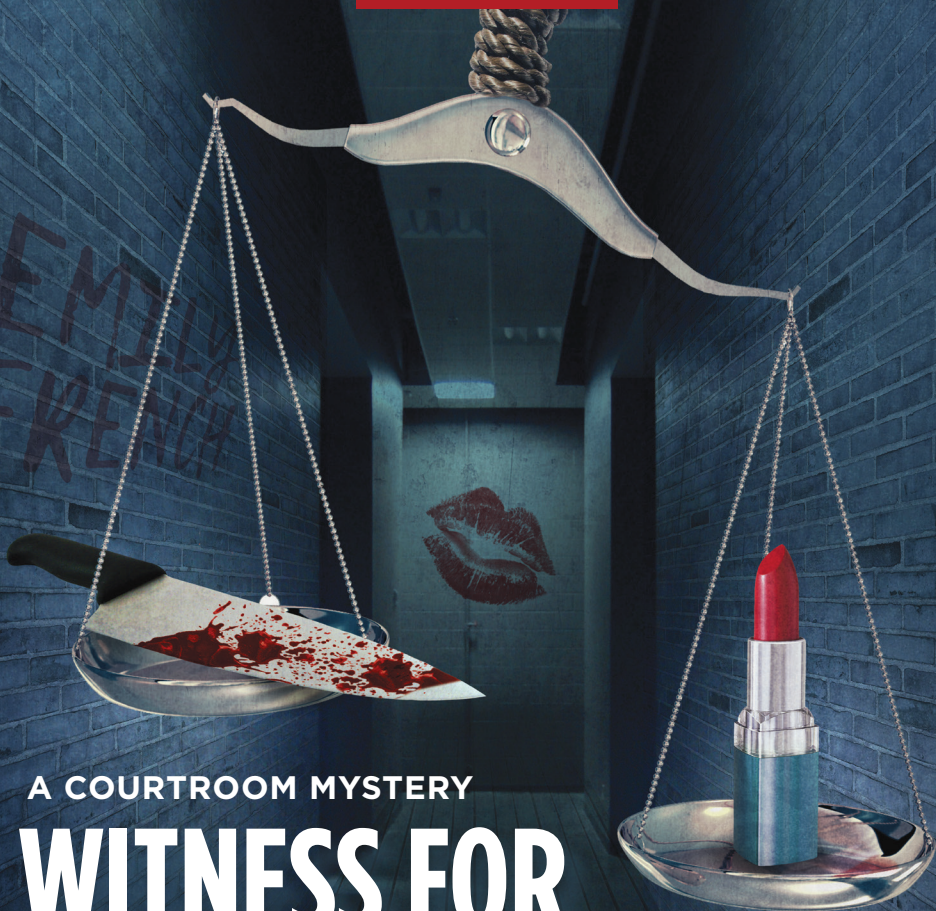


109TH SEASON



A COURTROOM MYSTERY

# WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

JULY 13 – 30, 2022

DIRECTED BY GEOFF GRUSON

"Witness for the Prosecution" is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)



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# Witness for the Prosecution

## BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

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# WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

A COURTROOM MYSTERY | BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Greta/Girl	Emily Walsh
Carter/Judge	Robert Hicks
Mr. Mayhew	Gord Walls
Leonard Vole	Ian Gillies
Sir Wilfrid Robarts, QC	Guy Newsham
Inspector Hearne	Paul Washer
Romaine	Heather Archibald
Mr. Myers, Q.C.	Andrew Michael McCarville
Dr. Wyatt	Tracey Bourke
Janet MacKenzie	Victoria Windrem
Woman	Arché Bald

## Synopsis

A young man stands accused of murdering a rich widow in post-war England. Shocking testimony, impassioned outbursts, and the threat of the hangman's noose will keep you on the edge of your seats.

## Setting

Offices of Sir Wilfrid Robarts, and the Old Bailey in London.

*There will be one 20-minute intermission*

the

fireplace

center

AND

Patio Shop

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Agatha Christie has to be one of the most prolific mystery writers of her time – well over 100 novels and short stories, over 20 plays for stage and broadcast, and then other works under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott!

