Bedford Players

Thursday to Sunday
November 5th to 21st, 2026
Thu, Fri, Sat evenings 7:30 pm
(except Sat. 21st)
Matinées Sun 8th & 15th 2 pm
& Sat 21st 2 pm

Agatha Christie

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

Directed By Kelly Morrison



Bedford Players Theatre
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford, NS

Ticketpro

Bedford Players Theatre Society
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford NS

/bedfordplayrs
@BedfordPlayers

To advertise in our program contact:
programs@bedfordplayers.ca

The use of cameras, cell phones, and all recording devices is prohibited in the theatre. Please ensure cell phones and other devices that may disturb patrons or actors are turned off or silenced.

Bedford Players consists entirely of volunteers.
If you're interested in volunteering with the theatre, please contact:
volunteer@bedfordplayers.ca

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

Our canteen will be available before the show and during intermission.

Bedford Players

presents...

Agatha Christie
WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION
Directed By Kelly Morrison



WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

epilepsy association of the maritimes | association maritime de l'épilepsie

Ticketpro

President's Message



President
Elaine Melanson

Welcome to Bedford Players! We are very proud to present Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, directed by Kelly Morrison, as the first production of our 2026-2027 season. This play is a story that invites us not merely to watch a trial unfold, but to become part of it. From the first testimony to the final twist, you may find yourself weighing evidence, questioning motives, and deciding who you believe.

Christie, the undisputed Queen of Crime, understood that the best mysteries do not depend only on what is hidden. They challenge us to notice what is said, what is left unsaid, and what we assume to be true. In the courtroom. A single detail can alter everything; a confident voice can conceal uncertainty, and the person who seems most convincing may not be the person who deserves our trust. As the story unfolds, I encourage you to listen closely. Watch for the small moments. Consider each character's perspective—and perhaps check your own instinct to reach a verdict before all the evidence is in.

This production is the result of the imagination, skill, generosity, and countless hours of work contributed by our cast, production team, and volunteers. We are deeply grateful to everyone whose commitment has brought this suspenseful classic to our stage, and to you, our audience, for continuing to support our community theatre.

So, settle in. Keep an open mind. And remember: in Agatha Christie's world, the truth is rarely as straightforward as it first appears.
Enjoy the show!

Director's Message



Director
Kelly Morrison

When I first read *Witness for the Prosecution,* I was hooked. Agatha Christie has an incredible ability to pull you in and make every word matter—tension on the page was so strong I couldn't put it down (there were literal goosebumps)! I knew I had to direct this fantastic story.

Christie builds the story with such clean precision—truth and deception sitting right next to each other and she trusts her audience to keep up. She knows you're smart, you're paying attention, catching the details. Directing her work becomes about honouring that intelligence: building tension, revealing motives slowly, and letting the actors play in this wonderful world she's created.

I know you'll enjoy this story because it's more than just a puzzle; it's about flawed, complicated people. You want to know more about them, you suspect them, you doubt them, and you root for them.

One last thing: Christie's surprises are half the magic. We encourage you to share your theatre experience with others, **but please don't reveal the ending—that would be criminal!**

Enjoy the show because court is now in session.

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The Cast

In order of appearance

Greta	Trelawney Erwin
Carter	Erica McLean
Mayhew	Robin Saywood
Leonard Vole	Joel Bennedictson
Sir Wilfred Robarts, QC	Michael Stack
Inspector Hearne	Brad Morrison
Warder	Scott Marson
Romaine	Rayna Smith-Camp
Usher	Kris Lane
Justice Wainwright	Alan Hollett
Mr. Myers, QC	Rob McIntyre
Dr. Wyatt	Conor McDevitt
Janet MacKenzie	Lorraine Cantwell
Mr.Clegg	Carmichael Borja
The Other Woman	Desarée da Cruz

The Play

Time: Fall, 1953
Place: London, England

The Play

Act I - Office of Sir Wilfred Robarts,
late afternoon, October 20, 1953.
Act II- The Old Bailey Courthouse,
morning, 6 weeks later.
ACT III, Sc I - Office of Sir Wilfred Robarts,
later that day.
ACT III, Sc II - The Old Bailey Courthouse,
the next morning.

Glossary of Terms

“**The Temple**” - historic London legal district serving as the professional home of barristers.
“**Solicitor**” - in Britain, a lawyer who handles documents, advises clients, and manages cases.
“**Barrister**” - in Britain, a specialist lawyer who represents clients in court, especially higher courts.
“**Wind up**” (like blowing air) - a slang term used by WWII soldiers meaning to become annoyed, provoked or anxious.
“**Chit**” - an employment reference or endorsement.
“**Bulled**” - a slang term from WWII soldiers, meaning ordered around or nagged.
“**Cosh**” - a small, easily concealable, weighted weapon.
“**Churlish**” - rude, impolite
“**Wireless**” - common term for a household radio, before the 1960s.
“**Butcher’s**” - cockney slang for looking at something, used as code.

