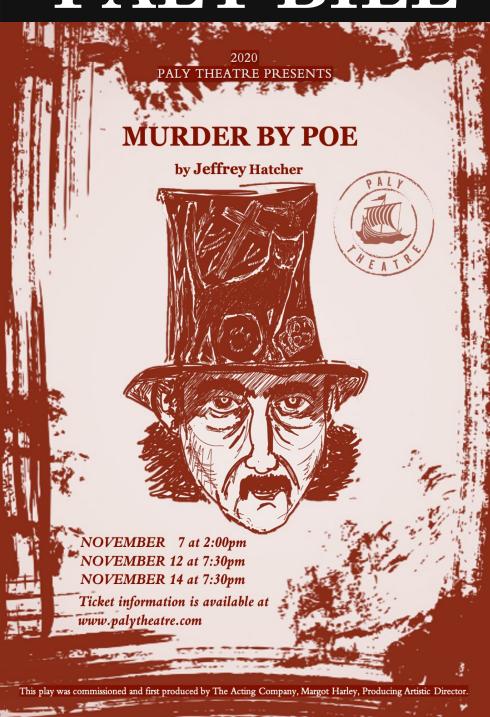
# PALY BILL



## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

Edgar Allan Poe's works and life have endlessly fascinated readers and audiences, and adaptations of his stories have long tried to put their own stamp on the characters, the plots, and the themes that this talented writer created. This adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher, however, might be my favorite, because it not only playfully and poignantly re-imagines famous individual stories, but also presents a moving interpretation of Poe's work as a whole. It does so through the mysterious character that opens our show, and her journey to try to understand what is keeping all of Poe's most well-known protagonists trapped in this mysterious house.

The play also presents a very fun challenge in its relationship with "reality." Poe wrote in and about a very specific time period that we want to evoke, but Hatcher's script is boldly surrealistic, with characters popping up to chime in on each other, and frequent breaking of the fourth wall. This dreamlike quality of our text seemed to me to be the perfect opportunity to experiment with the incorporation of animation, dance, and other surprise technical elements.

I'm incredibly grateful to the whole cast and crew of this production for going on this odd and fascinating journey with me throughout the rehearsal process; this script provokes enough questions on its own, before you even mention the words "live-streaming," and they remained undaunted in the face of the challenges we had to troubleshoot our way through. Furthermore, they came up with many of the solutions we were able to implement, and were always ready to brainstorm and propose new ideas at rehearsal. The result is a true group effort, and an innovative and surprising work of virtual theatre that we are thrilled to share with you.

So enjoy some of your favorite Poe stories, the provocative script Hatcher has put them into, and the creative work of our talented cast and crew in bringing this piece to the comfort of your homes! Enjoy!
-Sarah Thermond, Director

#### SETTING

A mysterious house in the woods, the 1840's *Murder by Poe* is performed in one-act, running approximately 70 minutes.

PAUSD's Arts Programs are supported by donations to Palo Alto Partners in Education

**No Unauthorized Recordings Allowed** 

## **CAST**

The Woman	Eve DeMarzo**
Roderick Usher	Niklas Hagstroem
C. Auguste Dupin	Jonathan Sneh**
Heart	Zoe McCrea**
Cat	Miles Gardner
Marie Roget	Alisha Bernatski
The Inspector	Sophia Vostrejs
The Accent Actor	Kyle Vetter
Madame L'Espanaye	Maya Mazor-Hoofien**
Mademoiselle L'Espanaye	Alisha Bernatski
The Zookeeper	Athya Paramesh
M. Charlot, The Ape	Abigail Friedland
The Wife	Rebecca Helft
Pluto, the Cat	Athya Paramesh
Policeman #1	Roxanna Reid
Policeman #2	Abigail Friedland
The Old Man	Eloise Dumas
William Wilson	Kyle Vetter
The Prefect	Claire Lai
The Queen	Arielle Blumenfeld
The Minister	Sofia Vincent
Madame Roget	Maya Mazor-Hoofien**
Mrs. Clemm	Eloise Duma

## **CREW**

Assistant Director	Maya Mazor-Hoofien**
Stage Manager	Ethan Chen*
Assistant Stage Manager	Katel Fong*
Background & Props Designers	Caely Orr, Perla Barron Montes
Costume Designer	Phoebe Berghout*
Assistant Costume Designer	Cindy Xia
Hair & Make-Up Designer	Maya Mazor-Hoofien**
Assistant Hair & Make-up Designer	Sophia Vostrejs
Sound Designer	Ryan Hwangbo*
Assistant Sound Designer	Katel Fong*
Lighting Designer	Luc Stedman**
Video Designers & House Management	Ethan Chen* & Cody Hmelar**

<sup>\*</sup>Indicates members of International Thespian Society Troupe 909
\*\*Honor Thespian members of International Thespian Society Troupe 909

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Brent Kline, Brittney Kerby and Jerry Berkson

#### Adult Production Staff

Alyssa Bond Drew Carpenter Kyle Langdon Travis Fenech

#### **Parent Volunteers**

Parent Volunteer Coordinator: Deri McCrea Photography & Publicity Lead: Juliana Sonneveld Program, Poster & T-Shirt Design: Nadir Ali Ticketing: Dror Sneh & Laura Jacobsen

Props & Costumes: Janis Bajor, Frances Davies, Noel Berghout Material Distribution: Christina Augustine, Heather Marzano

Webmaster: Scott Thomas

#### **Donors**

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to us this year! Special thanks also to the following families for their generosity:

Patron Donors \$500+ Production Donors (\$250+)

Juliana SonneveldMaya BlumenfeldNadir AliKannen ParameshChristine KlenowSherry Walston-Heller

Elise DeMarzo Kristina Vetter
Anna Blaisi-Ribera
Harriet Stern
Deri McCrea

Christina Augustine

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Co-Chairs Sally-Ann Rudd, Juliana Sonneveld
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Laura Jacobson, Christine Klenow

Paly Theatre Boosters is a group of parents whose work is essential to the success of the theatre program. You can help by volunteering and donating. To join, please visit <a href="www.palytheatre.com">www.palytheatre.com</a> or send a check made out to Paly Theatre Boosters to: Sarah Thermond, Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301.