

# Great Entertainment in the theater à la «Shakespeare – who else!»

**The 12th Earl of Kilmany wants to save his old manor house from ruin by staging a ‘mystery weekend’ – with ‘nasty surprises’.**

**By Verena Fiva**

With 26 students from the 3rd grade, secondary school teacher Peter R. Füg rehearsed the English drama ‘Murder Included’ and recently performed it in the auditorium. The programme booklet is in English and the action on stage is in English, too. With a dust-covered ancestral portrait gallery and conservative knight's armour, it is easy to see why the Old Manor House is in trouble. The ladies drink tea and Sir Abel Lindsay his whisky on the sofa already before breakfast. The children Hamlet and Ophelia learn Shakespearean verses for Drama School in Edinburgh and Lady Abigail plays and sings set poems at the piano. By whom? ‘By Shakespeare, of course!’ There are a clumsy butler and a maid who is less eager to please than she is self-confident, but the tone of the Lindsay family's conversation clearly suggests that things are going downhill in the house of the 12th Earl of Kilmany. How far are the Lindsays willing to go to save their property? Very far – after all, the play is called ‘Murder Included’, ‘Murder Included’.

## **Of victims and villains**

‘Mystery Weekends’ are trendy, according to an advert in the “Sunday Times”: ‘We'll get you guests and entertainment.’

Soon the Lindsay's open their doors to the Mystery Crew and convert their Old Manor into a hotel. The first guests arrive. The Smiths, a married couple celebrating their silver wedding anniversary, are delightful. The Miller family, a blended family, also make a great victim, with father George, a copper on the beat, already seeing himself as a Scotland Yard detective as a result of his training at the Old Manor.

Instead of enjoying themselves at the Old Manor House in Kilmany, Scotland, they soon find themselves in trouble with the hotel management and over a fling involving the ‘Sexiest Man Alive’. Randolph, or ‘Randy’ Smith, is canoodling with the gorgeous Vanessa Redhill of the Mystery Crew. However, her manager Charles Brown gets the situation back under control, and the mystery plot begins according to plan – until the Earl of Kilmany is actually shot dead.

## **Mysterious to the end**

‘I shot him, but I didn't murder him,’ the audience hears Lady Abigail say to her children later on – but how the surprising coup leads to a happy ending for man and manor in detail, should remain a mystery’, as Füg, the English teacher, will hopefully soon perform his play again at Fröschmatt with new students. He has a refreshing approach, a great sense of humour and fantastic ideas for fans of Shakespeare and Mickey Mouse.

'Murder Included' is one of four plays that Füeg wrote under the pseudonym Peter De Geesewell in 1997 for the Fröschi students. He has rewritten it for this year – and rehearsed it in an intensive week of rehearsals.

On two evenings with a different cast in the larger roles, 'Murder Included' has now been performed. The students played wonderfully and – at least on Saturday evening – grew into their roles and into the foreign language: the 'rather boring librarian' remained a boring librarian; it's hard to be married to the prudish Prudence Smith for 25 years; the 'nasty surprise' when the mystery manager playing the priest falls into the soup is disgusting; and the pronunciation of Hamlet and Ophelia Lindsay is flawless – in Shakespeare's English, of course – what else!

**More information about the play and the author: [www.degeesewell.ch](http://www.degeesewell.ch)**

Translated from German

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