

Murder at the Kit Kat Klub
by Butch Maxwell and Bert Furioli

Program Notes

The Place: The Kit Kat Klub – Somewhere in the Pocono Mountains

The Time: 1963

The Kit Kat Klub – the Caesar’s Palace of the Poconos – features nightly entertainment with an assortment of magicians, comedians, ventriloquists, and exotic dancers such as Misty Storm. The permanent headliner is singer Newt Diamond. Owned and operated by Sid Geaser, this mountaintop nightclub launched the careers of such luminaries as puppeteer Buffalo Bob, vocal group the Chipmunks and, more recently, singer Johnny Rival.

Sid Geaser: Once thought to have a great eye for talent, he developed an insatiable taste for booze. Shortly after hiring Newt, audiences have stayed away, and that, along with some bad investments on horses, is promising certain foreclosure on the club.

Newt Diamond: He is a legend in certain circles – very small ones. Best known for his Top 100 hit “Innamorata-Da-Vita (Baby).” (It hit number 87 in October of 1951), he toured nationally, warming up for Jerry Vale and Vic Damone, followed by his own tour headlining at fraternal clubs, weddings and bar mitzvahs.

Misty Storm: Sid’s niece worked in Reno as a stripper until he found her and brought her back to Pennsylvania, where she does not have to dance with a pole – other than club regular Stanley Poloski.

Johnny Rival: This swinging crooner is known for his television appearances, a supporting part in a movie and honorary membership in the Rat Pack, but he actually got his start in the Kit Kat Klub several years ago. After his first hit record, “Koo Koo Crazy Baby,” he quickly moved on to greener pastures – green with money.

Claude Hammer: Born Claude Hammerjagermeisterweisenheimer in Austria, he moved to the Brooklyn when he was in high school, where he fell in love with Misty. After this former 97-pound weakling left high school and disappeared, he gained 200 pounds of muscle and lost most of his name.

Fun Facts

Fun Fact: As a young stockbroker in the 1920s, **Sid Geaser** was so unsuccessful he that when the market crashed in '29, he couldn't even open his office window to jump out of it. He finally broke it and leapt, forgetting that his office was on the ground floor.

Fun Fact: When he enlisted in the Army in 1942, **Newt Diamond** was declared 4F because he insisted upon singing every time he spoke.

Fun Fact: **Misty Storm** ran away from home when she was 32.

Fun Fact: **Johnny Rival** thinks that rock and roll will be just a passing fad.

Fun Fact: His secret formula has allowed **Claude Hammer** to build resistance to chemicals, fire and common sense.

ACT 1

SFX – Music: Cheesy version of “Girl from Ipanema”

SID GEASER enters. He’s an older guy, perpetually sipping on a mixed drink. He is never sloppily drunk, but clearly a man who knows how to drink a lot. He’s got the look of a sophisticate trying to be hip. He goes to the stage area and takes the microphone.

SID

Good evening! Good evening cats and kittens! Welcome to the Kit Kat Klub, voted the Catskill's most purrrrr-fect nightclub. I'm Sid Geezer, owner of the Kit Kat Klub. And I'm not just the owner -

(Raising his glass to audience.)

- I'm also a client.

(Drinking.)

'Cause I get my drinks for free.

We've got a great night of great entertainment lined up for you great people. Later on, you'll be entertained by Misty Storm, the exotic dancer with a body that launched a thousand ships. And quite a few sailors.

But first, we've got the King of the Kit Kat Klub, the Top Kat in this Sandbox; let's hear it for Newt Diamond.

[Exit.]

SFX: Music – “Volare”

NEWT DIAMOND enters and takes the microphone. He is dressed in a very worn badly colored tux and wears a terrible toupee. Onstage, he clearly thinks he looks good. Offstage is another matter.

NEWT

(Singing.)

Volare, oh, oh,
A car-a, oh, oh, oh, oh,
Let's drive way up to the clouds
Away from rush hour crowds
We can kiss in the glow of a dashboard we know of
Where lovers enjoy cheap red wine
Let us drive our Volare, wherever we are-a is fine
We're like two engines firing, we will be perspiring in time

(Spoken.)

Everybody!

(Singing.)

Volare, oh, oh,
A car-a, oh, oh, oh, oh,
No wonder my happy heart shouts
I've got a place to make-out

(Speaking.)

Yeah, I remember Look Out Point. Me and Peggy Sue –
steaming up the windows – the twinkling stars in the sky –
and a full moon in the back seat.

(To an audience member, suavely.)

I got a feeling you know what I'm talking about.

*(Puts his foot on an empty chair; foot misses
chair; he stumbles. Then, recovering.)*

Excuse me, I gotta get back to the song.

