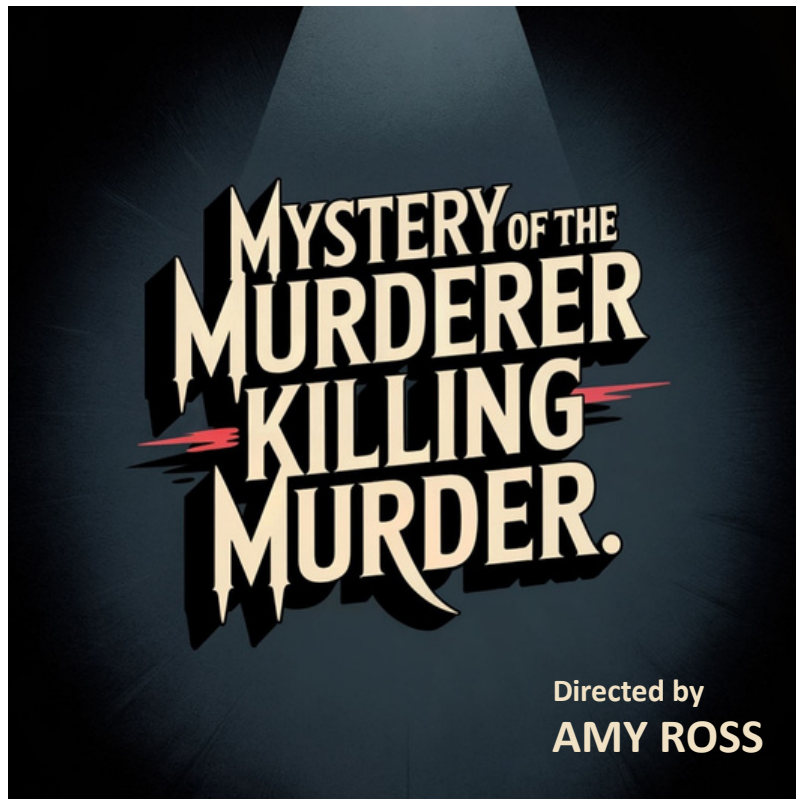


Fort Wayne
youtheatre
 AUDITION PACKET



Auditions: Monday, Aug. 17, 2026 (4:30-6:30PM)
Call-Back: Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026 (4:30-6:30PM)

CONTENTS:

Audition Notice & Info
Audition Tips
Audition Sides (Scenes)

Open Audition Spots by Reservation Only.
Sign up at FWYT.org/auditions



AUDITION NOTICE: DATES & TIMES

OPEN AUDITIONS: Monday, Aug. 17 (4:30-6:30PM)

- EVERYONE must SIGN UP online for a one hour audition spot at fwyt.org/auditions.
- Fill out the audition info online when signing up.
- Come prepared to fill out a sheet listing your rehearsal conflicts.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your audition time to check in, fill out papers, etc.
- Location: RKF Studios, 2446 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Enter the Main Doors at front of building and follow signs.

Everyone should be prepared to...

- Read from the Audition Sides provided here as assigned by the Directors at the audition.

CALL-BACK: Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026

- 4:30- 6:30PM
- Location: RKF Studios, 2446 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Actors needed at Call-Backs will be notified via call or text on Sunday after auditions.
- Call-Backs will primarily use the same Audition Sides found in this packet.

CAST LIST AVAILABLE: Friday, Aug. 21 on Youtheatre's FB & Instagram.

REHEARSALS: Mondays- Fridays, Aug. 31- Oct. 2 (4:30- 6:30)

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ON-THE-GO REHEARSALS:

On-the-Go shows typically rehearse 2-3 days a week. A specific schedule will be determined based on conflicts.

PERFORMANCES:

Public Performances: Oct. 8 (5:30PM) @ RKF Studios,

Tour Dates: Dates will be booked between Oct. 5-9 & 20-31, 2026 (No shows Oct. 10-19 for Fall Break.)