Our approach as a directing/designing team, was to accept the challenge of doing a well-known and iconic play the likes of *Witness for the Prosecution*, and to try to ensure that Agatha's original story actually got told. That hasn't always been the case. Over time, directors seem to have had a penchant for adapting and putting their own "stamp" on Agatha's works! The stage play has been reformatted - and occasionally considerably re-written – many times for film and television audiences; and its evolution persists.

The original - created by Agatha Christie from her 1925 short story *Traitor's Hands* – opened in London on 28 October, 1953. Over time, Agatha grew dissatisfied with the ending - one of the few Christie stories in which a murderer escapes punishment - and in a rewriting she added a mistress for Leonard.

For the history buffs among you, the earliest film version was released in early 1958, with Tyrone Power as Leonard Vole, Marlene Dietrich as Mrs. Vole, Charles Laughton as Sir Wilfrid Robarts, and directed by Billy Wilder.

BBC Television produced *Witness* in 1949; also in 1949 NBC adapted it as part of *The Chevrolet Tele-Theatre*. The 1950 episode for the CBS anthology series was an adaptation directed by Yul Brynner. CBS produced a second adaptation in 1953, with Tom Drake as Leonard, Edward G. Robinson as Robarts, and directed by Richard Goode (an American classical pianist). Hallmark television produced the play in 1982, with Beau Bridges as Leonard, Diana Rigg as Mrs. Vole and Ralph Richardson as Robarts. The BBC produced another two-part version for Christmas 2016 with Kim Cattrall as Emily French (who is never seen in the original script), and that mini series was also issued as a standalone film.

And to round-out this partial chronicle, in August 2016, *Variety* reported that Ben Affleck was in talks to produce, direct and star in a remake with Matt Damon, and Jennifer Todd. That project has yet to be realized.

All of which is good grist for the G.O.A.T debates about *Witness*. Hopefully, our production will be able to stand on its own merit. Really, how could it not – Agatha's story, a cast of characters who were a joy to work with, and OLT's top-notch designers and crews. I can't thank them enough for all the hard work and the great fun (and a special tip of the hat to RMP!). And all of that is for nothing without you folks – enjoy your evening and many thanks for "putting a little theatre in your lives." See you again soon!

Director	Geoff Gruson
Associate Director	Lindsay Laviolette
Assistant to the Director	Michelle Shortall
Stage Manager	Kimberley Duncan
Set Design	Geoff Gruson
Lighting Design	John Solman
Sound Design	Lindsay Laviolette
Costume Design	Jane Sadler, Nancy Hogan
Set Dresser	Jeanne Gauthier
Property Design	Jeanne Gauthier
Hair/Makeup Design	Andrée Benson
Book	Albert Lightstone, Ricarda McFalls
Volunteer Liaison	Jane Morris
Front of House Volunteer Coordinator	Kevin Schneider
Lighting Technicians	Barry Sims, Gil Winstanley, Larry Davies, Paul Matthew, Teresa Seasons
Sound Technicians	Jacky Duong, Victoria Wong
Seamstress	Anne Ernesaks
Wardrobe Assistants	Janet Uren, Jeannine Richard, Kimberly (Kim) Ronse, Wanda Sinclair
Properties Crew	Alysia Reitano, Barb Merriam, Bob McKellar, Carrie de Greef, Charlotte Mooder, Doug Cowie, Jason Flatt, Jeremie Javosky, Lucille Le Vert, Monica Gubersky, Phoenix Baker
Volunteer Liaison	Jane Morris
Front of House Volunteer Coordinator	Kevin Schneider
Construction Crew	Tom Pidgeon, David Magladry, Paul Washer
Scenic Artist	Carolyn Borer
Portrait / Production Photos	Christopher Rohde

**Emily Walsh - Greta/Girl:** This is Emily's fourth turn on the OLT stage. Previous roles include young Irish woman Maire in *Translations*, swashbuckling kid-sister Sabine in *The Three Musketeers*, and most recently, the outspoken title canine character in *Sylvia*. Emily is also frequently seen on stage at Kanata Theatre. An avid tea drinker, Emily deeply appreciates Greta's commitment to pouring the best (in her opinion) cup in London.

