

'Murder Runs in the Family' hits HHS stage this weekend

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

There's no beating a good old-fashioned murder mystery, and if there's a crazy cast of characters thrown in the mix, it's sure to provide some good entertainment. "Murder Runs in the Family" is set to hit the HHS stage this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18-19 at 8 p.m.

In this play by Pat Cook, Heather Pallfeather is a modern-day damsel in distress whose stepfather just kicked the bucket. Or did somebody kick it for him? With this crazy family it's hard to tell!

To get some straight answers, Heather hires Jack Sparks, a private eye, to act as her fiance and accompany her to the estate for the reading of the will. Sparks thinks himself a pretty shrewd cookie ... until the lights go out and he starts to crumble.

Throw in the mother who gets lost in her own house, a cousin who's married to a known convict, interchangeable twins, a stepsister who's looking for a fresh neck for lunch and a butler with the personality of a tongue depressor, and it's enough to make Sparks think about resuming his old job of writing greeting cards.



Cast members in the HHS drama production of "Murder Runs in the Family" are pictured from left, front row,

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Brittney Prottzman, Brooke Parker, Jordan Zeiler, Kelsey Kramer, Molly Brandt and Teanna Clark; and back row, Jacinda Krueger, Austin Killin, Ben Martinez, A.J. Brandt and Ryan Parker. □□□□□□□□□□
—Enterprise photo

The annual fall play is directed by Eric Conklin. He may be a new character on the scene, but he's no stranger to the HHS Drama Department. The 1979 HHS graduate participated in all of the drama productions during his time at Holyoke High School.

Conklin went on to Chadron State College, majoring in speech/theater, where he studied acting, light/set design, stagecraft, directing and costumes. He was lucky enough to be able to practice his skills working at many of the Front Range theaters in the '80s and '90s.

Conklin said he was thrilled when he received the call asking if he would direct both this year's fall play and spring musical, and he jumped at the opportunity.

Cast of characters for "Murder Runs in the Family" includes Austin Killin as Jack Sparks, Brooke Parker as Heather Pallfeather, Ben Martinez as Montgomery, Molly Brandt as Mirium Pallfeather, A.J. Brandt as Claude Purdy, Jordan Zeiler as Patricia Purdy, Jacinda Krueger as Maxine Pallfeather, Brittney Prottzman as Kathleen Pallfeather, Kelsey Kramer as Aunt Zelda, Teanna Clark as Cleo Burdett and Ryan Parker as the messenger and policeman.

Louise Krog Myer is running the lights while Logan Zeiler is in charge of sound.

Dinner Theater Saturday

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Before seeing "Murder Runs in the Family" Saturday night, the community is invited to FCCLA's three-course dinner theater.

Dinner will be served beginning at 6 p.m. in the HHS commons area. Menu items include hors d'oeuvres followed by pasta with eyeballs and blood sauce (meatballs with marinara) and creepy cheesecake to finish the meal.

Tickets for the dinner theater must be purchased by Friday, Nov. 18 and are available from FCCLA members or by calling 854-3421.

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