

## **ROUND ONE - The murder is announced**

Round Instructions:

Before Round One begins, all the cast should have been circulating (in character) with the guests.

The cast should act in character with their costumes and keep dropping unsubtle hints about the upcoming proposed Halloween murder mystery. It should seem very slap-stick and unprofessional.

Carrie and Shona might wish to pair up to tell ghost stories about the hotel and the local area to make people's hair stand on end. Igor should be acting in character as the butler, and should introduce himself to everyone as Yorick. Helen should act in character as a witch setting the scene for what would have been a Halloween themed game (that will never come off), calling Yorick the butler across to the guests and ordering him around. Ivan should act a little embarrassed about his role as Dracula and not seem to have his heart in it at all.

The cast can all tell the guests a bit about their real selves (i.e their character) as they circulate and Shona and Carrie should make it clear to everyone they are related. Shona should seem very proud of her daughter.

If the guests do meet in a separate room then they should be called through for dinner by Ivan Appetite where indicated in the round.

During the circulation period two guests who seem more outgoing than the others should be selected to take the roles of Seymour's coach seat partner and a doctor. They should be given their information sheet and told to keep it to themselves and that they will be asked to answer the questions on it once they have all been escorted through to the dining room. The coach seat partner should be told she will be asked her questions after the first course, the doctor should be told to stay with the cast in the reception area when everyone else goes through.

The first half of the script should happen in the reception room, but it could happen in the dining room if required.

## **ROUND ONE SCRIPT**

IGOR SHOULD LEAVE THE ROOM

**Helen:** [GET EVERYONES ATTENTION SOMEHOW] Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for joining us at Dunnem Inn in the heart of Transylvania.

As you know this evening we are hosting a murder mystery dinner in your honour and I am so glad to see that some of you have made an

effort by coming in costume. All those that haven't I will turn into frogs later on.

And so, I'll hand over too... [DOES A QUICK HEAD COUNT] Shona? Is this everyone? We seem to be missing somebody.

**Shona:** We are? Oh. I'll go and check the coach. Maybe someone fell asleep.

SHONA LEAVES.

**Helen:** Anyway as I was saying, I'll hand over to...

IGOR STAGGERS IN CLUTCHING A DAGGER TO HIS CHEST, WITH BLOOD ON HIS HANDS AND IN HIS MOUTH, GURGLING NOISILY AND THEN COLLAPSES IN FRONT OF THE GUESTS AS IF DEAD.

CARRIE SHOULD SCREAM LOUDLY.

**Helen:** Stand back! Stand back!

HELEN TAKES IGOR'S PULSE.

**Helen:** He's dead!

CAST GASP MELODRAMATICALLY.

**Carrie:** Alas poor Yorick, I knew him well.

SHONA SHOULD SCREAM SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE ROOM. THE CAST SHOULD LOOK SURPRISED.

**Helen:** Who was that?

**Carrie:** It sounded like mum.

IGOR SHOULD SIT BACK UP AGAIN

**Igor:** Shona? Where is she?

**Helen:** She said she was going to check the coach.

**Igor:** The coach? I better go see.

IGOR GETS UP AND LEAVES THE ROOM.

**Helen:** Sorry about this ladies and gentlemen. We'll start the entertainment again soon enough.

**Carrie:** Do you think I should go to?

**Helen:** No. I'm sure she's fine. Carrie, you carry on.

**Carrie:** With the murder mystery?

**Helen:** No Carrie. We can't exactly do your "weeping over the butler" scene. Igor's gone.

**Carrie:** Oh. Yeah. Well... I'll just circulate then.

SHONA AND IGOR WALK BACK IN. IGOR SHOULD BE SUPPORTING SHONA AS IF SHE HAS HAD A SHOCK. THEY WALK STRAIGHT TO HELEN.

**Helen:** [STAGE WHISPER] What is it?

**Shona:** [STAGE WHISPER] It's... well... it's Seymour Helen. He's dead.

**Helen:** [STAGE WHISPER] He's what?

**Igor:** [STAGE WHISPER] Dead. Stone cold.

**Helen:** [STAGE WHISPER] Dead?

**Igor:** [STAGE WHISPER] Yes.

**Helen:** [STAGE WHISPER] Oh. [TO GUESTS] Erm... Excuse me ladies and gentlemen. It seems there has been a slight... accident... on the coach.

**Igor:** Not really an accident as such, more a sort of...

**Helen:** [HISSES] Igor!

**Igor:** Well I don't want people spreading rumours Helen. It's my coach after all. And...

**Helen:** Very well. [STERN LOOK TO IGOR TO SHUT HIM UP, THEN CONTINUES] Is there a doctor amongst you? [GUEST SHOULD MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN] Oh good. Perhaps you would remain behind with me. Ivan?