School Tour: A School Day Tour will be booked during the above time frame that will visit various schools and facilities.

ABOUT THE SHOW:

For those who can't make it to Youtheatre, Youtheatre On-the-Go brings the theatre to them! On-the-Go productions start their run with a public performance at RKF Studios, then tour the show to locations in the Fort Wayne area. This includes a school day tour. In addition, the fall On-the-Go show is recorded at the University of Saint Francis as a radio drama, then broadcast on WBOI 89.1FM around Halloween.

A group of would-be True Crime podcasters visit Shady Grove, a small town where a mysterious murder has taken place. As they try to get to the bottom of things, they meet the citizens of Shady Grove, each one more suspicious and stranger than the last. Will they get to the bottom of the case? More importantly, will they be able to get a good podcast out of it?



AUDITION NOTICE: CHARACTERS

Fort Wayne Youththeatre seeks approx. 10 actors ages 10-18 for this production.
We encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, genders and abilities to audition.
Reading skills required.

CHARACTERS...

THE PODCASTERS (Terry, Katie, Chris, & John): Four eager and inquisitive podcasters who take their jobs very seriously.

THE CITIZENS OF SHADY GROVE:

Deputy Sherriff Branigan: The town deputy.

Chief Ebner: The clueless local head lawman.

TV Reporters: 4 typical, polished TV reporter types

Confederate Soldier: A friendly southern soldier from the Civil War.

Union Soldier: A friendly northern soldier from the Civil War.

Mayor Lyons: A dim-witted politician.

Elisa Mackenzie: Dog-walker, spiritual seeker and full-time social justice warrior.

911 Operator: An emergency call center operator.

Older Woman: An old lady being interviewed in an old documentary about the town.

Teenage Girl: Runs a group to do errands for senior citizens.

William Hart: The victim's ex-husband.

Lawyer: William Hart's attorney.

Jordan Carter: The town's registered dietician.

Amanda Putnam-Hart: The pudding heiress and supposed murder victim.

Teacher: An old-fashioned school teacher.

Tommy: A student who wants to be President.

Hannah: A student who wants to be a writer.

Edward: A student who wants to make/BE pudding!

Forensics Expert: An expert frustrated with the incompetent local law.



AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION TIPS

Remember...

Don't think of an audition as a competition. Think of it as a chance to do something you love to do- perform! For however long you're up there, that role is yours. Make the most of it. Be creative. HAVE FUN!

The Directors are all rooting for you to succeed!

General Audition Tips...

- **BE PREPARED.**

Directors are impressed by actors who care.
Know the show. Read the script. Listen to the music.

- **BE ON TIME.**

- **ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION.**

Listen quietly to others. It is polite...PLUS you learn from what they do.

- **REMEMBER, YOU ARE AUDITIONING ON-STAGE & OFF.**

The directors are always watching.

- **DON'T APOLOGIZE OR MAKE EXCUSES.**

Director's can tell when you're sick. Just do the best you can.

- **GIVE IT 150%.**

Do your absolute best, then...

- **LET IT GO.**

Whatever happens happens. IT'S ONLY A PLAY!!!

Reading Audition Tips...

- **BE SEEN!**

Don't hide behind your script.
Hold it about chest level so we can see your face.

- **BE HEARD!!**

Project your voice so directors can hear & understand you.

- **BE CONFIDENT (even if it's fake)**

Plant your feet. Use your face, your hands, your whole body to communicate.

