



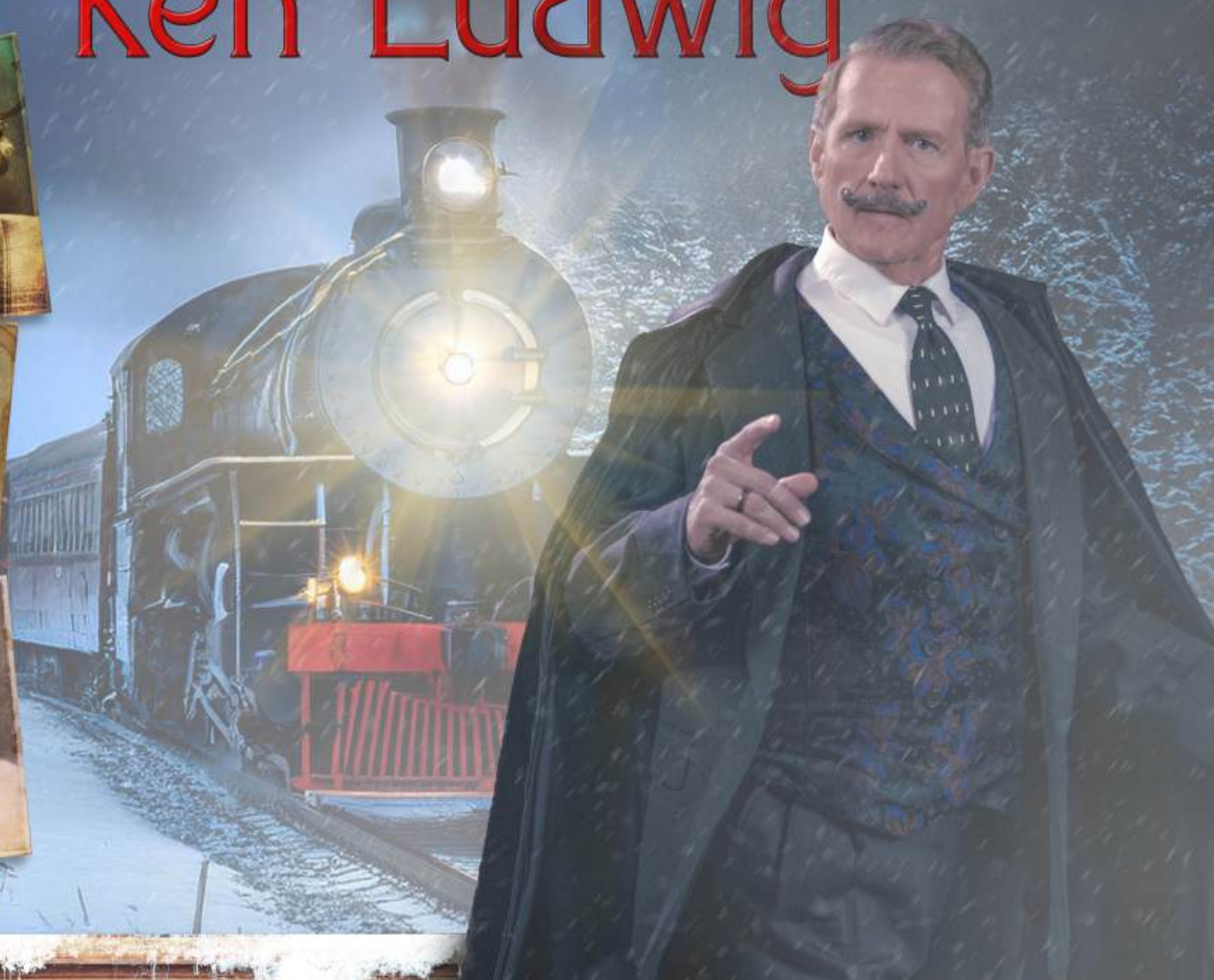
Maui OnStage  
AT THE HISTORIC MAO THEATER

Agatha Christie

MURDER on the  
ORIENT EXPRESS

Adapted for the stage by

Ken Ludwig



DIRECTED BY KALANI WHITFORD

NOV 8 - 24

TICKETS: MAUIONSTAGE.COM

"Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Nov 15, 16, 17 - The part of Mrs Hubbard will be played by  
**Samantha Maxwell.**

Agatha Christie's  
Murder On The Orient Express  
adapted by Ken Ludwig was originally staged by McCarter Theater Center, Princeton, NJ  
Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director.  
The production subsequently transferred to Hartford Stage, Harford, CT  
Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director

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Please note that this performance contains mild adult language,  
references to violent acts and simulated gunshots

The use of specialty lighting effects and  
non-toxic haze may be used.

