



MEET THE DIRECTOR MAUREEN SCALLANTINO



Maureen has had a long relationship with the stage. From the age of 6, Maureen has been performing on stage through dance, music, and theater, but she was in her early 20s when she first took the stage with the former Marple Newtown Players. After taking time to raise her children, she returned with the passion to make up for lost time.

She returned to the stage 15 years ago and has performed in various community theaters throughout the Delaware Valley and New Jersey, but she considers the Barn Playhouse home, where she currently serves as the Properties Chairperson.

When performing on stage, Maureen tends to be cast as the supporting comedic role, and has been grateful to play many characters she has personally loved including Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn (The Music Man), Mrs. Brill (Mary Poppins), Mazeppa (Gypsy), and Grandma Addams (Addams Family). When she's not performing or helping gather show props, she performs with the Southampton Community Band in which she plays flute, and manages their marketing and promotional initiatives.

Maureen makes her directorial debut at the Barn, but she has been directing shows for her church, high school, college and other community shows throughout her life. When it came to choosing a show for the Barn stage, she read through many scripts to find the right story to bring to the stage. Plus, she is thrilled her first show is an Agatha Christie play, an author who is close to her heart, maybe since Maureen loves a good crime story as much as The Queen of Crime herself.

WHY IS MAUREEN INTERESTED IN DIRECTING A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED?

I have been an Agatha Christie fan most of my life, in fact, in high school, I finally had the chance to perform in Ten Little Indians, the play adaptation from Christie's novel And Then There Were None.

For me, choosing a play to bring to the Barn's stage was difficult because the story, above all, needs to be enticing and interactive, not to mention needs to keep my attention. I have left many a book (and script) on the floor because they didn't capture or keep my attention. This play takes the essence of Christie's novel and keeps you guessing throughout. Just when you think the crime has been solved, the plot takes another turn. The characters are relatable, yet surprising. And it's just a lot of fun! Plus, it's always a bonus when you have an old Victorian English Country House as a backdrop because it just cries murder mystery – doesn't it?

Another reason I chose this play is because no one writes a murder mystery like Dame Agatha Christie. I have read and watched many murder mystery adaptations, but none has entertained me or kept me guessing more than an Agatha Christie story. I guess she liked a good crime story as I do.