



AUDITION PACKET

No Body To Murder

By Edith Weiss

Directed by Joel & Jenn Soukkala

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 218-451-0715 or countyseatgm@aol.com

AUDITIONS: Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6 pm.

**If this audition time does not work for you please contact the director to set up an alternative time.*

***Please note casting may take 1-2 weeks. Those not cast - may or may not receive an individual phone call.*

Feel free to contact the theater for cast list or further questions.

WHAT DO I NEED FOR AUDITIONS? Auditions will consist of a cold read from the Acting Sides and possibly other sections from the script. Full scripts are available for perusal upon request. Bring a completed audition form and a calendar reflecting any conflicts with you.

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION:

Rehearsals may begin as early as Dec. 18, 2023

Local Performances to be held: Jan. 26-28 & Feb. 1-4 (subject to change)

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Bad news — in the form of severe thunderstorms and an escaped convict — threatens the guests at the Come On Inn of Nova Scotia. By the end of the day, gung-ho aerobics instructor Billie Body is mysteriously murdered during a power outage. Was it the cook's lemonade that poisoned her, or did someone else have a hand in Body's death? Who would have the audacity to commit murder under so many noses? Inspector Black, on the scene in search of the escaped convict, has his job cut out for him. As the winds howl, suspicions rage — from Garth the gardener (who weeds with an axe) to an inept doctor on holiday from malpractice suits to a hairdresser who constantly changes her appearance — everyone has a hidden motive to want Billie Body dead. After all, she does have abs "to die for"!

Characters: 6 male, 12 female, 2 other

Mrs. McGarragher – Housekeeper; sweet and sensible

Magee – butler, hates his job, very dry

Nina – young maid, prone to hysterics

Nancy – Nina's sister; also a maid; flighty and not too bright

Dot – cook; brash, down to earth; specializes in inedible dishes

Garth – gardener; a rather scary weird person

Dr. McCandlish – medical doctor; stuffy, tense

Dr. McCrackern – another; full of himself, stressed

Dr. Carron – another; nervous

Countess de Mer – older and grumpy; loves to complain

Billie Body – enthusiastic aerobics instructor; owns a gym

Colonel Muckle – gruff, retired Marine; wears thick glasses

Ellen Mook – brisk businesswoman

Miss Hibdon-Brown – senior counselor for Outward Ho; feisty and proper

Miss Van Brune – another 'gung-ho; wears her hair in a bun

Bernard – very bad mime who wears traditional mime makeup

Cecily – Bernard's sister; exuberant, insensitive; drives Bernard crazy

Hilda the Hairdresser – constantly changes her hairstyle

Greta – older actress; dramatic. Very "theatre"; just wants to be alone; wears sunglasses indoors

Inspector Black – believes he should get the respect his position deserves

Audition Form:

No Body To Murder

Please bring this completed form with you to your audition with calendar and conflicts
(*acting resume and headshots are optional*).

Name_____

Address_____

Home phone_____

Cell phone_____ (Do you text message? Yes / No)

E-mail_____

Occupation_____ Age_____ Height_____

Work or school hours_____

Have you been vaccinated for Covid-19? Yes / No Pronouns_____

If you are familiar with this play, are there any part that interests you?

Would you accept another part if not offered any listed above? _____

Would you consider being an understudy for a role? _____

Would you consider working on the crew or technical team? _____

Do you, **sing**, dance, **play an instrument** or have other special talents? If so, please explain level of skill:

Experience: Although not required, please list some of your theater background.
Some of this information may be used in the playbill for the show.

Do you have ANY conflicts during the rehearsal/performance schedule? _____

Please list ALL conflicts below (be as specific as possible to dates, times). Additional conflicts after being cast may not be accepted?

Casting Agreement:

By accepting a role, I agree to play the role assigned to me to the best of my ability, trusting the judgement of the director and staff. In doing so, I also agree to wear the costumes, makeup and wig or hairstyle of the director's and/or designer's choosing.