(Singing.)

Volare, oh, oh,
That's-a my car-a, oh, oh, oh, oh!
No wonder my happy heart shouts
I've got a place to make-out

(Spoken.)

Everybody!

(Singing.)

Volare, oh, oh,
A car-a, oh, oh, oh, oh.

(Speaking over fading music.)

Thank you. Thank you for that sporadic applause. I know
you're out there; I can hear you chewing.

(Cueing rim shot.)

That reminds me of the cow that made love to the Ryder
truck. It was an udderly mooooving experience.

(Cueing rim shot.)

Udderly mooooving. Is this an audience or an oil painting?
That reminds me of the artist who gave his model the brush
off.

(Cueing rim shot.)

The brush off. Is this mic on?

MAMA

(An audience member.)

Unfortunately, yes.

NEWT

Did you hear why the lobster blushed? Because the seaweed.

(Cueing rim shot.)

Sea weed.

(Pause.)

I know you're out there; I can hear you chewing.

MAMA

You already used that joke. Get off the stage!

NEWT

Awww, Mama! I'm trying to entertain here.

MAMA

You're a disgrace to the family name.

NEWT

Our family name is Pastafazol.

MAMA

You shoulda been like your papa – a butcher. Instead of a ham.

NEWT

Ma, please. These people want to see the rest of my act.

UNCLE VINNY

(An audience member.)

Not me! I'd rather see that stripper.

NEWT

Uncle Vinny! What are you doing here? What's Aunt Rosa gonna say?

AUNT ROSA

(An audience member.)

I say, where are the male strippers?

NEWT

Aunt Rosa! Was there a breakout at the nursing home?

MAMA

Guido Antonio Pastafazol! Don't talk to your Aunt that way!

NEWT

(Meekly, head down.)

Yes, mama.

SID

(Enter.)

Newt! What's going on? You've lost the audience.

NEWT

No, I haven't. They're right here.

(To audience.)

Thank you, you've been a great audience. I'll be here all week! Ah, heck – I'll be here all year.

SID

Newt, that was terrible. Have you been buying jokes from third graders again?

NEWT

No, of course not! They were fourth graders.

(Cueing rim shot.)

SID

(Putting arm around Newt.)

Newt, you know I love you like you were my own son, so I'm going to level with you. I'm having some – financial difficulties.

NEWT

(Reaching in pocket.)

I can lend you ten 'til payday.

SID

You have ten thousand dollars in your pocket?

NEWT

Ten thousand? Sid, have you been betting on the nags again?

SID

Nah, it isn't the ponies this time. It's business. It stinks. It stinks worse than a skunk wearing dog fart deodorant. And your Romper Room act isn't helping.

NEWT

(Kicking the ground, dejected.)

Maybe my mama's right. I should've been a butcher.

SID

(To audience.)

He already knows how to butcher a joke.

(To Newt.)

I've got one last chance to get some cash in here, Newt. I've believed in you for a long time. I believe you can be great. I just need you to be great *right now*.

NEWT

Don't worry, Sid! I won't let you down, or my name isn't Newt Diamond!

SID

Your name is Patafazol.

NEWT

(Walking to exit.)

I'm gonna come up with a killer act. I can do it! Don't worry, Sid. As long as there is one frown I can turn upside down, I will be a clown.

Newt trips just as MISTY STORM enters. She is a buxom beauty dressed in an elegant gown with gloves. Newt ends up face first in Misty's cleavage.

MISTY

Ohhhh!

NEWT

(Straightening up.)

Misty! I'm sorry. I didn't mean to look at your cleavage. Well, not so close, anyway.

MISTY

That's okay. You wouldn't believe how many times that happens.

(Pulling the straps of her dress down seductively.)

Oh, is it hot in here or is it just me?

NEWT

(To audience.)

That girl should come with a thermostat. I wish I had the nerve to ask her to raise my – temperature.

SID

(Going to Misty.)

Misty, save it for the stage.

MISTY

Oh, Uncle Sid, I've got a great idea. I'm going to do my fan dance with electric fans.

NEWT

That's not a good idea, Misty. You might cut off something valuable.

MISTY

Oh, no, I'll take off my jewelry.

SID

(To Newt.)

Hey, kid, watch Misty for me. She can be a little –

NEWT

Naïve?

SID

I was going to say “stupid,” but it sounds nicer the way you say it. Keep an eye on her, okay?

[Exit.]

NEWT

(Calling after Sid.)

I'll keep *both* eyes on her.

(To audience.)

Maybe she'll let me look at her cleavage again.

MISTY

(Fidgeting with her nylons.)

