



'Til Death Do Us Party Annual Newsletter

March 2009

Volume 2

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Pseudocide Primer

It's better to be a fake somebody than a real nobody. - Matt Damon

In researching this piece, I was astonished to find out that there is actually a term coined for faking one's own death: "pseudocide." Typical pseudocides consist of phony drownings, because it provides a plausible reason for the absence of a body. According to an urban legend, as many as a quarter of suicides from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge in which no body was found, were more than likely a sham. In fact, there are several on-line resources and self-help books entirely dedicated to the faking of one's death. In one such site, the "how-to" suggests that "Faking your own death takes a lot of planning, care and 'closemouthedness.'" (Is that a word?) It instructs you to figure out what kind of death you want to have, for example: suicide, accident or murder. Then it goes on to explain the difference between the three – and why suicide and murder are the two easiest to fake. "Accident is the hardest to fake successfully without having a body, so the only real way to do it is by the 'missing and presumed dead' method." The pseudocide primer suggests climbing a dangerous mountain, hiking alone in the forest, or driving somewhere and never making it to your supposed destination.

I have noticed that the recent economic down-turn has resulted in a number of pseudocides – or at least questionable evaporations. One high-profile 'disappearance' eventually led to the discovery of a counterfeit death. In early January 2009, financial advisor, Marcus Schrenker's financial woes drove him to attempt to fake his own death in a light aircraft crash. The 38-year-old was arrested by U.S. Marshals officers at a campsite in Quincy, Florida. When Schrenker allegedly faked his death he "was facing more than \$9 million in court judgments and potential penalties."

Then there was Samuel Israel, the cofounder of the Stamford, Conn. hedge fund Bayou Group LLC, who was about to serve 20 years in prison for robbing his investors of more than \$400 million. But in June 2008, he tried to avoid prison by faking his suicide. He abandoned his car near the Bear Mountain Bridge in New York with the message "Suicide is Painless" written on the windshield. The message written on Israel's windshield, is the song that was sung during a fake suicide in the movie "M*A*S*H." Israel later turned himself in to the authorities, after having a heart-to-heart with this mom. Do not try this stuff at home, kids!

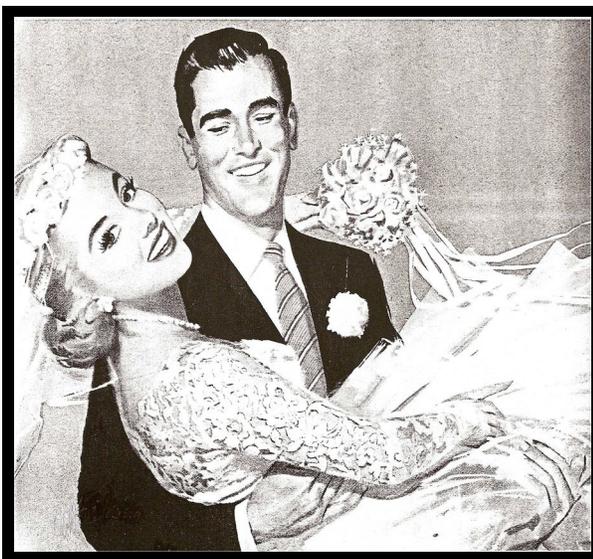
Throughout fictional history, authors have used pseudocide for dramatic reasons – such as Juliet's "death" by sleeping potion, which eventually lead to the young couple's needless tragic suicide, and Huck Finn's fake death, which lead to the telling of one of Americas' favorite adventures of all time. We here at 'Til Death Do Us Party, feel it is our job as actors, and the weavers of mystery story-lines, to explore all avenues of making our simulated murders realistic, yet fun. We, have used the idea behind a fraudulent suicide in order to further the story line, or to reveal characters' more squalid characteristics. Generally, however, we've skirted the practice because folks want MURDER from us... We hope that the mysteries that we craft so carefully have tantalized, teased, and tempted our audiences to think outside of the normal theatrical box, without driving them to a pseudocide of their own!

