

# Peninsula Players of Door County Presents NOW AND THEN Review – Like an Oldie Hollywood Film

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## Peninsula Players Theatre by the Lake is Stunning

A first time visitor to Peninsula Players Theater in Door County Wisconsin may be stunned at the scale and scenery of the theater surrounds. You approach it down a country road named for the theater after winding down an alphabet soup of “highways” named A, Q, EE and such. Arriving a half hour before curtain, there is already a sea of cars in the lot reminding a Chicagoan of venturing to Ravinia. Attendants flag you to stop and then ask if you are able-bodied enough to handle steps or not, pointing you to your designated parking spot.



The scene opens and we are in a classic Irish-styled bar. A young bartender (Jamie, Sean Fortunato) is cleaning up when an older and friendly gentleman (Man, Greg Vinkler) walks in asking for a drink, and soon his ear. It turns out that Jamie and the Man have a bit in common—love of mastering game machines and jazz piano, scotch and soda, etc. True to his age and his piano teacher profession, Man seems intent to pass along his wisdom to young Jamie. Enter Jamie’s girlfriend at the end of her waitress shift (Abby, Erica Elam) and with alcohol flowing even more freely in a game of Truth and Dare the innocuous scene turns a tad creepy. Man is offering the young couple a lot of money putting Jamie on guard and clearly worrying about his girlfriend’s comfort and safety. It comes to a boil when he confronts Man with questions on how he knew so much about him and details he hadn’t shared.

Alas, recounting any more would be the spoiler any tourist to Door County doesn’t want to get. This flash of suspense melts quickly in playwright Sean Grennan’s script, not unlike a marshmallow in a nearby Door County campsite fire, and just as super sweetly. This new play has the feel of an oldie Hollywood movie, perhaps starring Jimmy Stewart, and especially with a similar tie it up with a bow happy ending. If you don’t like sentimental, this isn’t your show. For this writer, it somehow feels like a good fit with Door County, where one imagines every farmhouse has lace doilies somewhere in its décor.

or those of us who are ever-nostalgic for Vinkler and Robertson’s performances in iconic roles on Chicago’s stages, their names on the bill for *Now and Then* might prompt a trip to Door County. For others, who like to vacation in Door County anyway, this production is certainly a good night’s entertainment. Robertson in particular is electric, and probably has one of the most fun entrances in her career—no spoiler details here!

### When:

Thru July 1

Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

\*\* closing matinee performance July 1 at 4 p.m.

### Where:

Peninsula Players Theatre

4351 Peninsula Players Theatre

Fish Creek, WI 54212

### Tickets:

\$39+

For more information or tickets call the Peninsula Players Box Office at 920-868-3287 or visit the [Peninsula Players website](#).

**Playwright:** Sean Grennan

**Director:** Tom Mula

**Cast:** Sean Fortunato, Greg Vinkler, Erica Elam, Barbara Robertson

**Creative Team:** scenic designer Sarah E. Ross; lighting designer Stephen R. White; costume designer Rachel Lambert; sound designer Mike Tutaj; and properties designer Pauline Oleksy