



## MEET THE DIRECTOR

We'd like you to MEET THE DIRECTOR for our June 2023 production of the mystery REHEARSAL FOR MURDER.

Deb deCastro Braak is a veteran director, actor, and teaching artist in the Philadelphia region. She has directed a slew of area productions; at the Barn, her productions include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Macbeth*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Woman in Black*, *Blithe Spirit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *On the Razzle*. As an actor, she last appeared at the Barn as Violet Weston in *August: Osage County*. Deb holds an MA in Theater from Villanova University and is a lecturer in theatre at Penn State/Brandywine. She has also been the Education Director at The Wilma Theatre and the Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, as well as a teaching artist for the Lantern Theater. Currently, she serves on the Board for First World Theatre Ensemble.

So, Deb, why Rehearsal for Murder?

This play has a terrific appeal to me on a couple of levels. I'm \*slightly\* addicted to murder mysteries, so why not do one set in an empty theatre? The fact that in its original iteration it was a TV movie by the genius creators of two legendary TV series, *Columbo* and *Murder She Wrote*, Richard Levinson and William Link, was an extra added attraction!

The artistic challenge of staging this play is tremendously appealing to me. As a director, I love encouraging actors to dig below the surface of their characters and this play is all about what's happening underneath. I can't say why without giving away the ending (it's a mystery, after all) but it will be a fun challenge for all of us as we reveal this story, twist by clever twist, to the audience.