

Whodunit debut

Curtain set to rise on Main Street Playhouse

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When the curtain goes up on The Main Street Playhouse's production of "Trouble at the Tropicabana" Friday night, it will be up to the audience to figure out who the murderer was in the "I Love Lucy" spoof.

"This is our first community theater production in Jessamine County in many years," Bluegrass Arts Association Director Teg Evans said. "'Trouble at the Tropicabana' was something I came across about a year ago, and everybody knows Ricky and Lucy, Fred and Ethel, and the script looked like something that would just be perfect for Jessamine County.



Jen Thomas, as Lucy Bicardi, and Lyda Benson, as Ethel Schmertz, rehearsed Tuesday evening for the show. (Photo by Mike Moore)

"Everybody is going to recognize the characters, and with this being our first production, it's important to get an audience there," he added.

The cast is comprised of mostly Jessamine Countians, and according to director Sarah Matthews, the group came together quickly.

"It (cast) ranges from veterans of the theater to amateur actors to people who have never been on the stage before," she said. "The ones with more experience have helped the new ones along, and they are really willing to learn."

The show begins in Lucy and Ricky's living room before switching to Ricky's club, the Tropicabana. It features musical numbers, but Matthews points out that the premise of the show is the murder.



Fred Schmertz (Bert Bortnick) welcomed Celia B. De Milo (Kara Harp) during a scene Tuesday afternoon.

"It's not necessarily a musical in the traditional sense of the word," she said. "There will be music and dancing and singing throughout, but the only character who actually sings is the Ricky character (Kenneth Burgess). We have a couple Cabana girls who'll be dancing, but probably the most accurate term will be a murder mystery, an interactive murder mystery theatre."

At the end of the show, prizes will be given out to audience members who correctly guess the identity of the murderer.

The show is a dinner theatre and runs Oct. 23 - Oct. 25, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1. Show times are 7:15 p.m., with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Sunday matinees will start 1:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$18.50 for dinner and the show; \$12.50 for a Sunday matinee lunch and show and \$8.50 for the show only.

Evans said Gourmet Goodies will cater the event, serving Latin American fare.



Pat Marcum played a Cabana girl while Kenneth Burgess, playing Ricky Bicardi, rehearsed Monday night for the production of "Trouble at the Tropicabana." For ticket information, visit www.bluegrassarts.org or call (859) 881-8247.

"At this point, it's a chicken dish and black beans and rice and jalapeno cornbread," he said. "It should be pretty tasty."

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