

Proposal Guidelines

Target audience: Producer and Director.

Purpose: understand how to submit your proposal.

The play

The Finn-Brit Players are not limited to a specific type of theatre; we have done classics, contemporary plays, short plays, musicals, adaptations of novels and many other kinds of play. The only necessary feature of the play is that it be in English. Also translations of plays into English are fine. If you are considering a play, which is not well known, please give the committee a copy to read along with your proposal.

Rights

Plays are subject to copyright until 70 years after the death of the author. The performance rights are normally obtained through one of the large agencies such as Samuel French. The details of obtaining the rights can usually be found in printed versions of the script, but on occasion finding out about rights might require a little detective work - but that's what Google is for!

Before submitting a proposal, do make sure that the rights for the proposed play are available.

Please note when drafting a budget that rights can be surprisingly expensive.

Production team

Before submitting a proposal, the proposer (normally the would-be director) should think about assembling a production team. The only members required for the proposal are a director and a producer, but the more people that are involved in the production team from the start the better. It is advised that you don't take on both roles entirely yourself.

Auditions

The Finn-Brit Players have an open auditions policy, which means that anyone can audition for a part in a play. We have allowed pre-casting on certain occasions, but these have been exceptions approved by the committee. Apart from the requirement of open auditions, the actual proceedings are up to the production team.

Venue

These days, the venue for upcoming productions needs to be reserved even before proposals are submitted. This impacts the performance dates. An average main production from the Players draws about 220-280 audience members. A venue to accommodate this number, with 5 or 6 performances, will cost 1 000+ euros. Do ask the committee to get more information about the chosen venue, and how it affects your budget.

Budget

Main productions are key society events that need to cover for their own costs and the costs of other events free to their participants (such as e.g. Poetry & Jazz). To that end, main production budgets should be drafted so that they make a 400 euro profit (as of 2010).

Here is an example based on the historical data of six medium sized productions:

Outgoings		Incomings		
Theatre hire:	949	Ticket price:	10 €	
Royalties:	632	Ticket sales:	224 times 10 = 2 240 €	
Publicity (2):	331	Programme Adverts:	373	
Costumes:	195	Grants:	325	
Set:	104	Café (1):	88	
Props:	93	Other:	2	
Cast party:	88			
Insurance:	75			
Café (1):	55			
Transportation:	43			
Misc:	30			
Photo/Video:	15			
Admin:	14			
Rehearsal space:	0			
Total Out	2 624 €	Total In	3 028 €	Profit 404 €

(1) If the venue doesn't have its own catering.

(2) Includes poster, flyer, programme, ads on social networks...