Initial _____

Attendance Agreement:

By accepting a role, I agree to attend all rehearsals and performances as defined by the rehearsal schedule. I agree to arrive in a timely matter and be prepared to start when directed to do so. I also agree to abide by all theater rules while at rehearsals and performances.

Initial _____

Thank you so much for auditioning for the show!
We appreciate your time and interest in the County Seat Theater Comp

NO BODY TO MURDER

Scene One

1 AT RISE: McGARRAGHER sits at the desk while MAGEE dusts around the room.

McGARRAGHER: I can't believe Garth shredded this week's reservation list to use for mulch! Who does that?

5 **MAGEE:** He's a gardener, Mrs. McGarragher. We're just lucky he answered the phone at all.

McGARRAGHER/MAGEE: (*Shake their heads.*) Garth!

McGARRAGHER: Oh, look! He took a reservation for next week—the annual Elvis impersonators convention will be here again. At least he didn't shred that.

10 **MAGEE:** Remember last year? One more time hearing "I'm just a hunka hunka burning love" and I was ready to shove my chamois down someone's throat.

McGARRAGHER: Well, we have a week to gird our loins as it were. But this week should be nice and quiet. (*Huge scream OFF LEFT from NANCY and NINA.*) Oh, good heavens! (*NANCY and NINA run ON LEFT.*)

MAGEE: What is it?

15 **NANCY:** Oh, Mrs. McGarragher, ma'am! Oh, Magee! What we just heard on the radio!

NINA: We are so scared!

NANCY: There is an escaped convict—

NINA: An escaped convict named Pat Menace. Menace! That's not just coincidental, is it? Menace is a bad thing.

25 **NANCY:** Yes! There's Dennis the Menace, and he's a troublemaker.

NINA: But he's just a boy!

NANCY: Not even a real boy! A cartoon boy! A boy in—

McGARRAGHER: Get to the point! You heard on the radio...?

30 **NINA:** That an escaped convict named Menace is headed for our island.

NANCY: Where we're standing right now.

NINA: And he's dangerous and may be carrying a weapon.

NANCY: A weapon, Mrs. McGarragher!

NINA: A weapon he could kill us all with!

35 **McGARRAGHER:** Nina! Nancy! Calm down! Just because he's headed to the island doesn't mean he's coming to this house.

1 **MAGEE:** Well, we are the most prominent building visible from the shore. It is a little worrisome.

GARTH: (*ENTERS RIGHT suddenly, with an axe. Badly dressed, scowling.*) I'm here. (*NINA, NANCY, MAGEE and McGARRAGHER scream.*)

5 **McGARRAGHER:** (*After they recover.*) Oh, Garth! You scared us half to death!

GARTH: Sorry. I was weeding.

MAGEE: With an axe?

GARTH: Big weeds.

10 **DOT:** (*ENTERS LEFT and crosses to GARTH by the front door.*) There you are, Garth! Where are the tomatoes?

GARTH: In the garden.

DOT: Of course they're in the garden! I asked you to pick me some for lunch!

15 **GARTH:** I was weeding.

DOT: Get out there and get me my tomatoes!

GARTH: Say please.

DOT: (*Grudgingly.*) Please get me my tomatoes. (*GARTH EXITS RIGHT, growling.*)

20 **McGARRAGHER:** What's for lunch, Dot?

DOT: Stewed tomatoes.

MAGEE: Stewed tomatoes? That's all?

DOT: Of course not. We're having tomatoes and lemonade. (*SOUND EFFECT: KNOCK on the door.*)

25 **McGARRAGHER:** Magee, the door, please.

MAGEE: Dot's closer.

DOT: I'll get it. (*Opens the front door.*) Hello. Welcome to the Come On Inn of Nova Scotia. (*McCANDLISH, McCRACKEN and CARRON ENTER RIGHT, each carrying a suitcase and briefcase. They are all very tense.*)

30 **McCRACKEN:** Hello. We're Drs. McCracken...

