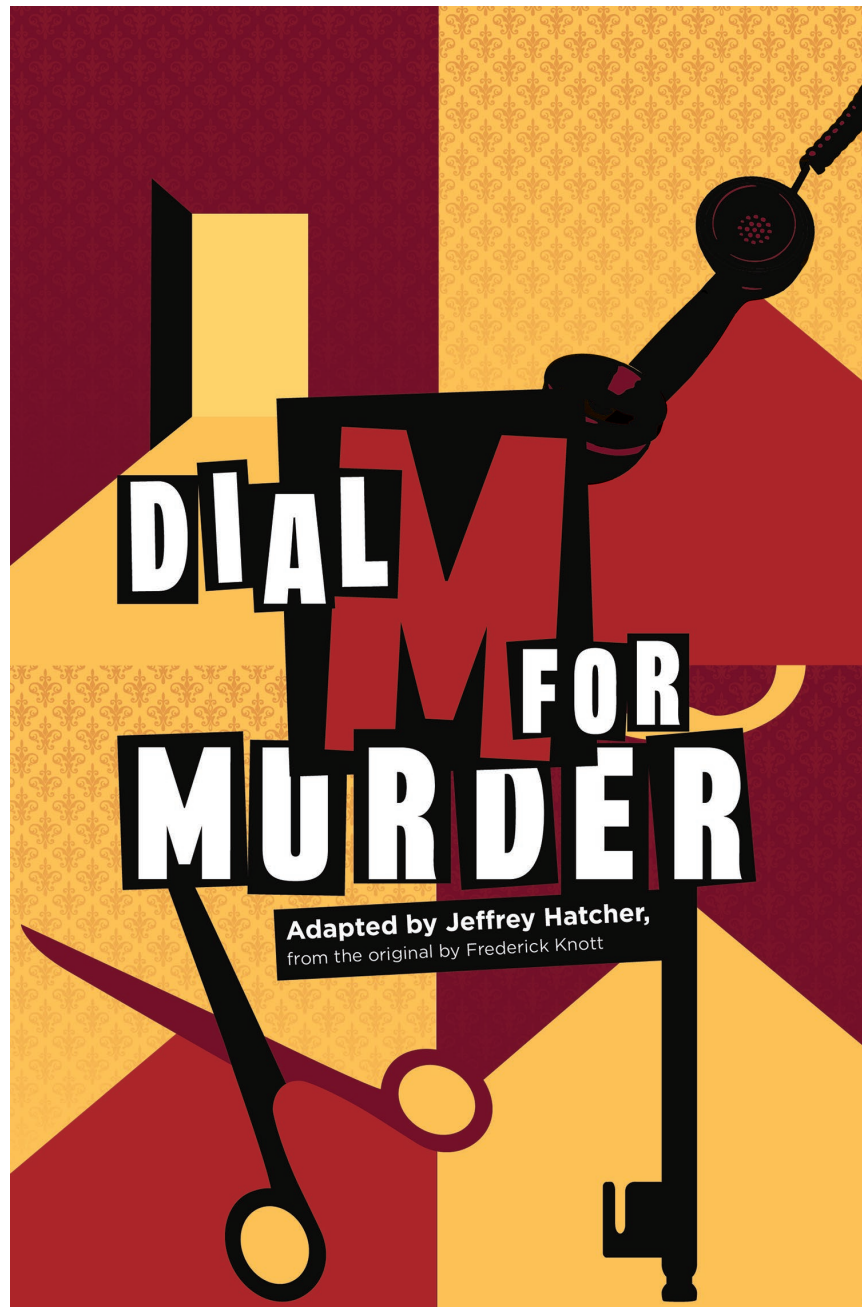


NORTHLIGHT THEATRE



ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

Image Description: A poster for Northlight Theatre's production of Dial M for Murder. A background is divided into four red and yellow quadrants, each featuring a silhouette of an object. Clockwise from top left, the objects are an open door, a telephone, an old-fashioned key, and a pair of scissors. The title, Dial M for Murder, is written in white in the center, with the letter M written in red. The letters appear individually, as if they had been cut from a magazine page. Below the title are the words Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the original by Frederick Knott.

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GUIDE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Northlight's production of *Dial M for Murder*, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the original by Frederick Knott.