# Our production team

Director

**KALANI WHITFORD**

Set Design

**Kalani Whitford**

Costume Director

**Jennifer Oberg**

Set Draftsman

**David Negaard**

Stage Manager

**Luana Whitford-  
Mitchell**

Lighting Design

**Maggie Lloyd**

Sound Design

**Dawn Harper**

Production Manager/  
Head Carpenter

**Amy Lord**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Virginia Sandell**

Assistant Sound Tech

**Sam Castillo**

Head Painter

**Morgan Wittmer**

Painter

**Tara O'Hanley**

Painter

**Caro Walker**

Intimacy Coordinator

**Kristi Scott**

Photography,  
videography, graphics  
and key art

**Adi Ell-Ad**

Set Build Crew

**Vince Pinelli**

Stage Crew

**Lexi Justus**

Stage Crew

**Micah Oberg**

Box Office Manager

**Heather Knowles**

# In the media

Maui Arts & Entertainment

## Maui OnStage presents 'Murder on the Orient Express'

November 2, 2024 6:00 PM HST  
\* Updated November 3, 2024 7:51 AM

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1 minute



'Murder on the Orient Express' promo photo. PC: Maui OnStage

Maui OnStage opens Agatha Christie's classic mystery "Murder on the Orient Express" on Friday, Nov. 8 at the Historic Iao Theater. The play runs for three weekends.

The Maui News  
November 07, 2024 | Today's Paper | Submit News | Subscribe Today | Login

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### 'The Orient Express' arrives at the Iao Theater

ENTERTAINMENT  
NOV 7, 2024


JON WOODHOUSE  
For The Maui News  
jwood@maui.com

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Maui's Poihinanewspaper Murder on the Orient Express. Courtesy photo

Partially inspired by the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's son, Agatha Christie's ingenious murder mystery, "Murder on the Orient Express," was first published in 1934. A best-seller, in time it inspired films and TV adaptations, and a thrilling play by Ken Ludwig, which Maui OnStage will present.



11 12 24 Review of Murder on the Orient Express

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## From the Director

*“The impossible cannot have happened, therefore the impossible must be possible in spite of appearances.” M. Hercule Poirot,  
Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie*

Directing this has been a joy but it has also been a tough nut to crack! It seemed like at every rehearsal someone would ask a question that we would all have to put our brains together to try to figure out! What’s real? What’s a lie? So see if you can figure it out before the ending. Agatha Christie is one of the most successful writers in history, Ken Ludwig is a very successful playwright, and it all shows in this script. I hope you have as much fun as we did putting this together! But whether you like it or not...please don’t spoil the ending for anyone else! (Special shout out to all of the amazing understudies! Thank you all!)

## ***Kalani***

*“The murderer is with us - on the train now.” M. Bouc,  
Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie*

Kalani Whitford is a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and holds a BA in Theater and a BA in Humanities from Thomas Edison University. Kalani recently wrote and directed Sea Men! The Musical for Plays of Wilton at The Foundry Theater in Wilton Manors, Florida. Kalani is the Artistic Consultant at Maui OnStage and has directed and choreographed The Rocky Horror Show, CLUE, Xanadu, Mamma Mia, Cabaret, 9 to 5, Shout! The Mod Musical and Evil Dead the Musical at ProArts Playhouse. Some previous choreography works include: Elf, Spamalot, Boeing Boeing, La Cage aux Folles, and Oklahoma. Selected acting work: Tartuffe (Tartuffe), Boeing Boeing (Robert Lambert), Noises Off (Tim Allgood), Wait Until Dark (Harry Roat), The Producers (Carmen Ghia), Sylvia (Tom/Phyllis/Leslie), The Wizard of Oz (The Wicked Witch of the West), The Wedding Singer (George), Macbeth (Seyton), Othello (Bianca), Twelfth Night (Malvolio) and Romeo & Juliet (Tybalt). Film work includes Ghosts of the Abyss, Stick ‘em Up and James Cameron’s Titanic.

