

ARTES CHRISTI

Production Criteria for Possible Shows

The following is a short checklist which was discussed at the January 2018 meeting of ACPA (Artes Christi Performing Arts) as to some of the various Production Criteria the Artes Christi Executive have generally considered when deciding on new plays or musicals. Although these criteria have not been specifically outlined until now, the following are the sorts of questions that have been asked and discussed in the past as part of the decision making process for new productions.

Artes Christi has three pillars – *Faith, Community & Culture* and these criteria touch on all three pillars in different ways. As Artes Christi has to date generally produced only one play or musical in any given year, there is also a question of balance of the shows in relation to previous or future productions.

These Criteria are by no means the only considerations or the final word and are in no particular order. They have also not been prioritised in terms of importance, particularly as the needs and opportunities change from year to year. There are also no doubt other points that could and have been considered from time to time as well. Nonetheless, this checklist provides a brief insight as to the parameters, history and culture of productions which Artes Christi has tried to develop over the past 15 years.

THEME OF THE SHOW:

Is it a good story and would it make a good production?

Is it a Judeo-Christian Story? Is it biblical or the life of a saint – previous examples that have been considered include: Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat, A Man For All Seasons (St Thomas More), Murder in the Cathedral (St Thomas Becket), MacKillop, The Gospel of St John, The Comedian (St Genesis), King David, various Passion Plays.

Was the writer Christian or Catholic and did their Faith likely inspire their work? – some examples considered in the past include The Jeweller's Shop, Hamlet, Earnest, Shadowlands, Any other Shakespeare play, Medieval mystery plays and medieval plays in general

Are there Christian, Social or Moral Values promoted? some examples considered in the past include Camelot, The Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver, West Side Story, Everyman, Les Miserables, Classical Greek plays

Does it have entertainment value as well as good moral values? some examples considered in the past include The Wiz, Jane Austen adaptations, Gilbert & Sullivan musicals

Is it a new work and would staging it help to promote the work, the themes or the author? (New shows are a great idea but particularly risky. Nonetheless, we have staged two original works: MacKillop (2010) and This Sword of Sorrow (2002, Carnivale Christi). Another similar option (and sometimes less risky) is staging a better known show, but presenting an Australian premiere – eg: King David has never been performed in Australia before. It should be noted, though, that premieres can be extremely hard to get the rights to.

TIMING OF THE SHOW:

When did we last present a show of a clearly identifiable Christian story?

When did we last present a humorous show? Or a serious one?

Was our last show a musical or a play?

Is there a promotional angle – a Canonisation or the Anniversary of the play or the author etc? Is that likely to be a significant driver of interest in the production?

How long do we need to rehearse the show? Is there an available rehearsal or performance venue at these times?

Can we get the rights? How much will the rights cost?

AUDIENCE:

Does the play / musical have an audience? Can this be predicted in any way?

How well known is the play? How risky would a production be in terms of tickets?

Has the production been successful in Australia before? How long has it been since the most recent professional production? How long has it been since the most recent amateur production?

Is anyone else producing that show at the same time? If it was recently produced professionally is that a positive or a negative?

Is there a charity angle that might naturally work to mutually promote the charity & the show?

Is there a particular venue where this show would best be staged?

What are the likely costs of the venue, the rights, the promotions, the show as a whole?

CAST:

How many people are likely to be able to perform in the show?

Is it a show that the Cast will likely enjoy performing?

Is it a show that we are likely to be able to find appropriate cast or production team members for?

Is the number of people required in the cast/crew expected to correlate to the numbers required in the audience?

TO SUGGEST A PRODUCTION: Email arteschristisdney@gmail.com with the name of the production and the writer(s). If you are suggesting a production, please note it is not necessary to address the criteria above though you are welcome to include whatever details you think would assist the Artes Christi Executive in considering your suggested show.