

Shaftesbury Arts Centre - Music and Drama Group

Introduction for New Directors

We are delighted that you would like to direct a show at Shaftesbury Arts Centre and if you are a first-time Director, or are new to SAC, you might be wondering how a show happens and importantly, how you get things off the ground!

The Music and Drama Committee are the group who have overall responsibility for a wide range of genres of productions at SAC, and we are always keen to encourage and support new Directors who would like to come forward!

The first thing you will need to do is choose a show which you would like to pitch (or present) to the Music and Drama Committee for their approval to go ahead. This could be an already established show (for which performing rights are available at a cost) or a show written by perhaps a local playwright or one known to you, with no rights attached to it.

Alternatively, if you would like to direct but do not have a show in mind, please do let us know and we will provide you with some opportunities which you may like to consider.

In order to present or pitch your show, you will be invited to come along to one of our meetings to talk about your vision and ideas. There is a 'pitch form' to be completed and to help you do this you will be assigned a mentor from the Committee who will also support and guide you through the pitch process. The email address to request a pitch slot, pitch form and mentor to assist and guide you is stage@shaftesburyartscentre.org.

You will be invited to give a short 10 minute presentation and asked to provide a copy of the full script for Committee approval. The Music and Drama Committee will then consider whether you can go ahead and offer you a performance slot in the future.

Once everything is agreed and production dates are in the diary, you will be provided with a comprehensive set of information (Production Guidelines) including backstage contacts at SAC covering all aspects of the production. These guidelines will help you to understand the production process and will provide information about all the areas of the show you will need to consider, both artistically and practically. Additionally at this stage and in order to provide further support and guidance, you will be given a 'Liaison' (a member of the committee) to help you navigate through the entire production process right through to the opening night!

You and your team of talented collaborators then MAKE it happen! Your role is much more than simply directing the actors on the stage; it involves communication, organising, facilitating, supporting, publicising.....but its great fun!

Good Luck! We are looking forward to meeting you.

The Music and Drama Committee

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