Kalani is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

## From the Costume Director

What a luxury to be able to take this ride on the Orient Express with you!

Trying to do costumes of this caliber on Maui would not be possible without the support of our fellow theaters, designers, and the community sharing their stash of beautiful things. If you have some lovely clothing item, and want to donate it to a worthy cause, consider giving it to Maui OnStage. Donating costumes to community theater is important because it sustains the arts and helps reduce the costs of producing a play. Community theater on Maui provides not only entertainment, but a sense of belonging and knowing that you are with ohana. Enjoy the show!

Costume Director - Jennifer Oberg

Costume Shop - The Sewing Hui of Maui

Assistant to Costume Director - Yasmine Lindskog

Design Assistants - Beth Fox, Micah Oberg, Kate Colby

Sewing Hui Volunteers - Diane Mathison, Cheryl Bien, Vicky Gray, Beth

Fox, Elaine Gima, Jani Hoffmeier, Pamela Patrick, Patty Davis, Gail

Pickholz, Randy Keller, Sally Daniels, Debbie Shimabukuro, Marilyn

Tsang, Tia Lanzetta, Lynne Donaldson, Murray Donaldson

Visitor Volunteers - Kay Ashby, Nancy Kickertz, Cynthia Soohoo, Karen

Hokanson, Ilene Hokanson

Costumes Loaned to the Production by - Jennifer Oberg, The Sewing Hui, Alexander Academy, Maui OnStage, Kathleen Schultz, Community Members and Cast Members

Jennifer Oberg has been a Designer, Costume Technician and Master Dressmaker for 30+ years. She was on staff in costume shops at Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger (King Lear, Richard III, Othello), Washington Opera in Washington D.C. (La Boheme, Magic Flute), and Old Globe in San Diego (Forever Plaid). She worked with Tony Award winning costume designers Martin Pakledinez and Zack Brown. She built costumes for dozens of film and television projects in Hollywood. She worked with Emmy Award winning costume designers Robert Blackman and Kathy O'Rear, and Academy Award nominated costume designers Aggie Guerard Rodgers and Arianne Philips, among others. She is a member of IATSE Local 705 Motion Picture Costumers in LA, as a costume manufacturing foreperson. She attended FIDM in LA, and London College of Fashion. On Maui, she collaborated with Eric Gilliom on his costumes for White Hawaiian and Rocky Horror. She is the Costume Director for Alexander Academy of Performing Arts (Midsummer Night's Dream, Swan Lake, and The Nutcracker Ballet performed at the MACC). She was the Costume Director for Seussical at Maui OnStage. She and her husband, artist Craig Mullins, have lived on Maui since 2001, raising Micah and Sara Oberg with pride and joy. [www.jenniferoberg.com](http://www.jenniferoberg.com)

### **About The Sewing Hui:**

The Sewing Hui's mission is to serve the Maui community by creating sewn items for nonprofit organizations in need. The Sewing Hui volunteers are a dedicated team of 100+ residents and visitors who create and sew a variety of projects for Maui. The Sewing Hui was founded by Jennifer Oberg. The first project was in 2020, making 10,000 medical-grade masks for Maui's healthcare providers and first responders. The volunteers have created over 30,000 items for 60 organizations. Their sewing initiatives benefit keiki, kūpuna, healthcare providers, hospice care, shelters, birthing communities, schools, senior centers, performing arts organizations and other community groups. After the August 2023 wildfire, The Sewing Hui made and collected over 3000 hand-made pillowcases for distribution to shelters, and provided 500 hand-made Christmas stockings to children in need. The resident-volunteers are deeply invested in supporting their island home. The visitor-volunteers who join the sewing sessions want to give back to Maui during their stay.

[www.thesewinghui.com](http://www.thesewinghui.com)

## About the playwright

Ken Ludwig has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals are staged around the world and throughout the United States every night of the year.

His first play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by *The Washington Post*. *Crazy For You* is currently running on London's West End. It was previously on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year.