Oh, I think I have a run.

NEWT

The food here always gives me the – oh, you mean, a run in your stocking.

MISTY

(Putting her leg forward.)

Newt, sweetie, could you check it for me?

NEWT

You mean, down there?

(Kneeling in front of Misty and looking.)
Well, okay.

MISTY
Is it bad?

NEWT
No, it's all good.

MISTY
Newt, do you think I'm attractive?

NEWT
(Dreamily.)
You're perfect.

Newt reaches forward to hug Misty's legs, but she moves away oblivious. Newt falls on his face.

MISTY
Then why haven't you ever asked me –

(Turning to see him.)
Oh, what's wrong?

NEWT
(Jumping up and brushing himself off.)
Nothing. I thought I saw a cockroach. It must have escaped from the kitchen. And I don't blame him.

SFX: Music – Johnny's Theme

JOHNNY RIVAL enters and strikes a pose. He is a slick, well-dressed hipster whose confidence probably exceeds his talent.

GROUPIES
(Audience members.)
Ohhhh! Johnny!

JOHNNY
(To audience.)
My, my, look at this picture. Just as it should be: Me – surrounded by all this beauty.

NEWT
Thank you.

JOHNNY

Sorry, Bruce, I don't swing that way.

(To lady in audience.)

Now this is the way I swing. Hi, there. Me – Tarzan; you – Jane. Want to come up to my tree house and monkey around?

MISTY

(To Newt.)

I thought Tarzan wore a groincloth.

NEWT

Johnny Rival! The Black Sheep of the Rat Pack!

JOHNNY

Newton, you old rodent, I'm surprised to see you. I heard you were dead. Oh, no, wait, that was your act.

(Seeing Misty and going to her.)

Wow-ee wow-wow. Now here's some interesting real estate. The name's Rival. Johnny Rival.

MISTY

I know! You're famous and everything. I'm Misty Storm.

Misty courtesies and Johnny looks at her breasts, his head bobbing up and down as she dips.

JOHNNY

That's quite a storm front you've got there, Misty.

NEWT

What are you doing here, Johnny? Are you here to gloat? The boy from the Poconos goes to Vegas and makes it big?

JOHNNY

You fracture me, Newton. I'm not here to gloat, am I, chickies?

GROUPIES

(Audience members.)

Ohhhh! Johnny!

JOHNNY

I'm just here to see Sid. He said he had a proposal for me.

MISTY

You and Sid are getting married?

JOHNNY

You're a real barnburner, you know that? How about you and me making a little hey-hey?

MISTY

Gee, I'd never have taken you for a farm boy.

NEWT

Back off, Johnny. Misty doesn't like your type.

JOHNNY

You mean the handsome, talented type?

NEWT

Yeah! I mean, no! She likes the trustworthy, loyal type – like me.

JOHNNY

You think she'd chose a Boy Scout over me?

NEWT

I flunked out of the Boy Scouts. Darn that Soapbox Derby.

JOHNNY

(To Misty.)

Listen, doll, a tomato like you would be ripe for the plucking in Vegas. I could get you a job at the Flamingo.

MISTY

I don't know. I can't stand on one leg for very long.

(Pause.)

But, I'm flattened by your offer. Do you think I could go far in Vegas?

JOHNNY

I have a feeling you just might get lucky in Vegas.

(To all.)

You know, it's been fun, but I think it's going to rain. I'm cashing out. Got to see what Sid wants, then it's Splitsville for me. Dig you later, gator.

[Exit.]

NEWT

(Calling after Johnny.)

Not if I dig you first, crocodile!

(To Misty.)

Oh, no! Do you know what this means? Sid is going to replace me with Johnny. I'm redundant.

MISTY

Oh, Newt, you're just as smart as Johnny.

NEWT

That's right. I'm even smarter-er.

(Starting for exit.)

Well, Sid's not going to fire me. I'm gonna come up with a killer act.

MISTY

You mean like the cross-eyed knife thrower?

NEWT

(Pauses.)

Oh, Misty. You are my rock. I'll never take you for granite. No – I'll be even boulder. You concrete me.

[Exit, tripping.]

MISTY

(To audience.)

Oooohhh, Newt is so nice! I wish I could be with him, but I promised to marry – someone else!

(Crying.)

Oh, boo hoo hoo!

SID

(Enters.)

Misty, what's wrong?

Misty cries loudly on Sid's shoulder.

SID

There, there. Let it all out.

Misty snorts loudly on his shoulder.

SID

(Gently pushing her off his shoulder.)

