

PLAY SELECTION POLICY

Aims

To provide a framework to select suitable well-crafted production-ready play scripts in a timely manner for performance in the main play season of MRT in line with our Mission Statement -

To stage inclusive high quality theatrical productions for the artistic aspirations of our members and for the entertainment of the Maitland community.

Play Selection Guidelines

MRT will perform a varied and entertaining program of plays in its main play season each year and all genres of plays from all sources will be considered.

Factors taken into account in selecting plays are:

- audience appeal and likelihood of commercial success
- artistic merit
- well-crafted and production-ready plays
- ability to be performed (eg casting and staging)

Other Productions

Directors may from time to time approach MRT to put on an additional play to the normal season of plays and these will be considered in a similar manner.

Unpublished Play Scripts

MRT has a strict policy on unpublished play scripts in order to maintain a high standard of plays. Any full and complete but as yet unpublished play script, written by or put forward by one of our members, must be read and workshopped by Play Selection and Discussion (PS&D) and Management Committee members before the revised play script will be considered by the PS&D committee, and will only be recommended for MRT production if agreed to by a three quarter majority vote of PS&D committee members. Incomplete play drafts or synopses for planned play scripts will not be considered for production. (See below for documented procedure.)

Play Selection and Discussion (PS&D) Committee

Membership

The Play Selection and Discussion group is a group of interested MRT members who like reading, seeing and critiquing plays and who are prepared to evaluate them in a uniform way with a view to their being performed by MRT.

The Play Selection and Discussion group is not elected at Maitland Repertory Theatre's Annual General Meeting. The group members are volunteers from the Management Committee and other MRT members.

The Play Selection and Discussion group will consist of at least four members and will have no more than seven members.

If more than seven members nominate to be in the group then the Management Committee has the right of selection or to recommend extra members.

PS&D group members must be prepared to see and/or read a variety of plays (all genres of plays, old and new) in order to evaluate and discuss them, using a consistent evaluation method.

Meetings

Meetings of the group will be held on a regular basis, as arranged by the group, usually around four times a year.

Play Submissions

Any member of MRT can recommend a play they have read for consideration by the PS&D group. Suggested plays that haven't been read or seen by the person putting a play up aren't considered to be good recommendations.

Any member who wishes to direct a play at MRT may put forward a play for consideration by the PS&D group.

Play Selection Procedure and Timeline

The PS&D group will meet regularly, as arranged by the group.

Plays will be seen, obtained and read, evaluated by the group using a standard process and will then be discussed.

A selection of plays suitable for the following year's program will be made and presented to the **April** Management Committee meeting. The selection usually includes four mainstream plays.

MRT Acting Classes and Reamus Youth Theatre

It is possible that MRT Acting Classes and Reamus Theatre would select their own plays (from published play scripts) which could involve a Pitch Process. Recommendations will be made to MRT Management Committee for final approval and subsequent production. If asked, PS&D group will consider plays.

If unpublished plays are considered, then the same procedure will be followed as for any unpublished play scripts and recommendations will be made to MRT Management Committee for final approval and subsequent production.

Applications for performance rights

Applications for performance rights will be made for the selection recommended to the committee.

An alternative list of plays will be selected by the PS&D –

- in case rights are not available;
- a director or cast cannot be found;
- or if for any other reason a selected play cannot be produced.

Recommended Play Scripts

The Management Committee will be asked to read the recommended play scripts in order to accept the following year's main play season program recommendations at the **May** management committee meeting. To be able to make an informed

decision, Committee members should make an effort to research, read or to have seen all the nominated plays.

The Management Committee will then call for expressions of interest for directors, if suitable directors have not come forward previously.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed by the PS&D committee on an annual basis and any recommended changes submitted to the Management Committee for approval.

Procedure for Unpublished Play Scripts

The PS&D committee are prepared to consider any unpublished play, following these policy guidelines –

- The complete play script must be submitted well in advance of any planned performance date (ie at least twelve months)
- The complete play script must be given to the PS&D and management committee to read to assess the standard
- Workshopping may take place with PS&D and management committee members
- If considered to be a performance option (ie well-crafted and production-ready) by a three-quarter majority of PS&D committee, the revised play script would be recommended to the management committee for appraisal
- The management committee must give final approval for the production to go ahead

Related Documents - *Play Evaluation Form*

Play Selection Committee

February, 2023

MRT PLAY EVALUATION FORM, (Revised January, 2017)

Fill in the following evaluation survey, as best you can, when you have read the play. Use the other side for any extra comments.
Total the scores of the questions answered to get a rating out of 100.

X Strongly Disagree/ Really Dislike/ Difficult/no answer	1 Disagree/ Dislike/ Tricky To Do	2 Don't Know/ Don'tCare/ Not fussed at all	3 Agree/Like/ Simple/ Easy To Do	4 Love/ Really Simple/ Really Easy	FINAL RATING /100
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Play: _____ First Published _____

X	1	2	3	4
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Written By: _____
 Type of Play: _____ No of Pages: _____ Done before at MRT? _____
 My Name: _____ Date Read: _____

How much do I like this play?	My General LIKABILITY SCORE				/12			
1. How happy am I to promote the play to my friends and acquaintances?								
2. How suitable is the play for Maitland Repertory Theatre? How willing do you think our audiences will be to pay to see the play? How do you think our audiences will react to the play?								
3. Where is the play set? _____ When? _____ Difficult era? _____								
4. How easy would it be to get a cast for the play? Number in Cast? _____ Male _____ Female _____ Extras _____ Doubling _____								
Characters – circle if appropriate or add your own descriptions Stereotyped/without depth/plausible/actable/ strong/weak/fantasy/believable/light/dark								
5. Does the play pivot on one important actor/multiple actors?								
6. How easy would it be to get a director for the play?								
7. Are there Royalties? Yes/No								
8. How interesting is the plot/story? Is the plot important to the theme of the play? Regarding Plot – circle if appropriate or add your own descriptions - Trite/hackneyed/clichéd/predictable/interesting/engrossing/plausible/far-fetched/unbelievable/absurd								
9. Has the plot been developed well?								
10. Is there good development? (meaningful motion towards a climax)								
11. Are there any unresolved loose ends? Are dilemmas adequately resolved?								
12. Is the audience told everything it needs to know?								
13. Does it contain dramatic irony? (knowledge known to audience but not to characters)								
14. How technically manageable would it be to produce the play? Are there any difficulties you foresee in staging this play at MRT?								
15. Scenery/projections/monitors?								
16. Stage set? Same set for play/complex/multi set/different set for scenes/acts?								
17. Properties – complex or expensive, easy/difficult to procure?								
18. Special effects? Lighting/sound/explosions/snow/wind/rain/thunder/lightning?								
19. Costumes – complex or expensive/easy or difficult to procure/present day/certain era?								
Briefly - what is the play about? (Continue on other side)								
Description of type of play – current/relevant/light-hearted/ dramatic/melodrama/drama/mystery/comedy/thriller/political								
20. Does it have entertainment value/it is amusing/thought provoking? Yes/ Yes/ Yes								
21. Have you seen this play performed? _____ How would you rate it?								
22. Have you read reviews? _____ How was it reviewed?								
Any comments? _____	Totals (incl Likability Score from top)							
This form is for comparison of plays and attempts to create a standard to facilitate the selection process.								
Do you have any ideas on how to improve it? _____								
								/100