His other plays include *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Leading Ladies*, *Baskerville*, *Sherwood*, *Twentieth Century*, *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, *A Fox on the Fairway*, *A Comedy of Tenors*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Shakespeare in Hollywood* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. They have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Kristen Bell, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Henry Goodman.

His book *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays on theatre are published in the *Yale Review*. He gives the Annual Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and he served on the Board of Governors for the Folger Shakespeare Library for ten years. His first opera, *Tenor Overboard*, opened at the Glimmerglass Festival in July 2022. His most recent world premieres were *Lend Me A Soprano* and *Moriarty*, and his newest plays and musicals include *Pride and Prejudice Part 2: Napoleon at Pemberley* and *Lady Molly of Scotland Yard*.

His plays include commissions from the Agatha Christie Estate, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe Theatre, and the Bristol Old Vic. For more information visit [www.kenludwig.com](http://www.kenludwig.com).



# **Setting**

The principal action of the play takes place aboard the Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe

## **TIME**

Winter, 1934

## **ACT 1**

Mid-day to morning

## **ACT 2**

Morning to mid-day

*\*There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts*

*\*You are welcome to enjoy your concessions in your seats*

# Characters

Hercule Poirot.....	Paul Jackel
Monsieur Bouc.....	Francis Tau'a
Mary Debenham.....	Jamie Nicole Wilcox
Hector MacQueen.....	Aaron Pardini
Michel the Conductor.....	Dale Button
Princess Dragomiroff.....	Marsi Smith
Greta Ohlsson.....	Isadora Drew
Countess Andrenyi.....	Mehra Park
Helen Hubbard.....	Kristi Scott
Colonel Arbuthnot.....	Brendan O'Colmain
Samuel Ratchett.....	Bill Pannell
Head Waiter.....	Jonathan Salcedo-Viola

## Understudies & Voiceover Actors

Brian Connolly (Poirot, Train Announcer, Radio VO)

David Negaard (Bouc, Radio VO)

Ashley Ventimiglia (Mary, Mother VO)

Jonathan Salcedo-Viola (Hector, Michel, Father VO)

Tara O'Hanley (Countess, Princess, Nanny VO)

Amber Seelig (Greta)

Samantha Maxwell (Hubbard - Week 2)

Bill Pannell (Col. Arbuthnot, Man VO)

Brendan O'Colmain (Ratchett)

Dale Button (Head Waiter)

and Teagan Schobel as Daisy Armstrong

## Our cast

**Paul Jackel** (Hercule Poirot) Paul is pleased to be back at Maui OnStage, where he was first introduced to local audiences in 2022's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Since that time, he has appeared in a half-dozen productions at both MAPA and ProArts Playhouse, including *The Lion in Winter*, and *Bent*. Before moving to the island, Paul enjoyed a career of 25+ years as an actor/singer in NYC, making his Broadway debut in the original cast of *The Secret Garden*. Other NYC credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Fred opposite Scrooge Roddy McDowall), *Side by Side* by Sondheim, *The Last Starfighter*, and *The Fantasticks!* (El Gallo in a production directed by author Tom Jones). He performed leading roles in the national tours of *Legally Blonde*, *The Secret Garden*, *Into the Woods* (The Wolf/Cinderella's Prince), and *Camelot* (standby for Robert Goulet as Arthur). He is featured on the OC recordings of *Garden*, *Starfighter*, and *Shlomo*. Favorite roles in regional theatre include *Daddy Warbucks* in *Annie* (featuring comedian Wanda Sykes as Miss Hannigan), *Father* in *Ragtime* (Fulton Opera House), and *Tito Merelli* in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Olney Theatre Center).

**Francis Tau'a** (Monsieur Bouc) Francis was last seen playing Sancho in MAPA's *Man of La Mancha* on the Castle Theater stage at the MACC. He is an acting instructor with Maui OnStage's Education and Youth program, and has co-directed productions with Tina Kailiponi. He has worked professionally with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, as well as ProArts Maui, where he directed *Dial M for Murder*, *A Christmas Carol*, and the recent *Lovey Lee*.

