

Whidbey Playhouse Play Selection Committee Guidelines for 2009

- The Whidbey Playhouse Play Day Committee's work begins **Tuesday June 24, 2008**. We will evaluate scripts to build a list of twelve comedies, dramas and musicals to present to the membership for their vote on **Play Day Saturday January 24, 2009**.
- Reviewer **critique** each play using the **Critique Form** to evaluate whether the play should be submitted to the list based upon (not in order of importance):
 - audience appeal to our community of patrons, including familiarity of author
 - suitability for our stage, backstage area, and technical equipment
 - local performing and production talent, including participation of all ages
 - quality of writing, balance of dialogue and action, and essential theme
- Completed critique forms go in the designated notebook in the Play Day Box. Reviewers may reject a play in lieu of reading the entire script, placing it on the **No List**, but others may return such plays to the review process by submitting a Critique Form.
- Directors wishing to direct a particular show and non-committee WPH members may submit up to three plays according to available instructions. A Director who is a Committee member, including the chair, may submit up to 3 plays he/she wishes to direct. Though said member may participate fully in discussion of his/her submitted play(s), he/she may not participate in votes pertaining to that play, including the final committee vote in the category (comedy, drama, musical) of that play unless not doing so places the vote outcome in the hands of fewer than three committee members.
- At first, each play will be considered on its own merit, without regard to how it might fit into a season. If two reviewers agree that a show meets the criteria, the title is entered on the **Official List**. A current Official List will be periodically emailed to the committee members. **Plays on the Official list will be read by each committee member.**
- By our third or fourth meeting, we will begin to select by majority vote the best plays for the **Short List for Play Day**. We will read, discuss and promote plays we like. At each meeting, we will assess the Short List, refining, discarding or expanding to select plays that could make a **well-balanced season which usually includes two musicals, two comedies, and one drama**. Melodramas, mysteries, and musical revues will also be considered. A play will be dropped from the list by majority vote. **The deadline for play submission is October 3rd**. The twelve-show list will be finalized at our last meeting in **early November**. We will also finalize plans for the Play Day event itself at that time.
- There are a number of tasks involved in preparation, including **presentation of the plays**. Each show is allocated 12 minutes during which scenes or segments of scenes, musical numbers, and synopsis of shows are presented. The Chair will solicit recommendations as to who will lead each presentation at Play Day. Presentation rehearsals at WPH facilities must be scheduled with office personnel. Committee members will participate in the organization and execution of the event with set-up and take down, food, programs,

ticket-taking, ushering, clean-up, etc., in addition to the play presentations. Members of the Play Read-through Sub-Committee will also help in these tasks and presentations.

- **The Board of Directors** uses the six finalists of the Play Day vote to create the final show season based upon (not listed in any order of importance):
 - rights availability
 - an interested qualified director
 - scheduling
 - production costs
 - balancing the season
 - other criteria

- In the event that rights cannot be obtained or other circumstances make any of the final six Play Day choices unavailable or inappropriate for the season, the Board of Directors will return to other plays from the list that did not make the final list of six. They may also solicit other shows, including Director-submitted shows that were received after the October 3rd deadline. It is the obligation of the Play Day committee to search the available repertoire to make the best recommendations possible to the Board of Directors. It is the obligation of the Board of Directors, considering those recommendations and the will of the membership, to create the best possible Whidbey Playhouse season for the community. The Board of Directors makes every effort to reflect the will of the membership vote in their final play choices.