

# **The Final Curtain**

## **A 1920s murder mystery for 7 to 20 people which you can run yourself.**

It's 1926 and a local theatre prepares for the evening performance of its latest play. The scene is set. For murder.

In the Littledean Theatre Company, crime and murder most foul is a regular occurrence – but only onstage.

During a performance of one of its plays, the leading actor collapses to the floor, dead. No surprise there, then. Except that, on this occasion, his death is no performance.

Everyone taking part in our murder mystery plays a character who is connected with the theatre company in some way. You may be a star, an understudy, a has-been, a wannabe or the person who tears the tickets. As well as having a murder to investigate, there will be other, highly satisfying objectives for you to pursue. You'll end up talking to all the other characters in the room, using any information we give you to wheel and deal with them, banter with them and find out what they know.

On the day, everyone has a name badge with their character name on it and extra information that only their character may know. And one of you will be the murderer!

The characters are written in such a way that even those who normally regard themselves as shy will still have a great time. And those who aren't shy will discover whole new ways of showing this! The "performance" lasts about three hours and is usually run over a meal. Fancy dress isn't by any means essential – although if you want to get out those silk dressing gowns and feather boas, we won't stop you!

### **Age Rating/Content Rating**

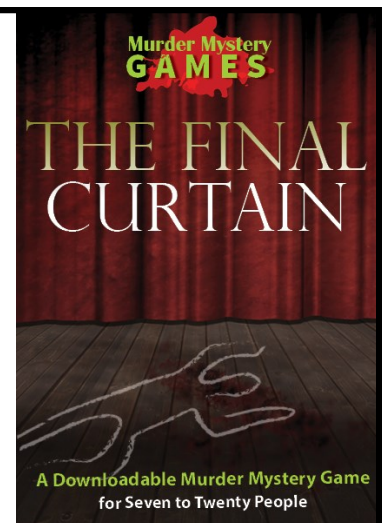
The characters in this plot don't always have the highest moral standards. Lying, cheating, disloyalty, betrayal: they've done it all. However, we don't believe most people playing this game will be offended by its content. We believe this plot is suitable for anyone aged 12 or older.

### **When is this whodunit set?**

In 1926.

### **Hire an actor**

If you are in or visiting the UK and would like a professional actor to run your game for you, please look at Option 2 on this link: [www.mayhem.org.uk/plots/best-value/](http://www.mayhem.org.uk/plots/best-value/). If you'd like a professional events company to put together the whole party for you, please go to Option 3 on the same page.



# **Welcome to The Final Curtain**

Thank you for taking the time to download this document. Most of the information you need to put the plot together is contained in the main game, for which you will have to pay. Before you do that, please check that your software and hardware are compatible with ours by printing out this whole document.

## *What is in this section?*

- A summary of what our murder mystery is about.
- A list of all the character parts.
- A cast list from the theatre programme.
- An invitation. Please don't send this out until you have bought the rest of the plot, where you will find out which characters to include in your version of it.
- A copy of the Littledean Bugle
- Notes on how to buy your game.

## *What is included when you actually buy it?*

- Character information for each guest.
- A step-by-step guide on how to run it.
- A chart which shows how to allocate the characters: which to keep and drop.
- Paper money and all the other essential paper props: coroners reports, blackmail notes etc.
- An extract from the fateful play which your guests can perform to search for further clues.
- The solution!

## *How does The Final Curtain work?*

Designed for groups of 7 to 20 people, The Final Curtain runs for up to 4 hours and

works particularly well over dinner. One person acts as co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything goes smoothly and that guests receive all the information they need. They, like all the other guests, also have a character to play in the mystery.

The co-ordinator plays Jay Fitzharing, owner and manager of the Littledean Theatre. (Jay's gender isn't specified). One of the guests will be the murderer. As well as trying to identify who this is, the other characters have their own, personal objectives to pursue. These will get them talking to everyone else as they become involved in other sub-plots along the way.

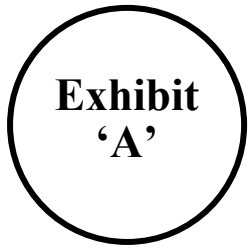
As proceedings draw to a close, people get the opportunity to make their accusations, then the correct solution is revealed and the murderer is unmasked.

