



Play Submission Guidelines 2010 Season

WHO MAY SUBMIT?

Court House Players is both a community theater and a theater community. Our directors, like all volunteers, are unpaid. Therefore, we expect those who direct for us to have demonstrated both a commitment to our theater and an understanding of how we operate.

This packet goes out to:

- People who have directed for us before
- People who have expressed interest in directing
- Others whose names have been suggested to us as potential directors

NEW DIRECTORS

Box office intake accounts for 90% of our revenue. Each show is a financial risk we take seriously. Just as important are our volunteers. As a director, you may have a brilliant vision and an amazing script but your “people skills” are going to determine if those folks volunteering will come back and do shows with us (and see them as well).

Before you direct at CHP, we prefer that you have been involved in at least one CHP production, ideally as a stage manager or assistant director. We urge all would-be directors to get as much experience on how we do things here at CHP as possible. The better we know you and your skills, the more likely the possibility you will be sitting in the director’s chair on opening night.

If you are new to directing, please be realistic. Think “small cast shows” with low tech. Shows that are big in scope (or complicated in intimacy, as many two person shows are) are best saved for you when you are more experienced and know who to enlist in your major project.

If two or more people submit the same script, it will be up to the Production Committee to determine who, if any, is selected to direct the show based on director qualifications, scheduling, and other scripts each has submitted and all the usual factors that go into director selection.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

You are invited to submit up to three plays you would like to direct. To give the Production Committee the greatest flexibility possible (and yourself the greatest chance) please consider submitting plays of different styles, cast sizes, periods, etc.

CHOOSING A SCRIPT

Consider our Audiences. While CHP season ticket patrons are typically made up of couples 40+ years old, we also draw families with children in middle and high school. An important question to keep in mind is, “Who will want to come and see this?” By all means, submit that quirky play you love, but think about submitting plays with a broad appeal as well. Comedies do well for our dinner theatre, and dramas or suspense shows are successful as a stand-alone play. Remember, CHP survives on its box office. We must craft a season that draws enough people to pay the bills.

Select from the “Suggested Productions” list. A suggested list of plays has been compiled by the Production Committee. Consult this list, but know that selecting one of these from the list does not guarantee that your proposal will be accepted.

Consider our Talent Pool. Actors come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, sexes, ages and hair color. We try hard to select a slate of plays which have plenty of roles for men and women, young and old, veteran and novice. Strive for a balance of roles. Think of the talent in the community and ask yourself, “Do we have the folks to do this?”

Submit Plays you Love. Sometimes, in an effort to submit “more choices” for the Production Committee to review, directors will submit one play they love and then throw in two they’re not crazy about just to fill out the choices. Don’t commit yourself to directing a play that doesn’t speak to you. If you are in the position of being “in love” with only one play, then be true to your vision and submit that one play.

THE SCRIPT & SEASON SELECTION PROCESS

A typical Court House Players Season will include three shows: a dinner-theatre production, a show-only production and a large musical. We also produce a summer show and a children’s musical when resources are available.

The Production Committee is comprised of CHP members and includes past directors, producers, technical directors, costumers and set builders. They represent a broad range of theater experience, interests and tastes.

The Committee will make its decision based on the following criteria:

Director’s Experience in Theatre. Directing is not a skill that you want to learn “on the fly.” If you are a potential director with no previous experience such as directing, assistant directing, or stage managing, please consider gaining more experience before tackling a show of your own.

Director’s People Skills. CHP is a 100% volunteer-operated organization. People volunteer to participate in productions because they love theatre. No matter how brilliant your vision, your ability to work with people will determine whether or not those volunteers return in the future.

The Play Submission Form. The Play Submission Form is your chance to “sell” your play to CHP. The level of preparation, organization and thought that goes into the assembly of your packet could be seen as indicative of how you might run a production.

Appeal of Play to Audience. Given that the sustainability of CHP depends heavily on ticket sales, the marketability of your play is crucial. If your play is not especially well-known or is not written by a well-known author, you might strengthen your submission by discussing what aspects of the play could be emphasized in publicity to “hook” an audience.

Balance of Material and Roles. CHP strives to offer a variety of comedy, drama and musicals during any given season. Furthermore, we try to balance the number of male and female roles. You may want to think about submitting both a comedy and a drama, or if submitting a male heavy show, consider submitting a show that has mostly female roles as well.