This production will run at Northlight Theatre from November 30 through January 6, 2023. The address is 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL, 60077.

This guide holds many different accessibility tools to make your experience at the show as comfortable as possible. Please be aware that not every element of this guide will be useful to each individual. Therefore, please feel free to pick and choose which accessibility tools would be most beneficial to you.

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday - Saturday Evenings (all times are estimates)

- 6:30pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 7:00pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 7:30pm The show will begin.
- 9:00pm The show will end.

Saturday - Sunday Matinees (all times are estimates)

- 1:30pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 2:00pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 2:30pm The show will begin.
- 4:00pm The show will end.

Weekday Matinees (all times are estimates)

- 12:00pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 12:30pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 1:00pm The show will begin.
- 2:30pm The show will end.

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FULL SHOW SYNOPSIS **(spoilers ahead)**

Please note that the following was created during a preview performance. It is possible that changes to the script and/or production may not be reflected below.

Run time: 2 hours and 10 minutes, including one 15 minute intermission.

The play is set in London in 1952. At the beginning of the play, Margot Wendice and Maxine Hadley are drinking cocktails in Margot's living room. They discuss different ways that one could be killed, and the different motives one might have. Margot admits that she burned all of the letters Maxine sent her except for one. She lost the letter and was then sent two anonymous notes asking for a ransom if she wanted the letter back, otherwise the letter would be given to her husband. Margot says that she left 5,000 pounds in the location described by the ransom notes, but that the letter she lost was never returned to her.

Margot hands the ransom notes to Maxine who puts them away. Margot then says that after she paid the ransom, her husband Tony suddenly decided to give up writing and wanted to be a better husband. Margot says that she married Tony because her aunt encouraged her to, even though she is unhappy with him. It is revealed that Margot and Maxine had an affair, and after Margot left to focus on her relationship with Tony, Maxine was upset and now spends her days writing Margot letters, drinking, and writing a book. Margot tries to spend her days volunteering at a museum and gallery. Tony arrives and reveals that he cannot go out with Margot and Maxine tonight. The two women leave without him.

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Tony removes a framed photograph from a briefcase and sets it out. He then lays a pair of white gloves on the sofa. We hear the front door buzzer and Tony retrieves a cane and pretends to walk with a limp when he opens the door to let in Captain Lesgate. Lesgate refers to Tony as Stephen Fisher. Tony has contacted Lesgate about buying his car. As the two become acquainted, they learn that they both went to school at Cambridge at the same time. They then reveal that they are using false names: Stephen Fisher is Tony Wendice, and Captain Lesgate is C.A. Swann.

Tony tells Lesgate that he works for a publishing house and that he married his wife, Margot, because she had money. He recounts how he struggled as a writer, and all of his manuscripts would get rejected. He befriended a female writer of thrillers named Maxine. His pursuit of writing involved a lot of traveling, and his wife did not like the young women that attended his readings. One day Tony decided to spy on Margot and saw her entering Maxine's home. He saw Margot and Maxine get into an argument after cooking together and sharing a cigarette, and then Margot stormed out.

Tony admits that after he saw his wife with another woman, he went to a pub and fantasized about killing both of them. He reveals that Margot's will is worth two million pounds. After the pub, Tony returned to Margot and told her he was going to give up writing and work in publishing. He now has a top job at the publishing house and is in charge of the sales push for Maxine's first novel. He then tells Lesgate that he stole a love letter from his wife's handbag and sent her two ransom notes.

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Tony says he learned that Lesgate was court-martialed during the war and spent a year in prison. He began to stalk Lesgate and learned of his many aliases and illegal activities. Tony blackmails Lesgate, telling him he must murder Margot or else Tony will reveal Lesgate's true identity. Tony offers him 5000 pounds to do the job tomorrow night, the same 5000 pounds his wife paid as part of the ransom. Tony says he will hide a key in the front hall which will allow Lesgate to open the front door. Tony will call his wife from a radio station where he will be doing a radio interview with Maxine. At that point, Lesgate is to kill Margot and then whistle into the phone to let Tony know that the job is done. Lesgate should then make a mess so it seems like a break in, and then return the key where he found it so that Tony may return it to Margot's handbag. Tony will then return with Maxine and find his wife dead, at which point he will call the police.