McCANDLISH: ...McCandlish...

CARRON: ...and Carron.

McCANDLISH: We're surgeons. Always under pressure.

35 **McCRACKEN:** Very stressed.

McCANDLISH: People always yelling, "You've cut off the wrong leg!" Stuff like that.

CARRON: (*Indicates McCANDLISH.*) At him. Not us.

McCRACKEN: We need a holiday.

1 **CARRON:** Badly. We've been working on a muscle building serum!

McCRACKEN: Dr. Carron! No shoptalk!

CARRON: Sorry.

5 **McGARRAGHER:** We're dedicated to your relaxation and health. You won't be disturbed! Nina, Nancy, Magee, please help Drs. McCracken, McCandlish and Carron with their luggage. *(They do, EXITING LEFT with the DOCTORS. SOUND EFFECT: KNOCK on the door.)*

DOT: I'll get it. *(Opens the door, COUNTESS de MER ENTERS RIGHT, holding a small piece of carry-on luggage.)* Hello. Come on in.

10 **McGARRAGHER:** Let me get your luggage, Mrs...

COUNTESS: Countess de Mer.

McGARRAGHER: Of course. Pardon me, Countess. How was your boat ride?

15 **COUNTESS:** Unpleasant. It was choppy, wet and windy. I hate the water! Why must you be surrounded by water? I find that a bit ostentatious.

DOT: It's an island, Countess. Islands generally are surrounded by water. That's why they're called islands.

20 **BILLIE'S VOICE:** *(From OFF RIGHT.)* Countess de Mer! *(NINA, NANCY and MAGEE ENTER LEFT.)*

DOT: What in the world?

COUNTESS: Oh, that's just some annoying woman who wouldn't stop talking about her pecs. She fell out of the boat.

25 **BILLIE:** *(ENTERS RIGHT, wrapped in a blanket, carrying a large suitcase which she slams down indignantly.)* You threw me out of the boat!

COUNTESS: You spent the entire ride talking about the benefits of exercise. *(Innocent.)* I assumed you wanted to swim.

McGARRAGHER: Welcome. I'm Mrs. McGarragher. You must be Billie Body of Body by Billie Fitness Clubs?

30 **BILLIE:** The countess threw me out of the boat!

McGARRAGHER: I'm sure it's just a misunderstanding. We really need to get you dried off. Magee, could you get the luggage, please?

MAGEE: Right this way, ladies. *(Tries to pick up BILLIE'S luggage. It's very heavy.)* It's so heavy! What's in here?

35 **BILLIE:** My weights. Come on, now, lift! It's good for the abs. Bend your knees and breathe! No pain, no gain! Let's go! *(She and MAGEE EXIT LEFT. MAGEE carries the luggage.)*

COUNTESS: Do you see why I threw her out of the boat?

DOT: There are sharks in that water, you know!

40 **COUNTESS:** So?

1 **NINA:** We'll be taking your luggage now.

NANCY: (*Aside to NINA.*) I'm scared of her.

NINA: Me, too. You first, ma'am.

NANCY: Yes. Please. Age before beaut— I mean maids. Age before
5 maids.

COUNTESS: Excuse me?

McGARRAGHER: She means guests before maids, don't you, Nancy?

NANCY: Yes! Aged guests before maids.

MAGEE: (*ENTERS LEFT.*) I'm beginning to pine for the Elvis
10 impersonators.

MUCKLE'S VOICE: (*From OFF RIGHT.*) Hut, two, three, four! (*SOUND
EFFECT: Another KNOCK.*)

McGARRAGHER: Magee, please get the door.

MAGEE: My back hurts.

15 **DOT:** I'll get it.

MUCKLE: (*ENTERS RIGHT with ELLEN.*) Ten hut! (*Salutes. ALL salute
back.*) Colonel Muckle at your service. And may I introduce Miss
Ellen Mook, a fine young woman who I am trying to recruit.

