

## «A piece of cake» for class 3 R

A foreign language is best learnt by speaking it. Peter R. Füeg, a teacher from Pratteln, implements this by rehearsing an English-language play with his classes every four years. On Thursday, Class 3R invited guests to the crime thriller 'Murder Included'.

**Pratteln.** cth. 'Murder Included' is the title of the play written by English teacher Peter R. Füeg from Pratteln. He wrote the play during the summer holidays and then combed through English bookshops for the title 'Murder Included'. As the title did not exist, Peter Füeg could confidently leave the title of the humorous crime play in its original version. After the summer holidays, work began for Class 3R. In seven weeks, the 27 students learnt the English-language dialogues by heart, in a language they had only been learning for five and a quarter years. In addition to the school lessons, a project week was also available for rehearsals. 'The idea behind this project is for the class to make a huge leap in English,' explains Peter R. Füeg. This undertaking was certainly not 'a piece of cake' for the class, although it almost appeared so on the stage of the Fröschmatt school building. The class obviously enjoyed acting in English.

Sir Abel Lindsay, Lady Abigail's husband, has squandered and gambled away the family fortune, leaving the noble family with no choice but to seek mundane sources of income. They decide to stage a 'mystery weekend' in their castle and hire a group of actors for the occasion. But then a seemingly real murder occurs. The director of the troupe, Charles Brown, pays compensation because he feels responsible for the murder of Sir Lindsay. Now the castle is saved, the debts are paid off, the noble Lindsay family is saved from ruin, and the happy life can continue.

It would certainly not be quite as simple in real life, but there is the famous Shakespeare quote at the beginning of the play: 'All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players.'

For Scotland fan Peter R. Füeg, theatre projects like 'Murder Included' are also a way to refresh the often outdated language of many English course books and to let students learn phrases that actually occur in everyday English. 'I write the roles for the students in my class,' says Peter R. Füeg. The rehearsal periods are always very short. This autumn, too, it was just seven weeks. During a week-long camp, the students practised their roles intensively and fine-tuned their pronunciation. The result is astounding: not only is the students' pronunciation convincing, but they also show speed and wit in their performance and learn English idioms and contemporary vocabulary almost without noticing. It will no longer be a problem for class 3R to find their way around England. Set pieces from Shakespeare's plays, from recent events and also from current everyday situations are woven into an entertaining whole.

The theatre performance received a thunderous applause from the audience, which it deserved. Incidentally, Peter R. Füeg was able to publish the play, which he rehearsed with a class four years ago, with an English publishing house.

Translated from German

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