

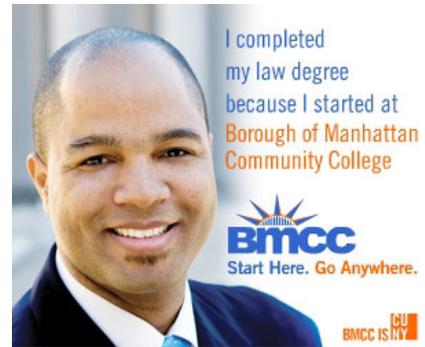


ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

All Celebrations Wild and Wonderful

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The Cinema Arts Center. By NICOLE COTRONEO Published: December 30, 2007

Correction Appended

STARTING your New Year's Eve celebration with a bang takes on new meaning when you're complicit in a murder.

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Or maybe you're the detective who has to uncover the weapon, the suspects and the plot?

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It's all one big, entertaining mess at the Killing Kompany's murder mystery dinner theater — just one of many ways to celebrate tomorrow night on Long Island.

The 14-year-old dinner theater troupe makes up a new story for every performance, said Jon Avner, one of the actors. Players mingle in character with diners at Paparazzi Trattoria and Bar in Westbury. The drama should wrap up neatly by midnight, with prizes going to the smartest sleuths. An hour of dancing will follow, courtesy of an actor who also happens to be a D.J., Mr. Avner said.

If the future is written in the stars, you might find them on New Year's Eve at the Custer Institute in Southold, the oldest public observatory on Long Island. "Under the Stars" will be a laid-back event with jazz by Ahmad Ali and Friends and a homemade buffet prepared by Custer's members and friends.

Guests can slip into the domed observatory, where guides can help them spot the starry sights through a 16-inch telescope. "If the weather is clear that night, you might see Mars, Neptune, Orion and some comets like P17/Holmes," said Donna McCormick, the

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