

# Review: The Mousetrap will make you never hear a nursery rhyme the same way

By Mary Beth Euker  
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"The Mousetrap" playing at Arlington Heights' Metropolis Theatre is an updated portrayal of Agatha Christie's Classic Mystery. This is the longest running play in London's West End where I saw it in 1981.

This version does not disappoint. It does exactly what a true mystery should ... pulls you in, makes you suspect everyone on stage and beyond and then leaves you with a jaw dropping result. No spoiler alert necessary. This is worth the trip to watch British humor and characterization portrayed before your very eyes.

The set design by Jeremy Hollis truly takes you away from 2019 and places you back in time in the burroughs surrounding post war London. The remarkable accents and diction

throughout the piece help to suspend the ruse. But the star of this show is the rich characterization layered throughout the piece.

Almost everyone has something or someone to hide. The use of French scenes and door slamming constant action is a feat of direction. All of the eight actors were wonderful in holding true to their portrayals. Stand outs include Guy Wicke's *Paravicini* and Rian Jarell's *Metcalf*.

While the wind blows outside the theatre and also outside of Monkswell Manor you are treated to the same delight as the English royal family who saw it under a different title, "Three Blind Mice" in 1947. It's enough to give anyone the shivers.

Tickets for "The Mousetrap" at Metropolis Theatre in Arlington Heights are \$40 for regular run shows and can be purchased online at MetropolisArts.com or by calling the Box Office at 847 577 2121. The show runs through March 16 and a calendar of performances is listed online.

- Mary Beth Euker is a co founder and director of Cricket Theatre Company in Lake Zurich.

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