

A MASQUERADE MURDER MYSTERY FOR 6 TO 14 GUESTS



Midnight at the Masquerade

HOST GUIDE

*At midnight every mask comes off. Before the clock gets
there, someone makes sure one face will never be seen
again.*

MURDER BEFORE DESSERT

You can host and play. The solution stays in a sealed pack until
the reveal.



Celeste Devereaux

Who you are

You are Celeste Devereaux, prima donna of the Marchand Opera House for twenty-five years. You are grand, quick and very funny, and you have never once left a room quietly.

What everyone knows

Tonight you wear the Peacock. At a quarter to eleven you sing the Midnight Waltz, as you have every New Year's Eve since anyone can remember.

Your evening begins

9:00. The toast. You wore more feathers than the law allows.

10:45. You sang the Midnight Waltz beside the podium.

The rest of your evening is in your booklet. So is the sentence you wish you had not said.

MIDNIGHT AT THE MASQUERADE

The Fiftieth Midnight Masquerade

Dear _____,

For fifty years a Marchand has locked the doors of this opera house on New Year's Eve and let nobody out, or unmasked, before midnight. This year I would like you to be locked in with us.

Come masked and in evening dress. The orchestra plays, the champagne is cold, and at half past ten I shall vanish, as I always do, and come back among you under another face. Find me before midnight and the last bottle of the 1911 is yours.

There is a box under the great clock. At midnight I shall open it. It holds one or two things I have decided, and I would not have you miss them. Be on time. The doors are locked at half past, and the key stays on my watch chain.

WHEN _____,

WHERE _____. For one night, the Marchand Opera House.

YOU ARE INVITED AS Anselm Pryce

DRESS Evening dress and a mask. No faces before midnight.

Until the unmasking,

Leopold Marchand

TIP This is a murder mystery dinner hosted by _____. You will play Anselm Pryce for the evening. Who that is, which mask is yours and what to wear will reach you separately. You need no acting experience and nothing to prepare: on the night you get a booklet that tells you what to say. Allow about two hours of play, three with dinner.

Please reply to _____ within three days. Every guest plays a part, so the evening depends on knowing who is coming.

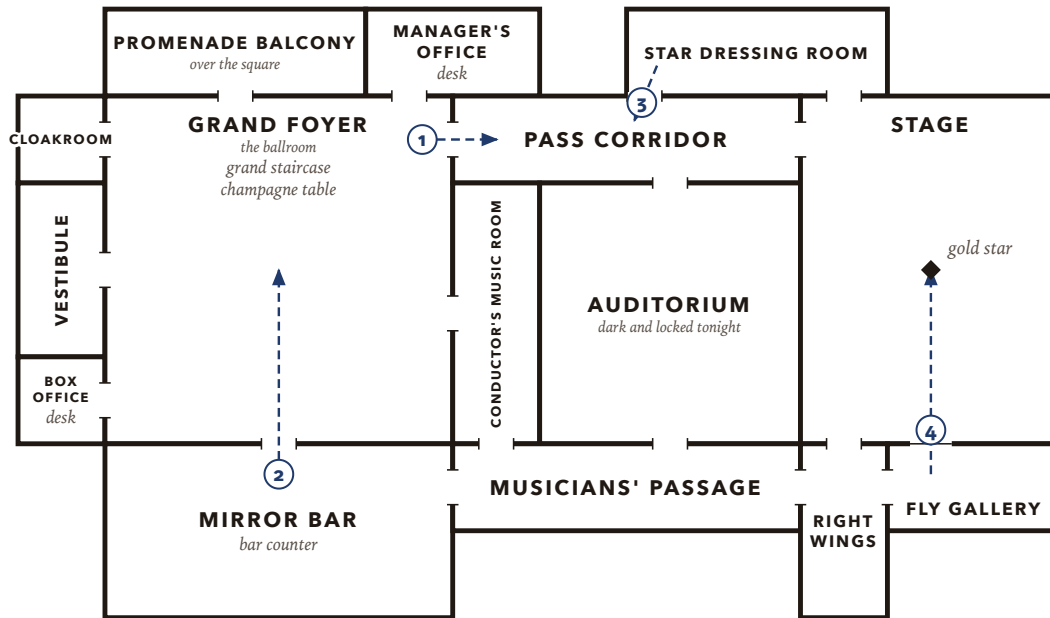
Case board

One sheet for the whole table. Write in what you learn: where each suspect says they were, who vouches for them, and their motive.

