

If you are thinking of holding a

# Murder Mystery Evening

then make it easy on yourself: contact

## *Cloak & Dagger*



*the South's premier Murder Mystery Company*

website : [www.murderdinner.co.uk](http://www.murderdinner.co.uk)  
Telephone / fax / answering machine : 023 9248 4730  
email : [office@murderdinner.co.uk](mailto:office@murderdinner.co.uk)

...there's nothing like a death to bring an evening to life...

## Everything you need to know about a Murder Mystery.



### **What's so good about a murder mystery?**

A Murder Mystery Dinner turns an ordinary dinner function into something much more exciting and memorable which people enjoy, remember and ask you to repeat.

It gives a focus to an evening and an entertainment different from the usual offerings, something which appeals to all ages and everybody can join in. It provides a ready topic of conversation and a useful 'ice-breaker' for groups who do not know each other well.

For corporate occasions, professional conferences or training days, it makes a very effective team-building and 'bonding' exercise which is not just hard work but is fun for the staff.

For sports clubs, golf clubs and similar organisations, it offers something which non-playing partners can also enjoy, making them much more appealing (and much better attended) as social functions.

### **Why should we use Cloak & Dagger?**

There are many companies offering murder mystery dinners, but there are five main reasons why Cloak & Dagger stands apart from the rest and has gained the reputation it has.

First, Cloak & Dagger is an established professional company which has been running for nearly twenty years- we started in 1993 - focussing exclusively on murder mysteries. What we offer is a tried and tested performance so that you do not need to worry whether or not the event will go well. Our years of experience means we know how to make it a success.

Second, we know how important it is that the whole of the audience is kept entertained all the time and that is why Cloak & Dagger normally uses seven or eight actors in each show and we never have fewer than six. We know that some companies say you can manage with a cast of only two or three but we don't think - from having seen others try it - that this can ever work satisfactorily for anything but the smallest audiences.

Third, we know that guests who have come out for an evening's entertainment expect just that: they want to be entertained! That is why Cloak & Dagger performances are fully acted out - we don't take the simple option of handing out piles of paper to read, (so-called "clue packs") because we know that audiences don't enjoy wading through it all. Similarly, we like to ensure that everyone can see properly, so wherever it is required, we will bring staging and specialist lighting; our costumes and sets are designed to a proper professional standard.

Fourth, all our scripts are proper murder mysteries; all the clues are there but you have to 'use the little grey cells' to find them. Yes, they also have some comedy in them, (some have a little, some have a lot and depending on how straight or comic you want it to be, we can select a script to suit) but we never forget that it is a Murder Mystery your guests have come for, not just a comedy night.

Fifth is the cost. Cloak & Dagger is not the cheapest company around - we can't be if we are to maintain the quality our clients expect - but we believe we offer very good value for a top quality performance, professionally produced and competitively priced.

**Doesn't it involve us in a lot of work?**

Not with Cloak & Dagger it doesn't! You arrange the dinner as usual, we provide everything else: the clues, the prizes, pens and paper, timetables for the chef and we'll even help you publicise it. We will come and visit you beforehand and talk through exactly what is going to happen and make sure that all your questions are answered.

And even if you have never tried this before, we have been doing it for quite a while, and we know where problems are likely to arise and are ready to prevent them.

**Does it need much space?**

No. We have performed in everything from tents to stately homes, churches to private houses; we will work in whatever space is available.

**Would guests be expected to dress up?**

Not unless they wanted to. Some people love the excuse to dress up, but many hate the idea and we certainly don't expect it. Of course, if you particularly want an evening where people can dress up, we can select a suitable script. Flappers and The Roaring Twenties? Edwardian Music Hall? Al Capone and Prohibition? The Wild West? Caribbean Pirates? Even Just William and St Trinians, we've got them all.

**Would the guests have to act parts?**

No. We do the entertaining, and we don't ask anyone to take a more active part than they individually want to. Many people are very wary of making an exhibition of themselves and so although we certainly do hope the audience will feel involved, we won't ever drag someone up on stage unexpectedly. On the other hand, if you specifically want a great deal of participation, that is not a problem, but this is something we will agree with you in advance.

**What would the story be about?**

We will agree that with you. We have about fifteen scripts currently on offer, all personal to Cloak & Dagger and written by or for the company. They include some fairly serious classic 1920s Country House scenarios, through to the Wild West, Edwardian Music Hall and a wide range of modern-day settings. If you have a particular request, we can even - given sufficient time - tailor one just for you.

Our aim always is that our evenings should be fun. This means that although they are primarily murder mysteries, there is also a good element of entertainment and comedy so that they are as enjoyable for those who only want only to be entertained as for those who want to solve the mystery.

We also have some specifically for different times of year (Christmas, Hallowe'en, St Valentine's Day, high summer) and for particular groups (one particularly slanted towards schools, another towards golf or social clubs, and so on) so we can be confident of finding one to suit any audience.

Except for a couple which are not suitable for children, they are all suitable for all ages.

### **What would we have to provide?**

Only an audience and their dinner. The ideal size of audience is between 60 -120 although as few as 40 or as many as 200 are quite acceptable. And a secure private dressing room for the cast.

### **What would Cloak & Dagger provide?**

We provide everything else: staging, lighting, sound equipment (oh yes, it's a proper show) pens and paper for those who want to make notes and prizes for the winning tables.



### **How would we let people know about it?**

We can provide A5 flyers (the first 100 are free and any more are charged at cost) and/or an A3 poster to help you publicise the event. If you want us to, we will also advertise it on our website.

### **Do we have to use a special location?**

Not at all. We perform in hotels, clubs, schools, churches, village halls, offices, country houses... in fact anywhere we can assemble an audience!

### **How does it work?**

Based around a three (or more) course meal, there will be some action before the first course and again after each course making four acts in all. At some point, one (or more) of the cast will be murdered. After the main course is the main questioning of the suspects which is then thrown open to the audience. During the dessert the audience works out 'whodunit', and this is followed by the denouement when the murderer is revealed and prizes are given to the winning table. While the audience is eating each course, the actors will circulate round the tables and can be questioned. If the dinner starts at 7.30 or 8.00, the evening will finish at about 11.00.

### **How much does it cost?**

This does depend very much on the location and the time, but normally from £700 (all inclusive), assuming an audience of not more than 120. For a much larger audience, so that special sound equipment may be required, or when there is considerable travelling involved, the cost will inevitably be more. For a much smaller audience, below 25, we would use a different format and the cost would be lower.

### **And when do we pay?**

Not until afterwards. We ask for a 10% deposit on booking and the balance after the event.

We hope that has given you all the information you need,  
but if there is anything else you want to know,  
please ring **023 9248 4730**  
or email **[office@murderdinner.co.uk](mailto:office@murderdinner.co.uk)**  
and we will be happy to give any more information we can.