

**INSTRUCTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS TO DIRECT  
THE LITTLE THEATRE OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY  
2024-2025**

**Mission Statement of The Little Theatre:**

**The Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County is an active community theatre and nonprofit organization dedicated to providing live theater, educational, and volunteer opportunities for all ages in the Tuscarawas County area, and to supporting the arts across the state of Ohio.**

Forms for the submission of scripts and requests to direct will be available beginning **October 13, 2023 through October 27, 2023 at 10:00 p.m.** The Board has approved the following dates for performances in the 2024-2025 Season.

SHOW	DATES
FALL	09/27/24 - 10/13/24
HOLIDAY*	12/05/24 - 12/15/24; OR 12/06/24 - 12/15/24 (2 mat.)
BLACK BOX WINTER	TBD by Committee
WINTER	02/21/25 - 03/09/25
VARIETY SHOW	TBD by Board
SPRING	04/25/25 - 05/11/25
SUMMER	06/27/25 - 07/13/25
CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES**	07/21/25 - 08/04/25 08/02/25 - 08/04/25

\*Whether there is a two-week run from Thursday to Sunday or from Friday to Sunday with two matinees will depend on the Holiday script selected.

\*\*The Play Reading Committee is **not** assigned to select the Children's Workshop script, due to its educational purpose.

1. **Only submit a script for reading and consideration which you have also read, from beginning to end.**
2. If you, as a director, are offended by the language, **do not submit the script.** All accepted scripts will be performed as written, with no changes. Likewise, if you seek to add material for performance, the additional material must be submitted along with the play for review by the Committee and approval by the Board.
3. The Committee will read any submitted original script. If selected, it will be placed on the regular season.
4. Consider whether the show can be cast with local talent, taking into consideration the size of cast, the time of year, the number of men required, etc.
5. Consider the set requirements and the limitations of the available space.
6. Be aware that the Committee is seeking a balanced season which speaks to the mission of The Little Theatre.
7. As we celebrate many decades in the community, consider whether there are some shows which historically did well and could be produced again.
8. Keep in mind that shows submitted for Black Box consideration should fit the definition of a black box production. This anticipates very basic technical arrangements, simple lighting, and an intimate focus on story, writing and performances. A musical may be considered, if it fits the black box description. The Committee will consider adding a show in the Black Box Winter spot if there is an appropriate option presented.
9. The dates for the 2024-2025 season allow more time than in previous years for rehearsing a holiday production. You may submit any play for holiday consideration, but may also want to consider one of these, as well. Please study the scripts first, and consider the items listed, above:
  - a. Holiday Inn
  - b. White Christmas
  - c. A Christmas Story, the musical
  - d. A Christmas Story, non-musical
  - e. A Christmas Carol, the musical
  - f. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, the musical

10. The Committee began asking for a **vision statement** several years ago. Some questions have been raised as to what that should include. This section of the application was made available to address many issues, as may apply to the submission.

You can use your vision statement in several ways; there is no requirement to address all of the below items. But it is helpful to the Committee to know what the Director's vision is artistically and practically, for example:

- Describe your passion for the particular script. What compelled you to choose it?
- Describe how you plan to address a specialized set requirement, e.g. a multi-level set, a significant unusual prop (like a flying car in “Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang”), a flying person, etc.
- Describe how you plan to address special casting requirements, e.g. if there is a role which must be played by a person of a particular race or ethnicity, is the director aware of persons interested in auditioning?
- Discuss how you believe the script is relevant in current times, if you are submitting something which may seem dated. (For example, “Promises, Promises” upon initial reading seemed dated, but the vision statement included, in part, the following comment, which assisted the committee in considering the script in a different light: “...I would focus on the characters trying to make it in the business world at any cost, and the ramifications of their actions...”)
- Discuss how you would present the script within the space of the theatre.
- Discuss how you believe the script will further the mission of The Little Theatre.

## Select Vision Statements from 2022-2023 season:

### *Leaving Iowa:*

Family values and fun are easily created in this show through casting individuals who are good character actors and who comprehend the humor in taking family trips. The show depends on pantomime and little set. It's a tender and humorous combination that envelops the imagination and challenges the cast while leaving the audience with sweet memories of childhood and family trips. Very simple costuming will be needed while most of the action can be enhanced with special lighting. Because it can be rehearsed offsite, it's an excellent choice for experimental or fall.

### *The Glass Menagerie:*

This is a memory play, so I really love the idea of playing with the set and making it look very dreamy. I'm imagining the fire escape stairs going down into the pit with the wall down so the audience sees that kind of exposed space, which could be used to create the outside of the apartment building. The living room would be downstage right and the kitchen would be elevated a bit, upstage left, with a doorway between and curtains instead of walls. I like the idea of the screen with projections, as suggested in the text. I would do rear projections for that, though not in the traditional spot or possible within a smaller space--probably angled left or right. I would love to have foral motifs throughout the set and costuming as well to echo that motif you'll see in the script. Costuming should be able to be done primarily out of the wardrobe, with styles from the 1930s and earlier. Everything should be soft and hazy with few stark contrasts with lighting as needed. I would use the music available through Dramatists Play Service.

### *Tuesdays with Morrie:*

My vision is to show the connection between student and teacher. I want to show how compassionate Mitch is regarding Morrie as they face the end of Morrie's life. I want the audience to experience how much love these two men have for each other. We never know how much our caring for someone can mean to them.

### *The SpongeBob Musical:*

You may laugh, but The SpongeBob Musical is one of the most timely and well crafted musicals I have ever read. With a completely original story surrounding an underdog who is tasked with bringing together a community in a time of crisis and political divide, there is no question that the relevance of this story reflects our current community in a fun and entertaining manner. My vision for this show is in no way to imitate the characters from the beloved television series, but to bring them to life in an organic way that resembles them in ways our audiences might be able to relate to them more. The cast is made up of all ages and genders and reflects what Tuscarawas County might be like if we all lived in the ocean. No actual fish costumes in this production. The set is simple, yet imaginative. Sort of like an art installation made of found objects that have floated to the bottom of the sea. Also, a real

foley artist brings the world to life in realtime with a wide array of objects and sounds. While the show is based upon a cartoon, I would say my stage adaption would draw inspiration from vaudeville as pantomime, clowning, and slapstick play a huge role in the staging of this show, and I feel would provide our actors in the theatre a new challenge in performing style. There is something for everyone in this show, even if you cannot stand the laugh of the leading yellow guy, I promise you will find something to love and maybe even shed a tear about.

### *Rumors*

Rumors is a classic comedy that has not been done in the theatre for a long time. It requires a full set, a stairway indicating that there is an upstairs, and a living room. Characters are adults. The show is fast moving and has been successful since its beginnings. I have directed it before to overflowing audiences.