



MURDER MYSTERY AT THE **DIXON MANOR**

An original play by Abel Cornejo

Location: 360 North First Street

Dixon, CA 95620

Production Dates: April 20,21,27,28 2024

5 Show Run. 3 Matinee, 2 Evening

SOLD OUT

OUR ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

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In early 2021, Linda Bologna and Abel Cornejo embarked on an exciting journey to revive the Dixon Community Theater amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. A group decided to meet once a week via Zoom and started a Reader's Theater group. The purpose was to be able to read scripts and scenes live. Eventually this led to two successful Zoom shows: "Whispering Pines Trailer Park Christmas" and "Dastardly Deeds at the Dixon Depot."

A desire to transition to in-person events emerged in the summer of 2023. By December of that year, the Dixon Community Theater proudly collaborated with the Dixon Historical Society. Together they presented "Christmas Miracle in Dixon" as a centerpiece of the enchanting downtown Dixon tree lighting celebration.

Riding the wave of community appreciation and creative momentum, Abel Cornejo decided to take the next step to fully bringing a community theater back to Dixon. In the early months of 2024, a board of directors was formed and the Dixon Community Theater was re-established as a community service organization with the goal of providing educational and enriching performing arts and theatrical experiences to the residents of Dixon.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Dixon Community Theater is to create opportunities for community participation and to enrich, educate and entertain, in order to make our community a more conscious and compassionate place.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Sachi Denison-Woods
Vice President - Cheryl Sommers
Secretary - Robert Williams
Treasurer - Shauna Manina
Board Member - Abel Cornejo
Board Member - Richard Farshler
Board Member - Kelly Pidgeon James



A THRIVING COMMUNITY THEATER



"In the heart of Dixon, the revival of community theater has sparked not only the return of seasoned performers but also the blossoming of new talents. *Murder Mystery at the Dixon Manor*, presented by the Dixon Community Theater, serves as a poignant testament to the enduring impact of local theater on our town's cultural fabric." (Independent Voice, April 25, 2024)

For Dixon Community Theater's first post-incorporation production, Artistic Director Abel Cornejo decided to write an original script for a play to be presented in a comedic, crime-noir style.

The result was *Mystery at the Dixon Manor*, a play with a storyline centered in 1935 Dixon, and an approximate runtime of 60 minutes. Each of the five showtimes sold out.

ABOUT THE PLAY

"Murder Mystery in the Dixon Manor" is not just any ordinary play; it's an immersive experience that plunges the audience into the heart of a thrilling murder investigation set in a Victorian Manor alongside Northern California's railroad tracks in 1935. Think Agatha Christie meets Raymond Chandler with a dash of film noir ambiance.

A MYSTERY UNFOLDS.....

The narrative unfolds on a dark stormy night, filled with witty dialogue, dark secrets, and unexpected twists. But what sets this production apart is its interactive final scene, where the audience becomes part of the action, participating in the interrogation of suspects to uncover the truth behind the dastardly deed. In "Murder Mystery in the Dixon Manor," each character is a compelling

piece of the puzzle, with their own motives, secrets, and suspicions. From the likable yet amateur Detective Langton to the provocative French maid Carlotta, every character adds layers of intrigue and suspense to the narrative. As the audience navigates through a web of deceit and deception, they'll find themselves captivated by the diverse cast of suspects, each with their own potential motives for murder.

"Murder Mystery at the Dixon Manor,' presented by the Dixon Community Theater, serves as a poignant testament to the enduring impact of local theater on our town's cultural fabric"

-Abel Cornejo



COMEDY THROUGH CLASSIC CHARACTERS

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In our latest production, Abel Cornejo masterfully harnesses the charm of classic murder mystery tropes to deliver a play that's both thrilling and hilarious. Just like in the script for *Clue*, Cornejo brings to life iconic characters such as the seductive femme fatale, the conniving servants, and the bumbling detective. These familiar yet delightful personas cleverly mislead the audience, keeping everyone on their toes and laughing out loud until the final reveal.

AMUSING AND ENGAGING CHARACTERS



THE GREYSTONE'S FAMILY DRAMA

At the center of the story is the Greystones, a wealthy and prominent family in the city of Dixon. Benjamin Greystone, the philandering and self-indulgent patriarch; Lady Greystone, the overly proper and domineering matriarch; Nigel Greystone, the eccentric, alcoholic nephew; and Audrey Greystone, the seemingly dutiful daughter whose actions often conflict with the wishes of her overbearing mother.



THE INVESTIGATIVE TEAM

No murder mystery is complete without a cracker jack detective and his faithful assistant. Detective Langton enters the story as the expected hero. But is he up to the task? His simple assistant Rufus Allen is always just a few faithful steps behind the detective, ready to emulate his idol and lend a helping hand. As opposite as can be, this investigative duo quickly find out that there is more than meets the eye occurring in this manor.

AMUSING AND ENGAGING CHARACTERS

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WILLIAM THE BUTLER AND CARLOTTA THE MAID

Good help is hard to find and such is the case at Greystone Manor. William the butler, rigid and proper, loyally serves the Greystone family. In stark contrast, Carlotta the maid has her own ideas and is looking for a way to get ahead, or at least out!



