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"THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940"

The Story Line, Cast and Tryout Information -

"THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940" by John Bishop  
A Two Act Comedy

The Story:

The creative team responsible for a recent Broadway flop (in which three chorus girls were murdered by the mysterious "Stage Door Slasher") assemble for a backer's audition of their new show at the Westchester estate of a wealthy "angel". The house is replete with sliding panels, secret passageways and a German maid who is apparently four different people - all of which figure diabolically in the comic mayhem which follows when the infamous "Slasher" makes his reappearance and strikes again - and again.

As the composer, lyricist, actors and director prepare their performance, and a blizzard cuts off any possible retreat, bodies start to drop in plain sight, knives spring out of nowhere, masked figures drag their victims behind swiveling bookcases, and accusing fingers point in all directions. However, and with no thanks to the bumbling police inspector who snowshoes in to investigate, the mystery is solved in the nick of time and the "Slasher" unmasked - but not before the audience has been treated to a side-splitting good time and a generous serving of the author's biting, satiric and refreshingly irreverent wit.

The Cast:

HELSA WENZEL - a maid for Elsa Von Grossenknueten. A refugee from Germany. Alias-Dieter Wenzel. Total Lines - 63  
ELSA VON GROSSENKNUETEN - an attractive middle-aged woman. Owner of the Westchester mansion. Total Lines - 143  
MICHAEL KELLY - a large New York City policeman/Sergeant, whose alias is that of a chauffeur for Elsa. Lines - 104  
PATRICK O'REILLY - a large, rather sinister man with a sabre scar accross his left cheek. Actually a Gestapo agent named Klaus Stansdorff. Total Lines - 66  
KEN DE LA MAIZE - a handsome man in his mid-forties. Director of several plays, and the infamous "Stage Door Slasher". Total Lines - 164  
NIKKI CRANDELL - a beautiful young woman in her twenties. She occasionally wears glasses, but it makes not a whit of difference to her beauty. Posing as a chorus girl, she is actually an Ensign in the United States Naval Intelligence. Total Lines - 227  
EDDIE McCUEN - a young, energetic man in his late twenties. A struggling young comedian. Total Lines - 212  
MARJORIE BAVERSTOCK - she is anywhere from 35 to 60 years of age. She dresses expensively, and carries herself like royalty. She is Ken's producer. Total Lines - 44  
ROGER HOPEWELL - a song writer for the show to be produced. Lines-13  
BERNICE ROTH - she is 40 to 50 who dresses like a gypsy dancer. She plays the librettist(a writer of words to songs). Total Lines - 67

Tryout Information:

Tryouts will be held on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 from 3:00 to approximately 5:20p.m. All tryouts will be held in the CHORUS ROOM.

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COSTUME LIST

**NIKKI**  
 Red and white silk dress  
 Navy blue and red shoes  
 Pearl earrings  
 Beige seamed hose  
 Slip  
 Bra

Wristwatch  
 Tap pants  
 Navy blue handbag

**MARJORIE**  
 Red silk dress  
 Red velvet hat  
 Red snake shoes and rhinestone clips  
 Rhinestone earrings, clips, rings, bracelets, pin on hat  
 Beige seamed stockings  
 Foundation garment

**ELSA**  
 A. Pink silk robe  
 Necklace and earrings, pearl  
 Copper/gold shoes  
 Beige seamed hose

B. Black velvet coat with fur collar  
 Fur muff  
 Black boots  
 Gold satin gown  
 Brown velvet robe with rhinestone pin

**HELSA**  
 A. Black maid uniform  
 (2) Aprons and hat  
 Collar, cuffs, white  
 Black suede shoes

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Black bra  
 Black silk tap pants  
 Black silk teddy  
 Black garter belt  
 Black stockings  
 B. Apron and blue skirt  
 Green overcoat with fur collar  
 Black boots  
 C. Black leather jacket (also worn by Slasher)

**BERNICE**  
 Orange and black pants and bodice  
 Black velvet jacket  
 Black hose  
 Black suede shoes  
 Earrings  
 Black scarf  
 Brown rhinestone pin  
 Lots of bracclets  
 Black velvet turban and orange band

**KEN**  
 A. Brown and tan jacket  
 Tan pants  
 Cream shirt  
 Tan sweater-vest  
 Cream and brown shoes  
 Tan silk socks

B. Handkerchief (cream)  
 Cream jacket square  
 Black treme coat  
 Black pants  
 Black hat  
 Black gloves  
 Black Wellington shoes  
 Black hood  
 Black scarf

**KELLY**  
 A. Light tan check suit

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- Blue shirt
- Blue stripe tie
- Black socks
- Black shoes
- Grey overcoat
- Dark hat
- Watch
- B. Grey chauffeur's suit
- Grey chauffeur's cap
- White shirt
- Black tie

**EDDIE**

- A. Blue suit
- Blue stripe shirt
- Dark red tie (bow)
- Grey argyle socks
- Cream and tan shoes
- Watch
- B. Black rubber boots
- Brown/tan plaid overjacket
- Brown pork pie hat
- Green scarf
- Ear muffs

**ROGER**

- Blue blazer
- Grey trousers
- Pink shirt
- Black shoes
- Black silk socks
- Red print ascot and handkerchief
- Stick pin
- Rings

**O'REILLY**

- A. Grey/green tweed suit
- Green wool vest
- Brown/green/navy blue tie
- Tan shirt

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- Black combat boots
- White socks
- Beige boxer shorts
- B. Dark grey overcoat
- Light grey cap
- Black gloves

**SLASHER**

- Black pants
- Black turtleneck sweatshirt
- Black tennis shoes
- Black socks
- Black knit hat
- Black hood
- Leather jacket (also worn by Helsa)