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# Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

## “Celebrity Celebrations”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests

*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 cut-out 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 pony tails and red shoes. *Song:* "Somewhere Over The Rainbow".

**Bruce Lee** (1940-1973) I am a martial arts master and star of many films such as "Enter The Dragon". I also starred in the TV series "The Green Hornet". As a child I saw a ghost as a black shadow. *Dress suggestions:* Martial arts clothes and/or Chinese clothes.

**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".

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Page 3 of 3

CRIMSCENE CRIMSCENE CRIMSCENE CRIMSCENE CRIMSCENE CRIMSCENE CRIMSCENE CRIME



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### Other 5 famous female guests

Other famous females that may make an appearance at the party include:

**Audrey Hepburn** (1929-1993) I am a US (Belgian-born) movie actress and I starred in "Breakfast At Tiffanys" and "My Fair Lady" and other movies. I am a special ambassador to the United Nations Children's Fund. *Dress suggestions:* Dark, straight-haired wig. Glamorous clothes (possibly dressed as one of her movie characters). Wear a UNICEF badge.

**Marlene Dietrich** (1901-1992) I am a husky voiced German born singer, movie actress and Allied war-time entertainer. I acted with John Wayne in "Pittsburgh" 1942, but I'm probably best known for "Blue Angel". *Dress suggestions:* Wear trousers & tails, white tie & a hat. Carry a long cigarette holder. Speak about yourself in the third person. *Songs:* "Clare de Lune", "The Boys in the Back Room".

**Dorothy Dandridge** (1922 -1965) I am a US movie actress and singer. I was the first black woman to receive an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress for my role in *Carmen Jones*. And I won a Golden Globe Award for my performance in *Porgy and Bess*. *Dress suggestions:* Glamorous clothes. Black wig.

**Edith Piaf** (1915-1963) I am a great French singer and one of the world's foremost cabaret and music-hall artistes. I am only four feet ten inches tall and my stage name is Parisian slang for "sparrow". *Dress suggestions:* Dark hair and dark clothes. *Songs:* "La Vie En Rose", "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien", the French version of the immortal "No Regrets".

**Mae West** (1893 – 1980) I'm a movie actress and I often write my own scripts. I was born in Brooklyn, New York and I had a career in burlesque and later on Broadway. People liked my wit and my tramped up sexiness. And men liked my curves. I'm not like those toothpicks you get in restaurants. I wrote my own plays like "Sex", "Diamond Lil" and so on. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in curvaceous flamboyant outfit with long gloves & a handbag. She was buxom so add padding where necessary. She liked to cut the top out of her hats so her curls wouldn't be crushed. She wore feathers & diamonds.

## Other 5 famous male guests

Other famous males that may make an appearance at the party include:

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**Andy Warhol** (1928-1987) I am a US artist, director and actor – famous for creating pop art images of Elvis, Marilyn and Campbell Soup cans. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a Campbell soup can and a paint brush.

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**Bing Crosby** (1901-1977) I am a famous US singer and actor. I have starred in movies such as “Road to Zanzibar”. I sometimes skip rehearsals when I sing with Fred Astaire which really annoys him. *Dress suggestions:* Sports jacket, tie, white shirt, striped trousers, straw boater hat. *Song:* “White Christmas”.

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**Charlie Chaplin** (1889 – 1977) I am one of the world’s most famous comedians. I am also a writer, director and movie producer. I have made comedy an art-form. I am close friends with Groucho Marx. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as the “Little Tramp” complete with moustache, twirling cane, bowler hat, tight black jacket and dark baggy pants.

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**George Burns** (1896-1996) I am one of America’s greatest comedians. I am also an actor, author and vaudevillian. For years, before Lucille Ball and Desi came on the scene, my wife, Gracie Allen, and myself were America’s sweethearts of comedy. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a cigar.

