

Murder on the Orient Express – Character Descriptions

Hercule Poirot

Gender: Male, Age: 40-65, Accent: Belgian

Description: the fictional detective is a short, meticulously groomed Belgian man with a famous waxed moustache, known for his exceptional deductive abilities and reliance on his "little grey cells" to solve crimes; he is highly particular about his appearance, often dressed impeccably, and takes great pride in his personal habits, displaying a somewhat vain and arrogant demeanor while being extremely observant and intelligent in his detective work; his signature trait is his egg-shaped head, which he often tilts to one side while contemplating a case.

Monsieur Bouc

Gender: Male, Age: 40-65, Accent: Belgian

Description from play: "Another Belgian, a young middle aged man of good humor". (Poirot's sounding board.)

Colonel Arbuthnot

Gender: Male, Age: 30s-40s, Accent: Scottish

Description from the play: "a Scotsman with a Scottish accent, in his mid-thirties, handsome and matter of fact".

Samuel Ratchett (may double with Colonel Arbuthnot)

Gender: Male, Age: 35-50, Accent: American

Description from the play: "He is a middle-aged American businessman, brusque, unforgiving, with a threatening demeanor and a whiplash of a voice."

Hector MacQueen

Gender: Male, Age: 25-3, Accent: American

Description from the play: "He is a nervous young American in his thirties, with a strained, rather beleaguered face."

Michel the Conductor

Gender: Male, Age: 40, Accent: French

Description from play: "... a good-looking Frenchman, about 40, with a quiet, almost grave sense of humor."

Head Waiter (may double with Michel the Conductor)

Gender: Male, Age: 25+, Accent: French (Michel) and Turkish (Head Waiter), Description from play: None

Mary Debenham

Gender: Female, Age: 25-35, Accent: English (standard/RP)

Description from the play: “an English beauty in her late twenties. There is a sadness, however, around her eyes.”

Princess Dragomiroff

Gender: Female, Age: 60s –70s, Accent: Russian

Description from play: “a galleon in full sail... Russian, expensively dressed and heavily bejeweled.”

Greta Ohlsson

Gender: Female, Age: 30s, Accent: Swedish

Description from play: “... Swedish, with a Swedish accent. She is in her thirties and plain. There is a frightened, sheep-like quality about her.”

Countess Andrenyi

Gender: Female

Age: 25-35, Accent: Hungarian and American

Description from play: “She is in her twenties, brilliantly beautiful and dressed to the nines in furs and diamonds. Her hair and makeup are impeccable, and she has a warm smile that wins you over immediately. She is out of a fairy tale.”

Helen Hubbard

Gender: Female, Age: 40-65, Accent: American

Description from play: “... an outspoken American in her fifties, well-dressed with a touch of flamboyance.”

Several voices are also needed (possibly recorded, possibly seen):

Daisy Armstrong

Mrs. Armstrong

Colonel Armstrong

The Nanny

The Man (Kidnapper and murderer)

One character who is seen but not heard:

French Army officer