

The Movie Murder Mystery Party

A Party Game by Dennis Spielman

The Premise

In this murder mystery game, guests take the roles of various cast and crew members celebrating the completion of filming of their movie when the Director suddenly dies at the party. However, the paranoid Director hid magical clues. These clues reveal hints as to who committed the crime. The scavenger hunt brings a unique aspect to the classic murder mystery game. The party's story, the movie itself, and the characters are improvised, making this game different each time it's played with between 5 and 10 people.

This document was the original free version that I first created back in 2012. I updated this ruleset in 2020 with some improvements. Please consider buying the book that includes several enhancements, 20 selectable characters, couples' rules, and the murderer's randomization. Plus, it contains two additional party games I designed. The Movie Murder Mystery Party book is available in paperback and digital versions:

<http://www.dennisspielman.com/moviemurdermysteryparty/>

The party's host, who will take the Director's role, should be the only person to read this document.

How To Play

Playing this mystery game is reasonably straightforward, but the key to a fantastic time is a solid set up, so everyone knows how to play the game. This game is best suited for teens and adults. Feel free to pick out the characters in advance that will best fit the guests playing.

1. INVITE

Tell guests the reason for the gathering is to celebrate the completion of your new fictitious movie.

2. PRINT

Print the characters, clues, and death note.

3. HIDE

Before the guests arrive, hide the clues throughout the room where everyone will be gathered to play the game.

4. EXPLAIN

When everyone has arrived, explain how the game will be played. Answer any questions your guests may have about the game and then pass out the character cards. Make sure someone gets the murderer character.

5. PLAY

Now that everyone knows the rules, it's time for murder!

Explaining How the Game Works

Once everyone has arrived, it's time to explain how the game will work. To make this process easy, I wrote this convenient script for the host to read on the next page. As the host, you will be the Director, so feel free to change the script, however, make sure to include all the critical information. Be sure to replace [this room] with the names of the room(s) in which you hid the clues.

Replace [this room] with the title of the room(s) that the clues were hidden.

The game can be set up differently if you wish, depending on the guests. Below are some ideas. Be creative and have fun!

- Have everyone leave the room for a moment to read their character information.
- Bring everyone in at the same time, pretending that they've just arrived in a limousine.
- Pick out a character to play randomly from a hat.
- Film the game! If you do, tag me on Twitter or Instagram at @DennisSpielman
- Tell people they can incorporate their own personality and facts into their character.

The 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. Afterward, the murderer will then confess."

The Death Note

The death note is an optional item to keep players in character as the game turns into a scavenger hunt for the clues. Below is a sample note. For the best effect, handwrite your own.

"I know many of you dismiss my claims of supernatural powers, but I knew that I would die tonight. However, I will not let the murderer go free, so earlier, I hid paper with my psychic impressions throughout my home that will give clues as to who did or didn't kill me. I will give everyone two minutes to find the clues, and after that, my spirit will return and demand that each guest point to whom they believe murdered me in hopes the real murderer will confess. Those that guess correctly will be greatly rewarded. Good luck!"

If you don't use the note, be sure to explain the transition to find the clues. Replace "home" with where the clues are hidden, unless the clues are hidden throughout your place.

The Cast of Characters

The following pages contain 10 different characters. Each character has a motive (or lack of) for killing the Director, a favorite scene in the movie, actions to perform, and several personality traits. Simply print, cut along the dotted lines, and pass them out.

NOTE: The murderer is "The Co-Star" character, so make sure someone has that character!

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, so you murder the director with poison! When the Director has both hands in their pockets, bring them a drink or food.

Personality Traits:

- Enjoy being in front of the camera
- Banned from a bar because you're a clumsy person
- Know how to use a handgun
- An only child
- Hate taking other people's pictures
- Love singing
- Drive an expensive car
- Have never owned a pet
- Exclusively acted your entire life
- Never been to jail
- Too flirtatious to be in a relationship
- Enjoy playing card games

While Playing, Do This:

- Refuse to drink tap water

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, however, you don't commit the murder.