**Robert Hicks - Carter/Judge:** Bob acted in his first play at the OLT in 1990, and has since performed in more than 20 plays including *Rumors*, *The Odd Couple*, *A Few Good Men*, and most recently, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Other volunteer activities include (with his partner, Jane Morris) developing and maintaining the online history of all the past productions of the OLT's 100-plus seasons as well as looking after all the headshots on the walls of the foyer. Bob was a long-time bike racer and volunteer in the Ottawa cycling community and his favourite cycling outfit these days is one he designed in red & black promoting the "Ottawa Little Theatre".

**Gordon Walls - Mr. Mayhew:** Gordon is a 33-year veteran of the Ottawa theatre scene and is thrilled to return to the OLT stage. OLT audiences may remember him some time ago in *Deathtrap* (EODL Best Actor nominee) as well as *Da, No Sex Please We're British*, and many others. Gordon is a regular at Kanata Theatre, most recently appearing in *A Man for All Seasons* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. The Capital Critics Circle has also honoured him in productions of *Equivocation* (Best Actor and Best Play nominations), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Best Play nomination), and *Noises Off* (Best Play winner). "It is a delight to once again share a stage with my spouse, Tracey, as we embark on another adventure."

**Ian Gillies - Leonard Vole:** Ian is happy to be returning to the OLT stage after 2019's *A Murder is Announced* (Patrick Simmons). Having the chance to work with such a talented cast and crew has been an absolute blessing and privilege for him. He hopes that the last two years have been as kind to you and yours as they possibly could have been. He would also like to thank LL Cool Rae, Casey Beynon, and, of course, Karl Urban.

**Guy Newsham - Sir Wilfrid Robarts, QC:** Guy is so happy to be back with the OLT family in this comeback season, and to be learning from all the talented people around him. The role of Sir Wilfrid is a dream come true for Guy's family, as his father always wanted him to be a lawyer, and his mother always wanted him to be a knight. His most recent prior appearances at OLT were in *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*, *An Inspector Calls*, and *Towards Zero*. Guy also writes for the stage, and his short plays have received more than 40 productions in five countries. He is 56.

**Paul Washer - Inspector Hearne:** Paul is very glad to be back on stage at the OLT as Detective Inspector Hearne in this 2022 rendition of Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* directed by Geoff Gruson! This will be Paul's 15th



time on stage at OLT, although Paul has done many other jobs around OLT for the past 24 years such as lights, sound, props, set construction, etc..... Always ready to lend a hand wherever and whenever because Paul LOVES OLT and that's where all his friends are. We are Soooooooo..... Happy to be back and as ALWAYS we know you are too! Enjoy the show everyone!!!!

**Heather Archibald - Romaine:** Heather is delighted to be back on OLT's stage in this production of *Witness for the Prosecution*. It has been a joy working under the direction of Geoff Gruson and alongside this wonderful cast and crew. Some of Heather's past productions include: *Gaslight* (Bella Manningham), *Blithe Spirit* (Elvira), *Dangerous Liaisons* (Madame de Tourvel) and *And Then There Were None* (Vera Claythorne). She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Andrew Michael McCarville - Mr. Myers, Q.C.:** This is Andrew's fifth production at the OLT after having appeared in *Unnecessary Farce* in 2019; *Pardon Me, Prime Minister* in 2017, *The Murder Room* in 2016 and *Breaking the Code* in 2015. He has also recently performed in Gatineau at Théâtre de l'île in plays by Michel Tremblay and Gabrielle Roy. Andrew is also a photographer (going by André Michel) whose works were highlighted in the OLT Spotlight Gallery from June 8th to 25th, 2022 during the production of *The Columnist*. Highlights of that exclusive OLT exhibition can be seen at [andremichelphotograph.com](http://andremichelphotograph.com).

**Tracey Bourke - Dr. Wyatt:** Tracey is thrilled to be on the OLT Stage for the first time having seen many wonderful plays from the audience. She has appeared in many plays at Kanata Theatre, most recently *Silent Sky*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, as well as having worked backstage as Assistant Stage Manager, Sound Designer, Weapons Mistress, and Dance Choreography. She thanks Geoff Gruson for the opportunity, her wonderful cast and crew members for the welcome she has received and Gord Walls for his continued love and support.

