



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL THESPIANS HAUNTINGLY HILARIOUS IN "THAT'S THE SPIRIT"

HOLMDEL (November 15, 2016) – Holmdel High School and Holmdel Theater Guild are proud to announce the fall production of Tim Kelly's comic murder mystery "That's The Spirit". The play will have two performances on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 PM in the Holmdel High School auditorium.

"That's The Spirit" is centered on a murder that takes place at a lodge that once belonged to a famous "illusionist." The murder is investigated, of course, by a psychic, who is assisted by, among others, a ventriloquist dummy, a hammy actor, some inept policemen, and Anne Boleyn. Laughs and scares are in a delicate balance!

Though the Holmdel students always bring a special kind of magic to each performance, director Joseph Clores is especially pleased with his cast for this wacky, spooky spoof of the traditional murder whodunit. Mr. Clores is always quite aware of the talent his actors exude and would like to see each of them shine, and luckily there are many opportunities in this particular play for each member of the cast. Clores lauded the play as "a true ensemble piece" where his actors "really come to understand the complexities of what comedy is, from set-up to delivery". He has been very proud of their efforts at honing these difficult comic skills throughout the rehearsal process.

Mr. Clores, who has helped to produce almost 80 different shows in his nearly 27 years as director at the high school, emphasizes that casting is the key element in all productions, especially when it comes to comedy. He is happy to see the usual suspects step up and take on the challenging roles, and is equally delighted that he has had a good number of freshman audition this year, which bodes well for the future of the program. Clores emphasized that he tries to instill in all his performers that there really is no hierarchy of "lead" or "secondary" roles, but rather that it's the entire company that makes for a successful performance. And he feels that the broad appeal of the story, along with the comic timing of his colorful cast will make for a must-see show for an audience of all ages.

With Mr. Clores at the helm, Mr. Bob Smith as technical director and Mr. Ted Mester handling lighting, the Holmdel Theater Guild will once again uphold the Holmdel High School and district's goals of providing all students with opportunities in the arts, ranging from performers,

to set designers, to stage and lighting crews. The productions also help promote another Holmdel goal of enhancing “school spirit” and in the case of this play, they mean that quite literally, so please come out and see the show!