- **LISTEN TO YOUR FELLOW ACTORS!!!**

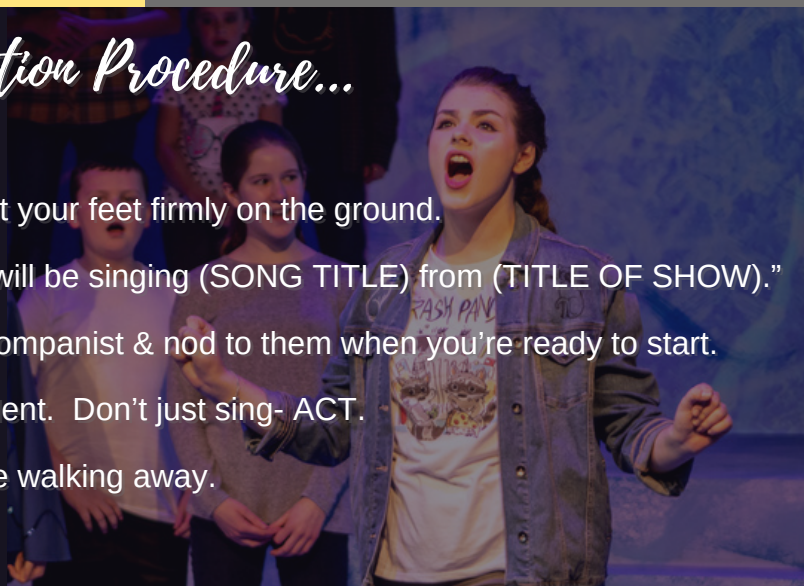
Pay attention & react to what they do.

- **DON'T JUST READ, ACT!!!!**

Directors know you can read.
Show them you can ACT!

Youth theatre Musical Vocal Audition Procedure...

- Enter
- Go to your spot in front of the Directors & plant your feet firmly on the ground.
- Say "Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME) and I will be singing (SONG TITLE) from (TITLE OF SHOW)."
- Make eye contact with the Music Director/Accompanist & nod to them when you're ready to start.
- Sing your song. Be loud. Be clear. Be confident. Don't just sing- ACT.
- When finished singing, say "Thank you" before walking away.
- Exit.





AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

SIDE #1**TERRY (CONT'D)**

OK, I'm just gonna pick it up after you talk about the different types of omelet stations. "In other words, a perfectly ordinary day. Except on this day, unlike the other perfectly ordinary days, which stayed perfectly ordinary all day, this seemingly perfectly ordinary day stopped being perfectly ordinary around 9:30 that morning, when most – but perhaps not all – of Shady Grove's residents had finished their breakfasts, and it was discovered that the most powerful woman in Shady Grove, Amanda Putnam-Hart, the C.E.O. of Shady Grove Pudding, had skipped breakfast altogether. Because –"

(we see several reporters breaking the news of the murder)

TV ANCHOR 1

Violence rocked the tight-knit community of Shady Grove today when one of its most prominent citizens was found brutally murdered in the home of -

TV ANCHOR 2

- 47-year-old pudding heiress Amanda Putnam-Hart was stabbed to death at her 134-acre estate the previous night -

TV ANCHOR 3

Putnam-Hart is the great-granddaughter of renowned pudding pioneer Edward Putnam, who in the early 1900s -

TV ANCHOR 4 -

The town's police chief, Tommy Ebner, stated that due to the quote, "stabby nature" of all three bodies, he was not prepared to rule out foul play –

JON

"In fact, foul play was very much ruled in as the cause of these deaths. But the more we read up on this case, the harder it became to make sense of it, because The Shady Grove Examiner-Bugle does that annoying thing where after like the third paragraph, they make you subscribe to read the rest of it."



AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

SIDE #1 (Continued...)

CHRIS

"This violent, tragic, and from a true-crime podcast standpoint, totally awesome murder, seemed forever doomed to fall through the cracks of history. But, after being tantalized by what we'd read, and then remembering the free flight voucher Terry snagged after he got salmonella from airline pretzels would expire next month, we decided fate was calling to us to unravel the mystery of what the townspeople called: The Murderer Killings."

(NOTE: All the town's characters, unless otherwise noted, are talking not to the audience but to the various podcasters. The podcasters themselves should be frequently moving in among the townspeople; they should not remain static for too long)

TAYLOR BRANIGAN

(Being interviewed by KATIE)

After the initial report hit, someone posted it on Twitter, and that's when the vultures started to descend.

