

## Local community theatre group changes it up

Players to perform Halloween night murder mystery

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

There'll be plenty of thrills and chills leading up to Halloween as part of the Milton Players' upcoming offering. But don't think the theatre group, which is best known for its farces, won't sprinkle in some comedy along the way.

"There is some comedy, but it's a bit darker in nature," said Milton resident Mimma DeCarli, who plays the lead role in *A Party to Murder*. "It's different. It'll be a nice change for the group."

The play, written by Marcia Kash and Douglas E. Hughes, will be performed at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., starting tomorrow night and continuing Saturday and then next weekend from October 28 to 30.

Susan Cranford, show director, said she thinks the Players' loyal audience will enjoy her interpretation of the play.

### No shortage of comedy

"I'll admit, I put more comedy into it than the writers intended," she said, explaining that's one of the perks of being director.

The play follows six people who arrive on Halloween night at a rustic island cottage to play a murder mystery game. They think they're in for a fun weekend, but that quickly



**KILLER PRODUCTION IN STORE:** Players (clockwise from top left) Mimma DeCarli, Steve Chicorli, Kim Evans, Rebecca Whittey, Brian Cranford and Huw Evans rehearse for *A Party To Murder*.

changes when ghosts from the past make an appearance and the cottage guests realize it's not a game they're part of. Guests begin to die and remaining players realize they're playing for their lives.

The cast features DeCarli, Huw

Evans, Kim Evans, Stephen Chicorli, newcomer Rebecca Whittey and Brian Cranford (Susan's son).

"We've worked very hard on this show and it's not an easy show to do," Susan said.

Like most of the Players' shows, this one ends with a bit of a twist, the director noted.

The play is technically challenging, keeping the lighting and sound people on their toes as they line up explosions and gunshots, she said.

"Timing's very important with special effects."

DeCarli — who has a background in community theatre — joined the Players two years ago and first appeared on stage with a minor role in *The Nerd*.

Since then, she has taken on mostly behind-the-scenes roles — until now.

It's a challenging role, and it hasn't been easy finding the necessary time in her busy schedule. But it's been well worth it.

### Worth the effort

"I wouldn't do it if I didn't love it," she said. "It's an opportunity to express yourself in a way you don't get to in day to day interaction. You get to be someone else for a while."

Working with the Milton Players has been a lot of fun, DeCarli said.

"They're fantastic. They're an amazing group of people."

Show-only performances take place tomorrow, October 28 and 29. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., with the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 each for the October 28 performance and \$25 for the others.

Dinner theatre shows are scheduled for Saturday and October 30, with the bar opening at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and show time at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets cost \$50 each in advance and \$55 at the door.

Tickets are available at Boutique 188, 188 Main St. E., at [www.miltonplayers.com](http://www.miltonplayers.com) or by calling (905) 875-0629.

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