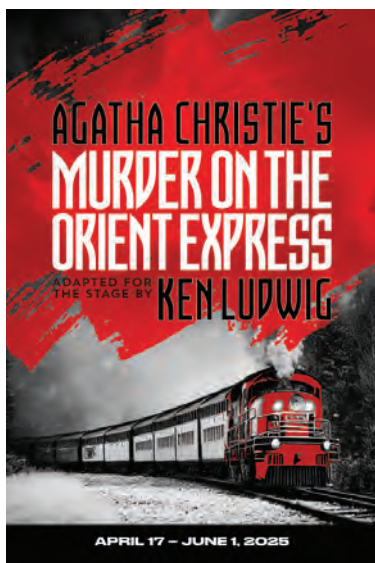


JAN 2025

The Flame

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS



“Take the word of a life-long mystery nerd. This is a not to be missed theatrical adventure.”

The
FireSide

A Not To Be Missed Theatrical Adventure!

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF DETECTIVE FICTION AND MURDER MYSTERIES. I STARTED OUT WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES AND MOVED ON TO ALL THE GREAT WRITERS – RAYMOND CHANDLER, DASHIELL HAMMETT, ERLE STANLEY GARDNER, AND OF COURSE THE QUEEN OF MYSTERY WRITERS AGATHA CHRISTIE.

I have loved the adventures of Miss Marple and especially Hercule Poirot – one of the greatest detectives in all of fiction. I have to say as an admittedly know-it-all mystery fan, while I love Christie’s writing and am always entertained by her work, I sometimes have found her books to be a bit predictable. I can usually figure out who the murderer is halfway through the book.

That is of course until I read **MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**. That book blew me away. I never saw the ending coming. No wonder it is her most popular story.

There have been a number of film versions of the book but only one play that I know of – the one we are

presenting in April. The stage version of **MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS** was written by Ken Ludwig – a Tony winning playwright of such comedy hits as **LEND ME A TENOR** and **MOON OVER BUFFALO**. His version of Christie’s great masterpiece is engaging, fast moving, and will keep you guessing right up to that fabulous ending. (No spoilers here)

We don’t do plays very often. They have to be first rate entertainments to make it to the Fireside stage. Such a play is **MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**. Take the word of a life-long mystery nerd. It is a not to be missed theatrical adventure.

Ed Flavel



REVIEWS for Ken Ludwig's stage adaptation of Agatha Christie's MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

"Ken Ludwig's adaptation has skillfully filleted Christie's novel into a two-hour play that threads the essential elements of the plot into a well crafted tale. Pure theatrical class."—Joanthan Baz

"**** A first class ride all the way!"—The Guardian

"**** Ludwig deftly handles the rollercoaster-cum-puzzle box of Christie's storytelling, briskly moving us from one revelation to another."—The Stage

"***** Ken Ludwig's snappy adaptation is what makes this production possible...An excellent script, with sublime dramatic pacing, canny variation for the eye and- importantly for the audience (and the Christie estate), it keeps faith with the novel."—B24/7

"Hang on for the ride!"--The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Murder On The Orient Express—A Funny, Fast-Paced Thrill Ride At Hartford Stage"—The Hartford Currant

When the Agatha Christie estate approached Ken Ludwig to adapt Dame Agatha's most enduring novel and put it on stage, he agreed with alacrity – just as quickly as it takes Hercule Poirot to solve the most thrilling case of his entire career.

Shots from the London production.



**CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF KLOPCIC
FAMILY
HOSPITALITY!**

THE INSIDE SCOOP



Lindsey VanderWielen is set for success with National Exchange Bank.

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

National Exchange Bank's Golden Years Club has a long history of bringing travelers to The Fireside. We shared their sorrow at the passing of long time travel planner Janet Johnson in late 2023. Now we're happy to recognize the great job Lindsey VanderWielen is doing in her first year with the program.

