside Theatre (*Moon Over Buffalo*), Vineyard Playhouse, LA Theatre Works. Television: *Mr. Robot*, *FBI*, *Law & Order*, L&O: *CI*, *Loving* (recurring), among others.



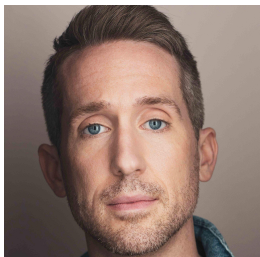
**AMY BODNAR\*** (Greta Ohlsson) is thrilled to return to Pioneer where she has previously been seen as Gwendolyn in *The Odd Couple*, Rosemary in *Outside Mullingar* and Tanya in *Mamma Mia*. She has been in plays and musicals on and off Broadway, in national tours, and regional theaters across the country. Recent credits include the world premiere of *Freedom Rider* at Alabama Shakespeare and 88 performances of *What the Constitution Means to Me* as Heidi at Florida Studio Theatre. She can currently be seen on TV's Tubi in *Twisted Marriage Therapist* and *Great Kills* and on Amazon in season one of *Harlem*.



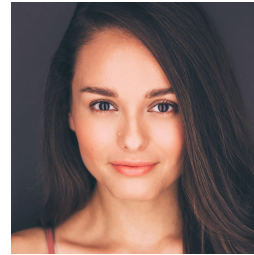
**GISELA CHÍPE\*** (Countess Andrenyi) A multi-hyphenate Actor/Writer/Narrator/ Producer worked as Producer: anticipated series *This Boy's Vida* by Joseph Castillo-Midyett, award-winning *Black?*, *Con Dios*, and *The Graduate Series* (Co-writer). Select Film/TV Acting credits: *Good Burger 2*, *The Unholy*, *AWKWAFINA is Nora from Queens*, *FBI*, *SVU*, and *Manifest*. Spanish: *Wasp Network*, *Bel Canto*. Portuguese: *The Olympic Games* (Brazil). Gisela recently made her Broadway debut with the comedy *POTUS...* (d. Susan Stroman). Off-Broadway/Regional Theaters: Papermill, Actors Theatre, The Guthrie. Select Audiobooks: *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls*, *THE TALK*, *Night Vision*, among others, with awards for *The Soul of a Woman* by Allende, *Velvet Was The Night*, and *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau* by Moreno-Garcia. Gisela creates greater visibility for black and brown stories. University of Delaware—PTTP (M.F.A.) Para mi Familia. @giselachipe



**EDWARD JUVIER\*** (Monsieur Bouc) is happy to be in Salt Lake making his Pioneer debut. Broadway/Tour: *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera*. Regional/Stock: Goodspeed, STAGES St Louis (Theater Circle award), Engeman, Tuachan, Riverside, Arrow Rock Lyceum, Meadow Brook, Theatreworks Palo Alto, Allenberry, Ivoryton, Forestburgh, Gulf Coast Symphony, Transcendence. Graduate of Boston Conservatory. Thank you for having me!



**MATTHEW MCGLOIN\*** (Hector MacQueen) is an actor-musician based in Harlem who firmly believes in the power of live theatre to heal & connect. His NY/Off-Broadway credits include *The Hello Girls* (Prospect Theater Company/59E59), *Bastard Jones* (The Cell), *CasablancaBox* (HERE Arts), *Xanadu* (Piper Theatre), readings with Tectonic Theater Project, Abingdon Theatre Company, Dixon Place, The Lark. Regional credits include *2 Pianos*, *4 Hands* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, North Coast Rep, Laguna Playhouse), *Cabaret* (Peterborough Players), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Repertory Theatre St. Louis), *Murder for Two* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre), *Beautiful Star* (Triad Stage), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Signature Theatre), *Misalliance*, *Cinderella* (Olney Theatre Center), *As You Like It* (Folger Theatre), *History on Foot* (Ford's Theatre), various shows at The Kennedy Center and Virginia Shakespeare Festival. Training: BFA Acting, UMBC. MatthewMcGloin.com // @jackie\_of\_all\_traits



**ANDREA MORALES\*** (Mary Debenham) is thrilled to be back at Pioneer! Pioneer Theatre credits: *Scapin*. Off-Broadway: *Chains* (Mint Theatre) Regional: *Life is a Dream* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Buried Child*, *Three Musketeers* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), *Pinkolandia* (Two River Theatre), *In A Million Years* (Ancrum Opera House), *A Christmas Carol* (Kansas City Rep). TV Credits include *Prodigal Son* (FOX), *The Blacklist* (NBC), *Bull* (CBS). For Mikey, who is the best of me.



