

Murder Mystery 101

Central Illinois Stage Co provides entertaining and interactive murder mysteries for groups and organizations of all sizes.

Our shows are unique (we utilize two actors playing as many as six roles) and create a special memory and experience for all. Due to the distinctive nature of this performance, we have found the following meal/performance format to provide the very best experience for our audiences.

Times below are only a reflection of how a typical event runs. The number of guests and the serving staff can also affect the times. We are happy to provide you with any suggestions or information to help create a wonderful event for your patrons. *Please note that this timeline can be adjusted based on your needs.*

Timeline:

6:00 to 6:45 ... Guests arrive. Venue may want to provide cheese and crackers, light snacks or drinks at this time. As guests arrive we engage the guests in character and assign parts (typically 12-14 people) to those wishing to participate. Guests who participate simply have to stand up at their table, read their script (which we provide), speak loudly and have fun!

6:45 to 7:00 ... Act I

7:00 to 7:20 ... Salads are served.

7:20 to 7:40 ... Act II

7:40 to 8:15 ... Dinner is served.

8:15 to 8:45 ... Act III

8:45 to 9:00 ... Dessert is served along with ballots to select the murderer.

9:00 to 9:15 ... Act IV – solution scene and the murderer is revealed.

The forms are collected during dessert and the host will go through the forms and select the ones with the correct answer. If there are multiple winners, they can be pulled from a hat at the end of the show. Hosts may offer a prize if they wish or just award the winner with the title of Ace Detective for the evening. In the past, a gift certificate to a local restaurant has been very well received.

Logistics:

Our actors will require a nearby room in which to change. This should be a secure room that is available only to our actors. There are several costume changes throughout the show, so they do need to be able to access it throughout the performance.

If you have a sound system that we can tap into to provide music and sound effects, please let us know. CISCo does have sound equipment that we can bring to your event. We also need a small table (a 4x4 card table is fine) and chair for our stage manager... preferably next to the sound system (when applicable).

We do not need a stage or stage area, but we do need space in between the tables for our actors to freely move about the room. Our actors will need to be able to get “up close and personal” with each table, so be sure to leave plenty of room.

Please note that because of the unique design of our shows, we greatly prefer that food not be served and tables not be cleared while the actors are performing.

Our stage manager will work directly with the venue and/or host on the night of the event to help coordinate the efforts of the venue staff and actors.

Thank you and we look forward to making your next event a very entertaining one!