

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER · 6 TO 8 PLAYERS

Death at Studio 7

A Murder Mystery Dinner in Hollywood, 1934



SAMPLE

Hollywood, November 1934: during a night shoot at Studio 7 the star is missing, and soon after the producer lies dead in his office above the stage. Until midnight you sit in the commissary with everyone who could have done it.

PLAYERS

6 or 8

AGE

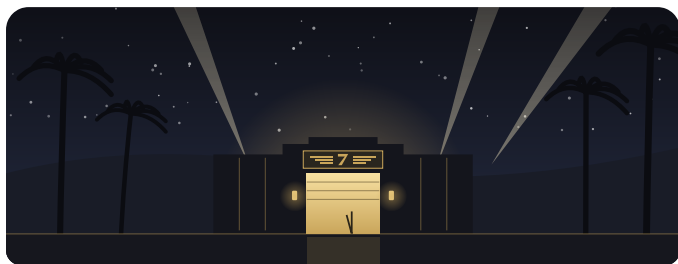
16 and up

DURATION

about 3 hours

DIFFICULTY

medium



DEATH AT STUDIO 7

What it's about

Hollywood, autumn 1934. At Bellcrest Pictures they shoot deep into the night. On Studio 7 the camera, the lights and a salon set with red silk wallpaper stand ready. Only the star doesn't show.

Harold J. Sterling, the producer, knows the weak spots of everyone who works for him, and tonight he lets each of them feel it. He threatens, he sets deadlines, he announces a big clean-up for Monday. Then he climbs the stairs to his office above the stage. He doesn't come down alive.

The studio wants no scandal and no police, at least not yet. Eight people sit in the commissary over cold coffee and sandwiches. Nearly every one of them had a reason to fear Sterling. By midnight you need a name.

DEATH AT STUDIO 7

How the evening runs

- 1 **Before the evening** Each player gets their role, as a booklet or on their phone, and reads up on it.
- 2 **Introduction** The host reads aloud what has happened.
- 3 **Rounds 1 to 3** Each round brings new memories and documents. You question one another.
- 4 **Two events** Between the rounds, new facts come to light.
- 5 **Accusation** Everyone writes down who they think is guilty.
- 6 **Solution** The sealed solution is opened.

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The Characters

One of these roles will be yours.

**Frankie Dolan**

Unit Production Manager

For twelve years Frankie has held every shooting schedule at Bellcrest Pictures together: extras, coffee, and nerves. Tonight Frankie runs the shoot on Studio 7 and now this gathering in the commissary as well.

**Vivian Ashby**

Leading lady

Vivian is the new star of Bellcrest: three pictures, three hits. In “Fog over Macau” she plays the singer Lily Shaw. Tomorrow her engagement to the producer Harold J. Sterling is due to appear in the papers.

**Danny Cole**

Double and stand-in for Grant Maddox

Danny has Grant Maddox’s height, his walk and the back of his head – just not his face. For two years Danny has stood in the light for Grant while the lamps are set, and taken the jumps when things get dangerous.

**Rosa Delgado**

wardrobe mistress

Rosa has sewn, mended and pressed in the wardrobe department at Bellcrest since the talkies came in. She knows every dress Vivian Ashby wears down to the last snap, and she hears more than anyone thinks.

**Leopold Kastner**

Director

Leopold Kastner made celebrated films in Berlin and has worked in Hollywood since 1933; “Fog over Macau” is his second picture for Bellcrest. He speaks softly, sees everything, and shoots every scene until it is right.

**Eddie Malone**

Cameraman

Eddie cranked silent pictures when Hollywood was still orange groves. No cameraman at the studio lights a face as beautifully as he does; the stars ask for him by name.

**Lorraine Pike**

Gossip columnist

Lorraine writes the column “Behind the Curtain” for a big Los Angeles newspaper. Whoever she praises gets cast; whoever she pans soon sells insurance. Tonight she is writing about Vivian Ashby.

**Sam Whitaker**

Screenwriter

Sam wrote “Fog over Macau” – every line, every shot, every last sentence in the rain. For weeks Sam has been working nights at the studio, because every scene Sterling doesn’t like has to be rewritten overnight.

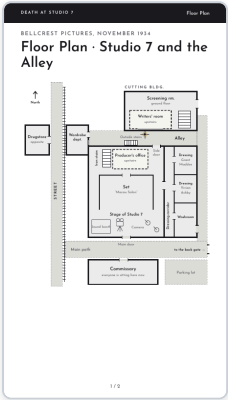
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What the materials look like

Three sample pages from the digital version. The round texts stay secret until the evening, so the round is blurred.



Intro, title page



Floor plan



Round 1 (blurred)

DEATH AT STUDIO 7

What's included

- START HERE and host guide (no solution inside), with prologue and two events to read aloud
- Floor plan of Studio 7, the alley and the cutting building
- 8 role booklets with intro and three rounds
- Accusation sheets and sealed solution
- Sealed instructions in case you play with six or seven
- Digital version: the intro and each round as a separate file to send

Content notes: Death by violence (stated plainly, not graphic) · Blackmail · Affair · Alcohol and cigarettes · Flight from political persecution (Germany, 1933) · Embezzlement · A concealed illness

The complete kit is available at murdernight.store.