SUSPECT	WHERE WERE THEY?	WHO VOUCHES?	MOTIVE	NOTES
Anselm Pryce THE CRITIC				
Gideon Flint THE STAGE MANAGER				
Celeste Devereaux THE PRIMA DONNA				
Vivienne Sterling THE PATRON				
Sebastian Voss THE MUSIC DIRECTOR				
Lisette Marchand THE NIECE				

THE MARCHAND OPERA HOUSE, NEW YEAR'S EVE 1926; THE DOORS STAY LOCKED UNTIL
THE UNMASKING AT MIDNIGHT

Floor plan



- ① Through the pass door.
- ② Through the open double doors, including the podium.
- ③ From the door.
- ④ Straight down on the gold star.

PROMENADE BALCONY doors from the Grand Foyer.

STAR DRESSING ROOM private door to the left wings; door onto the pass corridor.

CLOAKROOM numbered pegs.

VESTIBULE front doors, locked at 8:30.

BOX OFFICE key board.

GRAND FOYER great clock, on the north wall; Unmasking Box, on the mantel under the clock; bandstand and conductor's podium, on the east wall; pass door, in the east wall.

MIRROR BAR service door to the musicians' passage.

PASS CORRIDOR pass door at the foyer end; ends in the left wings; side door to the auditorium.

CONDUCTOR'S MUSIC ROOM hat shelf; door on the bandstand; back door to the musicians' passage.

AUDITORIUM dark tonight; its doors are locked and the keys hang in the box office; orchestra pit, open to the musicians' passage; iron safety curtain, down: the stage cannot be seen from here.

MUSICIANS' PASSAGE runs under the south side of the auditorium, by the orchestra pit, to the right wings.

STAGE ghost light, on the star; left wings, on the north side; right wings, on the south side.

RIGHT WINGS iron spiral stair.

FLY GALLERY thirty feet above the right side of the stage; pins 1 to 40; pin rail.

READ ALOUD THE HOLDER READS THIS TO THE TABLE

Fifteen named masks, each on the cloakroom peg of its number. 1 the Sun, Mr. Marchand. 2 the Moon. 3 the Peacock. 4 the Raven. 5 the Swan. 6 the Bear. 7 the Harlequin, Mr. Pryce. 8 the Wolf. 9 the Butterfly. 10 the Fox. 11 the Hound. 12 the Cat. 13 the Owl. 14 the Stag. 15 the Lion. Line 16 has no entry: "Held back by Mr. Marchand's order." Everyone else wears a plain black domino.

The Marchand Opera House. The Fiftieth Midnight Masquerade. Mask Roll.

Friday, December 31, 1926. Kept at the front doors by the doorkeeper. Masks by Castellan & Daughters. Each mask came in a hat box of its number and hangs, with its wearer's cloak, on the cloakroom peg of the same number.

PEG AND BOX	MASK	WEARER
1	The Sun (gold)	Leopold Marchand
2	The Moon (silver)	Lisette Marchand
3	The Peacock	Celeste Devereaux
4	The Raven	Sebastian Voss
5	The Swan	Vivienne Sterling
6	The Bear	Gideon Flint
7	The Harlequin (with a checkered cap)	Anselm Pryce
8	The Wolf	Maxim Roth
9	The Butterfly	Delphine Marlow
10	The Fox	Cosmo Vance
11	The Hound	Rupert Bell
12	The Cat	Beatrice Lowe
13	The Owl	Millicent Park
14	The Stag	Dr. Marguerite Hart
15	The Lion	Count Emmerich Valdane
16	(no entry)	Held back by Mr. Marchand's order.

All other guests, and the orchestra except its conductor, wear the plain black domino.

TIP Taken from the doorkeeper, who keeps it at the front doors. Varley.