KATIE

"That's Taylor Branigan, she was Shady Grove's Deputy Sherriff in 2020."

TAYLOR

A whole flock of reporters and tv crews swarmed into town.

TERRY

"It's important to understand, although her murder was terrible, why this crime shook the town so deeply. In order to do that, we need to learn a bit about the history of Shady Grove, and the Putnam family's place in it. Clearly, we needed to drill down into the shadowy history that cast a vast shadow over this community, a town whose darkest secrets lay hidden deep in the shadows." How many times do I have to say "shadow"?"

JON

We'll edit a few out. Keep going.

TERRY

"It's our best shot at understanding the possible motives for this horrific and hopefully commercially compelling murder. Take it away, Katie."

KATIE

Act
out

"Thanks, Terry. Shady Grove was founded in 1840, and then again in 1841, two miles to the west, when the settlers, exhausted after an extended buffalo hunt, decided it would be easier just to start over where they were. The land was beautiful, especially if you find flatness attractive, but harsh, and the settlers led hardscrabble lives. However, by the mid-1850s, through grit and diligence, most citizens were living at least a medium-scrabble



AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

SIDE #2

knitting
+
rocking

OLDER WOMAN

His father acted as a signatory, and Edward leased a tiny little building, more of shack than anything else. His first day there, he placed a sign on its door. It simply read: "E. Putnam, Pudding Monger." And every day, after he'd finished his chores and school, he'd experiment with various pudding flavors and consistencies. Sometimes the teachers let him out early, on account of how he made everyone around him uncomfortable.

(Flashback: We see several young students sitting at desks and a teacher talking to them)

TEACHER

OK class, now, today is career day. Raise your hands and when I call on you, you tell us what you want to be when you grow up. Yes, Tommy?

TOMMY

I want to be president!

TEACHER

Very good, Tommy! Now, Hannah?

HANNAH

I want to be a great writer!

TEACHER

That's lovely, Hannah.

(EDWARD is thrusting his hand in the air, desperate to get the TEACHER's attention, who is desperate to ignore him. But seeing no other hands raised, she reluctantly calls on him)

Very well, Edward Putnam.

EDWARD

I want to be pudding!

TEACHER

What?

EDWARD

I want to be pudding!

AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES**SIDE #2 (Continued...)***Hand him script***TEACHER**

I think you mean you want to make pudding.

EDWARD

Well obviously I want to make pudding. But I also want to be pudding!

TEACHER

Why don't you go home, Edward.

KATIE

"Terry?"

TERRY

"Jon?"

JON

"I'm going to pass. Chris?"

*Hand him script***CHRIS**

"At fifteen, Edward arrived at the pudding recipe that would make the Putnam family fortune. Within a year, it was the most popular dessert in the Midwest. He still made people uncomfortable. But they also ate tons of his pudding."

KATIE

"By 1916, Putnam –"

CHRIS

"I wasn't finished."

KATIE

"Oh, sorry."

CHRIS

"By 1916, Putnam had – now over to you, Katie"

KATIE

"Thanks, Chris, Putnam had –"

CHRIS

"I just said that."



AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

SIDE #3

911 OPERATOR

911, what's your emergency?

ELISA

Hi, is this 911?

911

Yes, what's your emergency?

ELISA

I um, I want to report an emergency, I guess.

911

Yes, what is the emergency, please, Ma'am?

ELISA

I think someone's dead.

911

Ok, why do you think that?

ELISA

Cos, I mean, there's a lot of blood and she's on the ground and hasn't moved at all and I've been watching her for like five minutes. That seems like...classic stuff dead people do. It's pretty gross, to be honest.

911

You watched her for five minutes?

ELISA

I didn't want to call you unless I knew it was an emergency. I'm her dog walker, so when I rang the doorbell and they didn't respond, I looked through the window and, yeah, pretty dead, I think. Although...