**Ivan:** Please come through ladies and gentlemen and take your seats.

IVAN USHERS THE GUESTS THROUGH. CARRIE GOES THROUGH WITH IVAN TO MAKE SURE ALL THE GUESTS ARE SETTLED, PARTICULARLY MAKING SURE THAT THE GUEST THAT HAS BEEN SELECTED TO BE SEYMOUR'S BUS PARTNER IS AWARE OF HER ROLE TO COME AFTER THE FIRST COURSE.

IN THE RECEPTION ROOM HELEN SHOULD COACH THE DOCTOR AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT. HE CAN ALSO BE TOLD THAT HE THINKS THE DEATH IS SUSPICIOUS AND IF HE IS ASKED BY ANYONE, THAT HE THINKS IT WAS AN OPIATE OVERDOSE THAT KILLED SEYMOUR.

ONCE THE GUESTS ARE SEATED, HELEN AND THE GUEST PLAYING THE DOCTOR SHOULD WALK BACK IN.

**Helen:** [TO DOCTOR] Many thanks. It's a terrible business, terrible. I'm so glad you were here. Please take your seat, I'll make the announcement. [TO ALL] Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm afraid one of your number has... er... well, er... I'm afraid he won't be joining us this evening.

**Carrie:** What's the matter?

**Helen:** I'm afraid one of the guests on the coach has died.

**Carrie:** Died? As in... dead?

**Helen:** Yes, I'm afraid so. Shona and Igor are moving him now.

**Carrie:** Who was it?

**Helen:** Carrie, I don't think we really want to be discussing this in front of the guests. I mean, it's not a pleasant meal time conversation.

**Carrie:** But who... [SHE SCANS THE ROOM] Oh my! It's Seymour isn't it? Seymour Vistas?

**Helen:** Yes, but...

CARRIE COLLAPSES IN A FAINT. IVAN RUSHES ACROSS. HE BENDS OVER HER TO CHECK ON HER.

AT THIS MOMENT IGOR WALKS IN AND RUSHES OVER TO CARRIE PULLING IVAN AWAY AND HOLDING HIM FIRMLY.

**Igor:** [ANGRY] What are you doing to her! Leave her alone!

**Ivan:** What? Hey! Get Off! What are you doing?

**Helen:** Igor! She collapsed. Ivan had nothing to do with it.

**Igor:** Like he had nothing to do with that guest?

**Helen:** What are you talking about?

**Igor:** The puncture wounds. In the neck. Who has the teeth, Helen? Who do you think made them?

**Helen:** Puncture wounds? Igor. What are you talking about?

**Igor:** Ask him. Go on. Ask him.

**Helen:** Who?

**Igor:** The doctor.

HELEN TURNS TO THE PERSON WHO IS PLAYING THE DOCTOR.

**Helen:** I'm sorry Doctor. I seemed to have missed something. Puncture wounds?

GUEST WILL SPEAK THEIR LINES:

**Guest Doctor:** There were two puncture wounds in the deceased's neck.

**Igor:** See?

**Helen:** Is that what killed him?

**Guest Doctor:** No.

**Ivan:** Unhand me you idiot.

IGOR LETS IVAN GO AND HE BRUSHES HIMSELF DOWN. CARRIE ROUSES.

**Carrie:** Oooh.

IVAN LOOKS AFTER HER AS SHE SLOWLY STANDS BACK UP.

**Ivan:** [QUIETLY] Are you all right?

**Helen:** So he died of natural causes then?

**Guest Doctor:** Not exactly. The man was poisoned.

**Helen:** Poisoned? As in murdered?

**Igor:** On *my* coach!

**Helen:** [HELEN LOOKS FAINT] This is too much.

IVAN RUSHES OVER AND PROPS HER UP.

**Ivan:** Igor. Find her a chair.

**Helen:** I'll be all right.

**Ivan:** No. You've had a shock.

IGOR PUSHES A CHAIR BEHIND HER.

**Carrie:** Did he say... murdered? Ohhh.

CARRIE COLLAPSES AGAIN. IVAN AND IGOR LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

**Helen:** Where's Shona?

**Igor:** Telephoning the police.

**Helen:** Bring her back in to deal with her daughter.

IGOR LEAVES

**Helen:** Ivan. Get these guests something to eat before their blood sugar fails too.

IVAN WALKS OVER TO RESTAURANT STAFF AND THEY SHOULD BEGIN SERVING.

SHONA SHOULD COME BACK IN WITH IGOR, PICK UP CARRIE AND THEN ALL THE CAST SHOULD LEAVE THE ROOM WITH SOME AD-LIBBED LINES SUCH AS "WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO NOW?".

END OF ROUND ONE.

The guests and cast should all now be served with their first course. Ivan and Carrie should return and appear to make themselves useful at the kitchens while the serving goes on. Ivan should send Carrie out of the room before round two begins.