**Victoria Windrem - Janet MacKenzie:** Born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, Victoria moved to Ottawa just over 3 years ago to join the great legion of government drones in our nation's capital. Back in Peterborough she performed with the St. James Players and took part in several productions with the Peterborough Theatre Guild. She is excited to join the OLT, and feels that an Agatha Christie production is a rather marvelous beginning to her foray into Ottawa's theatre community.

**Arché Bald - Woman:** This is Archey's second appearance on the OLT stage. She has enjoyed the brief experience even more this time, with such a wonderfully skilled cast and crew. The director is very caring and creative, and the director's assistant was especially supportive and kind-hearted. She hopes to return to the OLT "boards" often in the future now that the kids are flown the nest! Love to Mark!

**Geoff Gruson - Director/Set Designer:** Now in his 42nd year at the OLT, Geoff has been acting and directing and administering, and considers himself very privileged to have worked and played with so many wonderful casts and crews. Recently on the stage for *Gaslight*, *Old Love*, *Calendar Girls*, *Skin Flick*, and *Noises Off*. Also recently behind the scenes as the Director for *Dead Accounts*, *Other Desert Cities*, *The Murder Room*, and *Touch and Go*. “All the world’s a stage, and one man in his time plays many parts ...”

**Lindsay Laviolette - Associate Director/Sound Designer:** Lindsay is pleased to be joining the team for *Witness for the Prosecution* as Associate Director and to be a part of her second Agatha Christie show with OLT. Most recently, Lindsay was the sound designer for OLT’s production of *Burn* and has had the privilege of performing in several recent productions: *Savannah Sipping Society* (Linden House), *A Murder is Announced* (OLT), *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (OLT), *Enchanted April* (Linden House). Lindsay teaches high school Theatre and Dramatic Arts, is Program Director for the Canada’s Capital Cappies program, and is a proud member of OLT’s Board of Directors. She considers this theatre her second home and cherishes this beautiful and supportive volunteer community. Many thanks to GG for allowing “Dobs” to work alongside and learn from him. Much love to IG.

**Michelle Shortall - Assistant to the Director:** WFTP is Michelle’s second time assisting on an Agatha Christie murder mystery, the first being the very popular *A Murder is Announced*. Other highlights over the last few years include Theatre Ontario’s award winning *Dead Accounts*, *Move Over, Mrs Markham*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Other Desert Cities*, and *Gaslight*. She is delighted to be ‘working’ with this very talented cast and crew who will provide you with great entertainment. Enjoy the show.

**Kimberley Duncan - Stage Manager:** After stepping away in 2014 to pursue other adventures, Kimberley is happy to be back at OLT and taking on this new role! She is very excited to have the opportunity to work with such a great cast and crew – some new faces and some longtime friends. Kimberley has had the pleasure to work on some fun productions such as *Mousetrap*, *Touch and Go*, *Skin Flick* and *Pride and Prejudice*. She holds a very special place in her heart for the OLT and the wonderful memories. Thank you TL for the support. Welcome Back everyone!

**John Solman - Lighting Designer:** John is happy to be returning to Theatre and OLT to design for *Witness*. John has been designing lighting for shows, large and small, in Ottawa for over 40 years, and for OLT for over 30 years. Lighting designs here at OLT include last season’s (three years ago!) *Unnecessary Farce* and the award-winning *Dead Accounts* a couple of years before that. More recent small scale designs include Canada’s *Ocean Playground* and *Locally Yours* for the South Shore Players in Nova Scotia.

**Jeanne Gauthier - Properties Designer:** We are back and it's so much fun! Having worked on plays as props or costume designer before the pandemic, Jeanne is thankful to be associated with a great theatre and beautiful people in the 1st play of the new season *Burn* and now with *Witness for the Prosecution*! Enjoy!

**Jane Sadler - Co-Costume Designer:** Jane has been a volunteer at OLT for the past several years and continues to revel in the decades of vintage clothing available to dress the actors. Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* offers a prime opportunity to showcase mid-century styling. Being Agatha, something nefarious will happen at some point to someone... and whilst gloves are a no-brainer ... the question, my friends, that I have grappled with all these months - what style of hat would one wear?