ELLEN: It made for an interesting boat ride.

20 **MUCKLE:** The Marines—the few and the proud! We do more by six
a.m. than most people do all day!

ELLEN: He thinks that's a good thing. Don't ask me why.

MUCKLE: We're missing Miss Hibdon-Brown and Miss Van Brune.
(*Yells out the door.*) March two, three, four, ladies! (*HIBDON-BROWN
25 and VAN BRUNE ENTER RIGHT, out of breath and carrying large
backpacks. They collapse on the couch.*)

HIBDON-BROWN: Come on, Miss Van Brune. We made it.

VAN BRUNE: We ran the whole way!

DOT: Ran with those backpacks? Up the hill? Why?

30 **MUCKLE:** One must keep ahead of the enemy.

NINA: Enemy? Are we at war?

NANCY: We're just a little island. Who would go to war against us?

ELLEN: You're not at war.

MUCKLE: One must always presume one could be at war. It keeps
35 one fit!

DOT: Oh, my. We've got a live one.

MUCKLE: And alive we shall all stay, if we stay alert at all times! Look
to the left! Look to the right!

1 **VAN BRUNE:** *(Puts her head between her knees.)* I'm getting nauseous.
All that running, all that looking left and right.

HIBDON-BROWN: My goodness, we haven't introduced ourselves. I'm
Miss Hibdon-Brown, and this is Miss Van Brune. We are senior
5 counselors with Outward Ho!

VAN BRUNE: *(Stands tall again.)* Our motto—health through hiking!

HIBDON-BROWN: Calm through camping!

VAN BRUNE: Serenity through self-sufficiency!

HIBDON-BROWN/VAN BRUNE: *(Sing.)* Outward Ho!

10 **McGARRAGHER:** Well, yes, um... isn't that nice? I'm Mrs.
McGarragher.

HIBDON-BROWN: Mrs. McGarragher, would you care to buy a box of
Outward Ho bulgur and wheat bits? If we sell 200 more boxes, we
get to go camping in Switzerland.

15 **MUCKLE:** Don't go to Switzerland! They are totally unprepared for war!

ELLEN: The Swiss don't go to war. They're always neutral.

MUCKLE: They're neutral because they're always unprepared!

ELLEN: They're neutral because it's their philosophy!

McGARRAGHER: Now, now... you're on vacation, no talking politics!

20 **MUCKLE:** Everything is politics!

DOT: Why don't you all go get settled in your rooms? Magee will help
you.

MAGEE: No, I won't. My back is killing me.

McGARRAGHER: Nancy and Nina, please help the guests.

25 **NINA:** Come along, then. With Colonel Muckle here, I feel ever so
better about Pat Menace, the escaped convict.

GUESTS: Escaped convict?!

NANCY: Oh, yes! Armed and dangerous!

GUESTS: Armed and dangerous?!

30 **NINA:** Yes. And probably headed our way!

McGARRAGHER: Of course he's not headed our way. He'll want to get
away from people, now, won't he? So there's nothing to worry about.
Nina, Nancy, take the guests to their rooms—without another word.

(NINA, NANCY and GUESTS EXIT LEFT.)

35 **MAGEE:** Actually, I'm worried.

McGARRAGHER: Me, too. But we can't show it. Put on a smile! Look
happy! *(MAGEE smiles hugely and stiffly. SOUND EFFECT: KNOCK*
on door.)

MAGEE: It's the door.

DOT: Aren't you going to get it? You are the butler after all!

MAGEE: Just because I'm the butler doesn't mean I'm going to get the door. You're the cook, and you never make anything that's edible.

McGARRAGHER: Answer the darned door, Magee.

MAGEE: *(Smiles hugely.)* My face hurts and my back is out.

