

JSerra's Criminally Captivating "Clue" is a Killer Must-See
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When six eclectic strangers are invited to the mysterious Boddy Manor, they discover that they have something in common: they are all being blackmailed by the same person. Their dark secrets culminate in a deadly dinner party that makes each of the six guests a murder suspect.

Bethan Elliott's Wadsworth is cleverly characterized by her convincing British accent, controlled demeanor, and rigid posture. When revealing herself as Mrs. Boddy and the mastermind, she skillfully switches into a persuasive Southern drawl and broad comedic physicality. Her rapid-fire imitations accurately and grippingly capture each character's vocal and physical mannerisms in an impressive display of her range.

Naomi Clarke brilliantly portrays the complex, layered stoicism of Mrs. White with precise, subtle acting choices that hint at her secret darkness. Her mature voice, haughty brows, measured gait, and closed posture vividly radiate wealth and disdain. When she sees Yvette, her clenched jaw and quivering face masterfully reveal her restrained inner turmoil regarding their past, which later unfurls dramatically as her careful composure gives way to unbridled, murderous rage.

Nervously flailing around the stage, Catherine Bennett beautifully embodies Mrs. Peacock's neurotic hysteria. Her nuanced characterization shone especially during the dinner. After comedically flopping into her chair, Peacock breathlessly introduces herself while enunciating remarkably at a high speed. Animated gestures, unwavering flustered expressions, and constant fidgeting engagingly emphasize her paranoia, especially with her striking juxtaposition to Clarke's poised elegance.

Abigail Hauke's deep understanding of the material as a director shines in every stage picture and pacing choice. The hilarious comedic timing allows just enough time for jokes to land without sacrificing the brisk pacing. Her blocking clearly establishes complicated relationships, palpable tensions, and power dynamics. In one memorable scene, the suspects huddle while Mr. Green (Grady Jenkins) kneels alone by the body, creating a comic image that compellingly encapsulates the suspects' mutual suspicion while foreshadowing Mr. Green's FBI reveal.

The costuming team excels at clarifying characters while staying true to the era and board game. Colonel Mustard's costume design stood out as it meaningfully amplified his pompous personality. His oversized beige suit reinforces the idea of his self-importance, but the bright yellow suspenders and polka-dot mustard tie underneath undermine his authority to illustrate his comedic blustering personality.

The evidence is overwhelming: JSerra's "Clue: High School Edition" is guilty of delivering a killer night full of laughs and fun!