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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Celebrity Celebrations”

Standard version
for 7 females
and 7 males

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

It's 1961. The world's richest man – Jerry Oilman – has invited anybody who is anybody to his birthday party – the biggest party of all time. Jerry Oilman is an extremely wealthy man. He also has the misfortune of being a very short man.

He made his money in oil. He is eccentric and notorious for his collection of stuffed bats. These hideous black winged creatures hang from the walls and ceiling of his house spooking everyone who enters. Some people consider Jerry Oilman quite batty. Others are less polite.

Tonight Jerry has invited a host of rich and famous people. For example, Marilyn Monroe is here looking for the perfect man. And when you get this many big names together you know there's sure to be conflict. What Jerry hadn't foreseen, and what you don't know, is that something sinister and frightening is about to take place. What you will all be asked to do is to work out who is the villain behind this dastardly crime, a crime that will take us all the way to the grave.

Fred Astaire (1899-1987) I am a debonair man and I have sung and danced like no other. People say I gave Ginger class and she gave me sex appeal. I practice all the time. I'm a perfectionist. *Dress suggestions:* Black top hat and tails. *Song:* "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off".

Ginger Rogers (1911-1995) I am a dazzling singer and dancer. I won an Academy Award for "Kitty Foyle". When I retired from Hollywood fame, I bought a dairy farm. I am very attached to my dairy cows. *Dress suggestions:* 1930s type clothes such as a calf-length floral dress. *Song:* "I'm Putting All My Eggs in One Basket".

Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970) I know I am going to be one of the most daring, inventive and influential rock guitarists. But at present, I'm still in the army. *Dress suggestions:* An Afro wig & thin moustache. You must carry an electric guitar or a cardboard cutout of one and wear at least one large ring. You may like to wear an army uniform. *Song:* "Voodoo Child".

Janis Joplin (1943-1970) I am the first goddess of rock. I have a raw iron soul and sing like a blues mamma. I keep begging God to buy me a Mercedes Benz, but so far he hasn't. *Dress suggestions:* Long dark wavy-haired wig worn messy. Flowery or hippy-like dress. Carry a small microphone. *Song:* "Mercedes Benz".

John Wayne – The Duke (1907-1979) I was born Marion Robert Morrison and I have never legally changed my name to John Wayne. I've been far more than just a celluloid cowboy. I am a legend – a man who commands respect. *Dress suggestions:* Ten-gallon hat. Cowboy gear. Add an eye patch.

Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) I am a sex goddess, singer, actor and model. I spent part of my childhood unloved in an orphanage but now I'm loved by all the men in the world. I posed for Playboy and I am a member of the "Rat Pack". *Dress suggestions:* A white dress with a wide skirt like in her famous photo. Red lipstick. Blonde wig. *Song:* "I Wanna Be Loved By You".

Elvis Presley (1935-1977) I am the King of Rock 'N Roll. I am also known for my pelvic gyrations. I have acted in a number of movies. I am religious, but I ain't no saint. *Dress suggestions:* Las Vegas white clingy clothes. Carry a microphone. *Song:* "Love Me Tender".

Judy Garland (1922-1969) I have sung and danced in thirty-two feature films and I am one of the world's greatest entertainers. I am a member of the "Rat Pack". *Dress suggestions:* Wear her "Wizard of Oz" outfit complete with ponytails and red shoes. *Song:* "Somewhere Over The Rainbow".

Rita Hayworth (1918-1987) I am an actress, singer and dancer. My most famous role was as Gilda. Some people have branded me as the screen's sultry love goddess. I married a prince. My face was painted on the atomic bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima – I'm not sure if this was a compliment or not. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a glamorous dress that has a slit to show off your legs. Wear long white opera gloves. *Song:* "Put the Blame on Mame".

Groucho Marx (1890-1977) I am the most famous of the Marx Brothers and I am known for my one-liners such as "I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got into my pajamas I'll never know." I set fire to the first film we made as the Marx Brothers because I thought it was bad. I never work with children or animals except for Harpo. *Dress suggestions:* Wiry wig, moustache and cigar.

Lucille Ball (1911-1989) I am the lady who has made thousands of people laugh with my films and TV shows for over 50 years. I dye my hair red and I am not really a redhead. *Dress suggestions:* Curly redhead wig. Adopt goofy expressions. *Song:* "Mame".

Bob Marley (1945-1981) I am going to put Reggae on the map. I am a Jamaican Rastafarian and I don't eat salt because of my beliefs. I shot the sheriff (in one of my songs). *Dress suggestions:* Dreadlocks and hippy type clothes or flowery "tropical island" type clothes. *Song:* "I Shot The Sheriff".

