



## Mystery from the 1920s Career Academy Students Presenting Murder Mystery Show

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By Rachel Brown

— The roaring '20s may have had their share of fun and dance, but in a murder mystery show put on by a group of sophomore Whitfield Career Academy students, the fun goes sour when a dancer is murdered in a speakeasy.

A pair of detectives, played by Jon O'Quinn and Jordan Tant — one older and experienced, the other young and daring — ignite the play with their humor and wit as they seek to solve the crime, according to students who created the story. "Play Dead: A Night of Murder and Mystery" will be presented on Tuesday, April 19, at 6 p.m. at Stage 123 on West Gordon Street behind the Wink Theatre in Dalton. It is free and open to the public.

"It's kind of about a group of people who all get together at the speakeasy, and a murder happens between one of the top dancers," said student Zenaida Torres. "It's kind of a night of trying to explain what happened."

The entire play was student-written, and students studied the 1920s era to ensure the culture, clothes and historical references fit the time period. Science and math were merged together in a study of forensics offered by the school's public safety teacher, who is also a law enforcement officer.

Torres said she and the other students learned about Al Capone, mobsters, Prohibition and speakeasies. Joshua Diak, the group's sound and lighting technician, said he's been working on some special effects that will fit the 1920s era. For example, some of the actors will need sirens and police beacons.

About 15 students will act in the show, some performing dances, and several more students are involved in behind the scenes work. David Bridges said he is working on a trailer that will be posted on the school's YouTube channel.

The show lasts about an hour, and there will be audience interaction.

