

Murder By The Book

Audition Information

The Story: The play is set in a library. The library is performing a play (we do not know the title of the play) about a reunion of high school students and their book club teacher at a haunted mansion. The students need to stay a night in the mansion for one of them to inherit.

During one of the scenes, Sarah, the actor playing Sally, dies. The actors try to determine who killed her before the show is supposed to start.

Here is the promotional blurb.

In the play, the town of Two Spruce is about to lose their beloved library. A team of volunteer actors stage a murder mystery to come to its financial rescue. But on opening night a real murder most foul threatens to thwart their theatrical aspirations. Lucy the Librarian and a team of quirky volunteer actors scramble to solve the crime before the curtain rises and the library is lost forever.

Author: Laura Teasdale

Directors: Sandra Celovsky

Production Sponsor: Louise Penny (no royalty fee if performed as a library fundraiser)

Production Date: 2026 May 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th

Production Venue: St Barnabas church basement

Auditions: January 29th and 30th. Auditions will be at the CEC (115 Deep River Rd. next to Community Church). Other arrangements can be made if you cannot audition on January 29th or 30th, please ask.

Audition Bookings: By appointment. Call or text Sandra Celovsky at 613-639-0484, or email sandra.celovsky@gmail.com to arrange an appointment.

Individual auditions will be held. Refer to the character list to decide the part for which you would like to audition and indicate it on your audition application form. A script extract has been chosen for each character. Memorization is not necessary. You may also be asked to read for other characters that may be appropriate (but please indicate any characters you would not accept).

Arriving at the Audition: Please arrive early **with your audition form completed**. Someone will greet you and escort you in at the appropriate time.

Character List:

The actors move between their own personas and their inner play characters.

There are eight characters and there is a play within the play. The casting is flexible and the ages are generally indicated as young, middle and older marked by (Y), (M), (O).

Hillary (Wendy) (Y)-Challenger. Reformer. The janitor of the library. She's harsh and intimidating. Plays the role of Wendy Sheckle, the nerdish ingénue & cliché screamer.

Sarah (Sally) (M) – The victim. Incredibly wealthy and sooo out of touch with ordinary people. Plus she's a terrible actor. Plays the role of Sally Guilder – former mean girl and also victim in the play within the play.

Shelagh (Mrs P) (O) - Fool. Aspiring playwright. She writes shoddy self-published novels. Maybe she never read a book in her life. Plays the role of Linda Pence- AKA Mrs. P, a drunk who calls others on their bullshit.

Steve (Walter) (Y)-Gold digger. Vain. Charmer & flatterer. He comes from lost wealth. Plays the role of Walter Thruppence, the lawyer who becomes the sleuth of the play within the play...but might also be the murderer!

Danny (Kirk) (M)-Cop (Officer Farthing). He is debilitatingly shy except when on the community theatre stage. He is the town's best actor. Plays the role of Kirk Florin, a party animal. Danny imitates a bunch of sleuths. Better to play their essence rather than try to do an exact imitation of them.

Bill (Rocky) (O) - Caregiver/peacemaker. Retired teacher. Pollyanna. Making tea and rubbing shoulders. Reads aloud to the kids every Saturday. Plays the role of Rocky Bender, the hippie from a couple grades above Sally at school. He's the psychic.

Dorie (Director) (O) - A bit of a villain. Chair 'man' of the board of the library. She is so conservative; she doesn't believe in changing the title to chairperson or woman. She's the director of the play within the play, but has to step in and take the role of Sally.

Lucy (Stage Manager) (M) - Our hero. Librarian and reluctant stage manager turned reluctant sleuth. Sometimes it seems like she's the only sane one in the bunch.