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Killing Kompany Kontinues ...

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BY CLIFF KASDEN

From Sherlock Holmes in the late 1800s to...well, Sherlock Holmes in the early 2000s, people love a good mystery. Whether in book form, film, or theatre, nothing else comes close to intriguing a reader or an audience. Mysteries also engage television viewers. If it's presented well, he or she can't help guessing, "Who done it?" And that very question, "Who done it?" may well be the answer to the enduring success of the Killing Kompany.

Since the early 1990s, Jon Avner has brought his alter-ego, Sgt. Michael Dorsey, to venues throughout Queens and the greater New York area. Under his direction, dinner theatre reaches a new level. Every audience member becomes both sleuth and suspect. Diners are encouraged to assume aliases as they try to "katch the killer" and reveal the motive. It's not uncommon to see names like "James Bond," "Jessica Fletcher" and, of course, "Sherlock Holmes" written on the solution sheets received and returned by everyone in the ballroom.

The Killing Kompany never repeats a show, and most scripts relate to headlines, politics, and pop culture. I recently attended a production at Riccardo's, 21-01 24th Avenue, in Astoria. It parodied television's popular reality show, "The Biggest Loser." Bob Ader as J. D. Roth was the evening's first victim. Jenny Lee Mitchell as winner Rebecca Meyer and John Carlton as her boyfriend Daniel Wright were guilty of aiding and abetting with some song and dance. After all, what fun is a murder without a little music? For that matter, what fun is a Killing Kompany production without Darin Chumbley, this time as trainer Bob Harper, bringin' down the house as a "macho man?"

The intrigue, the suspense...and, of course, the food...all "kontribute" to the "kontinuing" success of the Killing Kompany. Dial 888-SHOOT-EM, log onto www.killingkompany.com, or email killingkompany@killingkompany.com and join the fun! Check them out at Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

And, of "kourse," save me a seat on the aisle.

The Queens Courier

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