

What's Happenin': Tuesday, December 7, through Friday, December 31

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 07 December 2010 06:00

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Comedy

Double Wider: Murder at the Chitlin County Fair and Five Card Murder

The Lodge Hotel and Skellington Manor

Friday, December 10, and Friday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

When I first heard that *Five Card Murder* – the latest interactive comedy by the Quad Cities' It's a Mystery troupe – concerned a killing that takes place during a poker game, I thought it sounded like an ideal setup for big, juicy laughs. Then, a couple weeks later, some friends emptied my pockets in a poker game of our own. Now I'm just feeling enormous empathy for the killer.

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My bitterness aside, there's sure to be all manner of hilarity on hand in this new production by author Scott Naumann (pictured – he's the one on the left), with *Five Card Murder* being performed at Rock Island's Skellington Manor on December 17. And the gifted It's a Mystery artists are doubling our delight this month, with December 10's Lodge Hotel staging of Naumann's trailer-park whodunit

Double Wider: Murder at the Chitlin County Fair.

Both events will begin with a 6:30 p.m. cocktail hour followed by a scrumptious dinner with the mysteries' respective suspects ... one of whom, in each case, won't be around for dessert.

While roaring at the performers' over-the-top antics, It's a Mystery guests will have plenty of opportunities to study clues and suss out potential assassins. But if you want a leg up on your fellow sleuths, here's a little pre-introduction: Try guessing which characters are in *Five Card Murder*,

which are in

Double Wider

, and which one I made up to throw you off track:

1) *Five Card Murder*

2) *Double Wider: Murder at the Chitlin County Fair*

A) Flemm Hockin

B) Jack O'Harts

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C) Ma Banks

D) Mike the Mark

E) Mo Ron

F) Pastor Prime

G) Pooter Ann

H) Ruby Redd

Reservations to *Five Card Murder* can be made by calling (563)344-9187, tickets to *Double Wider: Murder at the Chitlin County Fair* are available by calling (563)359-1607, and information on both shows can be found at ItsAMysteryQC.com

Answers: 1 – B, C, H; 2 – A, E, F, G. "D" is the name I made up ... or rather, the name given to me by my poker-playing friends. The bastards.



Theatre

A Christmas Story

Davenport Junior Theatre

Saturday, December 11, through Sunday, December 19

For this year's annual holiday presentation, Davenport Junior Theatre is producing the stage adaptation of *A Christmas Story*, the modern film classic about a boy, his family, and his quest to secure an official Red Ryder carbine-action 200-shot range model air rifle with a compass in the stock and this thing which tells time. Of course, that's a rather long-winded description of the plot. I probably could've just written "*A Zeppeli-i-in!!!*" and memories of the movie would've come flooding back to you.

As that's my absolute favorite line of *Christmas Story* dialogue, I'm hoping that this student-performed take on the tale, directed by Jessica Sheridan, will find room for it in the show's hour-long running length. But if not, there are dozens upon dozens of other unforgettable quotes that'll no doubt be included. Prep yourself for Junior Theatre's

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Christmas-themed family fun – running December 11 through 19 – by matching the memorable *Christmas Story* line with the character who says it.

- 1) "Icicles have been known to *kill* people!"
- 2) "Cry! Cry for me, crybaby! *Cry!!!*"
- 3) "C-plus! *Ha ha ha ha ha!!!*"
- 4) "Meat loaf, smeat loaf, double beet loaf. I *hate* meat loaf!"
- 5) "NADDA *FINGA!!!*"
- 6) "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!"
- 7) "Ovaltine? A crummy commercial? Son of a bitch!"

A) Ralphie Parker

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B) Randy Parker

C) Mr. Parker

D) Mrs. Parker

E) Ms. Shields

F) Scut Farkus

G) Santa Claus

A Christmas Story will be performed on Saturdays at 1 and 4 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., tickets are \$5 for ages three and older, and more information is available by calling (563)326-7862 or visiting DavenportJuniorTheatre.com.

Answers: 1 – D, 2 – F, 3 – E, 4 – B, 5 – C, 6 – G, 7 – A. Let's assume that last one won't be heard in Junior Theatre's version.

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Music

Naughty by Nature

Rock Island Brewing Company

Saturday, December 18, 8 p.m.

As we know from the song, Santa makes a list – and checks it twice – to find out who's naughty or nice. The jolly old elf could save himself the trouble, though, just by heading to the Rock Island Brewing Company on December 18. Several nicely naughty ones there.

Not that they can help it, as they're Naughty by Nature, the Grammy Award-winning hip-hop artists who'll perform an 8 p.m. concert co-sponsored by Daytrotter. Formed in East Orange, New Jersey, and composed of Treach, Vin Rock, and DJ Kay Gee, the platinum-selling trio will headline an event that finds all proceeds benefiting the *Quad-City Times/United Way* Wish List program, and that will showcase

Billboard

hits from such albums as

Icons, Poverty's Paradise,

and the group's self-titled 1991 debut.

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You may be particularly familiar with Naughty by Nature's smash single "O.P.P." – which sampled the Jackson 5's "ABC" and found crossover success on the pop charts – but how well do you know the rest of the musicians' output? Try filling in the blanks on these Naughty by Nature song titles.

1) "_____ Anthem"

A) Downtown

B) Uptown

C) Jersey

2) "Feel Me _____"

A) Flow

B) Right

C) Please

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3) "_____ All by My Lonely"

A) I'm

B) Stuck

C) Dirt

4) "Mourn You Til I _____ You"

A) Join

B) Leave

C) See

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5) "Written on Ya _____"

A) Mind

B) Soul

C) Kitten

Tickets to Naughty by Nature's RIBCO concert are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the show, and more information is available by calling (309)793-4060 or visiting RIBCO.com .

Answers: 1 – B, 2 – A, 3 – C, 4 – A, 5 – C. Poor kitten.