Okay, maybe not all of it. Look, I'm the one who should be crying. If we don't get money in here tonight, the bank's gonna shut us down! I tried hitting up Johnny for the cash – but he doesn't have that kind of money. Without an

SID

investor – the Kit Kat Klub is kaput! Clobbered! Killed!
Capice? Is that why you were crying?

MISTY

No, Uncle Sid, I think I'm in love with Newt.

(Pause.)

But I promised my heart to Claude.

SID

Claude? Is he that fruitcake who does your hair?

MISTY

No, Claude was my first crush. I even promised I'd marry
him one day. He was a skinny little thing with a strange
Austrian accent.

(Pretending to hold Claude to her chest.)

I just wanted to mother him.

SID

(To audience.)

Was that mother or smother?

(To Misty.)

So, where's the mama's boy now?

MISTY

I don't know. When Claude left, he said he wouldn't come
back until he was a real man.

(Turns back to the entrance.)

But I liked Claude just the way he was.

*CLAUDE HAMMER enters jogging, unseen by Misty.
Claude is a super body builder who speaks with an Austrian
accent.*

MISTY (CONTINUED.)

Skinny, bony –

(Turning and seeing Claude.)

– Ahhh, scary!

CLAUDE

(Going to Misty with arms wide.)

Ahhh, there you are –

(Bear-hugging her.)
– my little potato dumpling.

MISTY
Help! A caveman is hugging me to death!

SID
(Running to break up Claude and Misty.)
Hey, get your hands off my niece!

CLAUDE
(Lets go of Misty and turns with arms open wide on Sid.)
Ahhh, you must be my little potato dumpling's uncle!

(Bear-hugs him.)
SID
Help! Misty, show him your chest!
Misty thrusts her breasts towards Claude.

CLAUDE
(Letting go of Sid and turning to Misty.)
Ah, Misty, you have become a full-grown woman.

(Posing.)
And I am a full-grown man.

(Kissing his arm muscle.)
Smack!

MISTY
Claude? Is that you? You're so – lumpy.

CLAUDE
These are muscles.

(Flexing bicep.)
Feel them. They are hard.

MISTY
Oh, Claude, what happened to the skinny little runt I adored?

CLAUDE
That skinny little runt could not give you what you need.

(Striking a pose.)
You need a big man –

(Posing with a wad of money)
– with a big bank account.

SID

(To audience.)
Bank account? I think I just heard the magic word.

(To Claude.)
Pardon me, Hercules, but what do you do for a living?

CLAUDE

I am an entrepreneur.

SID

A what?

CLAUDE

Entrepreneur.

SID

A what?

CLAUDE

I am an entrepreneur. I invented the Brainmaster 3000. It has been scientifically proven that the best bodybuilders are stupid. So, the Brainmaster 3000 will help you lose those unwanted brain cells in just thirty days. Our motto is “If you don't buy a Brainmaster, you're just stupid.”

MISTY

Is that how you got your muscles?

CLAUDE

No, I have a special formula to maximize my muscles. I take 600 milligrams of arsenic a day. I mix it with my Cocoa Puffs.

SID

So – how much money do you have, Claude?

CLAUDE

Oodles and oodles. I am smelly rich.

SID

Stinking rich.

CLAUDE

Sorry, I have been working out.

(To Misty, on his knee.)

Misty, I have everything I want but you. Please, marry me and be my little hasenpfeffer.

Sid senses his opportunity and gestures wildly at her.

MISTY

Oh, I beg you pardonage. I need to talk to my Uncle.

SID

Misty, Claude's got oodles and oodles of money. If you marry him, maybe he'll oodle some into this club.

MISTY

Oh! Uncle Sid! You just want me to prosecute myself?

(Running to the door, crying.)

Oh, where is my Romeo? Romeo, Romeo, what art thou for, Romeo?

[Exit crying.]

CLAUDE

(Going to Sid and grabbing him)

You made my tulip cry. I will crush you like a bug, fat man.

SID

I'm not fat! I'm – stout.

CLAUDE

You are a little teapot.

SID

Well, let me go. You're breaking my spout.

CLAUDE

Why was my Misty crying?

SID

She was crying because she was – happy! That's it. Happy that you're here. And happy that you're rich.

(Claude releases Sid; Sid sidles up to Claude.)

Speaking of rich, I have a proposition I'd like to run by you.

CLAUDE

You are looking for an investor in your club, ja?

SID

What? How did you know that?

CLAUDE

I am an entrepreneur.

SID

A what?

CLAUDE

I am an entrepreneur. I can smell a desperate man. You stink like the Limburger.

SID

Okay, you got me. I need an investor. Can you help a little teapot out?

CLAUDE

Will Misty be performing here?

SID

Yeah, yeah! In fact, she's up next.

