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Killing Kompany in Peekskill

Find your inner 'Murder, She Wrote' with floating murder-mystery troupe

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Special to Metromix
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(Credit: Sherry Saturno)

When I was a child, I used to dream of having an exciting life like J.B. Fletcher, star mystery writer of the television show "Murder, She Wrote." On my couch, I would watch enraptured in my purple pj's – 8 p.m. was late back then – and witness Fletcher, always smartly dressed in matching blazer and scarf ensembles, solving convoluted murders in 60 minutes or fewer.

I guess I never outgrew this fascination, because when the opportunity arose to see a performance of the murder-mystery troupe [Killing Kompany](#) aboard the [Tahiti Queen](#), I raced to sign up.

Did I show up wearing a blazer? Honey, you know I did! I was ready for action.

Scene: The Killing Kompany actors present a murder-mystery play and the guests aboard the Tahiti Queen attempt to solve it. Guests are also called upon to participate by ruling themselves out as suspects. A recent "Fall for Murder!"

performance got off to somewhat of a late start, but guests were treated to huge appetizer trays as latecomers arrived.

Upon boarding, Lt. Dorsey, played by Jon Avner, warned me to "Trust nobody!" As a New Yorker, I already knew that but was happy to play along. Later in the evening, he stopped by my table and proceeded to thumb through my reporter's notebook full of cryptic notes and symbols from a variety of stories. "Did you want to be a doctor?" he asked, unable to decipher any of my handwriting.

In addition to Avner, featured actors included Jon Darin Chumbley as Levi Johnston, Bob Adler as Bill Novelli, and Prudence Holmes as Leslie Cougar. Ms. Holmes won a special place in my heart as she stopped by my table in character to inquire if I was scared, and when I smiled to indicate I was OK, she said, "You're very brave."

The staff aboard the Tahiti Queen was wonderfully attentive and gracious, and the crowd ranged from students in their 20s to couples in their 50s. Celebrating a birthday or anniversary in a center table was a lively bunch, reveling in the mystery's interactive nature.

Eats: I was momentarily distracted from the mystery by the announcement that a delicious dinner buffet – full of tasty chicken, eggplant and pasta dishes – was ready downstairs. Hey, food is important to me. Dessert was also a serious contender: Chocolate cake with some kind of devilish vanilla icing. Did I want to throw it into the Hudson River? Hell no! The food was good, and not only that, it was plentiful. There is no possible way that you will leave that ship hungry. The Tahiti Queen's tantalizing treats left my dining companion full until the next day's lunch.

Crowd: Basically, when we weren't dining, drinking from the full bar or dancing to a wedding-like soundtrack

("YMCA," "Hot Stuff," et al.), we were trying to solve the mystery of who shot your track star Levi Johnston. Lt. Dorsey called suspects up to the microphone to interview them. With their 1-888-SHOOT-EM pencils, guests wrote down their culprit of choice. There was a planted "bomb" and "shots" rang out. (It turns out the guilty party that night was mild-mannered Mr. Novelli. Isn't it always the quiet ones?)

Toward the end of the evening, most of the passengers got up and danced the "Electric Slide," some more gracefully than others who were more intoxicated. All in all, it was a delicious gold-medal evening on a beautiful river filled with characters, some real and some imagined.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, "Halloween for Murder!" will be held aboard the Tahiti Queen. For information about the Killing Kompany's upcoming performances, visit their [Web site](#). Tickets are about \$80 apiece for the murder-mystery dinner cruises.

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