

Welcome to Cuttlefish Cove: What We Know So Far

Northwest of San Diego is Cuttlefish Cove, a sleepy little beach town on the coast. Founded in 1867, it originally thrived from its robust squid and octopus industry. “Them Cuttlefish will just jump out of the water and into your fry pan.” is the town motto. But in 1927, a mysterious storm left the town without a single cuttlefish to speak of. Now it’s 1963 and Cuttlefish Cove is just another Southern Californian town filled with earnest townies, surfers dudes and dudettes, and eager teeny-boppers. A biker gang, The HogDogs, hang out in the eastern desert. But something’s not right in this town. It seems that everyone has a mysterious secret. Murder, black magic, and possibly even aliens, lurk around every corner...

Exactly two years ago, Shawn McMullins moved to Cuttlefish Cove after growing up on Guam. Vaguely exotic and perhaps the best (underaged) surfer this side of the Pacific, he quickly became the most popular boy at Cuttlefish High. Loved by everyone (even the squares and chess club geeks), he was sure to be voted Prom King of ‘62.

Exactly one year ago, Shawn woke up early to go surfing... and mysteriously disappeared. Presumed dead, his fellow teeny-bopper surfer dudes and dudettes are going to hold a seance (and weenie-roast!) to try to find out what really happened.

The events of the night all happen in Tiki Drinkie, an abandoned tiki bar by the beach. It was the last place Shawn was seen alive.

Characters

Teens

Kanoe (Khamalei Burrell): Shawn’s little sister. She really misses Guam. On Guam, everyone pronounced her name right (it’s “Kah-noy”). Here, everyone just calls her “Canoe.”

Burton Boye (Jon Rentler): Shawn’s best friend. Since Shawn's disappearance last year he has become the head lifeguard at Cuttlefish Cove. He is the new leader of the teeny boppers, so to speak. The seance was his idea. He misses his friend a lot.

Lil’ Jay Jay (Sarah Wilhelm): She follows Burton around like his shadow or like a spaniel. She is a new lifeguard-in-training, wants to be the best lifeguard ever, and thinks it will happen if she listens to everything Burton says. She constantly asks Burton to show her how to do mouth to mouth.

Peggy (Erin Soler): Formerly Shawn's girlfriend but when he he disappeared she left Cuttlefish Cove for Maine. Was she pregnant? Did she kill Shawn? Who was she sleeping with? No one knows.

Sandy (Allyson Elliot): Her Grandma owns a magick shop in Cuttlefish Cove. She brings the candles to conjure Shawn's spirit. What is her motive? What does she need to find out from Shawn? Is there a treasure buried somewhere? Does Shawn know where? Also, she's definitely AC/DC, if you catch my drift.

Cheez-It (Olivia Wardwell): Nobody likes Cheez-it. She's a square. She's the daughter of Henry Holmes Honeyword the 3rd.

Bongo Johnny (Connor Prickett): He dropped out of high school and lives on the beach. He smells funny, smokes reefer, and hides a big secret.

Koala Jane (Bianca Kenna): an Australian exchange student. No one can understand what she's saying, but all the boys (and Sandy) are in love with her.

Ray (Ian Prince): Just another one of the guys in the gang, except that he's a robot from the secret military base. Ray sat deactivated for years in an abandoned section of the base until the ghost from a great white shark brought him to life. Now he spends his time on the beach hanging with the guys and chatting with girls. But don't let him smell blood or he just might bring the party down by trying to eat everyone!

Dogman (Ben Ferber): Cooks hot dogs and stuff at parties.

Structure for the night for Surf Seance

Surf Seance is broken up into three improv games. Two (Beach Party and Murder Mystery) are long form, loose, and role-playing oriented; one (Seance) is a short movement/dance improv.

1. Beach Party

The point of this game is to create a fully realized 1960s beach party. Your goal is to get the other actors (and willing audience members) to **create scenes with you**. Possible scene ideas for a 1960's beach party:

- Ghost volleyball
- Ask audience members if they knew Shawn? and what they think happened to him?
- Gossip about other characters
- Teach 60's dance moves
- Challenge someone to a dance off
- Teach people unusual (and totally imaginary) surf moves, etc.

Also, characters can absolutely get on stage and perform songs, beat poems, monologues, just about anything. **Just let Rachel know in advance if you have an idea for something.**

2. Seance

The is a movement dance game. Performers will learn 60s dance moves and perform them as if they are conjuring a spirit (will be better explained in person)

Scripted moment! The first big reveal!

Seance Dance ends. Lil Jay Jay seems otherworldly somehow.

Lil Jay Jay

I hear him, I hear him! Shawn is whispering to me... he says... he says... HE WAS MURDERED. He also says that Bongo Johnny isn't who he says he is... because... he's a narc!

Bongo Johnny

Alright alright, it's true. My name isn't Bongo Johnny. It's Agent Johnny. And I'm with the FBI. I believe your friend Shawn was the victim of a crazed serial killer. And I believe it was ONE OF YOU. And tonight, I'm going to make J. Edgar proud. I'm going to FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE OF YOU DID IT.

Lil Jay Jay

Better do it quick. Shawn says that if we don't find out who kills him by the end of tonight... we're all going to die.

3. Murder Mystery

Immediately after the seance, it is revealed that Shawn was murdered and if his killer isn't discovered then everyone in Cuttlefish Cove will die. Actors spread through the room sharing clues and investigating the case, hunting for gossip. Actors can make up as many **imaginary rumors** as they like. Only one designated performer will know the truth of what happened to Shawn.

At the end of the night, Agent Johnny will choose two characters to accuse of murder. The audience will vote on who did it... until Kanoe interrupts the scene with

Final scripted moment of the night

Kanoe

Stop it! Everyone! I did it! I'm the reason Shawn disappeared.

But my brother Shawn wasn't murdered. He couldn't have been, because he never really existed. I'm an only child.

When I first moved here, I was really lonely. I missed my home and my friends. You were all too busy trying to sleep with each other, or talk about who was sleeping with each other, or who was cooler than who. You never even noticed me.

So one night I wished really really hard that I had a brother. A cool brother. A wonderful brother. The coolest guy in school! And I don't know how or why, but the next day everyone thought I had one too! But ask yourselves, can you really remember what he looked like? How tall he was? How his voice sounded?

Nothing good lasts forever, I guess. One year ago today I remembered that he wasn't real. I couldn't believe in him anymore. And then he disappeared.

(She starts crying)

I miss Shawn more than anyone. And he wasn't even real. He was MY imaginary brother and he's gone and he's not coming back and you still don't see me.

(Lil Jay Jay runs and hugs her. Someone else runs to hug her. And someone else.)

(Kanoe is accepted and they all dance and/or eat hot dogs)