Lindsey came to the bank from Holy Angels Catholic Church in West Bend where she directed communication, music and parish life. Prior to that she worked as a free lance coordinator for TV and film productions, arranging hotels and travel for cast and crews coming into the state. Her wide variety of experience seems to have served her very well.

The bank's 2024 travel schedule was already in place when Lindsey stepped into her role. That gave her the opportunity to both learn how it was put together and see what people liked before embarking on planning for 2025. She's really enjoyed traveling with the group and getting to know everyone.

Their 2025 schedule will be similar in many ways to other years including six shows at The Fireside. She's also sprinkling in some new ventures like a day trip to Racine, a Door County apple orchard, and one to Green Bay for a preview of the NFL Draft that will be coming to town in April. She's also planned exciting overnight trips such as a Caribbean Cruise, a Blossoming Dreams tour to the Washington, DC area at cherry blossom time, one to Alaska, and the Balloon Fiesta in New Mexico.

The Golden Years Club is for bank customers age 55 and older with a relationship account. They're a cohesive group with many repeat travelers so most of the group already knows each other when they're traveling. Lindsey relies on their newsletter to get the word out on trips and has an administrative assistant and the bank's marketing department to help with that. They also have 32 branch offices where people can get information, sign up for the trips, and in many cases get picked up closer to home on tour days.

“ I had big shoes to fill, but it's going good and I really enjoy traveling with these people. They're so welcoming!”

Lindsey is from West Bend and she's done a lot of theatre herself there as well as directing for the Children's Theatre and the High School. She's also trained in ballroom dance and played Mrs. Wormwood in a community production of MATILDA. Having majored in Media Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. she's really excited about leading that cherry blossom trip there in March. It was, she noted, a great place to be a college student being filled with free museums!

Lindsey's advice to others, especially someone newer to the industry like her, is to take the time to learn what you need to know and develop a network of people to learn from. Taking people on tour to visit places they likely wouldn't get to on their own is a lot of work, yes, but it's also very rewarding. It'll warm your heart to see them so happy. Great advice, Lindsey!

**KNOW
WHAT'S
NEW!**

ANNOUNCING THE 2025 CHRISTIAN CONCERT SERIES

3 Heath Brothers Wednesday, March 19

Hailing from Thomasville, North Carolina, the 3 Heath Brothers are Nicholas, Clayton, and Christian Heath. Since signing with the Horizon/Crossroads label as teenagers, this award-winning group of brothers is gaining a large following of young and old alike. When these young guys get up to sing, audiences are consistently shocked by their tight harmony, powerful vocals, and a capella arrangements. They have shared the stage with The Talleys, the Collingsworth Family, the Booth Brothers, the Hoppers, Greater Vision, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Karen Peck and New River, the Kingdom Heirs, Jason Crabb, and many others!



The Perrys Wednesday, May 14

If you've ever seen The Perrys in concert, you've undoubtedly sensed the power and conviction from which they sing. From the high-octane, hand-clapping hit "I Wish I Could Have Been There" to the anointed anthem "If You Knew Him," this Dove Award-winning group has been delivering soul-stirring performances across North America for nearly five decades. Loved by Gospel Music fans around the world, they have earned many accolades including Dove nominations and awards, numerous #1 hits, and 15 Singing News Fan Awards. Among them are Song of the Year, Favorite Mixed Group, Favorite Album, and Libbi's awards for Female Vocalist of the Year and Favorite Alto of the Year.



The Inspirations Wednesday, August 6

Every July for 60 years the Southern Gospel group, The Inspirations, hosts Singing in the Smokies, a festival that draws thousands to their native Bryson City. The quartet itself formed two years before the first gathering. Today, The Inspirations are considered one of the most important groups ever to sing and record Southern gospel music. They recently won eight Singing News Fan Awards at the 2024 National Quartet Convention including Favorite Quartet. Their sound is now known in the world of Christian music as the Smoky Mountain style of Southern gospel quartet singing. They have sold more than one million copies of their sixty albums.

