

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.

Personality Traits:

- Enjoys being in front of the camera
- Banned from a bar because you're a clumsy person
- Knows how to use a handgun
- An only child
- Hates taking other peoples' pictures
- Loves singing
- Drives an expensive car
- Never owned any pets
- Exclusively been in one career your entire life
- Never been to jail
- Too flirtatious to be in a relationship
- Enjoys playing card games
- Doesn't believe the rumors about the Director having a supernatural gift

While Playing, Do This:

- Refuse to drink tap water
- Murder the director with poison! When the Director talks about someone's shoes, bring them a drink or food.

The Main Character

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.

Personality Traits:

- Modest
- Enjoys being in front of the camera
- Also a professional singer
- Owns a pet rabbit
- Flirty
- Ended up in a foreign jail by mistake
- Happily married
- Loves supporting the arts
- Doesn't believe the rumors about the Director having a supernatural gift

While Playing, Do This:

- Be helpful by handing people drinks and snacks
- Make sure the Director's drink is never empty

Minor Character

In this mystery, you're an up-and-coming performer 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.

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Personality Traits:

- Big Ego
- Drives a fancy gas-eating car that goes really fast
- Loves street racing
- Hates taking other peoples' pictures
- Has fish as pets
- Previous work experience: model
- Blood makes you sick
- Loves public art
- Has big dreams of being on Broadway
- Thinks ghosts are fake

While Playing, Do This:

- Photo bomb pictures (i.e. doing something silly in someone else's pictures)
- Wager random bets with people

The Writer

In this mystery, you wrote the script for the film. Your favorite scene in the movie was the final battle.

Motive:

You want more money and a bigger credit.

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Personality Traits:

- Quiet
- Clumsy
- Greedy
- Parents died when you were young, so you're close with your older sister
- Hates being in front of the camera
- Drives a hybrid car
- Cat owner, and you like to take funny pictures of your cat
- This is career is your life's only profession
- Chess is your favorite game
- Doesn't drink alcohol
- Doesn't believe in the supernatural
- Wants to be an Executive Producer for a TV series they're developing

While Playing, Do This:

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

The Antagonist

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

Motive:

You're upset with the Director because they told crew members about your early work in a rather embarrassing low-budget sci-fi film.

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Personality Traits:

- You enjoy having your picture taken
- Drives an electric car
- Hates your parents
- No pets
- Plays guitar for a cover band
- You've talked your way out of going to jail one time
- Never been in prison
- Never met your father
- Volunteers for non-profits every week
- Sort of believes in the supernatural

While Playing, Do This:

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

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 they won't let you live down the time you ruined an entire's day worth of footage.

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Personality Traits:

- Graceful
- Owns a pet snake
- Bird photographer on weekends
- Prefers to be behind the camera
- Only a single job type your whole life
- Gets along well with your parents
- Optimistic
- Fishes in spare time
- Thinks they saw a ghost on the movie set
- Is a middle child of three

While Playing, Do This:

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

Costume Designer

In this mystery, you designed and crafted all of the costumes in the film. 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.

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Personality Traits:

- Drive a Ford Mustang
- Clumsy
- Anxious
- Camera Shy
- Has a pet bird
- Once a magician
- Unusual fashion sense
- Has an older sibling
- First reaction to a threat is to seduce them
- Optimistic
- Kind of believes in the supernatural

While Playing, Do This:

- Complement people's outfits
- Insist the Director eats more
- Ask people for a loan

Gaffer

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

Motive:

The Director didn't "understand" your process. You also have a motive for killing the Camera Operator because they would move your lights around.

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Personality Traits:

- Graceful
- Owns a pet spider
- Blackjack player
- Loves exploring caves
- The only kind of guns you know how to use are in video games
- Indifferent to people's beliefs in the supernatural and conspiracy theories

While Playing, Do This:

- Talk about other guests' shoes
- Say negative things about the Camera Operator that inadvertently makes them look like a good person

Reporter

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

Motive:

You're upset with the Director because they won't agree to a one-on-one interview.

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Personality Traits:

- Stays behind the camera
- A little bit clumsy
- Drives an eco friendly car
- An only child
- Travels too much to own any pets
- Learned how to use a gun during a session with a famous celebrity
- Egotistical
- Award Winner
- Breaks up fights and disagreements

While Playing, Do This:

- Take peoples' pictures with a camera or your cellphone
- Ask people about their favorite foods
- Interview everyone about the movie

Boom Operator

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

Motive:

You're in debt to the Director and would be glad if the Director died.