Patsy Cline (1932-1963) I am a country music sensation with a voice people say is never to be forgotten. I started "entertaining" my neighbors when I was only three. *Dress suggestions:* Country and western clothes including a hat. *Song:* "Crazy".

The authority

Pete Persimmons – I am a police officer. I love solving puzzles. That's why I became a police officer. I'm also great at cryptic crosswords. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mock police uniform. Carry some crime scene tape (make some out of paper with masking tape attached at the ends). Carry a notepad and pencil. Wear white gloves. Carry some clear plastic bags to collect evidence in.

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Suspects

Groucho
Marx

John
Wayne
(The Duke)

Janis
Joplin

Marilyn
Monroe

Rita
Hayworth

Jimi
Hendrix

Elvis
Presley

Fred
Astaire

Ginger
Rogers

Judy
Garland

Bob
Marley

Lucille
Ball

Patsy
Cline

Detective
Sergeant Pete
Persimmons

Merri Mysteries presents...

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by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Fred
Astaire*

Fred Astaire - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I'm still being cast for movies. Only Jerry thought I was past it. He kept trying to talk people out of casting me in parts. That's what my friends in the movie business have been telling me lately. So I'm not sorry to see the last of the slimy bloodsucker, not sorry at all. He was too pushy.
- 2 I dance a bit and sing a bit, but besides that I'm a pretty ordinary guy – not a murderer.
- 3 I work hard to maintain my status quo. Young men get away with too much these days – that's the problem. They need discipline and hard work. The music these days – they're not tunes. Most of the lines don't rhyme and you can't dance to them because the beat's all wonky.
- 4 Elvis is a bit flashy, but he does have a good voice. Jimi Hendrix is a quiet sort of guy and, although I don't particularly like his music, he's a real showman. But that lad Bob Marley – he's the one I don't trust. He looks like a murderer to me.

Fred Astaire - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 A lot of people think there's some connection between Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix because they are a similar age and both are a bit wild. Were they working together to get rid of Jerry?
- 2 Do you think it's a bit strange that Elvis has been serving the food for most of the party? He's a singer. Why has he taken on the role of waiter? Is he doing it as a way to try and hear what everyone is saying about him and his involvement in the murder?
- 3 I heard the Duke say how much he admired Lucy. He liked the way she stuck by her children "the way a woman should" as the Duke put it. Do you think the Duke helped Lucy to do away with Jerry as they both had their grievances against him?
- 4 I heard Groucho say, "Either I'm dead or my watch has stopped". What did he mean by that? Has time stopped for him since he committed the murder?

Fred Astaire - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Elvis Presley – why did you have handcuffs in your pocket? Did you know there was going to be a murder and you planned to handcuff the murderer? Or did you use the handcuffs to keep Jerry in one place while you hit him?
- 2 If anyone asks you about the handkerchief in your pocket, tell them you had it in case you perspired while you were dancing.
- 3 I wonder if Jerry’s ghost will come to haunt us. He must be furious to be dead. From what I have overheard lately he was just about to clinch a deal that would have made him lots more money. And he wanted to be around to make sure his son makes the right decisions about his future. Maybe the house will become a real haunted Mansion.

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These are the clues for:

*Ginger
Rogers*

Ginger Rogers - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I have met Jerry a few times at social functions. Last month, at a charity ball, I saw him look in my direction and say “Stupid old cow”. I wasn’t sure if he was referring to me or one of my prize-winning dairy cows. But either way I found his remark offensive, as my cows certainly aren’t stupid. I came to this party because I wanted to give him some of his own cheek back – the rich cow-hating bully. But I certainly didn’t come here to murder him.
- 2 Jerry Oilman only invited us because he liked everyone to think that he was popular and had many famous friends. But that certainly wasn’t the case. He was as popular as cod liver oil. But people will go anywhere for decent caviar.
- 3 I’m not surprised he’s been murdered. He wasn’t at all likeable. But let’s forget about the murder and about all our troubles and just dance. If someone put on some decent music, Fred and I could forget about the murder, and the rest of our troubles and dance. I’d love that.
- 4 Dance with Fred for old time’s sake.

Ginger Rogers - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Jerry Oilman didn’t like reggae and he wanted to get it banned in the US as a bad influence on the younger generation. He also wanted to make it illegal to have dreadlocks as he thought they bred lice and were a community health-hazard.
- 2 Judy Garland recently found out that her husband had given Jerry Oilman a large amount of money to invest on their behalf. Jerry had invested their savings in some highly speculative stocks, which then crashed. Now Judy is a long way from the end of the rainbow and has to sing for her supper.
- 3 Jerry Oilman was a racist and he taunted Rita Hayworth because she had been married to an Arab prince.