**Jamie Nicole Wilcox** (Mary Debenham) Jamie loves getting to work with Maui OnStage and perform. You last saw her at the Historic Iao Theater as Tilly in *She Kills Monsters* in 2022. She was most recently Nicola in the ProArts Playhouse production of *Kinky Boots*. She looks forward to taking the stage once again with this killer cast. Enjoy!

**Aaron Pardini** (Hector MacQueen) Aaron has an AA Degree in Fine Arts, Majoring in Dance from Orange Coast College. Aaron performed in the tap companies *Rhapsody in Taps* and *Tap Overload* in SoCal (2012-2017). Maui works include *Something Rotten!* (2023) as an ensemble member, *Bard Boy*, and *Robin*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (2023) as Columbia, *The Reluctant Elf* (2023) as the choreographer, *Kinky Boots* (2024) as Angel, *Seussical the Musical* (2024) as the Cat in the Hat, and *Finding Formal Expression* (2024). He teaches tap at Momentum Dance Maui. As an instructor at Waikapu Danceworks, he teaches flexibility and conditioning, pole, tap, dance foundations, and musical theater.

**Dale Button** (Michel the Conductor, Understudy Head Waiter) Dale is loving every minute of working with this talented cast under the direction of Kalani Whitford. Last seen as General Genghis Kahn Schmitz in the smash summer hit musical Seussical, Dale has walked the boards of Maui stages since 1993. When he's not in rehearsals or performing, you can find him waiting tables at Haliimaile General Store for lunch Tuesday through Friday, or just chilling at home in Makawao with his kitty Kinkers. He would like to dedicate his performances to his late mother, Arlene Button, who passed away in May of this year. She was truly his biggest fan.

**Jonathan Salcedo-Viola** (Head Waiter, Understudy Hector MacQueen, Understudy Michel the Conductor) Jonathan is so happy to return to the lao stage after 13 years since appearing in 2011's Cats. He was last seen in this year's production of Kinky Boots at ProArts Playhouse. Merci et bon voyage!

**Marsi Smith** (Princess Dragomiroff) Marsi is extremely happy to be back on the lao Theater stage. Since moving to Maui she has been in many plays including Jekyll and Hyde, Mary Poppins, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Dial M for Murder, Harvey, Cabaret, Other Desert Cities, Avenue Q, Mamma Mia, The Graduate, and recently her one-woman show Songs from my Closet. Prior to Maui, she spent many years on stage in New York City and throughout the east coast. While not on stage you will usually find her in her massage studio helping people heal.

**Isadora Drew** (Greta Ohlsson) This is Isadora's debut performance with Maui OnStage! She found her love for performing on stage in high school, and is excited to be getting back into the theater with such a talented cast around her! You may have seen her on various stages on Maui performing in drag for LGBTQ+ festivals and events, as well as various dance shows on island. She would like to thank her sister Annika for inspiring her to pursue theatre again!

**Mehra Park** (Countess Andrenyi) Mehra is thrilled to return to the lao Theater, where she last appeared in Something Rotten! and The Rocky Horror Show. Maui audiences have also seen her in Man of La Mancha, The Lion in Winter, Birthday Candles, and Cages or Wings with MAPA. She's been involved in theatre and the film industry in Oahu, Los Angeles, and Seattle, having starred in feature films, shorts, music videos, plays, and musicals.

**Kristi Scott** (Helen Hubbard) Kristi joined the theatre ohana as a performer and director 22 years ago. Favorite roles on island: Mrs. Peacock (Clue), Madame Thenardier (Les Miserables), Melpomene (Xanadu), Jack's Mom (Into the Woods), and First Witch (Macbeth). She loves Agatha Christie, and is very excited and grateful to be in this show with Kalani and this amazing cast.

**Brendan O'Colmain** (Colonel Arbuthnot, Understudy Samuel Ratchett)

Brendan grew up on Maui. As a youth he performed in various Maui Academy of Performing Arts productions, including Jesus Christ Superstar, starring Keali'i Reichel and Eric Gilliom. He graduated from Seabury Hall, where he was regularly involved with their music and drama departments. Most recently, Brendan performed multiple roles in the sold out production of Kinky Boots at ProArts Playhouse.