Cast in order of appearance

Photos by Jay Fisher at Capture It Photography, (except *)



Trelawney Erwin
appearing as
Greta

Trelawney is happy to return to Bedford Players after appearing as Sister Mary Catherine in *Drinking Habits* in 2023 and Becca Rollins in *Gibson & Sons* last season. She's so grateful to the theatre community in Nova Scotia for giving her the opportunity to be a part of the hard-working teams that bring stories to the stage.



Erica McLean
appearing as
Carter

Recently arrived in Nova Scotia to be near family, and with several years of involvement in local theatre in the UK, Erica is thrilled to be treading the boards once again as Carter. As an actor, she particularly enjoys roles in suspenseful psychological dramas and playing any of the extravagant and colourful characters in a traditional family pantomime ("Oh yes, she does!"), while behind the scenes, she loves the hold-your-breath focus and camaraderie of the unseen backstage team, coordinating lighting, sound and scene changes, the glue holding the show together. In her spare time Erica enjoys walking, gardening, reading, baking.... and coffee shops! Huge thanks to Kelly and all at Bedford Players for the warm welcome, support - and above all the fun! It's been great working with them!

Cast in order of appearance



Robin Saywood
appearing as
Mayhew

Robin is, as always, pleased to be stomping the boards with Bedford Players. His theatre journey began in 1984 with Hubtown Theatre in Truro as Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He joined Bedford Players in 1994, and has had memorable roles in such productions as *Jitte*rs, *No Sex Please, We're British*, and *Run for your Wif*e. He has also directed many p*roductions such as Suite Surrender, Rumours, The Cemetery Club, How the Other Half Loves, b*een involved with set building, stage management, and was even BP President (way back). Robin sends many thanks to Kelly our amazing director for casting him as John Mayhew. He is so enjoying working with the cast and crew! Thank you to the audience for your continued support. Without you, we are nothing. Enjoy the show!

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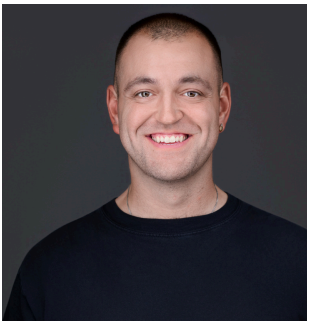
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Your best mortgage advice comes from a Mortgage Broker.

Cast in order of appearance



Joel Benedictson
appearing as
Leonard Vole

This is Joel's first production at Bedford Players! Joel is cast as the charming and oft misunderstood Leonard Vole. Unless you count Christmas pageants in grade school, this is also his first full length stage production. He does have a background in stand-up comedy and improv so he's no stranger to the stage. He is happy to be joining the very talented and seasoned Bedford Players cast, all led by the lovely Kelly Morrison, Director. Joel is very excited to be a part of this production and looks forward to seeing you all filling the seats for this production!



Michael Stack
appearing as
Sir Wilfred Robarts, QC

Originally from Gander, Newfoundland, Michael moved to Halifax in 2000. Michael's acting experience includes multiple stage, television and independent film productions. Highlights include *Halifax Homicide* on Bell TV and *Colonel Mustard* in the stage production of C*lue Onstage!*. He attended the Improv Conservatory at Neptune Theatre, and served as President of Bedford Players Executive Council for two years. Michael is excited to be returning to the BP stage after a 4-year hiatus, and *Witness for the Prosecution* is his fifth production at BP. He is grateful to director Kelly for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful and talented group of people. Enjoy the show!

Cast in order of appearance



Brad Morrison
appearing as
Inspector Hearne

Brad is chuffed to bits to return to the Bedford Players stage in *Witness for the Prosecution*. Audiences may recognize him from recent roles including Frank in *Mystic Pizza* (TAG), Inspector Craddock in *A Murder is Announced* (BP), and Samuel Ratchett in *Murder on the Orient Express* (BP). You can also see him in episode 3 of the Bell TV docu-series *The Great Amherst Haunting* where he plays Captain James Beck! He would like to send a massive thank you to all the cast and crew for making this such a fun and exciting experience. Much love and thanks to his multi-talented wife Kelly for sharing her passion of theatre. Enjoy the show!