**Nancy Hogan - Co-Costume Designer:** Nancy is always amazed with the many different periods of costumes that are in the OLT wardrobe inventory. The costumes in an Agatha Christie play are a delight to design.

**Andrée Benson - Hair and Makeup - All things theatre!:** While studying theatre at Ottawa U, Andrée honed her skills in the application of stage makeup and hair design. Andrée loves to help the cast embody the character they play with the right makeup and hair style true to the era. Andrée is also an actor and has performed in several plays with OLT, Phoenix Players and Vintage Stock Theatre. It's a true pleasure to be working with the awesome cast and crew of *Witness for the Prosecution*.

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We invite you to take some time to visit our Spotlight Gallery, located in the north lobby on the house-right side of the theatre. We are dedicating this space to showcase the talents of our volunteers, audience members, and donors in mixed media arts. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on someone you may have been sitting next to as a subscriber, or watching on stage, or been served by, who has some hidden talent you may not have been aware of. We are surrounded by so many talented people here at OLT, we wanted to use this space to exhibit their works. If there are pieces you are interested in purchasing, the details on how to contact the artists directly are included in the exhibit.

This month's artist may be a familiar face to many of you. It's our very own Ian Fraser, a volunteer here with the theatre working backstage and on stage, while also providing patron services in the box office and upstairs in the lobby and bar. Ian's beautiful sculptures are on display during the runs of *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Siegel*.

Throughout this season we will bring you a selection of works by many more artists from our community. We will be looking for new exhibits to share over the coming seasons so if you have a hidden talent you'd like to share, please contact Venetia Lawless at [volunteer@ottawalittletheatre.com](mailto:volunteer@ottawalittletheatre.com) to inquire about exhibiting your own works.

In the meantime, enjoy the art!



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contact [president@ottawalittletheatre.com](mailto:president@ottawalittletheatre.com)*

## OLT Staff

While the Ottawa Little Theatre is almost entirely volunteer run,  
we are fortunate to have a small and dedicated staff committed to  
maintaining the day-to-day operations of our theatre

Technical Director .....	Tom Pidgeon
Technical and Production Support.....	David Magladry
Patron Services .....	Ian Fraser

## Box Office

613.233.8948 | [info@ottawalittletheatre.com](mailto:info@ottawalittletheatre.com) | Opens at noon daily

**Performance Times**

Wednesday to Saturday evenings: 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday matinees: 2:30 p.m.



Tickets can also be purchased online anytime!  
**Visit: [ottawalittletheatre.com](http://ottawalittletheatre.com)**



**ENJOY SPACIOUS SEATING IN OUR LICENSED AUDITORIUM**

*Please visit [ottawalittletheatre.com](http://ottawalittletheatre.com) for up to date information about the  
Ottawa Little Theatre’s public safety guidelines.*

# 2022 SEASON!



A CONTEMPORARY THRILLER

## BURN

BY JOHN MUGGLETON

DIRECTED BY VENETIA LAWLESS

MAY 4 – 21, 2022



A DRAMA

## THE COLUMNIST

BY DAVID AUBURN

DIRECTED BY SARAH HEARN

JUNE 8 – 25, 2022



A COURTROOM MYSTERY

## WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

DIRECTED BY GEOFF GRUSON

JULY 13 – 30, 2022

A CONTEMPORARY COMEDY

## THE SIEGEL

BY MICHAEL MITNICK

DIRECTED BY GREG HANCOCK



AUG. 17 – SEPT. 3, 2022

A NORM FOSTER COMEDY

## ON A FIRST NAME BASIS

BY NORM FOSTER

DIRECTED BY BARBARA KOBOLAK



SEPT. 21 – OCT. 8, 2022

A MYSTERY

## HOLMES AND WATSON

BY JEFFREY HATCHER

DIRECTED BY ALAIN CHAMSI



OCT. 26 – NOV. 12, 2022

A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC COMEDY

## MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

BY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY THEATRE

DIRECTED BY LISA DUNN & JOSH KEMP



NOV. 30 – DEC. 17, 2022



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