

Welcome to the 2022-23 Marcus Theatre Season!

And what a way to begin, by ushering in the spooky season with a unique take on stories that have been a part of the American literature cannon for over 175 years. Edgar Allan Poe is often considered the father of both the modern detective story and the psychological horror genre. His tales take us to dark places within the human psyche, unimaginable places but yet impossible to look away from. What an amazing imagination Poe must have had to be brave enough to expose the dangerous possibilities of human darkness!

Poe himself had a troubled life journey. He was orphaned at a very young age, unsuccessful at most of his youthful ventures, and loved and married his young cousin. After her death, he lost hope and fell victim to alcoholism and suspected drug abuse. He died at age 40 under mysterious circumstances. And yet, he left a legacy that transcends time and fields beyond literature. In addition to Gothic horror, the modern detective story, and science fiction, Poe has followers in the fields of cryptography and criminal science.

The never-answered question is this: Who is capable of exploring such dark ideas and laying them out for us to both be thrilled and repulsed by? What type of person could actually imagine these creatures and their deeds? Is that person also capable of great, selfless love? Are they misunderstood, ahead of their time, or misshapen in some way? And an even bigger question is this: why are we fascinated by the darkness? What drives our passion for discovering the murderer, being thrilled by suspense, and finding pleasure in being scared or surprised? “Murder by Poe” asks all of these questions and more in a short 80 minutes.

Thank you for joining us for the show, and for supporting the students of Marcus Theatre. We hope you enjoy the journey as much as we have, and look forward to seeing you again this season!

Denise Tooch, Director
Marcus Theatre

Cast and Crew



Bella Brown

The Wife/Ensemble

Bella Brown has been in Marcus Theatre for all four years of her high school career. You may have seen her last year as Delightful in “Dearly Departed”, or in the ensemble of “Little Shop of Horrors”. She’s so excited to share this performance with you, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Alex Covarrubias

Heart

Alex is a senior and in her third year of Varsity Theatre. She has been a part of 9 productions at Marcus Theatre, namely: Alice in “Alice”, Emily in “Our Town”, and Lucille in “Dearly Departed”. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Micah Dooley

Lighting Designer/Head

Micah is a senior in his fourth year of Varsity Tech, and is excited for his last theatre season at Marcus! He has taken on many roles at MHS over the past few years. Some of his favorites are stage managing “Little Shop of Horrors”, earning fourth place in the National Thespy Lighting Design Competition, and serving as Thespyan Board President this year. He plans to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Design & Technology after graduation.



Jake Drissel

Light Crew/Board Operator

Jake is the light board operator for "Murder by Poe". He hopes you enjoy the show... it's pretty deadly.



Peyton Durham

Set Crew

Peyton is a junior at Marcus High School. She is currently in Tech Theatre as well as Choir. In the past, she's worked on "Little Shop of Horrors".



Will Gange

Old Man/MInister

Will hopes you enjoy the show!



Trevor Gappinger

Inspector/Policeman 2/Ensemble

Trevor is a junior in Varsity Theatre. He has acting experience in "Our Town" and "Museum" in 2021, and technical experience with Props and Stage Management throughout his high school years. He enjoys working on shows with his friends and learning new styles and ideas in theatre. Trevor thanks you for coming and hopes you enjoy the performance.



Sarthak Garg

Zoo Man/Policeman 1/Ensemble

Sarthak is currently a Junior at Marcus High School, and in the varsity class for the Marcus Theatre Program. This will be his 5th show here at MHS. He would like to thank his peers, his family for all the support, and especially his directors for giving him so many opportunities. Sarthak hopes you enjoy the show, and have a great time watching "Murder by Poe".



Tristian Hall

Light Crew

This is Tristin's second show at Marcus, his first being part of sound in "Our Town" in 2021. He is a sophomore who is also involved in the Clay Target Team. He plans to attend Texas A&M to become a math teacher.



Birdie Kitzmiller

Props Crew

This is Birdie's second show with Marcus Theatre. She enjoys creating with her hands in any form, and gave her best on the props! She hopes you enjoy the show!



Andrew Lane

Light Crew

This is Andrew's second show in Marcus Theatre, his first being lighting crew for Little Shop of Horrors in 2022. He is a sophomore, and is excited to be working on "Murder by Poe".



Isaac Ludlam

Stage Manager

This is Isaac's first time Stage Managing, he has loved working with all of the wonderful cast and crew.



Reed Lyons

Usher/William Wilson

Reed is a senior who has been doing theatre with Marcus since his freshman year. He hopes you enjoy the show.



Tiana Mazisyuk

Asst. Stage Manager

Tiana is a senior at Marcus High School. This is her first time being assistant stage manager. She usually works in the costume crew, but she is glad to be part of the production. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Kasey McNatt

Sound Designer/Board Operator

Kasey is a junior here at Marcus. This is their sixth show doing sound for the Theatre Department, and their 10th show overall. They have listened to orangutan noises a little too much for this show. Everyone has worked very hard and they hope you enjoy it.



