

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Masquerade Murder Mystery Asks Students Whodunit?

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In an exciting blend of suspense, strategy, and role-playing, the University of Wisconsin-Superior hosted a Masquerade Murder Mystery. It was a captivating murder mystery event attended by all kinds of students. The game event, which was held last Friday evening in the William “Pope” Wright Student Center, provided a unique opportunity for students to immerse themselves in an interactive storytelling experience, filled with mystery and unexpected twists.

The game was simple, yet still engaging. All of the students received a certain character card. The cards had a variety of clues on them, that would help the students uncover the identity of a murderer amongst them. Every student played a different character that ranged from a charming socialite to a mysterious outsider. They were also given both public clues to share with others and private secrets to keep to themselves.

The game was split into three rounds, and each round added a new layer to



Students make use of the provided wardrobe to dress up for the Masquerade Murder Mystery.

Photo by Patrick Douglas | The Promethean

the developing storyline. The purpose of the first round was introduce the characters. Never breaking character, the students talked to each other and shared the public information on their cards while beginning to uncover motives for the murder that had yet to take place. “There’s a part of the card that tells you how to act before the murder,” said the Masked Host.

The tension rose as the second round began. This is where the pre-murder clues were shared and the different

characters’ motives started to make sense. Everyone eagerly awaited the moment when the victim would be revealed, and with each revelation, the web of lies and deceit grew more complex.

In the third round, the students went into full on investigation mode. “You’ll be asked to accuse who you believe murdered the victim. It could be anyone in the game, including yourself,” said the host. This was the most dramatic segment, as a murder had been committed and now was the time to interrogate others.

The students discussed all of the information they had gathered and worked together to try and figure out who committed the crime. In somewhat of a twist at the end, the murderer didn’t even know who they were. They could even accuse themselves, but the solution wasn’t revealed at the end of the event.

Various snacks and drinks were provided, as well as a costume wardrobe. The dress code was formal attire, and masks. However, students who didn’t have their own formal attire or mask could easily show up and use what was readily available.

For a lot of the students, the night was more than solving a mystery. It was about having a good time out with friends, meeting new people, and a fun experience that everyone closer together in the spirit of friendly competition and mystery.



Some of the students conversing as they discuss their character in the first round.

Photo by Patrick Douglas | The Promethean



A student takes advantage of the free snacks.

Photo by Patrick Douglas | The Promethean



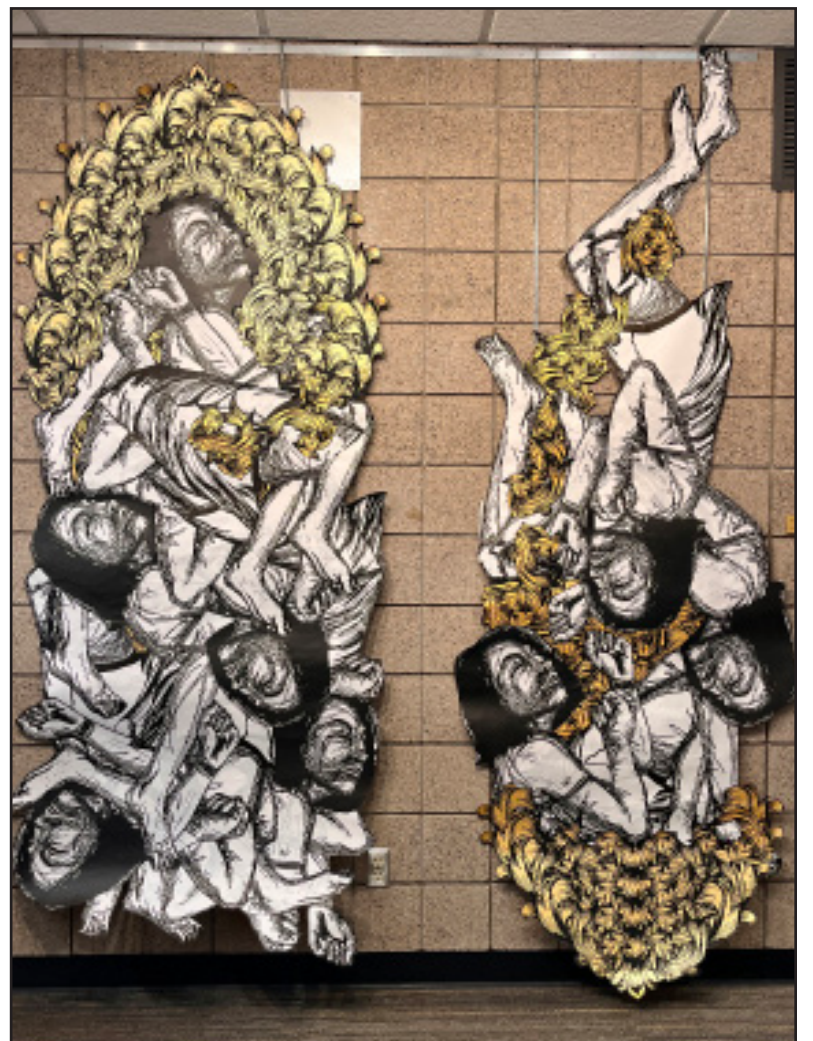
The theatre experience might feel more relaxing, as earlier this semester the chairs were replaced in the Manion Theatre.

Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean



The new chairs installed ahead of time of “The Wolves” which runs through Nov. 16. Artificial turf and a ramp was constructed leaving plenty of room for both UWS and CSS student actors to “practice” in ahead of gameday.

Photo by Drew Kerner | The Promethean



“The Comfort of Anguish,” by Shannon Hickok, Woodcut & Screenprint, 2022

Photo by Drew Kerner | The Promethean

## Exploring Grief Through an Unforgiving Medium

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Until the end of the semester, an emotionally carved exhibit is on display at UW-Superior’s Experimental Gallery in Holden Fine & Applied Arts Center. The exhibit, called “Adjuration,” mixes the two dictionary definitions into a message of longing and haunting hope. Duluth Artist Shannon Hickok created life-sized prints and carvings, as well as smaller multi-layered prints, to tell her personal experiences that’s equally as layered and the creation process itself.

“The emotional act of creating an artwork is further emphasized through the physical act of the printmaking process,” wrote Hickok in her artist statement. “Only when the ink becomes one with the paper is the image reborn again, coming alive at long last.”

Hickok uses five different screenprinting layers in her work titled, “The Promise of Hope.” The screenprint depicts a woman entangled still with her last two golden string. The woman figure reaches upwards, keeping the strings connected to herself; as dark brown and black floral wave surround the figure. This floral pattern returns in all of “Adjuration” artworks. In “The Hope of Alchemy,” Hickok uses the string of hope motif to show her woman figure protection a golden hart, as everything else seem to consume her.

“The search for self, following loss, comes alive through every fiber off my being,” wrote Hickok in her artist statement. “To move forward through grief... the feelings of seeking, longing, haunting, and hoping become strength, connectiveness, rebirth, and celebration.”



“The Hope of Alchemy,” by Shannon Hickok, Screenprint, 2024

Photo by Drew Kerner | The Promethean



“The Betrayal of Belief,” by Shannon Hickok, Woodcut, 2022

Photo by Drew Kerner | The Promethean