The next evening Margot and Maxine sit in Margot's living room having cocktails again. Margot is helping Maxine practice for her radio interview. Maxine gives a synopsis of the book she is working on which tells the story of a man who hires a private detective to follow his wife. While the women aren't looking, Tony takes Margot's key from her handbag and hides it in the hallway.

Later that evening, Lesgate attempts to sneak into the living room but is caught by Margot. He says he has been hired to kill her and that she must pay him 10,000 pounds to find out who hired him. The phone rings, and as Margot goes to answer it, Lesgate tries to strangle her with a scarf. Margot fights back and ends up stabbing him with a pair of scissors, killing him. She picks up the phone and realizes it's Tony. She tells him what happened and he instructs her not to call the police and to stay put until he returns. She opens the French Doors and steps out into the garden.

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Tony runs back home and attempts to comfort Margot. While Margot is getting dressed, he retrieves the key from Lesgate's pocket and returns it to Margot's handbag. He calls the police. He then hides Lesgate's scarf, and replaces it with a stocking. He removes the letter from his own wallet and puts it in Lesgate's pocket. As Margot returns to the living room, the front door buzzes.

Act II

The next morning, reporters continue to call the Wendice residence but Tony turns them all down. Maxine arrives to check in on Margot. As Tony is in another room, Margot tells Maxine that the man she killed admitted he had been hired to kill her. Margot says she suspects Maxine of hiring him and writing the two ransom notes as revenge for breaking things off. Maxine denies it.

Chief Inspector Hubbard arrives. After giving her address to Hubbard, Maxine heads out. Hubbard shows Margot photos of Lesgate to see if she remembers him from before the attack. She says she had never seen him before. Hubbard asks Tony who says he vaguely remembers meeting a man who looked similar but without a mustache.

Inspector Hubbard asks Margot to recount the events from the night before. Margot tells him that she suspects Lesgate broke in through the French Doors. Hubbard says there was no sign of forced entry through the French Doors, and that it was raining last night which means Lesgate would have tracked mud through the apartment if he came in through the garden, which means he must have used the front door. Tony recounts that Margot lost her

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handbag temporarily at a railway station recently, and that perhaps her key was stolen from her handbag then. He says that he recognizes Lesgate from that day at the railway station, and perhaps he stole the key, copied it, then returned the original to the handbag. Hubbard says there was no key found on Lesgate, then asks Tony to step outside.

When they're alone, Hubbard reveals to Margot that he found Maxine's letter in Lesgate's pocket. However, before the conversation can go any further, Tony and Maxine return. Hubbard asks Tony to step out again and questions Maxine about the letter. He says that after searching Lesgate's apartment, they found 5000 pounds that were traced back to Margot's bank account. Maxine shows Hubbard one of the ransom notes explaining that Margot was being blackmailed. Hubbard suggests that Margot let Lesgate in herself and then killed him.

Tony returns and says he heard the incident over the phone and that everything transpired as Margot says. Hubbard suggests a different version: that Lesgate stole Maxine's letter from Margot's handbag, used the letter to blackmail Margot, then invited him to her home to retrieve the letter, but they argued, and she killed him. Tony accuses Hubbard and the police of planting clues. Margot reveals that Lesgate said he'd been hired to kill her.

A few months later, Margot has been found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. Tony is in the living room when the front door buzzes. It's Maxine. She says she hasn't spoken to Margot since she was arrested. Maxine's book was pulled in light of the scandal, and Tony has lost his job.

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Maxine tells Tony that she knows he is behind the ransom notes and that he hired Lesgate to kill Margot. She hands Tony one of the ransom notes, and then tells him that she will go to the police with his fingerprints on the note unless he gives her half of Margot's money. Tony says they'll only get the money if Margot is executed.

Inspector Hubbard arrives. Tony tells Hubbard that Maxine was planning to blackmail him for Margot's money. Maxine says that Tony is the person behind the ransom notes and hiring Lesgate. Tony reveals that when he came home the night of the incident, he saw his wife rummaging through Lesgate's pockets looking for "a letter". Hubbard reveals that Margot will be executed by hanging tomorrow morning. Maxine says that once Margot hears that Tony just implicated her in the crime, that she will remove him from her will. Maxine exits. Hubbard then discreetly switches his own raincoat with Tony's and leaves as well.

