

The Movie Murder Mystery Party

A Party Game by Dennis Spielman

The Premise

In this murder mystery game guests take the roles of various cast and crew members celebrating the completion of filming of their movie when the director suddenly dies at the party. However, the paranoid Director hid magical clues. These clues reveal hints as to who committed the crime. The scavenger hunt brings a unique aspect to the standard murder mystery game. The story of the party, the movie itself, and characters are improvised making this game different each time it's played with between 8 and 16 people.

The party's host, who will take the role of the Director, should be the only person to read this document.

This is the original free version. Please consider buying the book that includes several improvements, new characters, couples' rules, and the randomization of the murderer. Plus, there are two other murder party games included. The Movie Murder Mystery Party book is available in paperback and digital versions:

<http://www.dennisspielman.com/moviemurdermysteryparty/>

How To Play

Playing this mystery game is fairly easy, but the key to an awesome time is a solid set up so everyone knows how to play the game. It is recommended this game be played with adults only.

1. INVITE

- Tell guests the reason for the gathering is to celebrate the completion of your new fictitious movie. What is the movie about? Everyone at the party decides as the story unfolds. You may wish add suggestions for party attire or better yet have a bunch of silly costumes and accessories on hand for guests to wear when they arrive.

2. PRINT

- Print the characters, clues, and death note.

3. HIDE

- Before the guests arrive, hide the clues throughout the room where everyone will be gathered to play the game.

4. EXPLAIN

- When everyone has arrived, explain how the game will be played. Answer any questions your guests may have about the game and then pass out the character cards. Make sure someone gets the murderer character.

5. PLAY

- Now that everyone knows the rules, it's time for murder!

Explaining How the Game Works

Once everyone has arrived, it's time to explain how the game will work. To make this process easy, I wrote this convenient script for the host to read. As the host, you will be the director, so feel free to change the script, but make sure all of the important information is included.

"Thank you everyone for coming to my murder mystery party. The game is simple. We are all gathered here to celebrate the completion of my fictitious movie, which I directed. As for the movie's plot, we'll all decide what happened in the movie as the game unfolds. There are conversation topics for characters to share about the movie's plot.

You'll each have a card with various facts about your character. During the game, you need to try to learn as much as you can about all of the other players while revealing all of the facts about yourself from your character card. If you're not sure what questions to ask, take one of your personality traits and turn it into a question.

Most of you at this party may have a motive for killing me, which you'll need to reveal when my back is turned. This should be easy since most of you here like talking about me behind my back.

After awhile, I will drop dead. Read the note in my hand. It will keep the story going and turn the game into a scavenger hunt. You'll have five minutes to gather up as many clues as possible that I've hidden throughout this room. When time is up, my spirit will arise to ask that everyone points to whom he or she believes to be the murderer."

Replace "this room" with the title of the room(s) that the clues were hidden.

The game can be set up differently if you wish, depending on the guests. Below are some ideas. Be creative and have fun!

- Have everyone leave the room for a moment to read his or her card.
- Bring everyone in at the same time, pretending that they've just arrived in a limousine.
- Pick out a character to play randomly from a hat.
- Encourage silly accents.
- Film the game!

The Death Note

The death note is an optional item to keep players in character as the game turns into a scavenger hunt for the clues. Below is a sample note. Either print it up or handwrite your own.

"I know many of you dismiss my claims of supernatural powers, but I knew that I would die tonight. However, I will not let the murderer go free so earlier I hid paper with my physic impressions throughout my home that will give clues as to who did or didn't kill me. I will give everyone a few minutes to find the clues at which point my spirit will arise and demand that everyone points to whom they believe murdered me. Those that guess correctly will be greatly rewarded. Good luck!"

If you don't use the note, be sure to explain the transition to find the clues. Replace "home" with where the clues are hidden, unless the clues are hidden throughout your house.

The Cast of Characters

The following pages contain 10 different characters. Each character has a motive (or lack of) for killing the director, a favorite scene in the movie, actions to perform, and several personality traits. Simply print and cut along the dotted lines. For more characters, get the Movie Murder Mystery Party book.

The Seven Key Characters:

The Co-Star (the Murderer), Random Actor, The Leading Actor, Villain Actor, Reporter, Camera Operator, and Gaffer.

