

**INSTRUCTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS TO DIRECT
THE LITTLE THEATRE OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY
2025-2026**

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 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. through November 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** The Board has approved the following dates for performances in the 2025-2026 Season.

SHOW	DATES
FALL	October 3 - 19, 2025
HOLIDAY	December 4 - 14, 2025 or December 5 - 14, 2025 (2 mat.)
BLACK BOX WINTER	January 8 - 18, 2026
WINTER	February 27 - March 15, 2026
VARIETY SHOW	March 28, 2026
SPRING	April 24 - May 10, 2026
SUMMER	June 26 - July 12, 2026
CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES	July 20 - August 2, 2026
BLACK BOX SUMMER	August 20-23, 2026

SPECIAL SCHEDULING NOTES

Fall

This is a three-weekend spot, with nine performances Friday through Sunday.

Holiday

Any play or musical may be submitted for the Holiday spot. 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. For example, a show which draws an

audience of children may be scheduled with two matinees. The Director should be prepared to accommodate auditions on November 2 & 3 for the Black Box Winter.

Black Box Winter

This is an **optional**, two-weekend spot, with eight performances Thursday through Sunday. Minimal set, only! See instruction #8, below.

Winter

This is a three-weekend spot, with nine performances Friday through Sunday. The Director selected for the Winter show must be willing to accommodate the Auditions for the Community Cares Variety Show on Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Spring

This is a three-weekend spot, with nine performances Friday through Sunday. The Director selected for the Spring show must be willing to accommodate the Community Cares Variety Show rehearsal and performance dates of Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2026.

Summer

This is a three-weekend spot, with nine performances Friday through Sunday. Due to the holiday weekend, the Director will be given some options for performance dates, to be discussed with the producer and Board.

Children's Workshop

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

Black Box Summer

This is an **optional**, single, three or four performance weekend spot. If a director chooses to submit a script which would be best performed in a single weekend, the Committee may consider this option. Examples might include: original script, readers' theatre piece, one-actor show, or similar. Minimal set only! See instruction #8, below.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Only submit a script for reading and consideration which you have also read, from beginning to end.**

2. Please make sure your rights are available. If a submitted show is determined to be unavailable, no alternative show may be substituted beyond November 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
3. 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. If there are publisher-approved script changes, please alert the Committee as to your intentions.
4. The Committee will read any submitted original script. If selected, it will be placed on the regular season.
5. 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.
6. Consider the set requirements and the limitations of the available space.
7. Be aware that the Committee is seeking a balanced season which speaks to the mission of The Little Theatre.
8. 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 Summer or Winter spots only if there are appropriate options presented.**
9. Most Directors will need to accommodate auditions for the show which follows, and the auditions will generally occur on the Sunday and Monday following the opening of the prior show.
10. Directors will receive the keys to the theatre following the strike of the previous show. Until that time, please expect to rehearse off-site.
11. The Committee began asking for a **vision statement** several years ago. 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.
- 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:

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 floral 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.

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 real time 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.