**Bill Pannell** (Samuel Ratchett, Understudy Colonel Arbuthnot) Bill is thrilled to be making his Maui debut after moving here this summer to be near family members. Before a successful career as a trial lawyer in Georgia, Bill had extensive experience in the theater as an actor, teacher, and director which included study with Lee Strasberg in Hollywood. He stayed active in Atlanta in television and film while practicing law and raising a family. His favorite roles include King Arthur, Becket, Lord Byron, Bill Sykes, and Herschel Featherbottom. His most famous student, RuPaul, credits Bill with giving him the most important advice he ever received – "Don't take yourself too seriously".

**Teagan Schobel** (Daisy Armstrong) Teagan lives on Maui with her family and four cats, and attends Kihei Charter School. She is in the 3rd grade, and her favorite subjects are art and PE. Teagan first appeared on stage as Lobster Number 2 in Rainbow Fish. She was also Rumpelstiltskin and Ducky Lucky in The Stinky Cheese Man. She was Tickle the Dog in Junie B. Jones, and played Cindy Lou Who in Seussical. Most recently she was Baby Bear in Once Upon a Crime, the Trial of Goldilocks. Teagan also enjoys gymnastics, basketball, and hanging out with her friends. Teagan would like to thank her grandparents, her mom, dad, and sister Adelaide for their love and support. A huge thank you to Miss Tina for recommending her for this part! Finally, thank you to Kiana, Bianca, and Brenda Haugg for introducing her to the world of Maui OnStage.

**Brian Patrick Connolly** (Understudy Hercule Poirot) Brian is fresh off the stage with the play Art (at ProArts Playhouse on Maui), where he produced, directed, did stage/costume/light/sound design, and played the role of Marc. Brian made his Historic Iao Theater debut as Max in Lend Me A Tenor, and was last seen on the Iao stage in Misery as Paul Sheldon. In between these two, he walked these boards as Ebenezer Scrooge in Scrooge, Bob Cratchit in A Christmas Carol, Mr. White in Reservoir Dogs, Billis in South Pacific, and Roat in Wait Until Dark, among others. Connolly is honored to be an understudy for Paul Jackel as Poirot, but hopes not to have to come on, because Paul is terrific.

**David Negaard** (Understudy Monsieur Bouc) David is delighted to grace the Historic Iao Theater stage once more! Previous appearances on Maui stages include Don't Dress for Dinner, Rumors, Out of Order, Clue, The Rocky Horror Show, Something Rotten!, and Peter and the Starcatcher.

**Ashley Ventimiglia** (Understudy Mary Debenham) Ashley is excited to return to the stage after a brief hiatus in 2021 when she relocated back home to Maui. With an Associate's degree in Film Production from San Francisco City College, Ashley began her artistic journey in student films, taking on small roles while also producing and directing. She later transitioned behind the scenes as an Associate Producer for notable networks like Travel Channel, National Geographic, Animal Planet, A&E, and Court TV. During the pandemic, she rekindled her passion for acting through recreations for true crime series she helped produce, allowing her to explore diverse characters. Ashley's early theatrical experience on Maui include performances in high school productions such as Trojan Women and HONK, as well as directing her own rendition of STOMP, titled CLICK!. She also held speaking roles in MAPA's youth program productions of Peter Pan and The Wizard of Oz. Now, Ashley looks forward to returning to the stage with Maui OnStage!

**Amber Seelig** (Understudy Greta Ohlsson) You may have seen me in a few productions around the island such as The Rocky Horror Show, Daddy Long Legs, and Spring Awakening. I'm so honored to be a part of this project! If I'm being totally honest, the cast is so absolutely AMAZING, I hope I don't have to go on so I can just sit back and watch!

**Tara O'Hanley** (Understudy Countess Andrenyi, Understudy Princess Dragomiroff) Tara is honored and thrilled to have the opportunity to understudy in this outstanding production, which is her first introduction to the Maui theatre arts community since moving here from Alaska nearly two years ago. Previous roles have included Shaula in Shaula, Queen of the Universe, Anne's mother, Edith, in The Diary of Anne Frank, and Robin Pelkey in Stories at the Cemetery, all in Anchorage. Mahalo to the entire cast and crew for being so welcoming and inspiring to work with.