## *Who has booked our murder mysteries before?*

We have been running murder mysteries professionally in the UK since 1989. Hundreds of blue-chip businesses have booked us, and a list of satisfied corporate customers is on this link to the website of our Murder Mystery and Mayhem sister company:

[www.mayhem.org.uk/about-us/](http://www.mayhem.org.uk/about-us/)

Please do not think, however, that you can just download the game and let it run itself. By getting it at a much lower price than it usually sells for, you will obviously have to put in some work to make it a real success. If you want us to organise and run it all for you, please e-mail us c/o [info@mayhem.org.uk](mailto:info@mayhem.org.uk) and we will tell you what we provide and what we charge. Or look us up at [www.mayhem.org.uk/](http://www.mayhem.org.uk/)



PLEASE BRING THIS INVITE WITH YOU  
IT CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION

# Invitation

Jay Fitzharing, the manager of Littledean Theatre, requests your pleasure at the after-show party for our latest production, 'The Final Curtain'.

Place: .....

Date: .....

Starting promptly at: .....

Jay wishes you to know that this party will be a celebration of the life of Vincent Royle who has just died so tragically. Scotland Yard wish to interview everyone about what happened so please be ready to help the police with their enquiries.

Signed: *Jay Fitzharing*

**\* Important note:**

As far as your character is concerned, the year this party is taking place is 1926. If you wish to dress in an appropriate way, please do so! Also, if the gender of your character isn't clear, you can decide for yourself which gender you want them to be.

The character Jay would like you to come as is:

.....

Please confirm whether or not you will be attending by phoning or emailing:

(organiser): .....

on (phone/email): .....

See you there!

## Exhibit 'B'

# Guest List

### **Jay Fitzharing**

The owner and manager of the Littledean Theatre, Jay directs all the plays there and is proud of the reputation the theatre has built up over the years.

### **Esmerelda De Young**

The leading lady at the theatre for many years, Esmerelda has played roles ranging from Shakespearean heroines to Mrs Tiggy-Winkle.

### **Quentin Bleeker**

Quentin is the assistant stage manager and male understudy at the theatre. He wants to be an actor and dreams of fame and fortune. In the meantime he moves furniture and make tea for the actors.

### **Deirdre Jenkins**

Deirdre is an assistant stage manager and female understudy. She has the small role of 'parlour maid' in the current production which has been warmly received.

### **Sterling Braydon**

The stage manager who is responsible for the technical running of the show. Sterling knows almost everything that goes on in the theatre.

### **Felicity Frank**

Felicity is a young actress. This is her first job and she has been at the theatre for six months. The Littledean Bugle says 'she will go far'.

### **Patrick O'Neil**

Patrick and Vincent trained at RADA together and were friends for many years. Patrick supplements his actors' wages with various business ventures and investment schemes.

### **Brian Booth**

When not propping up the theatre bar, actor Brian is often to be found playing cards with Patrick in his

dressing room.

### **Errol Blackstone**

A character actor of the old school, Errol has had a long and successful career since his first job playing Romeo opposite Esmerelda De Young's Juliet in Tunbridge Wells.

### **Sandy Deeley**

The box office manager of the theatre for many years, Sandy is the first face the audience sees and makes sure it's always happy and smiling.

### **Pip Overton**

Jay Fitzharing's personal assistant, Pip has the kind of organisational skills that are essential to the efficient running of the theatre.

### **Bert, Stage Door Keeper**

Bert keeps a watchful eye on the comings and goings in the theatre and is very strict about backstage visitors during the show. However a bottle of whisky can usually persuade him to turn a blind eye.

### **Madge Blunt**

Madge has been the cleaner at Littledean for over twenty years and has great loyalty to the theatre. She has seen all the shows and is an expert on Restoration Comedy. Her child, 'Spangles', also works at the theatre.

### **'Spangles' Blunt**

'Spangles' is Madge's child and has just started working as a dresser for the actors. Spangles is very ambitious and hopes one day to be Head of Wardrobe.

### **Inspector Blewitt**

One of Scotland Yard's finest, the Inspector has been put on this case because of his keen interest in amateur dramatics. Blewitt's Widow Twankey from last Christmas is still talked about in hushed tones.

*The Littledean Theatre Company*

Exhibit  
'B'

## Guest List (continued)

### **Karsten von Greebling**

German, forceful and very ambitious, Karsten is owner and manager of Soudley Theatre, Littledean's neighbours and arch rivals. Karsten directs all Soudley's plays and believes anything Littledean does, Soudley can do better.

### **Fenella Spears**

Fenella recently joined Soudley Theatre as an actress. She is already receiving high praise for her elegant arm gestures and exquisite diction.

### **Victor Noble**

Soudley Theatre's leading man, Victor regarded Vincent Royle as his inferior in every way. "Appalling actor, appalling human being," was how he summed him up.

### **Ernestina May**

Soudley Theatre's leading lady for many years, Ernestina prides herself on rising above the cattiness which can bedevil her profession. "Unlike Esmerelda De Young," she says, "I never have a bad word to say about anyone."