911

What?

ELISA

If she's really dead, and I'd be shocked if she wasn't, it's not like technically an emergency anymore, I guess. So -

911

Where are you, Ma'am?

#3



AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

SIDE #3 (Continued...)

ELISA

It's the um, Putnam place, One Tapioca Lane, Shady Grove.

911

Ok, we're sending someone to you right now.

ELISA

Cool.

911

Can you--

ELISA

Ah! I think she just moved! Ahh!! Oh my God!!

911

Ok, then I need you to -

ELISA

Oh, my bad. I moved and so it looked for a second like she did. But no. Sorry.

911

Can you get inside the house, Ma'am?

ELISA

Yeah.

911

I need you to go inside and see she's breathing.

ELISA

Um...yeah, I'm good, thanks.

911

What the...Ma'am - what do you mean "you're good"? Ma'am? You need to go and check

ELISA

It's super-freaking messed up looking in there! I'm cool where I am.

911

Look, the police and EMTs are racing to you right now and -

ELISA

Well, tell them to chill, I mean, she'll still be dead whenever they show.

AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

SIDE #4

#4

JON

"But was it? Was it truly awesome sauce that the police failed to interview Elisa McKenzie more in-depth? I had my doubts. The coroner determined the cause of death was multiple stab wounds. Yet the initial press briefing after the coroner's report, held by Chief Tommy Ebner, with Deputy Sheriff Taylor Branigan on hand, didn't exactly instill confidence in the Police Department."

REPORTER

Chief Ebner, do you have any theories at this point?

EBNER

Stand
on
bench

I think you'll find we're professionals, and theories are, of course, a vital and professional part of solving any crime professionally - whether they be professional or amateur crimes, you need theories, or at least one theory, to solve it in a professional and theoretical way. You might say that's my number one theory

(He chuckles, clearly expecting some laughs. Silence.)

Anyhoo, so, yeah. Theories: gotta have 'em, I believe that. Unless...the killer turns themselves in. Which can happen. But in my judgment, we'd be foolish to rely entirely on that, although obviously, that would be cool.

TAYLOR

The fact that the murderer used a knife suggests this was very personal for the murderer. And that he or she was able to stab all three to death suggests the victims didn't suspect any malicious intent.

EBNER

Exactly. The malice of the...malicious was...they did not see that coming. But then you never do, do you?

TAYLOR

All of this suggests the killer had their trust and access to her home.

EBNER

More crucially, it seems probable that the killer also had access to a knife. So we're currently pursuing leads for people who match that description.

KATIE

X in front

"It soon became clear to us that Chief Ebner wasn't likely to be of much help. Could justice even exist in places like Shady Grove?"

AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES**SIDE #4 (Continued...)**

JON

"We spoke to the town's mayor, Carl Lyons while he was at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of a factory that manufactures giant scissors for ribbon-cutting ceremonies."

KATIE

It's the one-month anniversary of the murder of Amanda - why haven't you issued any statements about it?

LYONS

Sorry, I'm holding these giant scissors, so I really can't hear you.

CHRIS

"It was clear he was trying to avoid questions from the press. But after weeks of persistence, we finally got him to agree to a brief interview."

LYONS

Look, Amanda's death was a tragedy. A tragedy that made headlines and attracted people like you who um, uh, what's it you do again?

KATIE

We're making a podcast.

LYONS

That's right. I thought you'd made that word up, but my daughter informs me it's a real thing. She's great with computers. She's always, you know facebooking hashgrams and stuff. Anyhoo, the thing is, I'm afraid you guys are just out to make our town look bad. You seem determined to focus on Amanda's murder, but what about all the people in town who haven't been murdered, huh?

CHRIS

Is it true that Amanda Putnam-Hart – who publicly called you, "corrupt beyond imagination" - was about to announce that she was running for mayor?

