

COURTENAY LITTLE THEATRE



CHOOSING OUR PLAYS

**Guidelines for
The Selection Committee**

(amended 2013)

Seasonal Timeline and Procedures for Choosing Plays.

Ongoing

All Courtenay Little Theatre (CLT) members are encouraged to suggest plays to the Selection Committee (SC).
Members of the SC read plays throughout the year and bring recommendations to the late summer meeting.

Late Summer

Selection Committee meets to set tasks for coming year:
SC members divide up a list of experienced CLT directors to approach for expressions of interest before formal call.
Scripts are ordered following discussion.
Once available, scripts are circulated to SC members.

October 1

Call for Expressions of Interest in Directing a CLT Play during future season is sent to the membership & posted on CLT website
Call for Expressions of Interest and information on selection process is issued and posted on website

November 15

Directors asked to submit Expressions of Interest by this date. Member of SC assigned to work with Director on refining proposal

October – December

SC meets regularly to discuss Expressions of Interest and plays suggested by directors or members of SC.
Progress is reported to the CLT Board by SC Board liaison.

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- Jan. CLT Board Meeting** SC will have a season of three plays shaped for presentation to the CLT Board.
- Feb. CLT Board Meeting** SC ensures that directors and producers are attached to three proposals, and that budgets are prepared by producers for Board approval.
- Mar. CLT Board Meeting** The Board gives final approval to the chosen plays.
- May CLT General Meeting** Announcement of the coming season provided by the Board to the CLT membership and the general public.

Shaping the CLT Season

The Selection Committee will ensure that the selected season of 3 plays:

- Provides learning opportunities for CLT members
- Maintains a balance of genres, casting and technical requirements
- Avoids close repetition of specific genres
- Takes account of the financial viability of staging each choice, while acknowledging that some plays are worth doing even if potentially less profitable

Guidelines for Proposals and Selection of Fall Productions

CLT fall productions are scheduled at the Sid Williams Theatre for two weeks from the end of September. With summer holidays between auditions and the start of rehearsals, there is a limited time in which plays can be prepared for production.

Two concepts are particularly important for fall productions – **simplicity and popular appeal**.

Simplicity: Due to the difficulties associated with factors such as scheduling actors into rehearsal over the summer and possible lack of available crew members, the following points should be noted:

- Cast - Small cast size is preferable as it is easier to rehearse
- Set – This needs to be simple and easily created
- Costumes – Period plays are not recommended unless costumes are readily available at CLT
- Technical demands – These can probably be met for most productions, but should not be too complicated at this time
- Rehearsal Schedule – Rehearsals need to start early, with auditions held in June

Popular Appeal: This is the underlying factor in selection of the Fall Play. This play initiates the CLT season and opening night is a Gala with invited dignitaries to promote CLT and its upcoming season of offerings. The play should be chosen to attract a wide audience, to create word-of-mouth enthusiasm and publicity for future productions in the season.

Recommended genres of plays include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Canadian [see Blyth Festival programming, www.blythfestival.com]
- Comedy
- Murder mystery
- Spy thriller
- Suspense

Guidelines for Proposals and Selection of Christmas Productions

The Christmas Production is scheduled into the Sid Williams Theatre for two weeks over the Christmas period, often running over into the New Year. CLT usually hosts a special New Year's Eve party after the 31 December performance. Auditions are held in the summer, and rehearsals begin in the CLT Space immediately following the load-out for the Fall production.

The Christmas Production is chosen for maximum popular appeal, either catering to families, or a feel-good play or musical for all (or most) ages.

Guidelines for Proposals and Selection of Spring Productions

In preparing for the Spring production, more time and more resources are generally available. This play is usually entered into the Theatre BC Festival. It can be considered more 'edgy', provocative or experimental and not necessarily hold the level of general appeal expected in the fall. The Sid Williams Theatre time slot is early to mid-April.

The spring production can be **elaborate or simple**. There is more flexibility in selection of plays at this time and rehearsals are easier to schedule.

- Cast size can be flexible
- Set design can be more complex, keeping in mind the reality of demands of moving to and from the theatre for production, festival entry, remounting as a fund raiser if the play goes to Mainstage, and for Mainstage itself.
- Costumes can be more elaborate.
- Technical demands can be higher