Scott Marson
appearing as
Policeman / Warder

Scott Marsden (aka Scotty Mars) is a long-time Halifax radio broadcaster who has spent much of his career behind a microphone, both on-air and as a programmer. Away from radio, Scotty is a long-time volunteer with Dreams Take Flight Atlantic and enjoys podcasting, writing, and anything that gives him an excuse to tell a good story. He's thrilled to be back on the stage joining Bedford Players for *Witness for the Prosecution*

Cast in order of appearance



Rayna Smith-Camp
appearing as
Romaine

This is Rayna's second show with BP, having previously appeared in *Murder on the Orient Express*. She has been involved with Theatre Arts Guild for many years, performing in or working backstage on more than forty productions. She currently serves on TAG's Board of Directors as Vice President and Newsletter Editor. Rayna would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and passion in bringing this classic to life, and the audience for supporting community theatre.



Kris Lane
appearing as
Usher / Clerk

Kris graduated from Mount Allison University's Drama program in 2006 and appeared as the title character in *Portrait of Dora*, performed Jackie Torrens' one-woman show *Live! Nude! Animal!* and tackled musical theatre favourites including Mama Morton (*CHICAGO*), Jack (*Into the Woods*), and Aunt Eller (*Oklahoma!*). She also played Yitzhak in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at Halifax's very first Queer Acts Festival in 2009. After stepping away from the stage in 2013, Kris pursued a career in health care and an MPA. Through voiceover acting, she continued exercising her theatrical muscles and putting her famously radio-friendly face to good use. After more than a decade away, she has finally answered the stage's persistent "You up?" text.

Cast in order of appearance



*Photo by Bruce Goodick

Alan Hollett
appearing as
Justice Wainwright

Alan is very grateful to Kelly and her crew for giving him the chance to participate in this production. At the ripe old age of 87 years there are limited roles available. He has been associated with Bedford Players for over 15 years both onstage and backstage. He hopes this is not the last. Alan has been an extra in several films and film crew in Nova Scotia including all Tom Selleck's *Jesse Stone* series.



Rob McIntyre
appearing as
Mr. Myers, QC

Rob has always loved courtroom drama and to portray Prosecutor Myers is a dream part. This is Rob 's second production with Bedford Players, the first playing Michel the Conductor in yet another Agatha Christie play *Murder on the Orient Express* (2023). Rob has acted in well over 40 productions with Theatre Arts Guild and Dartmouth Players since 1995, as well as a variety of independent Theatre companies. Rob is fresh from this summer's successful musical *Mystic Pizza* at TAG, as part of the ensemble cast and some character scene work, The Fireside Gourmet being one of his favorite characters. Rob would also like to thank Kelly for directing him and would like to thank the cast and crew for their tireless work. Hope you all enjoy the show.

Cast in order of appearance



Conor McDevitt
appearing as
Dr. Wyatt

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Conor McDevitt has been part of the community theatre scene on and off since childhood. He has previously been part of productions at Dartmouth Players for *Annie*! and *Grease*, and doing improv and creative writing at Glór Irish Music and Arts Centre when living overseas in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. When not on the stage, Conor spends his time practicing silly voices and atrocious accents while playing Dungeons and Dragons with friends and enjoys scenic walks and going to the movies. A graduate of NSCC and Dalhousie, Conor works as a CAD Technician for the defense industry.



Lorraine Cantwell
appearing as
Janet MacKenzie

Lorraine is thrilled to once again be part of a Bedford Players production. She has been active in several Bedford Players shows in the past as both actor and director including *Four Weddings and an Elvis, Murder on the Orient Express, 37 Postcards, A Murder is Announced, Some Guy from the Internet,* and *Lunch Hour*. She is extremely grateful to each and every talented person – cast and crew – who have worked so tirelessly to bring this production to the stage. Fingers crossed we all get to work together again in the future – and sooner, rather than later!

Cast in order of appearance



Carmichael Borja
appearing as
Mr. Clegg

Carmichael is thrilled to make his community theater debut in Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*. Outside of stepping into the courtroom on stage, Carmichael stays busy with a mix of active and creative pursuits, including dance, running, and keeping up with a regular fitness routine. Bringing this iconic mystery to life alongside such a passionate team of actors has been an absolute highlight of his year. He would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Kelly, Emma, the cast, and backstage crew for their continuous guidance, as well as his wonderful family and friends for their encouragement and support. Enjoy the show!