LYONS

Well, that's the first I've heard about it.

CHRIS

Really? It's been in the papers.

LYONS

Oh, I've read about it, yes. But this is the first time I'm hearing about it.

**AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES****SIDE #5**

#5

AMANDA

That explains it. There's a huge boiler back here that occasionally sends bolts flying off due to tremendous pressure. This water park is amazingly dangerous.

TAYLOR

Than why have you been here all these months? It doesn't make sense.

AMANDA

The thing is, our sales had plummeted and I was trying to come up with a new promotional campaign. At the same time, I was also going crazy because my entire life has been pudding. All my life, all my family has cared about is pudding.

CHRIS

That is pretty weird.

AMANDA

Tell me about it! My full name is Amanda Vanilla Chocolate Swirl Putnam. I needed a break. But I also needed to boost sales. So I had the same thought all of us have had at one time or another in our lives: why don't I fake my own death in the most grisly and sensational way possible and try to draw attention to my company? And it's worked!

KATIE

She's right. Since the murder, Shady Grove Pudding sales are up 34%.

AMANDA

To give you some context, Deputy Sherriff, that's eight points higher than 26%!

TAYLOR

But how did you – there was a body!

AMANDA

Not really. The forensics team were willing to fake that for me. If you remember, they were there before you. You never saw the body, did you?

TAYLOR

That's true. But how did you pay them off?

AMANDA

Everyone has their price. In their case, it was 1/3 off select pudding flavors for six months. They really aren't good at negotiating.

TAYLOR

Was Chief Ebner in on this, too?

**AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES****SIDE #5 (Continued...)**

CTR

AMANDA

Why would I need to involve him? What better way to ensure the case would go unsolved than to let Tommy Ebner lead the investigation? My plan was lie low here for a while longer, then disappear to Europe under a new identity when things cooled off, where I could live on my shares in Shady Grove Pudding. And I would've gotten away with it if it wasn't for you meddling kids! I've actually always wanted to say that.

TAYLOR

How did you two figure out she was hiding here, anyway?

CHRIS

Um...

KATIE

That's our secret.

AMANDA

Anyway, now that this is cleared up, I guess I'll just head back home. Unless faking your own death and bribery are crimes.

TAYLOR

Well, they are.

AMANDA

Oh, yeah. Now that I say it out loud, that does make sense.

TERRY

"When Amanda was apprehended, the town was shocked to say the least. And no one was happier than Chief Ebner, who told the media:

EBNER

This is a great surprise to us all, but also a relief. I for one am deeply relieved to learn that I didn't do it.

JON

"Amanda's court case was thrown out owing to an obscure law that made any statements made in an amusement or water park inadmissible."

TERRY

"Nonetheless, Amanda seems to have learned her lesson and has even started a charity, 'Pudding Pals,' which teaches disadvantaged youths how to make their own pudding."

CONFLICTS:

Please list ALL conflicts that you have during the rehearsal schedule. Do NOT list as a conflict if it is something you can change, skip or reschedule. Put an "X" if you can't come at all, or write the specific times you CAN be there within the rehearsal time period.

MONDAYS 4:30-7PM	TUESDAYS 4:30-7PM	WEDNESDAYS 4:30-7PM	THURSDAYS 4:30-7PM	FRIDAYS 4:30-7PM
8/24	8/25	8/26	8/27	8/28
8/31	9/1	9/2	9/3	9/4
9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	9/11
9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17	9/18
9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25
9/28	9/29	9/30	10/1	10/2

PERFORMANCES:

Thursday, Oct. 8 (4:30PM Call / 5:30PM Curtain) @ RKF Studios

Tour dates being scheduled between Oct. 5-9 & 20-31, 2026 (No shows Oct. 10-19 for Fall Break.)

School Tour: A School Day Tour will be booked during the above time frame that will visit various schools and facilities.

If you have any conflicts during these periods, list them here...

NAME: _____