Bella Murtoff

Mademoiselle L'Espanaye/Marie/Ensemble (9/16 & 9/18)

Bella is a junior and currently enrolled in the Varsity class for the Marcus Theatre program. Her favorite past roles at Marcus include Crystal in "Little Shop of Horrors", and Francois in "Museum". She wants to thank her extremely talented cast for all the great memories and laughs. Bella hopes you enjoy the show!



Rachel Noble

The Queen

Rachel is a junior in her third year with Marcus Theatre! She is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with this wonderful cast, and cannot wait to perform. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Josh Nownes

Set Crew

Josh is a senior at Marcus High School. He became a part of the Marcus family his freshman year. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a lot of show experience, but is very eager to gain the knowledge on upcoming shows and plays. Joshua is planning to attend Texas A&M in Corpus Christi to possibly join the aquatic sciences department. He hopes to eventually become a marine biologist.



Eli Oxley

Master Carpenter

Eli is a senior at Marcus enjoying his 12th show with Marcus Theatre. He was previously Master Carpenter for "Our Town" and "Little Shop of Horrors". He was the Lighting Designer for "Trojan Women" and "Museum". He is very excited for the show and hopes you enjoy it!



Rebekah Rogers

Mademoiselle L'Espanaye/Marie/Ensemble (9/15 & 9/17)

This is Bex's first year in Varsity, and is very excited for this show! The cast has worked so hard to make these characters come to life, and she can't wait to perform for you. Enjoy the show!



Autumn Russell

Costume Crew

Autumn is a junior this year, and has been involved in theatre since middle school. Some shows they have been in include "Newsies Jr.", "Into the Woods Jr.", and "The Lion King Jr.". They have mainly worked on set crew and sound. Autumn is involved in FFA for her school, and raises a goat every year. Autumn would love to attend college at Texas A&M, and get her bachelors in marine biology.



Peyton Scheffler

Madame L'Espanaye/Madame Roget/Mrs. Clemm

Peyton is a junior involved in Marcus Theatre and Marcus Choir. She is in Fusion, a Marcus Choir Officer, and was an ensemble member in "Little Shop of Horrors" last year. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Lauren Sciandra

Pluto

This is Lauren's sixth production at Marcus Theatre! She loves acting and being a technician in as many productions as she can, and is very grateful to be a part of this program. Lauren is a Junior who also participates in CYT Dallas (Christian Youth Theatre), as well as photography at Marcus! Lauren is very excited to be a part of this show and hopes you enjoy it!!



Elli Sheinmann

The Woman

Elli is a senior this year, and is thrilled for "Murder by Poe"! You may have previously seen her as Helen in "The Trojan Women", or as part of the ensemble in "Little Shop of Horrors". She was also head of hair and makeup for "Our Town". Elli is excited for the future, and what else is in store for Varsity Theatre. She hopes you enjoy this unique show!



Montana Staten

Cat

Montana is a junior who really enjoys theatre. This is his fifth production at Marcus, where he has played Orin in "Little Shop of Horrors", Simon in "Our Town", Horace in "Courtship", Michael Wall in "Museum", and now is playing Cat in "Murder by Poe". He is grateful for this opportunity, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Corbin Stogner

Accent Actor/Prefect/Ensemble

Corbin is a Junior, and a very passionate actor. He has worked in several shows here at Marcus. He is very excited to be performing as a Varsity member. He hopes all attendees have a wonderful time, and that they enjoy all the details of "Murder By Poe".



Jordan Thompson

Costume Designer/Head

This is Jordan's second show as a Head Costume Designer, her first being "Little Shop of Horrors" last year. She has enjoyed her time working on this show, and hopes you enjoy the performance.



Van Beveren
Costume Crew

This is Van Beveren's third show with Marcus Theatre. Having worked on costumes and puppets before, he is excited to be working on Murder by Poe. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Holden Wallin
Set Crew

Holden Wallin is a sophomore at Marcus High School. He is in the Marcus Tech Theatre class. He wants to attend UNT in the future.



Lleytan Watt
C. Auguste Dupin

Lleytan is excited for everyone to watch "Murder by Poe", and see how hard the cast and crew worked putting this show together. He is in the 11th grade and plans to be in theatre all throughout highschool.



Alyssa Wheeler

Props Master

Alyssa is a junior in high school. This is her fourth show doing props and the fifth show overall with Marcus Theater. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Ash Williard

Props Crew

Ash is a sophomore and working in their very first show. They hope you enjoy the performance.

Many thanks to the following!

Marcus High School Theatre Arts Booster Club, Booster Board & Committees

Concessions - Elizabeth Staten
Fundraising - Triana Burroughs
Meals - Marla Allen
Box Office - Mario & Melissa Covarrubias
Banquet - Stephanie Thompson
Lobby Decor - Carlee Belcher

Parents, you are your kids' biggest fans! This production and program would not be successful without your contributions.

Flower Mound High School Theatre
Bethany Millington & Jared Leonard
Mrs. Bollinger's Junior Varsity Class for the lobby decorations.