(Running to exit. Yelling off.)

Misty! Newt! It's time for your big number!

Newt enters reluctantly and very loudly whispers "Psssst" to Sid. Sid looks at him but Newt continues to loudly whisper "Psssst!"

SID

Newt! What? I'm right here. I can smell your breath.

NEWT

Sid, Misty and I don't do a big number together.

SID

Fill in for the ventriloquist. His dummy's got laryngitis.

NEWT

(Aside, dreamily.)

I'm going to be performing with Misty.

(Singing.)

Newt and Misty, Sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-

(Forgetting the next letters.)

I-P-P-I...

[Exit.]

Claude gestures to Sid and very loudly whispers "Psssst." Sid goes to him and Claude screams in his face.

CLAUDE

Who was that silly man?

SID

That's Newt Diamond. He's my best act.

CLAUDE

Really?

SID

Okay, he's my cheapest act.

SFX: Music – Johnny's theme.

Johnny enters and points to groupies.

GROUPIES

(Audience members.)

Ohhhh! Johnny!

JOHNNY

Man, dig this crazy clambake.

SID

Johnny Rival, I'd like to introduce you to Claude Hammer.

CLAUDE

(Shaking Johnny's hand firmly.)

Pleased to be acquainting you, Mr. Johnny.

JOHNNY

(Pulling hand away.)

Easy there, Hoss. We're not arm wrestling.

(To ladies.)

I like to save my muscles for the bedroom.

GROUPIES

(Audience members.)

Ohhhh! Johnny!

CLAUDE

You are famous, like the Mouse of Mickey.

JOHNNY

And you are overgrown, like the Mack of Truck.

Johnny sits with his groupies. Claude fades back in the room.

SID

(Going to center stage.)

Attention, cats and kittens! The Kit Kat Klub is purrrrr-roud to introduce the comic stylings of Newt and Misty!

(Moving from the stage.)

SFX: Music – Upbeat sting.

Newt enters with his hand at Misty's back. He sits on a stool and Misty sits on his lap.

NEWT

Thank you. Thank you. I'm Newt Diamond and this is my puppet, Misty. Say hello, Misty.

MISTY

(Answering as Newt pretends to throw voice.)

Hello, Misty.

(Gesturing to audience with floppy hand)

That's funny; all their names are Misty.

NEWT

No, your name is Misty. That's the audience.

MISTY

(Leaning forward and looking at the audience.)

They don't look too bright.

NEWT

(Grabbing her and pulling her back.)

Misty! You can't insult the audience like that.

MISTY

How am I supposed to insult them?

NEWT

Now apologize to the audience.

MISTY

Okay.

(To audience.)

I'm sorry you're not very bright.

NEWT

Let's just do the song.

MISTY

Ohh, let me vulcanize first.

(High pitched.)

La! La! La! La!

(Low pitched.)

Lo! Lo! Lo! Lo!

SFX: Song – "That's Amore"

NEWT

(Singing)

When the moon hits your eye like a big-a pizza pie – That's amore!

MISTY

(Singing)

That's a-boring.

NEWT

(Singing)

When the world seems to shine
Like you've had too much wine – That's amore!

MISTY

(Singing)

That's just drinking.

NEWT

(Singing)

Bells'll ring – Ting-a-ling-a-ling – Ting-a-ling-a-ling
And you'll sing "Vita bella!"

MISTY

(Singing)

Cinderella

NEWT

(Singing)

Hearts'll play – Tippi-tippi-tay – Tippi-tippi-tay – Like a gay tarantella

MISTY

(Speaking)

A homosexual spider?

NEWT

(Singing)

When the stars make you drool – Joost-a like pasta fazool –
That's amore!

MISTY

(Singing)

It's Old Glory.

NEWT

(Singing)

When the girl that you love – only gives you a shove – from
above

MISTY

(Singing)

When your lover's a goof – 'cause he won't make a move –
signore.

NEWT

(Singing)

'Scusami, but you see – Back in old Napoli – that's amore!

MISTY

(Singing)

So there's more, eh?

*With Misty still limp as a puppet, they stand and dance and
return to the stool.*

NEWT

(Singing)

When the girl that you love – only gives you a shove

MISTY

(Singing)

Out the door, eh?

NEWT

(Singing)

'Scusami, but you see – Back in old Napoli – that's amore!

MISTY

(Speaking)

Is there more, eh?

NEWT

(Singing)
That's amore!

MISTY

(Speaking)
Please, no more – a!

As the song ends, Newt stands and bows with Misty, still pretending she is a puppet. Sid leads the applause as they exit. Johnny is still seated at a table full of women, flirting with them.

END OF EXCERPT