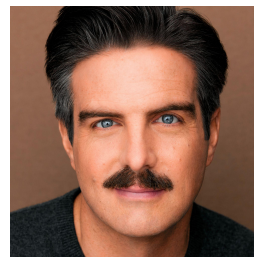
**ALEC RUIZ\*** (Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter) is overjoyed to be making his Pioneer Theatre Company debut in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. Based out of New York, Alec has toured across the country in the First Broadway National Tour of *Tootsie The Musical* and throughout Europe on AIDA Cruise Lines as a Lead Vocalist. Other favorite credits include Mark Antony (*Antony & Cleopatra*), Gomez (*The Addams Family*), Ralph (*Butterflies Are Free*), and Truffaldino (*The Servant of Two Masters*). More credits and media can be found on AlecRuiz.com and IMDB. He'd like to thank his beautiful fiancé and family for their never-ending love and support. FSU Alum. Instagram: @alecricardo95



**ROBERT SCOTT SMITH\*** (Samuel Ratchett/Colonel Arbuthnot) NYC credits include *Kreutzer Sonata* (United Solo Festival), *Keeping Ishmael* (Workshop); *Pericles* (SLANT); SLC acting credits include *Gold Mountain* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); *Mary Stuart*, *The Crucible*, and *Two Henrys* (PTC); *Sleeping Giant*, *Climbing with Tigers*, *Rapture Blister Burn*, *Good People*, *Charm* (World Premiere), *Swimming in the Shallows*, *Six Years*, *Big Love*, *Batboy: The Musical*, and *Gross Indecency* (Salt Lake Acting Company); Film credits include AESOP (Episodic Series), *Kill The Babysitter* (UK FrightFest 2020), *Jewtah*, *Wildlife* (Official Selection Cannes Métrage Selection 2015) *Blessing*, and *Animae*. Robert is Assistant Professor and Head of the Actor Training Program at the University of Utah. He received his MFA from the Old Globe Theatre Actor Training Program



**ANNE TOLPEGIN\*** (Helen Hubbard) is thrilled to be back at PTC (TYSM, Bob Cline and The Collective!) where audiences have seen her as Dee Dee in *The Prom*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Peggy in Sting's *The Last Ship* and Mary in *Women in Jeopardy!* Broadway: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Les Misérables*. National Tours: *Kinky Boots*, *Billy Elliot*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Ragtime*. Off Broadway: *Carrie* Standby to Marin Mazzie (Margaret), *Sweeney Todd* Standby to Carolee Carmello (Mrs. Lovett). Regional: Diana in *Next to Normal* (Fulton Theatre), Mother Superior in *Sister Act* (Pittsburgh CLO), Fosca in *Passion* (Pegasus Players). Television: USA's *Mr. Robot*, Marvel's *Iron Fist*. International Philharmonic performances in Mexico, Canada, Japan. Northwestern University alum. Proud wife to Blake Stadnik and mom to Sherlock the pooch. Thank you for supporting live theatre! AnneTolpegin.com



**JOHN TUFTS\*** (Hercule Poirot) 14 Seasons at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival: Henry V in *Henry V*; Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Parts One and Two*; Philanax in *Head Over Heels*; Chico in *The Cocoanuts*; Robin Hood in *The Heart of Robin Hood*; Sharpe in *Equivoocation*; Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*; and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Off-Broadway Ensemble Studio Theater; The Mint Theatre; and Primary Stages where he received a Lucille Lortel Nomination for his roles in Kate Hamill's celebrated adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. Regionally The Guthrie Theater, The Goodman Theater, Arena Stage, The Old Globe, Syracuse Stage, Seattle Rep, MTC, Actors Theater of Louisville, McCarter Theater, PlayMakers Rep, and Chicago Shakespeare. John is also a cook and author. His cookbook, *Fat Rascals: Dining at Shakespeare's Table* explores the food of Shakespeare's England. Television: *Bad Teacher*, *Fashions for Men*. Awards: Arthur Kennedy Award; Indy Award: *I Am My Own Wife*. John-Tufts.com