### **Terry Stafford**

Stage manager at Soudley Theatre, Littledean Theatre's arch rivals. Terry's vast knowledge of all things technical and close attention to detail means Soudley never runs short of spanners, nails, lights - or biscuits!

### **Jim, Stage Door Keeper**

Like his good friend Bert at Littledean, Soudley's stage door keeper Jim knows a lot about what goes on in his theatre. "I've seen many things you wouldn't believe," he says.

*The Littledean Theatre Company*



# The Littledean Bugle

Special Edition 1926

Exhibit  
'C'

## Audience sees death on stage

Vincent Royle dies in dramatic real-life tragedy

A shocked theatre audience watched in horror last night as Vincent Royle, one of the leading actors of his generation, died onstage at the Littledean Theatre. Royle fell to the ground clutching his stomach as his fellow actors looked on powerless to help.

treating the death as suspicious.

### PAY CUT

It has been a difficult year for Jay Fitzharing, the theatre owner and director. As we reported last week, poor box office figures necessitated all the cast taking a cut in salary.

have agreed with us that 'the show must go on'. As a tribute to him and to celebrate his life, the play will continue to be



Vincent Royle

performed with Quentin

Bleeker now taking Vincent's role. For anyone who would like to show their appreciation and love for Vincent, tickets should still be available from the box office at all the usual prices. Join us as a mark of respect."

### *"Death is suspicious," says Scotland Yard*

#### TERRIBLE PLAY

Colonel Twitchet, a member of the audience said, 'At first we thought it was a hilarious part of the play but as soon as they brought the curtain down we knew something was wrong.'

#### SUSPICIOUS

The police are investigating his death and late last night Inspector Blewitt, of Scotland Yard, revealed that they were

Late last night the following statement was issued by the theatre:

#### DEVASTATED

"We are all absolutely stunned and devastated by Vincent's sudden death. He will be a great loss not only to our theatre but to every person who is part of the acting world. I am sure dear Vincent would

### Hollywood Director in Town

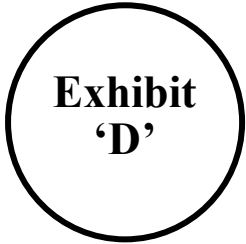
The famous Hollywood director Dwight D. Hoffenbank was staying in Littledean last week as part of a mission to talent scout the provincial theatres of England. Our reporter managed to speak to Mr Hoffenbank as he boarded his train. "I was very disappointed with the level of commitment in evidence here in (turns to assistant) - where the hell are we?- oh yeah here in Littledean. I was prepared to offer a big opportunity to talented performers but certain individuals believe they are above Hollywood. Well, if they believe that, then Hollywood certainly does not need them."



The Final Curtain

SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION





Littledean Theatre is proud to present to you its latest magnificent production, *The Final Curtain*.

Cast List

(In order of appearance)

Sir George Membury	Vincent Royle
Lady Evadne Membury <i>Sir George's wife</i>	Esmerelda De Young
Toby Membury <i>Sir George's brother</i>	Patrick O'Neil
Pearl Membury <i>Sir George's daughter</i>	Felicity Frank
Mavis <i>The Parlour Maid</i>	Deirdre Jenkins
The Butler	Quentin Bleeker
Colonel Fitzsimmons	Errol Blackstone
Sebastian Smythe-Pattison	Brian Booth

Theatre Staff

Director	Jay Fitzharing
Jay Fitzharing's Personal Assistant	Pip Overton
Stage Manager	Sterling Braydon
Assistant Stage Manager	Quentin Bleeker
..... Assistant Stage Manager	Deirdre Jenkins
Box Office Manager	Sandy Deeley
Dresser	'Spangles' Blunt
Theatre Cleaner	Madge Blunt
Stage Door Keeper	Bert

# HOW TO BUY YOUR GAME

THANK YOU for getting this far. Now please buy the game!

Available from anywhere in the world, the game is only available by download from the Internet. When buying a game from us, you must respect the copyright terms as set out on our [www.murdermysterygames.co.uk](http://www.murdermysterygames.co.uk) website. In particular, you agree not to run your game commercially or for profit unless you have received our **specific, written consent** to do so.

## To buy online

The payment system is very secure. We don't receive or store any of your bank details ourselves. Instead, your payment will be processed via PayPal which encrypts and protects your personal details using SSL.

Please go to <http://www.murdermysterygames.co.uk/shop/> and follow the instructions you find there. When we receive your payment, we will e-mail you a password which will enable you to download the main game. Yours for £24.99 (UK pounds), which is about US\$38.

## Disclaimer

The game comes "as is". Any disputes arising from the sale of the game are subject to the laws of England and Wales, regardless of the geographical location of the customer.