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Murder-mystery dinner party in Elmont

Monday July 25, 2011 1:30 PM By Lauren R. Harrison



If you're savvy enough to win a game of Clue, enjoy acting and have a penchant for Italian food, you'll hit the trifecta on Friday.

Villa Umberto in Elmont will host "Beach Party Murders," a murder-mystery dinner party featuring a five-course meal and actors from *The Killing Kompany* in New York City.

Audience members take part in each act, which occurs before and after every course of the dinner. Actors make up evidence, implicating at least one person in a crime or murder in each act.

"We give the audience their 15 seconds of fame and they can tell a joke, confess their crime, or whatever they want to do," says Jon Avner, writer and director of *The Killing Kompany*. "They'll see people being shot, killed, poisoned or whatever; they'll get to match wits with a police officer; they'll get dance, they'll get to eat."

Now, on to the food. The dinner includes an antipasto of eggplant rollatini, mozzarella caprese, fried capellini, penne alla vodka and baby field greens salad. Attendees can choose one of four entrée options: Chicken parmesan, veal marsala, tilapia oreganata, eggplant parmesan. Dinner also includes unlimited wine, beer and soda. For dessert, there's cake, coffee and tea.

"As opposed to going out and going to dinner and a movie, this is a different experience with live entertainment," says general manager John Cesarano. "There are a lot of surprises. A lot of people scream. There are fake gun shots involved. These guys really do go all out!"

By the time attendees are ready for dessert, all of the evidence is in and audience members become guest detectives. "They must cast ballots on who committed the crime or crimes and why," Avner says.

Winners receive prizes, such as gag police gifts. The funniest guest suspect receives a best actor or best actress award.

"I think people come to our shows because we do a brand new show each time and because it's always written topical. It's like Letterman or SNL," says Avner, who started the company in 1993 and performs across the country. "People get to take center stage and that's a lot of fun."

"Beach Party Murders"

WHEN/WHERE 8 p.m. Friday, at Villa Umberto, 90 Meacham Ave., Elmont

COST \$60 per person

INFO 516-352-8455 or villlaumberto.com

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