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**Louis Armstrong** (1900-1971) I am a black US jazz musician, scat singer (a type of wordless singing), and trumpeter. I’m also known as “Satchmo”, which means satchel mouth. I like to see people smile. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tight short curly black wig. Carry a trumpet. Speak with a gravelly voice. *Songs:* “Oh When The Saints”, “Hello Dolly” and “It’s A Wonderful World”.

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## The 3 authorities

Other people that may make an appearance at the party include:

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**Pamela 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.

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**Dr Virgil Vinessi** – I am a police forensic specialist. I love the thrill of finding needles in haystacks. I won’t give up till I find what I’m looking for. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a lab coat and wear white gloves. Carry some clear plastic bags to collect evidence in.

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**Ludmilla Lucas** – I am Jerry Oilman’s lawyer. I am very conservative and very well-respected in my profession. I have been Jerry’s lawyer for many years but I’m still allergic to his bat collection. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and look very serious.

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## 3 creatures

Some, or all, of the following creatures may also make an appearance at the party:

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**Selina** – I am Jerry Oilman’s son Lorne’s pet black cat. *Dress suggestions:* Wear black tight-fitting or furry clothes. Add whiskers.

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**Jerry Oilman** – I am the ghost of Jerry Oilman. I am very angry because I didn’t want to die and I intend to find out who killed me and make their life a howling misery. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a white sheet and white face powder.

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**Bartholomew** – I am a bat. I am related to some of the bats that Jerry killed to add to his sickening collection. I am screeching with anger. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a Batman cape or similar.

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## Name tags

### *Suspects*

Groucho Marx (suspect)	John Wayne (The Duke) (suspect)	Bruce Lee (suspect)
Janis Joplin (suspect)	Marilyn Monroe (suspect)	Rita Hayworth (suspect)
Jimi Hendrix (suspect)	Elvis Presley (suspect)	Fred Astaire (suspect)
Ginger Rogers (suspect)	Judy Garland (suspect)	Bob Marley (suspect)
Lucille Ball (suspect)	Patsy Cline (suspect)	

### *Witnesses*

#### *Other famous female guests*

Audrey Hepburn	Marlene Dietrich	Edith Piaf
Dorothy Dandridge	Mae West	

#### *Other famous male guests*

Andy Warhol	Bing Crosby	George Burns
Charlie Chaplin	Louis Armstrong	

#### *The authorities*

Detective Sergeant Pamela Persimmons	Virgil Vinessi (Police Forensics Specialist)	Ludmilla Lucas (Lawyer)
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#### *The creatures*

Selina (black cat)	The ghost of Jerry Oilman	Bartholomew (a bat)
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## **“Celebrity Celebrations”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the:*

# *Clues*

## **“Celebrity Celebrations”**

*Clue page for the famous guest  
Print as many copies as you need.  
Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### **What I can reveal**

*Staple their clue(s) here*

### **What I need to do**

- 1 When you arrive, listen to what the person in charge tells you to do.
- 2 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them about yourself & what you know & find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* and the *Special Items*.
- 3 If you have a question for a suspect, briefly meet with them to ask them your question and then move on to talk with other people. Tell the suspect to let other people know what you have asked them and what they said in reply.

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Celebrity Celebrations”

*Clue page for the authority  
Print as many copies as you need.  
Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### What I can reveal

*Staple their clue(s) here*

### What I need to do

- 1 When you arrive, rush to the rescue and do what someone in your position would do, then listen to what the person in charge tells you to do.
- 2 Act very responsibly and calmly. Try and get other people to remain calm. Do whatever a person in your role would do (eg if you are with the police cordon off the crime scene and ask people questions, if you are a medical person, examine the body etc).
- 3 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* and the *Special Items*.
- 4 *When asked:* If you are a police officer, you should help read out the police report. If you are a doctor, help read out the medical report. If you are the lawyer, read out the will.
- 5 Ask people the following questions:
  - Where were you at the time of the murder?
  - What have you seen or heard?
  - What do you know about the suspects?
  - Is there anything you would like the authorities to know?