Personality Traits:

- Big Ego
- Drive a fancy gas-eating car (but it goes really fast!)
- Love street racing
- Hate taking other people's pictures
- Have fish as pets
- Previous work experience: model
- Blood makes you sick

While Playing, Do This:

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

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. However, you don't commit any crimes.

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

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, but you don't kill anyone over it.

Personality Traits:

- Quiet
- Clumsy
- Parents died when you were young, so you're close with your older sister
- Hate being in front of the camera
- Drive a hybrid car
- Cat owner, which you like to take funny pictures of your cat
- The only job you ever had was writing
- Chess is your game
- Don't drink alcohol

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. Although, you don't kill the director.

Personality Traits:

- You enjoy having your picture taken
- Drive an electric car
- Hate your parents
- No pets
- Play guitar for a band in addition to acting
- You talked your way out of going to jail one time
- Never been in prison
- Volunteers for non-profits every week

While Playing, Do This:

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

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. Although, you don't kill the Director over it.

Personality Traits:

- Graceful
- Own a pet snake
- Bird photographer on weekends
- Prefer to be behind the camera
- Have been a camera operator your whole life
- Get along well with your parents
- Thinks they saw a ghost on the movie set
- Is a middle child of three

While Playing, Do This:

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

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. You seriously consider killing the Director at the party, but you decide against it.

Personality Traits:

- Drive a Ford Mustang
- Clumsy
- Camera Shy
- Have a pet bird
- Once a magician
- 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 lighting. Your favorite scene was when the monster first appeared.

Motive:

You really don't have much of a motive for killing the Director, but you do have a motive for killing the camera operator because they would move your lights around.

Personality Traits:

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

While Playing, Do This:

- Talk about other guests' pets
- 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, but you don't kill over it.

Personality Traits:

- Stay behind the camera
- A little bit clumsy
- Drive an eco friendly car
- An only child
- Award Winner
- Travel too much to own any pets
- Learned how to use a gun during an interview with a famous actor

While Playing, Do This:

- Take people's picture with a camera or your cellphone
- Interview people

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. You're glad the Director dies, but you didn't commit the crime.

Personality Traits:

- Drive a tiny, cheap car
- Live in your parent's basement
- Have an older bother who acts
- Own a pet lizard
- Card player
- Held down various odd jobs
- 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

The Clues

On the following pages, all of the whodunit clues are broken up with three chances to find every clue. All you'll have to do is print the following pages, cut along the dotted lines, and then hide the clues.

For reference, here's a list of all of the clues.

- The murderer does not have a cat
- The murderer does not have a pet spider
- The murderer does not have a pet snake
- The murderer does not have a dog
- The murderer has had only one kind of job throughout their whole life
- The murderer likes to be in front of the camera
- The murderer does not like to take other people's pictures
- The murderer is clumsy
- The murderer drives a fancy car
- The murderer doesn't like to drink tap water
- The murderer enjoys singing
- The murderer knows how to use a real gun
- The murderer has never been to jail
- The murderer enjoys playing card games
- The murderer is an only child
- The murderer is not married
- The murderer may have flirted with you
- I was poisoned

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
playing card
games

The murderer
enjoys
playing card
games

The murderer
enjoys
playing 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 throughout their whole life	The murderer has had only one kind of job throughout their whole life	The murderer has had only one kind of job throughout their whole life

Award Ideas

Congratulations, you've completed the movie murder mystery party game!

However, it's not much of a game unless there are prizes. Personally, I would find an excuse to give everyone a prize bag for attending the party. Here's a list of award suggestions:

- Correctly guessed the murderer
- Best use of costume accessories
- Found the most clues
- Best acting
- Craziest outfit
- Brought the most guests
- Funniest Hat
- Brought the most food/drinks
- Best character name
- Received the most votes for being the murderer when they weren't

I hope you and your guests enjoy this movie themed murder mystery party game!

Please consider buying the book that includes several enhancements, 20 selectable characters, couples' rules, and the murderer's randomization. Plus, it contains two additional party games I designed. The Movie Murder Mystery Party book is available in paperback and digital versions at <http://www.dennisspielman.com/moviemurdermysteryparty/>

Happy Adventures!