Tony calls a reporter and says he will allow them to publish Maxine's letter for 1,000 pounds. Suddenly, Margot appears. She says she escaped out of the car on the way back to the prison. She asks Tony for help. The phone rings. It's the police station letting Tony know that Margot's handbag and other possessions are to be picked up. Tony hangs up and tells Margot that they will sneak onto a friend's yacht and run away to another country. He exits to bring the car around.

As Margot is alone in the living room, suddenly Maxine and Inspector Hubbard unlock the front door and enter. Hubbard and Maxine reveal that they were working together earlier in the scene to get Tony to confess to blackmailing Margot. The trio then hear somebody trying to unlock the front door, but the key does not fit.

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The front door buzzes and someone knocks on the door. Eventually the person at the door leaves.

Hubbard reveals that he switched coats with Tony so that Tony had Hubbard's key and couldn't open the front door just now. He tells Margot that he strongly suspects that Tony plotted to murder her. Hubbard says that after Lesgate opened the front door using Margot's key, he returned the key to its hiding place in the hallway as instructed to by Tony. Then, after Lesgate died, the key Tony took out of Lesgate's pocket and put in Margot's handbag was Lesgate's own key.

Hubbard suggests that Tony will most likely visit the police station now to get Margot's handbag and the key from inside which Tony believes to be Margot's key. Soon enough, we hear someone trying to open the front door, but the key doesn't fit. Margot grabs an ice pick as she thinks that Hubbard and Maxine are tricking her. Tony identifies himself from behind the door. Then, a moment later, the front door opens and he enters, holding Margot's key which he just retrieved from its hiding place in the hallway. He sees Margot, Maxine, and Hubbard. Hubbard picks up the phone and dials.

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SENSITIVITY GUIDE

CONTENT NOTES

- Adult characters drink alcoholic cocktails throughout.
- At the beginning of the play, characters talk about how they would like to be killed and discuss various methods including asphyxiation, bludgeoning, drowning, electrocution, hanging, poison, strangling, and others.
- Adult characters smoke cigarettes onstage.
- Characters talk about romantic affairs.
- The plot revolves around a husband hiring a man to kill his wife after discovering that she had an affair with another woman.
- A man attempts to strangle a woman with a scarf, but he is stabbed with a pair of scissors, killing him. A small amount of blood is visible.
- After the strangulation attempt, a woman reveals heavy bruising around her neck.
- There is talk of the death penalty and someone is sentenced to execution by hanging.

SENSORY NOTES

- Suspenseful music underscores a majority of the scene transitions.
- At various points in the play, a doorbell rings suddenly, surprising the characters.
- At various points in the play, a telephone rings suddenly.
- A character trips, spilling the contents of his glass

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- Near the end of the first act, there is a physical struggle during a murder attempt. Characters cry out briefly during this struggle.
- During the murder attempt, a glass is dropped and it shatters.
- Offstage, a character attempts to open a locked door. Noises of banging on the door and shouting are heard.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does this production contain any technical elements that could be loud, bright, or shocking?

Like many of Northlight's plays, this production will include technical elements that may trigger sensory sensitivities. Northlight has done its best to design elements so that they will be accessible to all, but each person is different, thereby making it impossible to plan for every individual. If you believe that you may have some sensory sensitivities to the show, please consult the guide above to make you are aware of them before they happen. Please also remember that Northlight has noise canceling headphones as well as sunglasses available to borrow for any of these moments.

What types of accessibility options does Northlight provide?

Northlight provides a wealth of accessibility options for its audience members. These tools can be broken up into two specific categories: Specific Date Accessibility and General Accessibility. For specific date accessibility, Northlight will provide accommodations on predetermined dates throughout the run. We highly recommend reserving tickets for these dates ahead of time. These accommodations include: Audio Description, Open Captions, and Relaxed/Sensory Friendly Performances.

For general accessibility, Northlight provides a wide range of tools that can be requested at any performance of the show free of charge. These include: assisted listening devices and accessible seating. For accessible seating, it is recommended you request the


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necessary seats when purchasing your tickets, as they may not be available the day of the performance. For assisted listening devices, please go to the House Manager or ask an usher.

For more information, visit northlight.org/visit/#accessibility or email Kristen Waagner, Artistic Programs Manager, at kwaagner@northlight.org.


