

"Do you have a Christmas/Holiday mystery?" is a question we get a lot. And I guess the simple answer is 'No'. First off, I'm not sure how to fit murder into the whole 'peace on Earth' thing. Second, when it comes to plotting what happens after Santa gets bumped off, well. . . I got nuthin'. Third, it seems that any officially-themed Christmas/Holiday play has to involve Santa, or Frosty, or the Grinch or something equally juvenile. And while our humor may be described that way, I sincerely hope our plotting isn't.

But then Mr. Eileen pointed out that we have performed dozens of mysteries at Holiday time. And that's true. What we do is take a show we've got in the repertoire and MAKE it Christmassy or Holidaily. We tweak away with Yuletide Abandon.

So, if you'd like to do a show during the holiDAYS, you can easily do one of ours - if you holiDIZE. (Yeah, I know, it's so cute it's making ME queasy.) I've already taken MURDER IN BLACK & WHITE and given it the Holi-treatment (I really should be quite ashamed) and voila - I present you with MURDER IN RED & GREEN.

The recommendation page provides a list of the titles that are easiest to holidize. Below you'll find some QTT (Quick Tweaking Tips). Please remember that you must get our permission to make changes (which will be readily given, but you gotta ask!).

1. TITLE. Most important. Change the title to give it a holiday twist. "Dr. Pepper's Last Christmas"; "Auld Lang DEAD"; "Holiday Cruise into MURDER"
2. CHARACTER AND PLACE NAMES/ATTRIBUTES. Jeb Taylor was murdered at the Holiday Inn (the very first one). "Charlotte Worthington" becomes "Noelle Worthington". "Henry Rawson" becomes "Rudolph Rawson". Dr. Pepper is described as looking exactly like Santa. Joey Marzetti never could remember the reindeer names.
3. PRE-SHOW MUSIC. If you don't already use it, start now. And for moments in the show, find places where Holiday Musical Cues could be used.
4. COSTUMES. This is an obvious one – Holiday/Christmas attire. Give prizes for Best Male and Best Female.
5. REFERENCES. Whenever a character describes something or someone, think of a holiday reference that could do the same thing. Don't neglect song lyrics as sources.
6. CLUE HUNT. Usually the clue hunt relies on a 'theme' that's related to the plot. Change it to reflect Holiday/Christmas trivia, including songs, books, and movies.
7. FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS. If you find you have to stall for time, fill that time by having a Christmas sing-a-long.
8. THE AUDIENCE. If you are performing for a group whose members you know, use whatever you have on them from previous parties. Especially, if they are remembered

for something. Likewise, if you DON'T know individual attendees, find something about them to use in conjunction with the Holiday Theme. "Excuse me. Rudolph called. He wants his nose back."

9. EVERYTHING ELSE. I'm always amazed and gratified by the creativity of my actors. Ask your actors to come up with Holiday/Christmas things to inject into the script. If you come up with especially clever things, please send us an [email](#) and tell us all about it. We'll post it on our Facebook page and add it to the website. Giving you full credit, of course!

10. CALL US if you want additional ideas or if you have questions. 330-678-3893