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Personality Traits:

- Drives a tiny, cheap car
- Lives in parent's basement
- Has an older bother who is an actor
- Owns a pet lizard
- Card player
- Has done various odd jobs
- Wants to go to Mars
- Loves to play Dungeons and Dragons

While Playing, Do This:

- Try to say, whenever possible, "I think we're being watched."
- Ask people about their favorite podcasts

Stunt Coordinator

In this mystery, you planned out all of the stunts and fight scenes. Your favorite scene involved a death-defying stunt.

Motive:

The Director was using your past safety violations to blackmail you.

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Personality Traits:

- Drives a truck
- Married
- Been to jail for trying to rescue turtles
- Expert shooter and sword fighter
- Worked with famous martial artists
- Makes sure every is safe
- Faithful

While Playing, Do This:

- Tell Dad Jokes
- Act out trying to stab the Director when the Director isn't looking at you
- Ask people about their previous job
- Tell everyone how special they are

Production Assistant

In this mystery, you were a production assistant and this was your first major movie. Your favorite scene in the movie was the funny bonus scene after the credits.

Motive:

The Director found out about you stealing food from craft services to take back home.

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Personality Traits:

- During the movie, you broke one of the lights
- Previous job: waiting tables
- At casinos, you pass on the card games and head for the roulette table
- You consider yourself to be a lucky person
- High school science fair second place winner
- Ignorant about life and how the world works

While Playing, Do This:

- Ask people to take your picture
- Tell lies about places you've visited and when describing the place, describe things that are obviously not there (like visiting the Statue of Liberty in Portland)

Makeup Artist

In this mystery, you were responsible for the casts' makeup. You love the close up shots that show off your talents.

Motive:

As an artist, you hated when the Director had the performers do things that would ruin your makeup.

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Personality Traits:

- Overconfident
- Skillful
- Also a Painter
- Has a romantic crush on the Camera Operator
- Playful
- Dancer
- Cat owner
- Wants to be visited by an alien
- Loves naps
- Wants to win an award, but hasn't yet

While Playing, Do This:

- Insist on applying a touch of makeup for everyone
- Ask people about their families

Property Department Manager

In this mystery, you were in charge of the props used in the movie. Your favorite scene is when the antagonist broke through the glass window.

Motive:

People were moving your props and personal items around as a prank when you weren't looking, and the Director wouldn't make them stop.

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Personality Traits:

- Hyper
- Skilled crafter
- Glassblowing instructor
- Gets along with others well
- Environmentally friendly
- Believes in aliens
- Paranoid
- Thinks there is a government conspiracy surrounding the Director

While Playing, Do This:

- Go around the place, pick up objects and do something funny with them, but keep it clean
- Ask people about their previous job

Star's Agent

In this mystery, you play the role of an agent for the film's lead performer. You have no idea what the movie is about.

Motive:

As an agent, you wanted your star to be paid much more.

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Personality Traits:

- Doesn't pose for pictures
- Before current job, you were a lawyer
- Drives an expensive car
- You have posted funny pictures of your cat online
- You have blackmail on one of the cast members at the party
- Grouchy, unless it's about cats or money
- Thinks everything is a hoax
- Wants to see the world, but is too busy

While Playing, Do This:

- Pretend to be working and/or talking on the phone
- At some point, talk to the Director about getting more money for your client and get upset when they decline

Movie Fan

In this mystery, you are a fan that won a prize to be at this party through an Internet contest on the Director's website. You haven't seen the movie yet, so when people start talking about various scenes in it, you cover your ears.

Motive:

You're upset with the Director for leaving the autograph signing session right before it was your turn.

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Personality Traits:

- Shy
- Optimistic
- Professional Podcaster
- Owns two dogs
- Cares about the planet

While Playing, Do This:

- Go around with all of the cast, getting a picture taken of yourself with them.
- Agree with random people. For example, someone says they drive a Ford Truck, reply, "I drive a Ford Truck too."
- Don't agree with everyone and make sure your agreements don't contradict anything else you've agreed with.

Producer

In this mystery, you are the movie's producer. You were the Director's boss and tried to keep everyone from spending too much money.

Motive:

The Director went way over budget on the movie.

