

AIKEN, SC—Murder, time travel, neutrinos; OH MY! Actually, they all intertwine in the 5th Annual Aiken Downtown Development Association's Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, *Aiken Time Crime Murders*, August 13-14 at Newberry Hall.

Thurmond Whatley and Maureen Woltermann have once again joined forces to create an original script for this year's show. The team of Aiken writers also penned last year's *Advertising for Murder*. This year's show is a sequel of sorts to last year's hit show picking up 25 years in the future with Aiken's 200th Anniversary.

City Manager Roger LeDuc is reprising his role of Doge Roger "Richland" LeDuc. After he was miraculously brought back to life by the miracle workers at Aiken Regional Medical Centers following his attempted murder by Assistant City Manager Richard Pearce in last year's mystery, The Doge has become rather tyrannical and maniacal and has expanded Aiken's territory to become its "benevolent" ruler.

In addition to the script, Whatley and Woltermann have written commercials for the local businesses sponsoring the production. The commercials will be spoofs of sponsor advertisements. The spoofs have become very popular with the audiences over the past two years and are nearly as anticipated as the show itself.

The local cast includes Anita Hanna who is the only actor or actress who has performed in all five ADDA Murder Mysteries. She fractured sides in the initial event five years ago as a male German officer and plays Grammy Horace Grace, a time traveler, in this year's edition.

In addition to LeDuc and Hanna, Jeni Smithson is Alley Newberry; Cathy Traver is Brandy Barnwell. Karla Heitkamp is Fermatta York, and Dave Engelman is the time traveling scientist, Colleton Cronos.

Carla Cloud, Marcia Harris and David Culp make appearances as guests from the future that happen to be related to historic Aikenites. Cloud is Eukalalee Sallye; Harris is Odella Weeks, and Culp is Dexter Dibble.

Vince Cloud and Thurmond Whatley lend their voices to the show, and there is also an appearance by a Mysterious Woman.

Whatley directs and Tommie Culligan is the Mistress of Ceremonies.

The proceeds from the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater are used to help keep ADDA operating and focused on its mission to improve the economic vitality, enhance the beauty and preserve the historical inheritance of our beautiful and unique downtown.

Major sponsors this year include Aiken Regional Medical Centers, Carolina First, The Curiosity Shop, SCANA, Woodside Plantation, Howell Printing, Aiken Community Playhouse and Jim Hanna Sports.

Tickets are \$50 each and include dinner and show. There is a cash bar. In addition, there are a variety of audience participation opportunities including the chance to bid on a dinner party hosted in a private home for a gaggle of your friends.

The doors to Newberry Hall open at 6:30pm. Dinner is served at 7:00pm, and the show begins at 8:00pm. Make your reservations by stopping by the ADDA office in The Alley or by calling 803-649-2221 using VISA, Mastercard or Discover.