

# MURDER ON THE 518

BY MICHELLE GILES

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL PLAY 2024**

OCTOBER 25, 2024, 7 PM, AND OCTOBER 26, 2024, 2 PM

HUSS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

# MURDER ON THE 518

BY MICHELLE GILES

*Time: 1958 • Place: The West Coast 518 train from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Conductor.....	Arjun Kharbanda
Ticket Seller One.....	Elena Fletcher
Ticket Seller Two.....	Delaney Anderson
Sidney Bennett.....	Amelia Boleen
Rachel Knox.....	Bea Martin
Caleb Knox.....	Sully Tietz
Elliot Williams.....	Lucas Messier
Mike Umbarr.....	Dhru Chaney
Holly Barnes.....	Elliott Hazzard
Lauren Maloney.....	Elana Broderius
Abby Wells.....	Parker Frosch
Nelson Henry.....	Kirby Iverson
Owen Casey.....	Everest Anderson
Debbi Warren.....	Cece Pierce
Jennifer Warren.....	Clare Barlow
Avery Millen.....	Maizy Henretta
Jillian Hill.....	Olivia George
Isabella Madison.....	Vivian Frost
Lucy Blake.....	Zoya Jameel
Train Passengers.....	Ella Camozzi, Kate Gao, Leo Hovan, Myka Fellon, Fiona Andres
Head Waiter One.....	Olive Goff
Waiter Two.....	Parker Lund
Waiter Three.....	Aayu Maripuri
Waiters.....	August Henke, Ella Camozzi, Kate Gao, Tova Resnick-Schwarcz, Rory Fruin
Executive Chef.....	Myka Fellon
Sous Chef One.....	Leo Hovan
Sous Chef Two.....	Fiona Andres
Police Officer One.....	Vivian Frost/Olive Goff
Police Officer Two.....	Amelia Boleen/Arjun Kharbanda
Police Officer Three.....	Delaney Anderson/Elena Fletcher
Police Officers.....	August Henke, Ella Camozzi, Kate Gao, Rory Fruin, Tova Resnick-Schwarcz, Parker Lund, Aayu Maripuri, Fiona Andres, Myka Fellon, Leo Hovan

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## SYNOPSIS

Passengers aboard the westbound 518 are thrust into a chilling nightmare when one, then two fellow travelers collapse lifeless, their deaths sudden and unexplained. Just as the train grinds to a halt, trapped by a rock slide deep within a desolate canyon, the passengers seek to find the unsettling truth.

With no means of escape and no way to call for help, suspicion festers among the trapped passengers. Tension rises as a diverse and eccentric group—two newlyweds, an astronomy professor, a sports recruiter, a CEO, a movie star, an aspiring musician, and others—must join forces with the wary train staff to unravel the deadly mystery. But as paranoia spreads, they begin to realize that nothing, and no one, is as it seems. Time is running out, and the killer may already be closer than they think...

## SCENES

### ACT I

**SCENE 1:** The Salt Lake City train station

**SCENE 2:** The dining car of the West Coast 518, that evening.

**SCENE 3:** The dining car, a few minutes later

*There will be a 10-minute intermission between Acts I and II*

### ACT II

**SCENE 1:** The dining car, in the early morning hours of the next day

**SCENE 2:** A platform at the Los Angeles train station, that afternoon

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Director.....	Ed Williams, Jr.
Stage Manager.....	Vivian Johnson
Assistant Director.....	Elliot Gilats '28
Technical Director/Scenic Designer.....	Tyler Krohn
Lighting Designer.....	Zoe Hermer-Cisek '19
Costume Designer.....	Vinny Torres
Costume Crew.....	Students: Ella Barlow, Eloise Wittmer, Gigi Kandiel, Ella Camozzi, Rosalie Goldbaum Parents: Eden Fahy, Lihong Qin, Annie Goldbaum, Nicole Frost
Light Board Operators.....	Sam Miller, Rosalie Goldbaum
Sound Board Operators.....	Aaryan Bahadur, Everett Grammens
Sound Effects Board Operator.....	Gabby Donahue
Projection Supervisor.....	Chuck Andres
Director of Instructional Technology.....	Tammy Brass
Program Designer.....	Elizabeth Longhurst, Anne Odegard
Photographer.....	John Severson
Running Crew.....	Jace Fellon, Ray Fratzke, Merritt Sale
Set Crew.....	Jace Fellon, Ray Fratzke, Merritt Sale, Tarq Johnson, Sam Miller, Alexie Kidder, Diya Verma, Rosalie Goldbaum, Gabby Donahue, Indu Sankaraneni

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to this year's middle school play, Murder on the 518! We are excited to transport our audience aboard the infamous 518 train, where mystery, intrigue, and suspense unfold in a journey none will forget. It has been an incredible process watching our young actors dive into this thrilling story, and I couldn't be prouder of their hard work and commitment to their roles.