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Personality Traits:

- Calm
- Great with money
- Owns a label maker
- Hates cellphones
- Owns a dog
- Went to court once, but never to jail
- Never gambled
- Oscar Winner
- Likes to take bike rides
- Comes from a large family
- Once owned a food truck

While Playing, Do This:

- Tell fictional ghost stories
- Tell people the Director tends to lie

The Romantic Interest

In this mystery, you were the romantic interest for the main character in the movie. Your favorite scene in the film was the one with the sunset.

Motive:

The Director wanted the dog to die in the movie, but you convinced them not to kill off the dog. Even though the Director listened to you, you are still upset that they even considered the idea.

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Personality Traits:

- Center of attention
- Bad with money
- Has a personal driver
- Can't legally drive
- Loves singing
- Owns a tiny dog
- Recently did a photo session for a big ad campaign
- Never gambled
- Golden Globe winner
- Allergic to bees
- Believes they saw a UFO once
- Has a personal trailer
- Only child

While Playing, Do This:

- Sign autographs
- Ask people what they like about you

Music Star

In this mystery, you are a famous singer/songwriter. You haven't seen the movie and don't have much desire to see it either even though it features one of your songs.

Motive:

You wanted to be in the movie, but the Director didn't have a part for you to play.

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Personality Traits:

- Grammy Winner
- Owns autographed guitars
- Spiritual with nature
- Can't legally drive
- Owns all kinds of pets
- Recently did a photoshoot for a big ad campaign
- Hates Gambling
- Loves cookies
- Loves singing
- Insists that people recycle
- In an unannounced relationship with a celebrity
- Goes to the gym
- Supports the Make-A-Wish Foundation

While Playing, Do This:

- Talk about other parties you've attended in the past, and why those parties were so much better than this one
- Complement people in their pictures

Set Designer

In this mystery, you designed and constructed all of the movie's sets. Your favorite scene in the movie was the hand-held shot of people running around on one of your sets.

Motive:

You are an environmentally friendly person, but the Director was not. The Director destroyed your sets afterwards and didn't recycle anything.

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Personality Traits:

- Environmentally friendly
- Great at fixing things
- Isn't married
- Has a younger sister
- Doesn't like or own guns
- No pets
- Recently did a photoshoot for a big ad campaign
- Never gambled
- Won award related job
- Hates singing
- Doesn't need coffee

While Playing, Do This:

- Offer to fix things
- Offer to get people food

~ The Director ~

As the host in this mystery, there are personality traits from other characters that will influence how The Director should act. Listed below are relevant facts to remember.

- You went way over budget
- Don't offer or promise anyone more money, royalties, or bigger credits
- Accept any food or drink from anyone
- You're not an environmentally friendly person and you destroyed the movie sets
- You're not a fan of musical numbers
- You don't like doing interviews
- Tell people how The Antagonist starred in an embarrassing low-budget sci-fi film
- Tease the Camera Operator about ruining an entire's day worth of footage
- You have no romantic feelings for anyone
- The Boom Operator owes you money
- You have blackmail on the Stunt Coordinator for safety violations
- You caught the Production Assistant stealing food
- You don't care about other people's craft or work as much as they would like to be appreciated
- You didn't stop any set pranks
- You don't remember your fans
- You think the dog should've died in the film
- You think who you casted were the best for their role

To Trigger Your Death:

- Talk about people's shoes. That's the cue for the murderer to offer you a poisoned snack or drink. Die a few minutes later.

The Suggested Script

"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 all decide what happened in the film as the game unfolds. There are conversation topics for your characters to share about the movie's story, but this game is all about improv and making stuff up as we go along.

You'll each have a card with various facts about your character. During the game, learn what you can about the other players while revealing all of the facts about yourself from your character and personality cards. If you're unsure what questions to ask, take one of your personality traits and turn it into a question.

Most of you at this party will have a motive for killing me, which you'll need to reveal when I'm not around you in a gossipy manner. This task should be easy since most of you here like talking about me behind my back.

After a while, I will drop dead. Please read the note in my hand. It will keep the story moving and turn the game into a scavenger hunt. You'll have two 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 all the guests [to point to whom they believe to be the murderer OR discuss who they believe killed me, sharing any clues they found to back up their information, and take a vote]. Afterward, the murderer will then confess."