The Co-Star

In this mystery, you are one of the main stars in the film, but not the lead. You can't make up your mind on your favorite scene in the movie.

Motive:

You're upset with the Director because you didn't get the lead role in the movie, so you murder the director with poison! When the Director has both hands in his front pockets, bring him/her a drink or food.

Personality Traits:

- Enjoy being in front of the camera
- Banned from a bar because you're a clumsy person
- Know how to use a handgun
- An only child
- Hate taking other people's pictures
- Love singing
- Drive an expensive car
- Have never owned a pet
- Exclusively acted your entire life
- Never been to jail
- Too flirtatious to be in a relationship
- Enjoy playing card games

While Playing, Do This:

- Refuse to drink tap water

Random Actor

In this mystery, you're an up-and-coming actor playing a minor role - but in a big picture that you hope will get you more fans. Your favorite scene in the movie involved animals.

Motive:

You're upset with the Director because you didn't get the starring role in the movie, however, you don't commit the murder.

Personality Traits:

- Big Ego
- Drive a fancy gas-eating car (but it goes really fast!)
- Love street racing
- Hate taking other people's pictures
- Have fish as pets
- Previous work experience: model
- Blood makes you sick

While Playing, Do This:

- Photo bomb pictures (i.e. doing something silly in someone else's pictures)

The Leading Actor

In this mystery, you play as the movie's big star. You enjoyed every scene you were a part of in the movie.

Motive:

You wanted more screen time to sing. However, you don't commit any crimes.

Personality Traits:

- Modest
- Enjoy being in front of the camera
- A singer and an actor
- Own a pet rabbit
- Flirty
- Ended up in a Mexican jail by mistake
- Happily married

While Playing, Do This:

- Be helpful by handing people drinks and snacks

The Writer

In this mystery, you are one of the film's writers. Your favorite scene in the movie was the final battle.

Motive:

You want more money, but you don't kill anyone over it.

Personality Traits:

- Quiet
- Clumsy
- Parents died when you were young, so you're close with your older sister
- Hate being in front of the camera
- Drive a hybrid car
- Cat owner, which you like to take funny pictures of your cat
- The only job you ever had was writing
- Chess is your game
- Don't drink alcohol

While Playing, Do This:

- Don't drink tap water
- Be helpful by handing people drinks and snacks
- Correct grammar

Villain Actor

In this mystery, you play as the movie's villain. Your favorite scene in the movie was the final battle.

Motive:

You're upset with the director because he told some crewmembers about some of the movies you acted in that embarrass you. Although, you don't kill the director.

Personality Traits:

- You enjoy having your picture taken
- Drive an electric car
- Hate your parents
- No pets
- Play guitar for a band in addition to acting
- You talked your way out of going to jail one time
- Never been in prison

While Playing, Do This:

- Photo bomb pictures (i.e. doing something silly in someone else's pictures)
- Flirt with everyone

Camera Operator

In this mystery, you play as the movie's camera operator. Your favorite scene in the movie was the big chase.

Motive:

You're upset with the director because he told some attractive actor (or actress) about some of the movies you were a part of that embarrass you. Although, you don't kill the director over it.

Personality Traits:

- Graceful
- Own a pet snake
- Bird photographer on weekends
- Prefer to be behind the camera
- Have been a camera operator your whole life
- Get along well with your parents

While Playing, Do This:

- Take people's picture with a camera or your cellphone
- Complement people in their pictures

Costume Designer

In this mystery, you designed and crafted all of the weird costumes in the movie. Your favorite scene in the movie was the love scene.

Motive:

You're in love with the director, but the director has no feelings for you. You seriously consider killing the Director at the party, but you decide against it.

Personality Traits:

- Drive a Ford Mustang
- Clumsy
- Camera Shy
- Have a pet bird
- Once a magician
- Unusual fashion sense

While Playing, Do This:

- Take other people's food from their plates

Gaffer

In this mystery, you play as the movie's gaffer, which means you were in charge of the lighting. Your favorite scene was when the monster first appeared.

Motive:

You really don't have much of a motive for killing the director, but you do have a motive for killing the camera operator because he/she would move your lights around.