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Celebrity Celebrations”

*Clue page for the creature  
Print as many copies as you need.  
Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### What I can reveal

*Staple their clue(s) here*

### What I need to do

- 1 When you arrive, listen to what the person in charge tells you to do.
- 2 Act normally like your creature would (eg if you are a cat, miaow and purr, if you are a bat flap your wings). Don't be too concerned about what is going on. Act superior to everyone.
- 3 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* and the *Special Items*.

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## “Celebrity Celebrations”

### *Fred Astaire*

#### What I can reveal

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 blood-sucker, not sorry at all. He was too pushy. I dance a bit and sing a bit, but besides that I’m a pretty ordinary guy – not a murderer. 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. Now I do admire Bruce Lee. He’s disciplined, fast and fit. And 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.

#### What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* and the *Special Items*.
- 2 If anyone asks you about the handkerchief in your pocket, tell them you had it in case you perspired while you were dancing.

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## “Celebrity Celebrations”

### *Ginger Rogers*

#### What I can reveal

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.

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. 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.

#### What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* and the *Special Items*.
- 2 Dance with Fred for old time’s sake.
- 3 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.

## “Celebrity Celebrations”

### Janis Joplin

#### What I can reveal

The famous all mix with the famous and the poor with the poor. Birds of a feather and “all my friends drive Porsches” kind of stuff. That’s why we’re here. But we didn’t come here expecting someone to be killed. I really only came tonight because I heard Jimi was coming. As you all probably know, Jerry crashed into my car recently. That’s how I met him. But stingy as he was, he was refusing to pay me fully for the repairs. Then he had the hide to invite me to this party as if everything was fine between us. I had planned to give him an earful at the party. But I hadn’t planned to kill him. Did you hear Patsy, the cowgirl, offering to sing? And Ginger offering to dance? Sounds like they still think everyone’s still “Crazy” about them. Their egos are as big as the Duke’s ten-gallon hat. People with ego’s like theirs think they can get away with anything – even murder.

#### What I need to do

- 1 When you arrive, play a game of cards with Rita. After she accuses you of cheating, you should say: “Just because I didn’t smooch up to some Arab prince like you did, and because I don’t always comb my hair and look pretty doesn’t mean I’m a cheat.” Tell other people about this card game incident. Go to the bathroom because you’re ill.
- 2 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* and the *Special Items*.
- 3 If anyone asks you why you had a pair of sunglasses in your handbag, say that it is cool to wear sunnies and that’s what hippy chicks like yourself like to do.

## Clues for the other famous guests

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*You should staple these 67 clues to the clue pages for the other famous guests. As there are a lot of clues, you may like to also share some of these clues amongst the suspects, authorities or creatures. Please make sure they are all given out and that everyone has a similar amount to say.*

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I saw Bob Marley wearing an “I love Marilyn” t-shirt earlier today. But he doesn’t seem to be having much success with Marilyn as I think she is avoiding him. I think she doesn’t like his shaggy dog looks.

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Patsy told me she had overheard Ginger telling Fred all about what Jerry had been doing to the dairy industry and how it was affecting her dairy farm. Fred had said that Ginger shouldn’t let it happen. That was before the murder took place.

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Did you know that Rita Hayworth and Ginger Rogers are first cousins? Do you think that maybe they worked together to kill Jerry?

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The name “Elvis” means “the wise one”. Do you think he knows something we don’t?

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Jerry invited some people to this party that others wouldn’t have expected him to invite. In fact he invited some people he openly detested. Do you think he was planning on creating an ugly scandal? And someone knew this and stopped him doing it?

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Ginger Rogers was one of Marilyn Monroe’s favorite female actors. Perhaps they worked together to kill Jerry?

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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?

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I was in the powder room when Judy Garland came in looking whiter than a polar bear. When I asked her what was the matter, she said she’d seen a ghost.

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## Questions and Answers

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Give each person either a question or an answer (or two). Leave the remaining questions and answers on display on the evidence table for interest sake. During the party, they must find the person with the matching question or answer. You may like to give a prize to the first two people who find their match.

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 "42nd Street"?	Ginger Rogers played Anytime Annie in "42nd 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.
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.