High Road Wednesday, October 1

Back by popular demand! Sarah Davison, a gifted pianist and vocalist, is joined by Ivy Phillips, a Tennessee Grandmaster Fiddle Champion; Kristen Bearfield on mandolin and guitar; and Emily Ann Roberts, a runner-up on The Voice who plays guitar and sings. Since the group's genesis, High Road has garnered a Grammy Nomination for the album, "Gonna Sing, Gonna Shout," the Singing News New Artist of the Year, a Dove Award nomination for Bluegrass/Roots Album of the Year, and Singing News Band of the Year for 2022. They perform at leading events around the country with a repertoire that ranges from country to bluegrass to Gospel and contemporary Christian.



On Sale Now at \$40.95 including Our Fish & Chicken Buffet!



**SEE
WHAT'S
COOKING**



FEATURED MENU

*For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Matinees,
Saturday Evenings,* and Sunday MIDDAY.*

Signature Salad

Topped with our famous Papaya Chutney Dressing

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Chicken and Ribs

Our Signature Lean Pork Back Ribs glazed with our special Barbecue Sauce, slowly roasted until the tender meat falls from the bone. Accompanied by our Buttermilk Marinated Southern Fried Baked Chicken Breast.

Grilled Mahi-Mahi

Mahi-Mahi marinated in fresh herbs and citrus juices, grilled to perfection and served with a sweet Mango Sauce.

Mediterranean Short Rib

Pan seared Beef Short Rib, slow cooked with Olives, Capers, Tomato, and Basil until meltingly tender. Served with a Pan Sauce.

With Coconut and Ginger Jasmine Rice and Asian Stir-Fried Vegetables.

Vegetarian Pasta Primavera

French Silk Pie

Flaky pie crust filled with velvety Chocolate Mousse. Topped with Fresh Whipped Cream and curls of White and Dark Chocolate.

Coffee, Tea and Milk

This show we will be featuring several dishes that are new to The Fireside. First, Mahi-Mahi, a Subtropical fish native to the gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. It's a very lean white meat fish known for its firm flakey meat and it's sweet flavor. We'll grill the Mahi-Mahi to impart a nice char and smokiness to the fish. The sauce will be a puree of fresh orange juice, mango, honey, and Jalapeno pepper. The floral notes of the honey and Mango will pair perfectly with the grilled Mahi-Mahi.

Secondly, a new rendition of our braised beef short ribs. We'll sear the short ribs to lock in the juices and slowly braise them in a blend of San Marzano tomatoes, kalamata olives, capers, basil and Red wine. After the Beef has cooked until meltingly tender, the braising liquid will be reduced and served over the short rib. This dish is packed with amazing and complex flavors and the sauce is incredible. You'll want extra bread to soak up every bit of it.

Our featured vegetarian entree will be a pasta prima vera. Prima Vera means "Prime Vegetables" or simply what's fresh and available. We'll take zucchini, Italian squash, fresh tomatoes, bell peppers, and mushrooms and sauté them until fragrant. We deglaze the vegetables in white wine and add garlic chili flakes and butter to make a delicious and light sauce. The vegetables will be tossed and served with pappardelle pasta, a long and thin ribbon-like pasta, and topped with parmesan cheese and fresh torn basil. So many great choices - let us know what you think!

Jeremiah Cook
Executive Chef



The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Garlic and Herb Whipped Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. French Silk Pie for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with Pastries from our Bakery to enjoy with a Fresh Fruit Smoothie. We'll have two meats at the carving station along with the buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jones Bacon and Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Bread Pudding, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. French Silk Pie for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

Saturday Evening's menu also includes an Appetizer course.

Coming Shows!

We look forward to helping you promote your trips to The Fireside. Promotional materials can be ordered for any of our upcoming shows through Group Sales or on our website.