Desarée da Cruz
appearing as
Girl / The Other Woman

Desarée discovered her love of theatre when she was cast in her first school play at the age of seven. Since then, she has acted in and stage-managed countless plays. When she's not spending her time in the theatre, she's playing tennis, dancing ballet, volunteering, or walking her dog. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time within this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

About the playwright - Agatha Christie



Born in Torquay, England in 1890, **Agatha Christie** is the best-selling novelist of all time. With over one billion books sold in English and another billion in over 100 languages, she is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She wrote 80 crime novels and collections of short stories, over 25 plays (including *The Mousetrap*, the world's longest running play), and six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. Her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, introduced the world to the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, followed a decade later by the shrewd and often underestimated Miss Marple.

Photo courtesy of The Christie Archive Trust

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Creative Team



Director
Kelly Morrison

This is Kelly's sixth time in the director's chair and her third Christie play with BP. She previously directed *A Murder is Announced* and played in *Murder on the Orient Expres*s. Whether on stage or as crew, Kelly's favourite aspect of theatre is always the camaraderie, and how people from all backgrounds work together to create something special. Thank you to the dedicated team who helped bring this show to life, especially Emma. She has much appreciation and gives kudos to her awesome cast who made these characters real. Lastly, Kelly couldn't do any of this without the support of her real-life scene partner and favourite leading man, Brad.



Stage Manager
Emma Whitley

This is Emma`s third time stage managing at Bedford Players, after "graduating" from being a tech (lights and sound) operator for our shows, and is managing her largest cast yet at BP (15 actors!). She also stage managed *37 Postcards* and *Gibson & Sons*. A huge Agatha Christie fan, Emma is thrilled to work on this production as well as having Assistant Stage managed (and got to play the dead guy!) i*n A Murder is Announced*. Outside of theatre, Emma enjoys singing, hiking, practicing yoga, and self-describes as a "total gearhead" who enjoys driving, detailing her vehicle, and attending car shows.

Creative Team



Assistant Stage Manager
Marina Romeo

Marina has always had a passion for live theatre and has appeared in BP's *Looking* and last spring's production of *Calendar Girls*. This fall she is trying her hand offstage as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Witness for the Prosecution*!



Production Manager
Rhea Vardy-McPhee

Rhea became involved with Bedford Players in 2020 after not being involved with theatre since high school. She prefers to watch the magic from the wings, having managed Font of House and becoming a production manager recently. She is also on the BP Board of Directors as Treasurer.

Creative Team



Assistant Production Manager
Michele Gaudet

As well as being Artistic Director at Bedford Players, Michele has appeared in many community theatre productions, most recently as Mrs Osgood in *Suite Surrender* last November here at BP. Among her favourite roles are Sandy in *Four Weddings and an Elvis* at BP, Mrs Debenham in *Rope* at TAG, and Dorothy in *Glorio*us at DP. Michele would like to thank Kelly and the extraordinary company of *Witness for the Prosecution* for making this such a delight, and to you our audience, for your continued and faithful support of Bedford Players. Please enjoy the show!



Technical Director
Stephen Melanson

Stephen Melanson is proud to serve as Technical Director for Bedford Players' production of *Witness for the Prosecution*. Throughout his time with the organization, he has also contributed in key roles such as Production Manager, Set Construction, and Marketing. Stephen enjoys being part of a theatre team that goes beyond the stage—his favorite part is the opportunity to support the community and help make a positive impact.



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Supporting Our Community

Beginning with this production, Bedford Players will hold a Pay-What-You-Can performance on the Tuesday evening prior to Opening Night. Audience members are asked to provide a donation at the door, and all monies collected are donated to a local designated charity.
For this production, Pay-What-You-Can monies will be donated to **Ubuntu Grandmothers to Grandmothers.**

Along with our Pay-What-You-Can donation, Bedford Players selects, for each production, a Charity of Choice from causes close to our members' hearts. The selected charity receives $1 from every ticket sold, along with patron donations and tips from our canteen.
The Charity of Choice for *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie is the **Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes**. They are a non-profit organization based in Halifax that is dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by epilepsy across the three Maritime provinces. For over four decades, they have worked to provide education, support, navigation, and advocacy to our communities.
For more information, please visit their website at epilepsymaritimes.org

Creative Team Leads

Director	Kelly Morrison
Stage Manager	Emma Whitley
Assistant Stage Manager	Marina Romeo
Production Manager	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Assistant Production Manager	Michele Gaudet
Pre-show Slide Presentation	Trelawney Erwin
Set Design & Construction	Bryn Rowlands
Props & Set Dressing	Gretchen Tanner & Kelly Morrison
Wardrobe	Terri Smith-Fraser
Hair and Make-up	Alexandra French
Logo and Poster Artwork	Matthew Goodmanson