Ginger Rogers - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Marilyn Monroe – why were you carrying a gun in your handbag? Who were you going to shoot? Or was the gun in your bag a backup in case you didn't manage to hit Jerry?
- 2 If anyone asks you about the tape in your handbag, say that you are in the process of moving house and you bought it on the way to the party so you can take it home later and pack more boxes.
- 3 Jerry Oilman didn't like animals. He used to kick his cat whenever he saw her.

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These are the clues for:

*John Wayne
- The Duke*

John Wayne - The Duke - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I never killed anybody. That was all just acting.
- 2 Jerry and I didn't see eye to eye, I don't deny it, and we've had our fights in the past. He was always hassling me about how I didn't go to war. Sure I regret that I didn't get to serve my country. I begged them to let me fight, but they wouldn't on account of an old football injury and an ear infection I had.
- 3 Even Jimi Hendrix got to be in the army. It was a shame a tough guy like me wasn't allowed to fight. But I did what I could to support the war effort. I visited the troops.
- 4 I helped McCarthy get most of the commies out of the film industry. Bob Marley looks like a commie to me. Lucy married a Cuban. For a while there I thought she might have been a commie too.

John Wayne - The Duke - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Bob Marley – you don't seem to be eating much at the party. Why is that? Did you poison the food as a back up in case you couldn't kill Jerry by your other method?
- 2 While Fred Astaire was spiffing up his slicked back hair in the gents, I heard him whistling the tune to "Pennies From Heaven" which his old friend Bing Crosby used to sing. Was he thinking about Jerry's journey to heaven?
- 3 *Say to Marilyn Monroe after she says to Groucho about finding a room:* "Listen Monroe honey, you don't want a kook like Groucho. You'd oughta stick with me. How's about you and me hit the saloon for a drink, Marilyn?"
- 4 *(after everyone starts singing, say to the group)* If you pardners don't quit your yodelling, there's gunna be a show-down.

John Wayne - The Duke - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Groucho Marx – why did you have a small can of laughing gas in your pocket? I don't see your dentist about anywhere. Did you plan to use the laughing gas if you couldn't manage to hit Jerry properly? It has been known to kill people when given in large doses.
- 2 If anyone asks you about the pocket knife you had in your pocket, say that you always carry a pocket knife as you never know when you will need it.
- 3 *At some stage, say this to the authorities:* “Now hold on pardners, I'm going to lasso you all to a tree until you tell me why us decent citizens are being held as suspects.”
- 4 I saw Bob Marley recently at the gym. He was lifting some pretty heavy weights. Was he training up so he could kill Jerry?

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These are the:

*Special
Items*

Merri Mysteries presents...

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Exhibit A: Trivia Questions and Answers

Display these questions and answers or pass them around.

No.	Question...	Answer...
1.	What was the age difference between Fred Astaire and his second wife?	Fred Astaire’s second wife Robyn was 44 years younger than he was.
2.	Who did Ginger Rogers play in “42 nd Street”?	Ginger Rogers played Anytime Annie in “42 nd Street”.
3.	Did Janis Joplin ever get a Mercedes Benz?	No. Janis Joplin bought a Porsche, which she had painted with bright psychedelic images.
4.	Who discovered “Jimi Hendrix” and helped launch his career?	The Animals’ bassist Chas Chandler discovered Jimi Hendrix.

No.	Question...	Answer...
5.	For which of his films did John Wayne win an Oscar?	John Wayne won an Oscar for his role as Rooster Cogburn in “True Grit” - 1969.
6.	What was Marilyn Monroe’s original name?	Norma Jean Baker was Marilyn Monroe’s original name.
7.	Who has sold the most records of anyone in the world?	Elvis Presley sold the most records of anyone in the world.
8.	Who was to be the first celebrity on a US postal stamp?	In 1948, Rita Hayworth was to be the first celebrity on a US postal stamp. Due to her association with Prince Ali Khan, the stamp idea was cancelled despite heavy lobbying by Columbia to have it made.
9.	Which famous actress worked with Groucho Marx in “Love Happy”?	Marilyn Monroe made her film debut in “Love Happy” with Groucho Marx.
10.	Who had a studio contract that stipulated they always remained twenty pounds overweight?	Lucille Ball had to stay overweight.
11.	What was Bob Marley’s nickname when he was younger?	Bob Marley was called “The Gong” because of his ability to effectively ward off bullies without getting into trouble.
12.	Why did Patsy Cline always wear a wig?	Patsy Cline wore a wig to cover the scar on her forehead that was left because of a car accident.