"Murder on the 518" is not just about solving a mystery; it's about teamwork, building trust, and fostering the creativity of our middle school performers. I've challenged the cast to truly explore the depth of their characters and to lean into the suspenseful atmosphere of the play, finding moments of humor, tension, and surprise. This production is a learning experience that helps our students understand the value of discipline, collaboration, and confidence.

Our technical team, including set design, lighting, sound, and costumes, plays an essential part in bringing the 1950's ambiance of the 518 train to life. I want to extend a huge thank you to the artistic staff for their dedication and creativity. You have elevated this production in ways that make the experience more immersive for both the cast and the audience.

I'd also like to acknowledge the SPA production team and the maintenance crew for their hard work behind the scenes, ensuring everything runs smoothly on the Huss stage.

Please sit back, enjoy the mystery, and "try" to figure out who dunnit before the 518 arrives in LA.

Enjoy the show!

Ed Williams, Jr.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Gene Swanson, Chuck Andres, Matt Edens, Eric Severson, Melissa Douden, Dr. Luis Ottley, Jill Romans, Virginia Andres, Ellen Shulman, Stephanie Holman Strafelda, John Cole, Seamus Glewwe, Safety and Security, Pete Kilibarda and the maintenance staff, the cleaning staff, Amy Orzolek, Ami Berger, Anne Odegard, Alya Jawaid (tech week meal coordinator), The Costume Collective of MN, Next Stage Rental and Market.

Tech Week Meal Supervision: Alya Jawaid, Amanda Henke, Megha Maripuri, Lucas Miller, Katie Barlow, Nisha Taneja, Parul Kharbanda, and Nicole Frost.

And finally, our production wouldn't be possible without the support and encouragement of parents, teachers, and volunteers. Thank you for your contributions to making this play a reality.

## HUSS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS STAFF

Director of Technology.....	Garry Clum
Media/Technology Coordinator.....	Gene Swanson
Web Manager and Media Coordinator.....	Matt Edens
Director of Operations and Security.....	John Cole
Facilities Superintendent.....	Pete Kilibarda
Scheduling Supervisor.....	Melissa Douden
Safety and Security Supervisor.....	Seamus Glewwe
Huss Center Production Coordinator.....	Eric Severson

# SPA PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR 2024-2025

*All performances at Huss Center except where otherwise noted*

## **MS FALL PLAY**

### *Murder on the 518*

October 25, 2024, 7 pm

October 26, 2024, 2 pm

## **US FALL PLAY**

### *Our Town*

November 22, 2024, 7 pm

November 23, 2024, 7 pm

## **US POPS CONCERT**

December 6, 2024, 7 pm

December 7, 2024, 7 pm

## **MS INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT**

December 18, 2024, 6:30 pm

## **MS CHORAL CONCERT**

December 19, 2024, 6:30 pm

## **US ONE-ACTS**

January 24, 2025, 7 pm

## **MS MUSICAL**

### *Between the Lines, Jr.*

March 7, 2025, 7 pm

March 8, 2025, 7 pm

March 9, 2025, 2 pm

## **M/US JAZZ BAND CABARET**

April 16, 2025, 6:30 pm

## **US ORCHESTRA/VOCAL CONCERT AND COMMUNITY CHORALE**

April 26, 2025, 7 pm

## **US MUSICAL**

May 16, 2025, 7 pm

May 17, 2025, 7 pm

May 18, 2025, 4 pm

## **MS SPRING SHOWCASE**

May 22, 2025, 6:30 pm

## **MS INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT**

May 28, 2025, 6:30 pm

## **MS CHORAL CONCERT**

May 29, 2025, 6:30 pm

*Thank you for joining us for "Murder on the 518". We'd like to express our gratitude to our Annual Fund donors, whose generous support helps make shows and programs like this possible. If you're inspired to help sustain and enrich our theater and arts programs, please consider making a gift to the Annual Fund - Arts designation. Together, we can continue to bring unforgettable experiences to our community. For more information, please visit [www.spa.edu/giving](http://www.spa.edu/giving). Enjoy the show!*