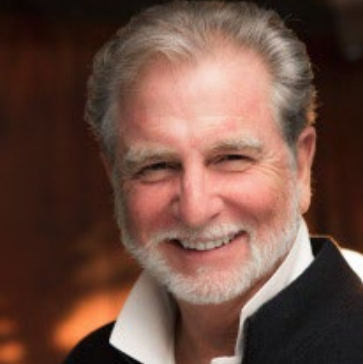


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REFERENCE PHOTOS

	<p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Exterior</p> <p>Id: The front of North Shore Center on a sunny day. The building has white columns and its sides are primarily made of windows.</p>
	<p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Entrance</p> <p>Id: The doors to North Shore's building. The doors are paneled glass and there is a hand railing leading up. A man is entering the doors.</p>
	<p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Parking Lot</p> <p>Id: The parking lot at the theater. It is a sunny day with many clouds, there is a sign that says "Theatre Parking Only" and several cars parked.</p>
	<p>Northlight's Auditorium</p> <p>Id: The doors leading directly into the theater. There are three doors which are all light brown wood. Two doors are open. A sign above the doors reads North Theatre. A man is waving hello.</p>
	<p>The Set for <i>Dial M for Murder</i></p> <p>Id: The set is the living room of a luxurious English home. At center, there is a stylish red sofa positioned on top of a red rug. At the right edge of the room stand a writing desk with a telephone and a well-stocked bar cart. Along the back wall, there is a coat rack, a curving grand staircase that leads to the unseen rest of the house, a large modern painting, and a pair of French doors.</p>


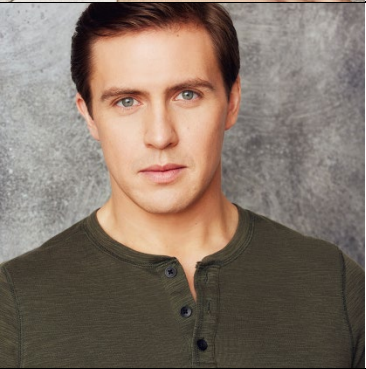

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	<p>Kristen Waagner Artistic Programs Manager</p> <p>Id: A young biracial white and Asian woman looks at the camera with a slight smile. Her face is framed by straight, dark hair, and she wears a light blue tank top in front of a green background.</p>
	<p>BJ Jones Artistic Director</p> <p>Id: A picture of a jolly older man with a white beard and hair going silver.</p>
	<p>Lucy Carapetyan Margot Wendice</p> <p>Id: A white woman in her late 30s sits in a dark blue top. Her bare arms are freckled and a closed mouth smile reveals smile lines around her mouth and eyes. Her wavy hair is down and swept over her right shoulder, mostly dark brown with prominent grey highlights in her bangs.</p>
	<p>Maxine Hadley Elizabeth Laidlaw</p> <p>Id: A white-presenting woman, age 52, looks into the camera with a slight smile and one eyebrow raised. She has dark hair streaked with gray and wears a gold pendant with a blue and red stone.</p>

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 A portrait of a young man with dark hair, wearing a light-colored sweater, looking directly at the camera against a dark grey background.	<p>Ryan Hallahan Tony Wendice</p> <p>Id: A white male faces the camera directly with a neutral expression. He has dark hair combed over to the side, with brown eyes that gaze directly into the lens. He wears a cream colored sweater against a dark grey background.</p>
 A portrait of a man with reddish-brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark green shirt, looking intensely at the camera against a dappled gray backdrop.	<p>Felipe Carrasco Lesgate</p> <p>Id: A man in his early 30s looks intensely at the camera in front of a dappled gray backdrop. His hair is reddish-brown and his eyes are blue. He wears an olive-green shirt with two buttons slightly open at the neckline.</p>
 A portrait of a middle-aged man with reddish-brown hair and a beard, wearing a maroon sweater over a black t-shirt, looking quizzically at the camera against a cream wall.	<p>Nick Sandys Inspector Hubbard/BBC Voice</p> <p>Id: A middle-aged white Englishman looks quizzically into the camera, his head tilted to the right and leaning against a cream wall. He has reddish-brown hair, a red-and-grey beard, blue-grey eyes, and is wearing a maroon cashmere sweater over a black t-shirt.</p>