

# C.S. Lewis players get a ticket to the big time theater

*'And Then There Were None' one of three Oregon plays selected for the state showcase  
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By [Amanda Newman](#)

Sometimes, crime does pay: C.S. Lewis Academy's fall murder mystery play was recently chosen to be performed at next month's Oregon Thespians State Conference competition and showcase.

The school will send a delegation of about 30 - actors, techies and chaperones - to the conference, slated for April 3-5 in Medford, where they will perform "And Then There Were None."

The Agatha Christie murder mystery was one of three shows chosen from across the state to be performed at the conference, which includes theater groups from Oregon high schools of all sizes.

"We're just happy as clams to be selected for this," said the show's director, Mike McConaughey. He submitted the show for consideration last fall. A live adjudicator came to see a performance, and McConaughey sent video copies to the selection committee. The set, usually dismantled following a show's conclusion, sat waiting at the school's Wynooski campus until McConaughey received word of the play's selection last month.

The cast and crew immediately jumped to work, relaunching rehearsals and trying to pick up where they had left off three months prior.

"Some people had to sit in their play books for awhile ... but for the most part, when you're on the set and remembering your entrances and exits, it comes back pretty quick," said McConaughey.

"They are one of my most talented groups overall," he said of the 11-person cast, which includes several seniors, and the "incredibly talented" crew. "I think it's going to be a great experience, they're going to do a great job ... this is a good opportunity for them to go out with a bang."

At the conference, the group will have about 4.5 hours to move in and set up before their April 4 performance, McConaughey explained. They will be joined by two musicals, Ashland High School's "Little Shop of Horrors" and a 2-person show, "John and Jen," from Beaverton's Sunset High School.

Each show performed at the state conference is selected as one of the best high school shows of the year, said an Oregon Thespians release.

McConaughey said C.S. Lewis will not enter its show in the national conference, which is usually reserved for musicals.

"I am just so excited to be able to showcase my students to the 750 high school students (at state)," he said. "It's really neat to have my peers, the people I work with at the state level, acknowledge our group. That's probably the biggest honor for me, and it has a potential to be a once-in-a-career thing."

The school will put on encore performances Thursday through Saturday in preparation for next month's show. The free performances will begin at 7 p.m. at the school's Wynooski campus, 609 Wynooski St. Donations will offset costs for the state run, which McConaughey expects to run about \$4,000.

"And Then There Were None," an updated version of Christie's "Ten Little Indians," features an isolated hunting lodge, a storm and a killer on the loose. The play is "a little more dark" than C.S. Lewis' usual fare, McConaughey said, with characters "dying right and left." The show debuted at the school in November.

A scene from the school's One Acts series also qualified to go to state, where it will be performed in the competition section.