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
card games

The murderer enjoys
card games

The murderer enjoys
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

The murderer has had
only one kind of job

The murderer has had
only one kind of job

The murderer does not
have a pet snake

The murderer does not
have a pet snake

The murderer does not
have a pet snake

The murderer does not like
to take peoples' pictures

The murderer does not like
to take peoples' pictures

The murderer does not like
to take peoples' pictures

Try Again!
Not A Clue!

Try Again!
Not A Clue!

Adjustments for Playing Virtually

The Movie Murder Mystery Party game can be played online through a video conference app or system with some adjustments.

In advance, email everyone the necessary instructions, character details, and three clues about the murderer. You can get elaborate and physically mail players the information if you wish. Ensure everyone gets a different set of clues, including the murderer, so that they can cast doubt and suspicion toward other players. Depending on the virtual platform, you can also release clues as text messages or in group rooms.

As the host, you'll have to lead the discussion, so everyone gets a chance to talk about themselves. I've included a script that uses the plot device that the press is part of the video conference to help felicitate conversations.

As you learned in the physical version of the game, the Director dies via a poisoned item given by the murderer during a triggered code-phrase. To make that death happen virtually, you as the Director throughout the game would open gifts sent to you by the cast and crew in celebration of the movie's release. As for what gifts you get, you can simply unwrap/unbox stuff you already own. Have fun with it. You can attach name tags to the gifts and question the gift-giver about the item.

The gift that kills you will be a consumable item, like a cookie or a bottle of wine. You'll need to change one of the personality traits of the murderer (attached to the co-star, but remember you can mix and match personalities).

Replace: "Murder the Director with poison! When the Director talks about someone's shoes, bring them a drink or food."

And swap out with: "For every gift I the Director open, take credit or co-credit for it. However, do not take credit for [item] as that will be the item you placed the poison in to kill me."

For the most part, all the character personalities transition to a virtual platform rather well. For the actions that have players giving items or taking photos, change them to suggesting to other players that they do the task. For example, a character wouldn't provide the Director with water, but they can insist the Director stay hydrated. Make whatever changes you see fit when delivering the character information.

Feel free to walk away from the conversation from time to time, using answering the door to get a new gift or another excuse, so the players can talk behind your back and gossip why they hate you.

When you feel like everyone has gotten to know the characters, eat the poisoned item. While this would technically be the last gift, I would not reveal that it is the last gift, so it comes as a shock when you die. Die in whatever dramatic fashion you wish, falling off the screen. If you want, you can come back to life by having the antidote handy because you have psychic powers and knew this would happen. Do this after the murderer confesses.

The Letter to Players

Below is a sample letter for you to send to players in advance explaining the game. Change the parts needed to fit your gaming session.

"Thank you for joining me to play a movie-themed virtual murder mystery party game. The game is simple. We'll meet via [Zoom] for a press conference as we also celebrate the completion of my fictitious movie, which I directed. As for the movie's plot, we all get to decide what happened in the film as the game unfolds. I have some interview questions I'll ask everyone on behalf of the press, but this game is all about improv and making stuff up as we go along.

I'll lead the conversation by asking a series of questions while unwrapping the gifts I've received. I'll also leave the room at times to get the gifts, so use that moment to share your reason for wanting me dead. At some point during the night, I'll die, and it will be up to everyone to discuss who killed me. You may publicly share the clues I've sent you, text your friends/allies privately as a trade, or you can lie. When you all feel you've reached a conclusion, take a vote, and the murderer will reveal themselves and why they did it.

Include below are the details about your character and three different clues about the murderer. Feel free to dress up as we'll have awards too."

- Include character information
- Include meeting details, such as time and platform
- Include three clues about the murderer

The Suggested Virtual Script

“Thank you, everyone, for attending the virtual press conference to promote our movie, which is now available to stream! I am thrilled we’re all here today, even though we couldn’t gather in-person safely, especially since I suspect one of you is plotting to kill me.

But, I digress! Since several members of the press are with us, let’s start with a round of introductions. Briefly introduce yourself, state your name and your role in the movie, and conclude with one fun fact about yourself.”

If you need to spark conversation, use one or all of the following questions during the game. Feel free to skip or add questions. These questions will also help people deduce the murderer.

- What was your favorite scene in the movie?
- What was your previous profession?
- Who here has a pet?
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go?
- Is anyone joined by a significant other tonight?
- Who wants to share a behind-the-scenes story for the press?
- In the movie, the main character has a dark past. Who here has a dark and mysterious past or perhaps a had confrontation with the law?