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UP COMING DATES:

'Til Death Do Us Party Productions will kick off the year 2009 by performing **Murder 1956: 'Til Death Do Us Part** at the **Hotel Boulderado** for three dates:

March 6, 13, and 20, 2009

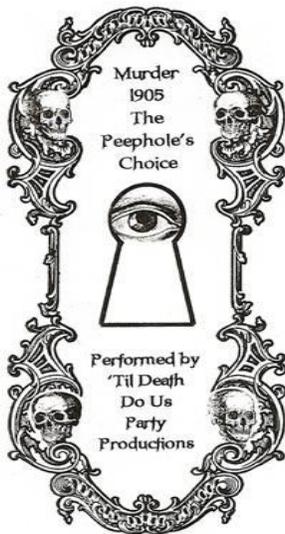


A family feud dating back to the 16th century ignites this mystery. Our story unfolds in a mask of intrigue gauzier than the brides' veil as suspicion comes raining down faster than wedding rice. The answers to this consanguine riddle are as circuitous as Donald Trump's pre-nuptials. Prepare for a ride as crazy and unpredictable as marriage itself!

Contact the Hotel Boulderado for details and reservations:

www.Boulderado.com or dial: (303) 440-2880

Next we will perform **Murder 1905: The Peep Hole's Choice** at the Four Mile Historic Park in Denver on **April 4, 2009**



Murder 1905: The PeepHole's Choice

It is March, 1905, and due to the tainted results of an earlier election, the residents of Gold Hill are once again going to the polls to select a new mayor. It would appear that nobody has a monopoly on corruption, and Gold Hill's mayoral election is no exception. Come help to unravel the wicked web woven, in this turn of the century turn of events.

Contact the Four Mile Historic Park for details and reservations:

www.fourmile.org or dial: (720) 865-0815 address:

715 South Forest Street, Denver, Colorado 80246

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390 Hill Street (Gold Hill)

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(303) 473-0811

www.rockymountainmurdermysteries.com

Check out these cool websites:

GoldHillInn.com

Boulderado.com

FourMile.org

TheFightGuy.com

RockinRobins.net

TallnThin.blogspot.com

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Murders in Gold Hill, Colorado



And of course, we will resume our regular season at the Bluebird Lodge in Gold Hill where we plan to create a brand new murder to perform May through October, 2009. Because Gold Hill and all of Boulder County will be celebrating their 150th anniversary – also known as the “Sesquicentennial” we are planning something to compliment those early days in the mountains of Nebraska Territory. The Bluebird Lodge Mysteries include a 5-course sumptuous meal, wine with dinner and an after-dinner drink, bed and breakfast for survivors. One of the unique things about participating in a murder mystery with the Bluebird Lodge, is that you are treated to a truly out-of-the ordinary experience. We can remove you to a different time and place because the history of the town and the area is so deep. We write all of our murders set in this tiny historic town, and extrapolate from real history to create our mysteries. Doing a murder mystery at the Bluebird Lodge is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and is how these mysteries came about! Contact the Gold Hill Inn/Bluebird Lodge for more information about our upcoming 2009 season:

www.goldhillinn.com or (303)443-6461

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Geoffrey Kent playing
Oscar Wilde in Murder 1882

Geoffrey Kent spent almost 9 years with 'Til Death Do Us Party, perfecting a number of villainous roles - accenting each of them with his tremendous talent as a fight master, comedian, and Shakespearean orator.

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Since leaving our stage, Geoff was elected the president of the Society of American Fight Directors, the largest organization related to stage combat in the world... though it mostly means he emails a lot. He is the resident fight director for most of the major theatre companies in Colorado including 17 deaths for "Richard III" at the Denver Center Theatre Company, an even dozen swordfights for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's Three Musketeers and, 80 or so gunshots and an exploding cat for Curious Theatre and their run of "The Lieutenant of Inishmore." Geoff also acts (appearing as Ratcliffe, Aramis and Brendan in the above plays, hanging mostly upside down for the majority of his work in Lieutenant).



Geoff has also had a chance to direct a few award winning plays including "Cowboy Macbeth" for Listen Productions and "The Grapes of Wrath" for Theatreworks. Geoffrey will be playing Benedick in Much Ado for CSF this summer as well as the return of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" and ends the year playing Crumpet in David Sedaris' one-man show "The Santaland Diaries" for Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company. He has recently adopted a dog, named Titus, who fully grown weighs in at an astounding 3.6 pounds, and looks surprisingly like a Cornish game hen.



We miss Jeffe!