**Samantha Maxwell** (Understudy Helen Hubbard) Murder on the Orient Express is my debut in a stage production on Maui. I did appear as Mother Ginger (2021, 2022) for Momentum Dance Studio's production of Nutcracker Sweets after constructing the Mother Ginger dress. Prior to moving to Maui six years ago, I was active in community theatre (five productions in three years) in Greenville, Kentucky. My love of theatre dates back to high school where I co-wrote the script for my senior year musical Starlight Sunbright, as well as performing in the production. I love all things theatre, whether on stage or backstage.

## **A huge mahalo to...**

Vince Pinelli, Bob Offermann, Dennis Mitchell, Cullen Mitchell,  
David Negaard (set building)

Morgan Wittmer, Tara O'Hanley, Caro Walker (set painting)

Tom Vendetti (projectors and tech support)

Seabury Hall (microphones)

ProArts Playhouse (hazer)

Elaine Javier/Pono Center (rehearsal space)

Maui OnStage Education & Youth Program (rehearsal space)

Adi Ell-Ad (marketing photography, videography, graphics and key art)

Nicole Sanchez - Behind the Lens Maui (dress rehearsal photography)

Ashley Ventimiglia, Kalani Whitford, Luana Whitford-Mitchell  
(rehearsal photography)

Ashley Ventimiglia (marketing consultation & assistance)

Shane Rosberg/Antique Freak (Princess' luggage)

Jennifer Rose (MacQueen's dishes)

Rita Whitford and Kristi Scott (cafe tables)

Georgette Batoon (Mrs Hubbard's makeup case)

Virginia Sandell (props)

Marc Tolliver and Kat Gregory (hair/wigs)

Jamie Ford, Sean Parker, Alana Kitchell and Feather

Kailea Wittmer (scream)

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Maui OnStage's Board of Directors

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Linda and Michael Takita  
Ralph Giles  
Robert E Wills

Todd Van Amburgh

James Smith  
Terry Joaquin  
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Paul Janes-Brown

Mary and Gary Albitz

Katie Young  
Morgan Wittmer  
Shane Borge  
Trish Strauss

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Barry Kawakami and Wave of Harmony Foundation

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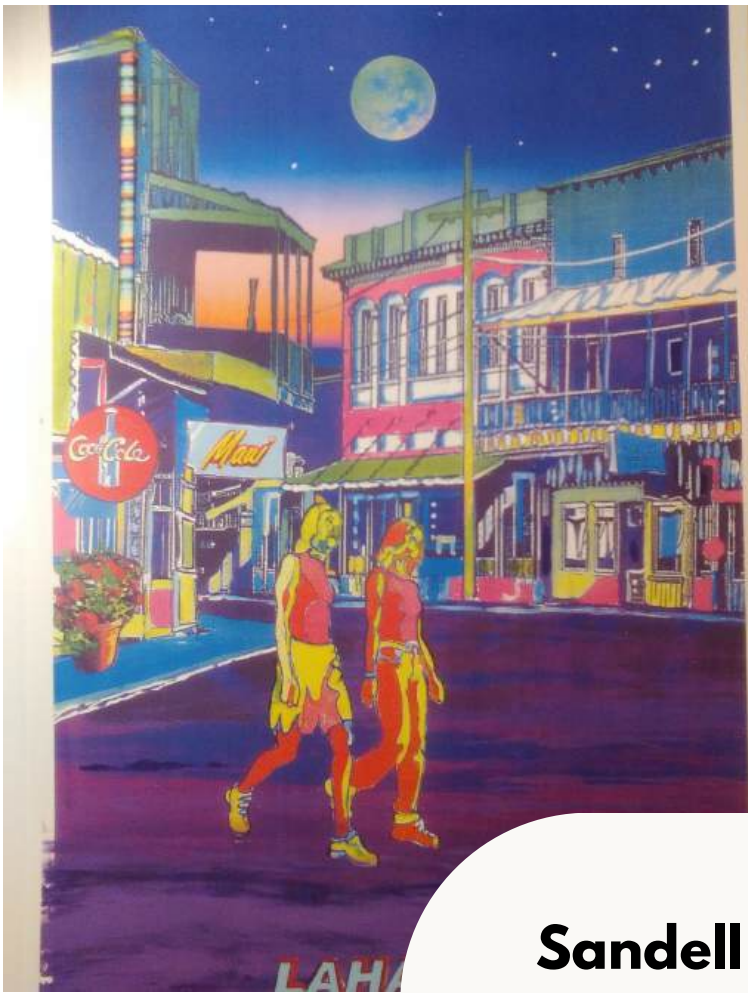