GROUP SALES CORNER

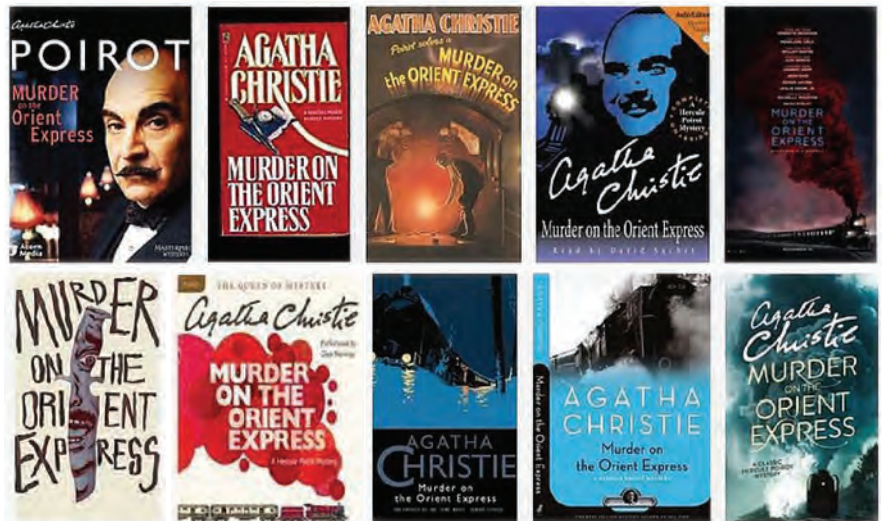
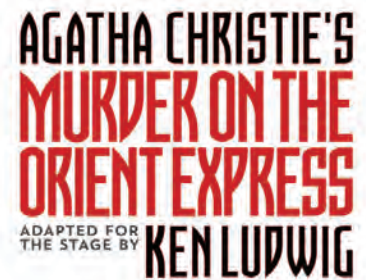


For personal help with any of your bookings, call us at 920-563-9505 or email groupsales@firesidetheatre.com.

Who doesn't love a good murder mystery? As an avid reader, murder mysteries are among my favorite genre. I love to play detective and try to solve the mystery before the end of the book.

With MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, never having read the book or seen the movie or play, I'm so excited to see the story unfold on stage! That will be even more fun, in my opinion. What about you - are you an Agatha Christie uber-fan? What are you most excited about for this show?

Agatha Christie is the world's best-selling fiction writer. Her 70 plus crime novels and short story collections have sold an estimated two billion copies. Plus, her books have been translated into 103 languages making her the most-translated individual author.



What a great season it's going to be! We've got so much variety with something for everyone from Elvis to Broadway's best, from a murder mystery to a summer fairy tale, and from light-hearted fun to more serious, meaningful messages. Please give us a call to book your group's next adventure. We're here Monday through Friday from 10 - 5 at 920-563-9505 - just ask for Group Sales. Or email your request to groupsales@firesidetheatre.com. Happy New Year, and Happy Traveling!

Franki Elmore
Franki Elmore, Group Sales Lead

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You're going to love Mud Pie's new Farmstead gifts!

We're so excited to share Mud Pie's new gifts and decor that celebrate farm life - a piece of Americana that's important to all of us. Mud Pie was founded by Marcia Miller in 1988. Headquartered in Atlanta with 200 employees, it remains a family operated business with her husband and children holding key leadership positions. Marcia has been a leader in the gift industry for over three decades with multiple industry awards.

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GROUPS ARE OUR SPECIALTY - SO SPECIAL DISCOUNTS APPLY!

WHAT IS A GROUP?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 13 or more people (18 for the Sunday Middy). Our prices include both dinner and the show, however gratuity is not included.

Hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your count, due four weeks before your visit. For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package. For all other shows it's every 21st ticket. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches and cars. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities. Please let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.

- Save up to \$17.00 per person over individual ticket prices when you book a group of 13 or more. Please see our menu page for the menu choices for MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more is \$83.29 (\$78.95 tax exempt) per person - NO INCREASE FROM 2024.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS from April 17 - May 11, 2025.
- 2025 Premier Group Rate is \$80.13 (\$75.95 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows!
- 2025 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meals are offered at \$60.08 (\$56.95 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2025 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$72.95 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.