Personality Traits:

- Graceful
- Own a pet spider
- Blackjack player
- The only kind of guns you know how to use are on video games

While Playing, Do This:

- Talk about other guests' hair
- Say negative things about the camera operator

Reporter

In this mystery, you play a hotshot movie reporter. You have a notepad and ask people questions about the movie and their life.

Motive:

You're upset with the director because he turned down your advances, but you don't kill over it.

Personality Traits:

- Stay behind the camera
- A little bit clumsy
- Drive an eco friendly car
- An only child
- Travel too much to own any pets
- Learned how to use a gun during an interview with a famous actor

While Playing, Do This:

- Take people's picture with a camera or your cellphone
- Interview people

Boom Operator

In this mystery, you operated the microphones. Your favorite scene in the movie was the love scene.

Motive:

You're in debt to the director. You're glad the director dies, but you didn't commit the crime.

Personality Traits:

- Drive a tiny, cheap car
- Live in your parent's basement
- Have an older bother who acts
- Own a pet lizard
- Card player
- Held down various odd jobs

While Playing, Do This:

- Try to say, "That's what she said!" whenever possible

The Clues

On the following pages, all of the whodunit clues are broken up with three chances to find each single clue. All you'll have to do is print the following pages, cut along the dotted lines, and the hide the clues.

For reference, here's a list of all of the clues.

- The murderer does not have a cat
- The murderer does not have a pet spider
- The murderer does not have a pet snake
- The murderer does not have a dog
- The murderer has had only one kind of job throughout his or her whole life
- The murderer likes to be in front of the camera
- The murderer does not like to take other people's pictures
- The murderer is clumsy
- The murderer drives a fancy car
- The murderer doesn't like to drink tap water
- The murderer enjoys singing
- The murderer knows how to use a real gun
- The murderer has never been to jail
- The murderer enjoys playing card games
- The murderer is an only child
- The murderer is not married
- The murderer may have flirted with you
- I was poisoned

The murderer does not have a cat	The murderer does not have a cat	The murderer does not have a cat
The murderer does not have a pet spider	The murderer does not have a pet spider	The murderer does not have a pet spider

The murderer
does not have
a dog

The murderer
does not have
a dog

The murderer
does not have
a dog

The murderer
likes to be
in front of
the camera

The murderer
likes to be
in front of
the camera

The murderer
likes to be
in front of
the camera

The murderer
is clumsy

The murderer
is clumsy

The murderer
is clumsy

The murderer
drives a
fancy car

The murderer
drives a
fancy car

The murderer
drives a
fancy car

The murderer
doesn't like
to drink tap
water

The murderer
doesn't like
to drink tap
water

The murderer
doesn't like
to drink tap
water

The murderer
enjoys
singing

The murderer
enjoys
singing

The murderer
enjoys
singing

The murderer
knows how to
use a real
gun

The murderer
knows how to
use a real
gun

The murderer
knows how to
use a real
gun

The murderer
has never
been to jail

The murderer
has never
been to jail

The murderer
has never
been to jail

I was
poisoned

I was
poisoned

I was
poisoned

The murderer
enjoys
playing card
games

The murderer
enjoys
playing card
games

The murderer
enjoys
playing card
games

The murderer
is an only
child

The murderer
is an only
child

The murderer
is an only
child

The murderer
is not
married

The murderer
is not
married

The murderer
is not
married

The murderer
may have
flirted with
you

The murderer
may have
flirted with
you

The murderer
may have
flirted with
you

The murderer
has had only
one kind of
job
throughout
his or her
whole life

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Award Ideas

Congratulations, you've completed the movie murder mystery party game!

However, it's not much of a game unless there are prizes. Personally, I would find an excuse to give everyone a prize bag for attending the party. Here's a list of award suggestions:

- Correctly guessed the murderer
- Best use of costume accessories
- Found the most clues
- Best accent
- Craziest outfit
- Brought the most guests
- Funniest Hat

I hope you and your guests enjoy this movie themed murder mystery party game!

Please consider buying the book that includes several improvements, 20 characters, couples' rules, and the randomization of the murderer. Plus, there are two other murder party games included. The Movie Murder Mystery Party book is available in paperback and digital versions:

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