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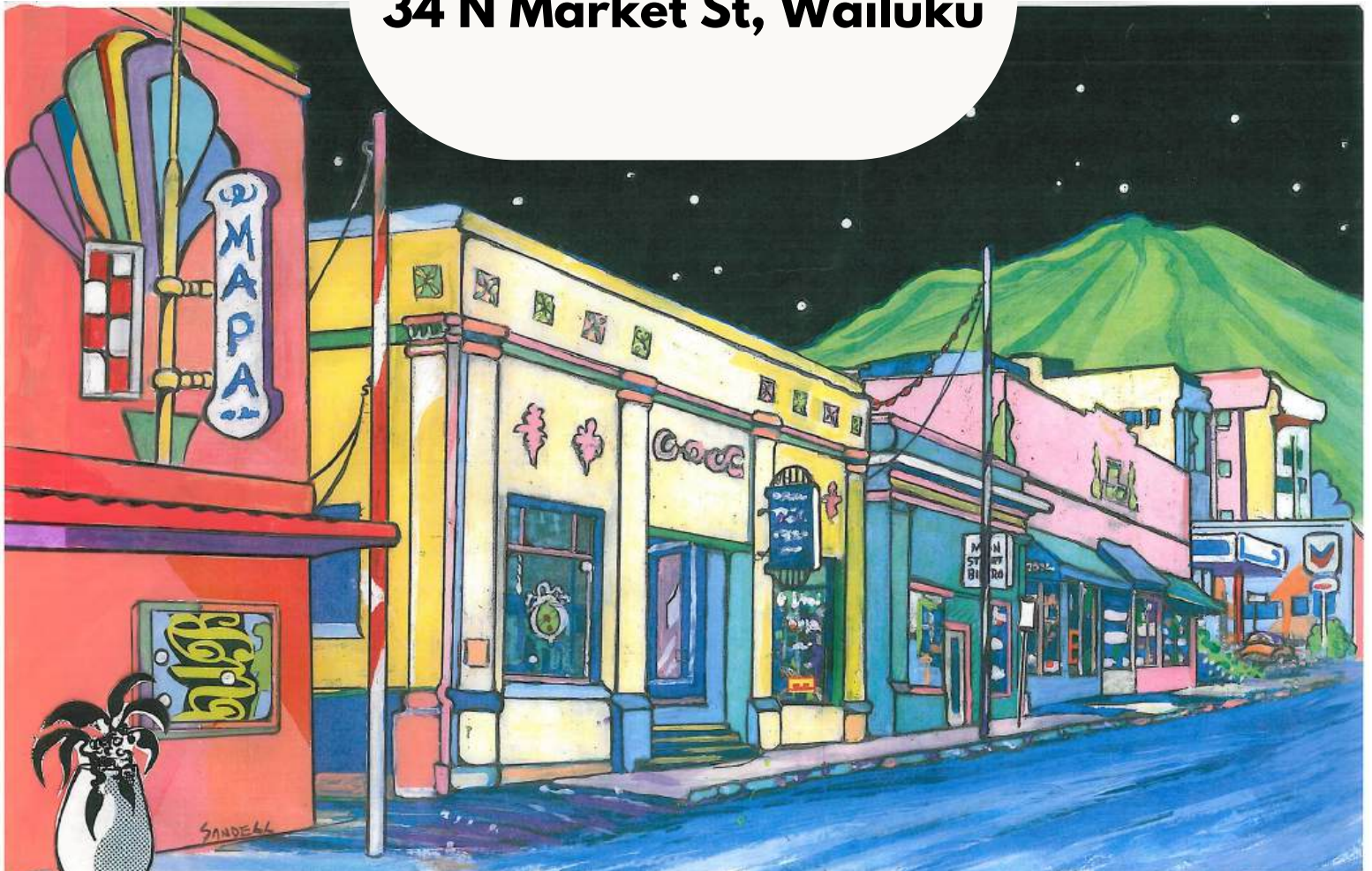
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