

Murder Mystery Shows – The Gala Murders

For larger events that need a more elegant touch, **THEY improv** has created a whole new genre, the Gala Murder. This genre combines elements from more traditional themed events, such as a *“Tony and Tina’s Wedding”* or the *“Irish Wake”* with a murder mystery. Instead of simply immersing an audience within a scenario with funny things happening around them, **THEY improv** invites the audience to fall in with the bad crowd and become a part of the plot. The issues between the characters and their antics are all clues that help the audience determine the culprit.

The evenings begin during cocktails. This is the opportunity for the audience to get to know the characters involved in a pressure-free environment. The audience learns details about their lives and maybe can start to see where issues and conflicts might occur.

As the audience sits for dinner, they are then witnesses to some issues between the characters. This takes place in various locations around the room, often being repeated so that people in different locations all see the same information, or may happen on stage or from a dais. The conflicts and problems become more readily apparent and some audience members might be hooked into the mayhem. Peripheral characters may also indicate to others the problems that exist, may create red herrings and may simply energize the audience with activity.

After the tension has had time to build, at the beginning of dessert, the murder occurs. This can take many forms, though poisoning is often a favorite as it allows for more suspects and doesn’t cause shock to the audience like a gunshot could.

Our detective then takes over and pulls up members of the audience to begin his investigation. He keys on people that had the opportunity to have valuable information, or maybe just important people to the organization we’re performing for. The interrogations are light-hearted and designed to amuse rather than embarrass. Through these interrogations, the basic plot points are reiterated for the audience and the suspects walk around answering questions people may have. Either working as individuals, or by table, people provide their solutions to the crime, with the best and most accurate solution winning not-very-expensive prizes.

Throughout the evening, **THEY improv’s** ability to adjust on the fly is unique. **THEY improv** is one of the few in the country that can change the murderer during the course of the evening to incorporate audience input and reactions. This leads the audience to appreciate the performance more and making the actors be “in the moment”.

Our Murder Mystery Shows run approximately 2½-3 hours and prices range depending on the number of cast members, required equipment and size of the audience. The time is generally inclusive of the cocktail hour, dinner, the murder happening at the beginning of dessert with the investigation lasting 45-90 minutes. This obviously adjusts on a case-by-case basis and there are many more options for the event.

Contact **THEY improv** to find out how hiring **THEY improv** is a winning proposition for everyone, even the victim! Email **THEY improv** at info@THEYimprov.com or by phone at (866) 219-4386.