Ability of CHP to Produce the Play. Across seasons, CHP’s financial situation and available resources may vary. Please feel free to talk to the Production Committee Chair about what can the organization can realistically produce.

During the process, committee members may contact you with questions about your plays, schedule or other issues. But they may not, so it is in your best interest to **make sure you fill out the forms as completely as possible**. This is your chance to sell your show and yourself as the director.

2009 SEASON DEADLINES

June 5, 2009 - submission deadline for play proposals. Please submit pages 5-9 of this packet.

June 30, 2009 - Notification about CHP’s decision regarding your play.

August 1, 2009 - Court House Players 2010 Season Announced.

Note: in the event that not enough appropriate submissions are received, the committee reserves the right to solicit other submissions.

Mail submission packets to:

Karyn Haywood Gallion, Production Committee Chair
Court House Players
942 Woodcreek Dr.
Newport News, VA 23608

Or drop them off at:

Office Supply, Main Street, Gloucester Court House

Questions or requests for electronic copies of this document may be directed to:

Karyn Haywood Gallion
Phone: 757-988-1937
Email: karyn_haywood@yahoo.com



Play Submission Form 2008 Season

DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address/Phone/Email: _____

Theatre Experience

Please list CHP productions you have been involved in. Include information about your role and the title of the play.

Other theatre experience/training (you may attach additional sheets, if needed):

Are you a current member of CHP? Yes _____ No _____

PLAY INFORMATION

Title and Author: _____

Play Service: _____

Royalty Fee per Show: _____

Script Purchase/Rental cost (if this is a musical, please include cost of Orchestration rental):

Genre: _____

Brief Synopsis: _____

Target Audience (who is this suited for? Adults, children, family, etc.):

Number of Characters:

Male _____ Teen Girls _____

Female _____ Young Boys _____

Teen Boys _____ Young Girls _____

Chorus/Crowd _____

If this is a musical, please list leads and vocal ranges required.

Technical Requirements:

- Set. Describe the set for this play. How many scene changes? Are there any aspects of the set that may be challenging or expensive to construct? What solutions do you envision?

- Costumes. What period is your play set? Are many costume changes required? Are there any challenges or specialty costumes involved?

- Props. Can most of the props be easily obtained? Are any props particularly challenging or expensive to find or build?

- Lights and Special Effects. What kind of lighting is required? Are spotlights used? Are there any special effects that must be developed?

- Other. Are there any other production challenges you foresee? If so, please address them here.

Other considerations (strong language, mature content, smoking, etc.) If so, how do you propose to handle it?

If you already have a production staff in mind for your show, please include names and positions:

Timeslot:

Please indicate which timeslots you would prefer for your play, and which timeslots you absolutely do NOT want for your play.

Date of Show	Would you be willing to direct during this timeslot?	
March	Yes	No
June	Yes	No
Summer	Yes	No
November	Yes	No
Another Suggestion: (month)		

Please give a description as to why you'd like to direct this play at CHP.

Is there anything else you'd like us to consider when we are making our decision?

APPENDIX A

Suggested Play List

This list of plays has been compiled by our Play Reading Committee. Please note that selecting one of these plays does not guarantee that your proposal will be accepted.

Musicals

Bye Bye Birdie	Disney's Aladdin Jr.
Hello, Dolly!	Disney's High School Musical
Kismet	Rogers & Hammerstein's Cinderella
Little Shop of Horrors	Big River
South Pacific	A Wonderful Life
Damn Yankees	Hairspray
Camelot	Forever Plaid
BINGO! The Musical	Smokey Joe's Café

Plays

The Miss Firecracker Contest	Beth Henley
Prelude to a Kiss	Craig Lucas
The Foreigner	Larry Shue
Wrong Turn at Lungfish	Garry Marshall
Noises Off	Michael Frayn
Smoke on the Mountain	Connie Ray
The Trip to Bountiful	Horton Foote
Lettice and Lovage	Peter Shaffer
Fences	August Wilson
Proof	David Auburn
The Crucible	Arthur Miller
Greater Tuna	Jaston Williams
The Altos	David Landau, Nikki Stern
Guilty Conscience	Richard Levinson, William Link
Tony N Tina's Wedding	