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Killing Kompany commits murder by ghost

BY CLIFF KASDEN
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 8:05 PM EDT

Tempers are flaring at Villa Umberto, 90 Meacham Ave in Elmont (a stone's throw from Queens). The Democratic and Republican parties are rallying their supporters at a sit down dinner. There must be more than 120 well-heeled guests.

Suddenly, shots ring out. The Republican falls! Will that be French or Russian dressing on your salad sir?

Not a problem. It's just another performance by Jon Avner and his Killing Kompany. Portraying Police Lieutenant Michael Dorsey, Avner and his troupe of professional actors present dinner theatre with a murderously funny twist. For fifteen years they have hurled jokes, jibes, stage knives and blank bullets at residents of Queens, Long Island and Upstate New York. Tonight is another chance to enjoy their talents.

An outstanding meal begins with delicious appetizers, pasta and salad. The actors, already in character, are mingling with the dinner guests. The lieutenant has decided to frisk some suspicious guests. There is plenty of colorful small talk. The Democratic chair played by Marilyn Spanier throws puns at the guests with a twinkle in her eye. She is followed closely by her Republican foe played by Bob Ader. Will both meet violent fates before the main course has been served?

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Between courses, the lieutenant calls several "witnesses" to the microphone at the center of the ballroom. It is no coincidence that most tables are celebrating a birthday or other milestone. The witnesses are usually guests of honor for each table. Double edged quips bring laughter and applause. One smiling suspect states; "I would never shoot a Republican!" How about a Democrat?

Poor Lieutenant Dorsey needs a helping hand. He calls in a Secret Service Agent played by Darrin Chumbley. He wears the requisite headset, black suit and a deadly serious expression. He has some unexpected surprises for the ladies in the crowd. A crass DJ hovers over his meal, playing unusually long tapes. He deserves a dastardly demise. A reporter, Kit Kouric, has some quotable conclusions to confound the crowd.

A separate area becomes headquarters for a collection of clues and clever conferencing by the guests. Yellow ballots have been distributed so that the amateur detectives/dinner patrons can solve the crimes. A tasty dessert is offered as tonight's mystery is finally concluded. Awards are presented. An ace detective is selected. His name will appear on the group's official website. The troupe takes their bows. Coffee is served.

Call 1-888-SHOOT -EM or 212-772-2590. A very extensive website can be found at www.killingkompany.com. Original performances are held all year long in Queens and elsewhere. As always, save me a seat on the aisle.



Photo courtesy of the Killing Kompany
The Killing Kompany is knocking them dead at performances throughout Queens.

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