

Tips on directing for Stagecraft

Our process and some tips to help with your submission.

First of all, talk to us! Members of the Stagecraft committee will be happy to talk to you about your ideas.

What types of shows do we want to do?

- We look for a wide range of plays and musicals.
- Like to balance the playbill if possible – i.e. not all comedies.
- Needs to be doable on a community theatre budget.
- Shows suited for an intimate theatre, the Gryphon seats 80 in standard configuration.
- Needs to be castable.
- Should have an interested audience to get bums on seats, but this is not the main focus.
- Show should be interesting for us to do, and something you are passionate about.
- We want to have FUN.

How to choose a play

- What do you want to do/ achieve? Choose a play that will follow that goal.
- It's helpful to have a core idea to build from, to help you find what you want to do.
- Read plays from the library, and look at what other groups around NZ and overseas are doing for ideas.
- Before submitting, check the rights are available (Often through [The Play Bureau](#), or [Playmarket](#) for NZ plays). Can be time consuming to check the rights, so get on this early.

Resourcing

- Do you have people keen to be on board? - For example, a musical will need a musical director. Any other technical team you have in mind would be great.
- Musicals do normally require more resource commitment.
- The more of an idea/ product you can present the better. Come with a really complete vision to present.
- Think about the technical elements of the play - lighting, set, sound, props, costume, etc. Be clear about the level of work these will require. And be ready to compromise on this too.
- If your play is selected Stagecraft will review the impact on our resources of proposal concepts closer to the time of production and may require directors to make amendments/ compromises to ensure resources are not exhausted.
- People behind the scenes aren't paid and commit a lot of time to the production.

What are the challenges your play presents?

Every play has challenging aspects. Think of realistic ways to meet them. And be prepared to discuss these with us.

- E.g. casting of particular ages, races, gender, disability.
- Difficult props or set demands.
- Any intimacy requirements, dance choreography, or stage combat.
- Be realistic about the time frame and commitment needed. Stagecraft will ask what slot in the year will work for you.

Advantages of directing for Stagecraft:

- We run the Gryphon, so you'll get lots of time in the theatre before you open, normally 2 and a half weeks.
- Large committee who are really engaged and will all be on board with your production in one way or another.
- An audience/ following and positive image from past successful shows.
- Large turnout at auditions.
- Lots of production management tasks you get help with - publicity, venue, front of house, rehearsal space booking all taken care of. Be very clear if there are things here you want to have more input into.

Timeline

1. June/ July: Choose and submit a play. Prepare a full vision statement here. Due by 31 July.
2. August/ September: Plays are shortlisted and directors are asked to come and present their vision to the committee. Engage with us and be prepared to answer questions.
3. End of September: Final decisions.
4. October: First meeting of directors to discuss production crews for the shows.
5. Feb/ March - first show.