

Hartley Arts Group

Policy Document

Show Selection Policy

Director Selection Policy

Audition Policy

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Document Overview and Purpose

This document sets out the policy regarding:

- How shows are selected for production
- How directors of productions are appointed
- How auditions are held

Selection Of Show

The Production Team, comprised of a subset of members of the committee, meet to decide the nature of the content of the shows that we put in our show slots. At the time of writing the show slots are:

- End of January/Start of February
- End of May/Start of June
- Mid October
- Mid December (occasional Christmas Show/Event.)

The team attempts to create a balanced forward thinking programme of performances that attempt to balance the following criteria:

- Including large numbers of HAG performers on a regular basis
- Selecting shows that are attractive to our regular patrons
- Selecting shows that are attractive to new audiences
- Selecting shows that are popular/named authors
- Selecting shows that balance Drama, Comedy & Musical
- Shows that are financially viable within the HAG show budget
(Budget = 6 Nights * 140 Seats * £10 per-ticket. 65% break-even sales point)

Any member of HAG is welcome at any time to suggest to the Production Team or any member of the committee any show from any genre with any number of actors. The decision whether a show is performed is depends on the next available slot into which it may fit. It may also be weighed against the more recent productions and whether it is in balance with the demands set above.

The suggestions of the Production Team are presented to the main Committee and if accepted this becomes the performance plan. Then follows the selection of the Director.

Selection Of Show Director

The selection of a director for any production is arrived at by a number of methods:

- The proposer of a play or musical may also wish to be the Director
- The committee asks for volunteers from with HAG
- The committee invites directors with experience to direct

The director usually presents their interpretation of their production, or the production selected by the Production Team, to the committee and this is generally approved.

Once approved the Director has authority over all aspects of the production.

A Production Manager is appointed and reports directly to the committee on all aspects of the show.

Auditions are held and the Director selects the cast within the remits of the Audition Policy

Audition Policy

HAG has an open audition policy. This means that auditions are open to HAG members and non-members alike. This is a NODA requirement.

The Director selects items from the script that will enable actors to demonstrate their suitability for a particular role. Actors can audition for as many roles as they choose. The Director will typically hold a minimum of two auditions. More auditions, ad-hoc and one-on-one, may be held if the Director requires it.

The Director then attempts to make the best casting decision from the performances seen during the auditions. The Director works with these thoughts in mind:

- A single cast member for each role. Minimise doubling-up unless called for in the script.
- Balance of the characters considering age and partner role match suitability.
- Positioning actors according to capability (Acting & Singing skills)
- Placing the best performing actor in the most suitable role
- Concepts of “It’s xxx’s turn” are not considered.
- The director can select from any members and non-members that audition.

There may be situations where the balance of the characters has to take preference over the placement of the most suitable or skilled actor for a role: The balance say in finding a suitable son-daughter pair to age match to a mother-father pair.

Once the Director has selected the cast the decision is final. The Committee will not question the director but may ask for clarification as to the reasons behind their decision. Unless there are highly exceptional circumstances the Director’s decision stands.

Jason Farrow
Chairman, Hartley Arts Group
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