

US

*Bridging Communities
for 15 Years!*

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THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS THEATRE COMPANY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIDDEN CLUES AND GHOULISH SPIRITS WEAVE A COMPELLING WHO-DONE-IT, IN AN ORIGINAL PLAY BY AT-RISK YOUTH

Los Angeles, Calif. March 12, 2009—Thirteen youth residents of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services perform in the hauntingly hilarious original play, *The Abandoned Hotel*, produced by The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company (**US**). Participants of the Fall 2008 **US** writing program wrote the play about a detective and his nephew who investigate clues of a murder in an abandoned hotel in Death Valley. Now, participants of the Spring 2009 performance program are performing the play, bringing to life its colorful cast of characters, including a ghost bellhop, a pet rat, and a supervillain, in this professional production by The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company.

The **US** program at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services fosters community and ensemble building, and provides peer-to-peer mentorship, breaking down gang-related barriers and improving youths' views of other races, cultures, and themselves. Raised in neglectful and sometimes violent circumstances, participating youth suffer from a lack of positive social interactions. In The Unusual Suspects' program, youth find support in a social group that is not a gang.

The Abandoned Hotel

An original play written and performed by youth
At Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services
WHEN: Saturday, March 28th at 1:30pm
WHERE: 3200 Motor Avenue
(In The Gymnasium)
Westwood (Los Angeles), CA 90034

Interviews with the media can be arranged, but there are requirements of confidentiality, as the youth are underage. For more event and/or program information, contact **Channing Sargent at 213-488-8488, ext 201**. Please visit our web site at www.theunusualsuspects.org.

About The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company (US):

Bridging Communities for 15 Years! **US** has been empowering teens to make positive choices for over 15 years. **US** was the recipient of the National Juvenile Justice Award in 2000. In 2008, **US** received the prestigious *Coming Up Taller Award*—our nation's highest honor for after-school programming—which was presented by First Lady Laura Bush in a ceremony at The White House. Established in 1992 after the L.A. Riots, current Board Member and Founder Laura Leigh Hughes began **US** in response to the need for community reunification.

This program is sponsored by **Vista Del Mar Family Services and The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**.