

PLAY READING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 20, 2026

Prepared by Deb Tom

First and foremost, I would like to recognize the 2026-2027 Season Play Reading Committee: Alice, Ana, Cheryl, Darryl Lynn, Doug, Isabel, John, Karren, Kathleen and Ken. For the 2026-2027 approximate 40 plays were submitted and we reviewed 19 and I believe each of them brought their own unique style at the play readings and individual perspective in the decision-making process for our play recommendations and it was my pleasure to be team lead.

I would like to acknowledge the Directors who met with us: Connor Hogg, Dale Kelly, Denise Brookson, Dwayne Campbell, Samantha Hussey, and Dawn Moore & Desmond Price, Laura Di Cicco, as well as Lauren Trozduk for taking the time to meet with us to present their plays of interest.

I would like to mind you that we have already chosen the 2026 portion of the 2026/2027 Season and have obtained the rights for our fall production of “**Things my Mother Taught Me**” and for our Christmas Show Norm Foster’s **A Snow White Christmas**.

At the March meeting we put forward our choices for the Winter and Spring 2027 productions and would like to proceed with the Motions:

Vagabond Player approves for our Winter 2027 production, **Clue on Stage** should that rights not be available, to obtain the rights for **Murdered to Death** from Concord Theatrical/DPS US.

Vagabond Players approves for our Spring 2027 production, **Time Piece** by Kico Gonzalez-Risso (Vancouver), should that rights not be available, to obtain the rights for **Someday** by Drew Hayden Taylor.

Dwayne Campbell will be directing the Winter 2027 production. Re: **Clue on Stage**: In talking with Concord, I am informed that Broadway across Canada hold the rights into 2027 even though it is a part of their 2025/2026 Season and would have to okay our application before Concord could give us the rights. **Murdered to Death** the Chilliwack Players put in on in November 2025 and it was a big hit.

Dale Kelly will be directing **Time Piece**. I have been in touch with Kico Gonzalez Risso who handles his own licensing. Note Time Piece is being done this summer by the Mercury Players Society on Vancouver Island as their 2026 TBC Zone Entry.

For the Summer 2027 Co-pro we met with local award-winning writer/director/producer Lauren Trozduk who Vagabond Players has collaborated with her company Capricorn Theatre Productions on “Once Upon a Fairy Tale” and “Confessions of a Grocery Clerk” and the shows have done well and we trust her. Both **Persephone** & **According to Aurelie** were presented, however Aurelie is not available for co-pro as it was produced in May 2025 at Langley Little Theatre receiving a 2026 Ovation! Award for Lauren Trozduk’s (for Outstanding New Musical). **Persephone** is being workshopped for three days this summer out in the valley no costumes, no stage and no charge.

I would like to motion that the Vagabond Players do a co-pro with Lauren Trozduk’s **Persephone** for the Summer of 2027.

WINTER PRODUCTION: MYSTERY THRILLER:

Clue, based on screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, written by Sandy Rustin. Director Dwayne Campbell
DPS USA – rights and scripts plus tech package 5M / 5 F cast size possible 10 to 20.

It takes place in several rooms. *Clue: On Stage* is a hilarious farce-meets-murder mystery based on the 1985 movie and board game. Six strangers are invited to a mansion, blackmailed by Mr. Boddy, and must find the killer when bodies start piling up, leading to a frantic, comedic race to identify the culprit, weapon, and room.

Murdered to Death (2 Acts), by Peter Gordon. Director Dwayne Campbell DPS US. 5 M/5 F. Key roles include the bumbling Inspector Pratt, the inquisitive Joan Maple, and several eccentric suspects. Typical cast roles are listed below, varying by production. A hilarious 1930s-set comedy spoof of Agatha Christie whodunnits. An hilarious murder mystery farce at a country manor. As suspects and more victims pile up, the bumbling inspector tries to solve the case, often hindered by his own chaos. (Note this had a successful run in Chilliwack in November 2025)

SPRING FESTIVAL ENTRY APRIL/MAY: DRAMA

Time Piece by Kico Gonzalez-Risso (Vancouver) Note this was put on by Driftwood players and recommended by Peter Borgman. Director Dale Kelly. CAST 2M/2F, Setting: Family Home – Kitchen and Back Yard. Patrick and Karla seem to have a simple task - to help their parents Walter and Doris put their affairs in order before it's too late. The kids want to plan for the future, mom wants a smooth transition into old age, dad doesn't see what all the fuss is about. He especially does not want to sell the family home, which would go a long way to solving most issues. The often humorous exchanges between Walter and his family don't quite hide the fact that Walter is starting to lose his memory. Or is he? He's certainly a man full of surprises. The kids try everything to convince their parents to deal with their estate planning. Meanwhile, the many clocks on the kitchen wall keep ticking on.

Someday by Drew Hayden Taylor (CDN-1st Nation, Director Samantha Hussey
2 Act - Indigenous Cast Required 1 M/3 F

The setting for the play is a fictional Ojibway community, but could be any reserve in Canada, where thousands of Native children were removed from their families in what is known as the "scoop-up" of the 1950s and 1960s. Anne Wabung's daughter was taken away by children's aid workers when the girl was only a toddler. It is Christmastime 35 years later, and Anne's yearning to see her now-grown daughter is stronger than ever and with her lottery winnings she and her other daughter and friend have the money to fund the search. When the family is finally reunited, however, the dreams of neither woman are fulfilled.

SUMMER CO-PRODUCTION – LAUREN TROTZUK (Capricorn Production)

It is based on the Greek myth of the kidnap of Persephone by Hades into the underworld but with a modern twist. It is brand new, never before been staged production currently in workshops. It definitely appeals to a more mature audience, full two act, large cast, musical.