Administrative Team Leads

Artistic Director	Michele Gaudet
Technical Director	Stephen Melanson (Interim)
Ticketing Liaison	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Sponsorship Coordinator	Bonnie Matthews
Canteen Managers	Joe LeBlanc & Wanda Sutherland
Front of House Managers	Tierney Thibodeau & Pat Brinton
Hall & Lobby Set Up	Pat Brinton & Lawrence Baker
Photographer - Headshots	Jay Fisher
Photographer - Rehearsals	Carl Wills
Program	Elaine Melanson
Poster	Kelly Morrison
Program Proofreader	Alexander MacDougall
Poster Distribution	Kelly Morrison
Telephone Notification Team	Sandy Van der Made
Volunteer Coordinator	Clair Henderson
Volunteer Database Manager	Rose Pearle
Newsletter Editor	Elaine Melanson
Publicity - Social Media	Randy Burt & Elaine Melanson
Website	Alexander MacDougall
Charity Coordinator	Wendy Hutt

Production Volunteers

Front of House & Canteen

Tierney Thibodeau
Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Barbara Cowan
Clair Henderson
Monique LeBlanc
Patricia MacLeod
Rose Anne Kennedy
Sandy Mitchell
Wanda Sutherland
Elaine Melanson
Leo Weniger
Lorraine Watson
Lynne Isnor
Alexandra Fraser
Josh Law
Kathy O'Brien
Kristina Creamer

Props & Set Dressing

Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Kelly Morrison
Gretchen Tanner
Emma Whitley
Michele Gaudet

Wardrobe

Terri Smith Fraser
Pam Wood
Pam Spicer
Cast Members

Publicity

Kelly Morrison
Trelawney Erwin
Randy Burt

Set Construction & Painting

Bryn Rowlands
Beth Spratt
Stephen Melanson
Slavko Negulic
Kelly Morrison
Gretchen Tanner
Peter Hall
Emma Whitley

Hall & Lobby Setup

Knights of Columbus
Bedford Council 9404
Elaine Melanson
Michele Gaudet
Beth Spratt
Rhea Vardy MacPhee
Kelly Morrison
Wanda Sutherland

Lighting Design

Stephen Melanson

Sound Design

Alex Chapman

Lighting Setup

Stephen Melanson
Duncan MacPhee
Kevin Gerrior
Alex Chapman
Emma Whitley
Sanda Knox

Technical Operators

Caroline Canning
Kyle Grace
Sierra Cunningham

Phone Notification

Diana Mabbett
Dianne McDonald
Audrey Peake
Rose Pearle
Debbie Saarloos
Sandy van der Made

Poster Distribution

Lynn Reicker
Stephen Melanson
Cast & Crew

Pre-Show Slide Presentation

Trelawney Erwin

Voice Overs

Female Juror - Emma Whitley
Jury Foreman - Alex Chapman
Show Announcements - Kris Lane

And others whose names may have been missed due to publishing deadlines.

THANK YOU!

Bedford Players Board of Directors 2026-2027

President	Elaine Melanson
Vice-President	Clair Henderson
Treasurer/Ticketing Liaison	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Secretary	Pat Brinton
Artistic Director	Michele Gaudet
Director	Kelly Morrison
Director	Lorraine Cantwell
Director	Wanda Sutherland
Director	Mike Taylor
Director	Amanda Willmore
Director	Brad Morrison

Please recycle your program by leaving it on your chair or handing it to an usher as you exit the theatre.

Thank you!

We appreciate...

All Saints Anglican Church, Wardens, Pastor, Church Secretary, Caretaker and **Parishioners** for their on-going support and for our wonderful rehearsal and performance venue.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore for the loan of some set furnishings

Kim Chiasson for the kind donation of the banister spindles

Cathy McConnell of **Fall River Interiors and Furniture Rental** (cathyj1961@outlook.com) for the loan of two chairs on set.

Jay Fisher (Capture It Photography) for his donation of professional headshots of the cast and crew

Carl Wills (Carl Wills Photography) for his donation of photography of show rehearsals

Our **Sponsors** who are found throughout this program. Please support them with your patronage.

Our many **Volunteers** who work diligently to make our productions a huge success. Their time, talents and efforts are greatly appreciated!

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Thank You!

Upcoming...



bedfordplayers.ca

Self Help
by Norm Foster
Directed by Lorraine Cantwell
March 4 - 20, 2027

Dartmouth Players
The magic of live theatre

dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

Memories of a Christmas Ornament
by Maureen Rooney
Directed by Jason Dick
November 26-December 12, 2026

Theatre Arts Guild

tagtheatre.com

Bob's Your Elf
by Norm Foster
Directed by Michele Moore
November 19-December 12, 2026