DOT: All right, all right! I'll get it. *(Opens the door. CECILY, HILDA, GRETA and BERNARD ENTER RIGHT, each carrying a suitcase.)*

CECILY: Hello! I've been knocking just about forever out there! It's ever so wonderful to be here! The boat ride was fabulous. I just love the wind in my hair! This is Hilda, who is a hairdresser and gave me all sorts of amazing tips on my hairdo.

HILDA: Nice to meet you.

CECILY: And this is a very famous but retired actress, Greta.

GRETA: I came here to be alone. I am exhausted.

CECILY: And this is my brother Bernard. As you can probably tell, of course, he's a mime.

BERNARD: Hello.

GRETA: Mimes are not supposed to talk. They speak only with the eloquence of their bodies.

CECILY: *(Cheerful.)* He's a very bad mime. Isn't he, darling? *(Pinches BERNARD'S cheek.)*

BERNARD: Just because I talk doesn't mean I'm a bad mime! It's a whole new concept! You just don't understand!

HILDA: I think you've overdone the makeup a bit. You look very pale.

BERNARD: It's whiteface! Mimes are always in whiteface!

HILDA: And really, that eyeliner! It's so passé. The natural look is in, you know.

BERNARD: No one ever understands a true artist in his lifetime.

CECILY: Isn't he precious? Well, come on, let's get this stuff out of here so we can eat!

NINA/NANCY: *(ENTER LEFT. Scream.)* A ghost!

HILDA: It's Bernard. He's a mime.

BERNARD: Nobody understands me!

NANCY: I thought mimes weren't supposed to talk.

CECILY: He's a very bad mime!

GRETA: This reminds me of a movie in which I starred. It was called "The Mime Always Rings Twice." It was a retelling of the Hunchback of Notre Dame story. I played a woman who was to be married at one o'clock, but the bell tower mime, being stupid, always rang

1 twice. So it was always two o'clock. It was a love story with pathos
and tragedy.
DOT: *(To self.)* Oh, boy. This week should be very interesting.
(BLACKOUT.)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

5 **LIGHTS UP:** That evening. McGARRAGHER is sitting at the desk again.
The GUESTS, except MUCKLE, are all in the room—HILDA is sitting
and working on her hair, ELLEN is reading a business journal, BILLIE
is leading an exercise session with the three DOCTORS, VAN BRUNE,
HIBDON-BROWN and BERNARD. The DOCTORS and BERNARD are vying
10 for the closest position to BILLIE. Unaware of this, she keeps moving.
MAGEE has a tray of drinks and DOT a tray of finger sandwiches, which
they offer to COUNTESS, CECILY and GRETA. MUCKLE ENTERS LEFT,
without his glasses.

MUCKLE: Has anyone seen my glasses?

15 **BILLIE:** And pulse! And pulse! And grapevine! To the left!

MUCKLE: Aerobics! I love aerobics! *(Joins the aerobics class. He also
tries to get close to BILLIE.)*

BILLIE: And grapevine to the right! To the right!

CARRON: Miss Body, if we could just sit down and talk—

20 **MUCKLE:** Billie, could we—

BILLIE: And step, and step. And shoulders forward! Big circles! Go for
the burn!

McCRACKEN: If we could just take a little break and talk—

BILLIE: And reverse those shoulders! Big arm circles! Come on, you
25 can do it!

McCANDLISH: I feel like an idiot.

BILLIE: Rotate the hips! Right—front—left—back! And right—front—
left—back! Come on, McCandlish, only six more to go!

NINA: *(She and NANCY run IN LEFT, screaming. Aerobics end, BILLIE
pulls on a bulky warm up jacket.)* The radio!

30 **NANCY:** The radio!

MUCKLE: Radio? It could be a bomb! Stand back, everyone! I'll save
you, Billie. Lie on the ground, and I'll protect you with my own body!

BILLIE: Move away from me, Colonel Muckle.

35 **MUCKLE:** But I just—

COUNTESS: Sit down, you old blowhard. Obviously the problem is not
the radio but something they heard on the radio!