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High Resolution photo: [GERTRUDE\\_PROMO3\\_HI\\_RES\\_press.jpg](#)

Photo Description: Tara Travis is astounding with her spot-on accents and subtle puppet body language that will have you roaring with laughter, even as you try to differentiate between important clues and flashy red herrings.

Photo Credit: Photos by Jim Travis with Graphic Design by Kurt Firla

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MURDER MOST FOUL! WHO KILLED GERTRUDE CRUMP?**

Was it the Scottish governess? The Frenchman? The aging Colonel?

Who killed Gertrude Crump?

The talented **Tara Travis** returns to the **Chilliwack Cultural Centre** in another brilliant one-woman show on April 11 & 12 with ***Who Killed Gertrude Crump?***

With twelve puppets and a multitude of accents, she brings classic mystery tropes to life in a whole new light - and it's a rollicking ride of dropped clues, red herrings, and classic Agatha Christie references you won't want to miss.

In this hilarious and fast-paced murder mystery, almost anyone could be the killer - and the audience will be kept guessing until the very end!

“I play the ghost of **Agatha Christie** coming back from the dead to tell a story that she never published in life,” Travis explains. “And the idea is that Agatha is bored in the afterlife, so she’s decided to present the mystery with puppets - because why not?”

It’s a quirky take on a classic trope- and it’s guaranteed you’ve never seen a murder mystery quite like this one!

Twelve guests gather at a remote English country manor to ring in New Year’s Eve, expecting a party full of laughter and companionship. Instead, things run into a bit of a damper when it’s discovered that one of their fellow party-goer - award-winning and world-famous mystery author Gertrude Crump - has been shot and killed!

From a crusty old man and his much-younger trophy wife, to the financially troubled host and hostess, none of the guests are above suspicion. And as it soon becomes clear, perhaps the only person who can solve the murder mystery is the shrewdly clever Gertrude Crump herself.

“***Who Killed Gertrude Crump?*** is Fringe at its finest: unique, intriguing, and outside the box,” says Ottawa critic Devan Marr.

Travis deftly handles a dozen puppets throughout the show, manipulating their movements to express surprisingly subtle body language and physical tics. Each character is fully fledged out, distinctive in both their movements and voices. This beyond-talented actress effortlessly brings twelve characters to life before your eyes, leaving you astounded!

“There are definitely things we can do staging-wise with puppets that we wouldn’t be able to do with humans,” Travis says. “It gives us a lot of new options - and we make the most of it!”

After months of touring on the Fringe circuit, Travis has honed the show into a well-oiled machine. You won’t believe the skill and speed with which she switches characters, voices, and accents - and keeps the action tripping right along.

“Managing so many characters at once is a handful,” she admits with a grin. “The only way to keep it clean and fast is to practice constantly.”

“I love having so many characters onstage at the same time,” she continues. “It’s rapid-fire. It’s a blast. And now I get bored if I’m just playing one character!”

As the play progresses, the audience is given all the clues they need to solve the murder - if they know where to look.

“There are a lot of little winks and nudges along the way,” Travis says with a grin. “Agatha is always egging the audience along, so they’re engaged in trying to solve the mystery as well as enjoying the show.”

Agatha polls the audience throughout the piece, checking in to see just how many clues they’ve pieced together.

“A quarter to a third of the audience has a pretty good idea of who the killer is - at least a strong inkling,” Travis says. “But no one knows for sure. We keep you guessing!”

*Who Killed Gertrude Crump?* comes to the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Box Office at 604-391-SHOW (7469) or visit them online at [www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca](http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca). All seats are \$25.

*Who Killed Gertrude Crump?* is generously sponsored by Prime Signs, British Columbia Arts Council, the Chilliwack Times, the Province of British Columbia, the City of Chilliwack, and the department of Canadian Heritage.

– 30 –

### **Additional Information**

<http://www.monstertheatre.com/2014/05/who-killed-gertrude-crump/>

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### **Chilliwack Cultural Centre**

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, more than 220,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value

exceeding three million dollars. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, The Chilliwack Players Guild, The Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra, and the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts as partners.

*Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:*

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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Chilliwack School of Performing Arts

Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

**The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society** is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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