MRS. ROSE - THE MAYORS WIFE

A prominent family like the Greystone's will have equally influential friends. Mrs. Rose, the Mayor's wife is Lady Greystone's confidant and closet companion. Deeply religious and determined to maintain her position in Dixon society, Mrs. Rose knows about social expectations and who does and does not belong.



MISS. BLACK - THE FEMME FATALE

Miss. Black has a lust for life, and for the attention of men. This sultry seductress stands apart from the other females in this ensemble. Clouded in mystery and intrigue, and seemingly determined to win the affections of Detective Langton, is Miss Black really looking for love, or is she after something else?



MADAME GREENVILLE - THE PSYCHIC

Personal psychics and mediums were very in vogue during the 1930's for the socially elite in America. While many were proven charlatans, Madame Greenville is no sideshow act. With her powers of soothsaying and ability to connect to the other side, will she be able to warn the Greystone's of future calamities before it's too late?

AMUSING AND ENGAGING CHARACTERS

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PROFESSOR WINKLE

A quintessential, doddering, old academic, Professor Winkle quickly becomes enamored with Carlotta, who does not share his affections. Will he be able to win her over? Or will his focus on Carlotta prevent him from seeing the danger closing in?

CREATING AN ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

Our goal was to deliver an unforgettable and fun experience for the whole family. The historical parlor room offered an intimate atmosphere, bringing patrons close with our talented actors. With vibrant costumes and captivating performances, the magic of theater came alive with each show.

Audiences joined in on the fun by interacting with characters during open interrogations. After the show, audiences enjoyed a meet-and-greet with the cast, fostering vital community building. Our performances become a hub where community members gather, share, and celebrate the joy of live performance.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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The venue chosen to host the production was the McCune house, a beautifully restored Victorian, nestled alongside the railroad tracks which historically drove the town's growth and economy. This smaller, intimate setting lent authenticity to the play's storyline and overall theme and provided outdoor spaces where a preshow reception was held for the show's patrons.



MCCUNE MANOR

The Venue

Wes and Alena Standfill graciously agreed to let Dixon Community Theater rent their beautifully restored Victorian house, known as the McCune Manor, located at 360 North First Street, in Dixon. Originally built in 1873, the house had many owners over the years. However, time was not kind, and after years of neglect and a fire, the once prominent manor was merely a dilapidated shell of its former self. At risk of being torn down, the Standfills saw the home's potential and rescued it from oblivion. Anyone lucky enough to see this home up close will marvel at the attention to detail and craftsmanship of the Standfills' restoration which can only be described as a labor of love. (photo by Debra Dingman)



HIGH TEA AND A SHOW

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The reception, fashioned after a formal high tea, offered an opportunity for the attendants to grab a bite to eat, mingle with cast members in character, and walk around the beautiful property. Many of the people who attended the reception expressed their awe and appreciation of the restoration of the McCune Manor, and inquired as to whether the owners would continue to host events at the property.



HIGH TEA TREATS

A variety of sweet and savory snacks were presented in formal fashion for the enjoyment of the show's attendees. Also offered were beverage choices including hot tea, iced tea and lemonade.



RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH OUR GUESTS

The reception provided a golden opportunity for those in attendance to mingle with cast members in character and even the show's director. (From left to right, Mayor Steve Bird and wife, and director Abel Cornejo)



RECEPTION LOCALES...

The venue offered two amazing locations for an outdoor reception. The first (pictured to the left) was larger and featured a large fountain which added to the ambience. The second location was a shaded courtyard which was utilized during the second weekend.

- **BENJAMIN GREYSTONE**
Russel Woods
- **WILLIAM THE BUTLER**
Robert Williams
- **AUDREY GREYSTONE**
Angel Gatchel
- **DETECTIVE LANGTON**
John MacKenzie
- **RUFUS ALLEN**
Lewis Wentworth
- **LADY GREYSTONE**
Kelly Pidgeon James
- **MRS. ROSE**
Bridget O'Flaherty
- **MISS. BLACK**
Cheryl Sommers
- **MADAME GREENVILLE**
Sachi Denison-Woods
- **CARLOTTA**
Janice Ferrero
- **NIGEL GREYSTONE, COP #1**
Brian P.B. Sizemore
- **PROFESSOR WINKLE, COP #2**
Dave Atkinson

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION

Costumes.....Jean Henderson
Backstage Supervisor.....Russel Woods
Assistant.....Ryley MacKenzie
Assistant.....Orion Denison-Woods

BOX OFFICE

Abel Cornejo, Jean Henderson,
Pam MacKenzie, Maria Lopez

PRESHOW RECEPTION

Reception Coordinator.....Kelly Pidgeon James
Lead.....Lily Pidgeon James
Attendant.....Ryley MacKenzie
Attendant.....Orion Denison-Woods
Attendant.....Pamela MacKenzie
Attendant.....Sherri Wentworth
Attendant.....Randy Reid-Cramer

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY

Kelly Pidgeon James, Jean Henderson,
& Janice Ferrero

REHERSAL VENUE

Farmstead of Dixon

PRODUCTION VENUE

McCune Manor - Wes & Alena Standfill proprietors

