

## Open Call for Directors

Sterling Playmakers is now accepting director applications for the 2025 calendar year. If you are interested in directing for the Playmakers, you may submit up to three proposals for shows. Generally, selected directors do not direct more than one show per season.

### *Show Calendar*

All performance time slots are available, but it is up to the Board's discretion how many/which time slots are chosen. We perform four mainstage shows in 2025 with potential for a fifth smaller show in an alternative venue.

- Winter 2025 (Performs two weekends February/March)
- Spring 2025 (Performs two weekends April/May)
- Summer 2025 (Performs three weekends in July/August)
- Fall 2025 (Performs two weekends October/December)
- Potential for a much smaller, non-mainstage production in an alternative venue: an original play or festival (one-acts, Shakespeare in the Park, etc.).

### *General Requirements*

**Preselected shows.** For our 2025 summer musical, we are seeking director applications for *The SpongeBob Musical* (formerly known as *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*). We have selected the musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, for a time slot of the director's preference.

**Director's Choice.** The remaining slots are open to director's choice, either a musical or a play (dramatic or comedic). The committee will consider director proposals for new plays, musicals, or other original work. The director must submit a sample (10-15 pages) of the piece for consideration. Finalists will be required to submit the entire play.

In addition to mainstage plays and musicals, the Board is open to applications to direct a "One-weekend Wonder": a smaller, non-mainstage play OR a one-weekend festival. Examples might include a one-act festival, a monologue competition/festival, a Shakespeare in the Park festival, or staged readings of original or experimental works. This festival would be performed in an alternative venue.

Our organization was recently admitted into the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH). The WATCH organization recognizes excellence in community theater and organizes an annual awards ceremony at The Birchmere in Alexandria. Each director will determine whether or not to submit shows for WATCH adjudication, with support and coordination from Sterling Playmakers Board member John Geddie.

### *Specific Requirements for Director's Choice Shows*

While we will consider many types of shows, the Board has a particular interest in the following:

#### For musicals:

- Musicals appealing to a wide general audience, but different in scope from what we selected for our summer and second mainstage musical.
- Musicals featuring a small sized cast (no more than 10).
- Musicals highlighting diversity and inclusion in casting.
- Musicals utilizing a small combo pit (piano, drums, guitar, and bass) or have accompaniment tracks available through the rights holder (e.g., MTPit).
- Some examples: *Songs for a New World*, *The Last Five Years*, *Closer Than Ever*.

#### For plays (drama or comedy):

- Plays appealing to a wide general audience.
- Plays featuring a small-to-medium sized cast.
- Plays highlighting diversity and inclusion in casting and playwrights.

#### For the festival director/coordinator:

- A one-weekend festival with a clear theme (e.g., a ten-minute one-act festival featuring women authors, a group of scenes featuring Shakespeare's villains)
- A festival lending itself to alternative venues (e.g., outdoors, a coffee shop, a church)
- Low-level requirements in terms of set, costumes, and lighting.

### *Shows Not Considered*

The Director-selected shows must be a "fit" with the Playmaker artistic aesthetic. Please consider these guidelines to avoid putting in a lot of work only to be quickly rejected.

- Shows we've done within the last ten years (see our Production History on our website).
- Shows that have the following elements:
  - Too edgy, dark, or too political
  - Excessive foul language
  - Overly sexual content, or
  - Discriminatory content
    - For example, the musical *Annie Get Your Gun* features iconic music and has great comedy, but it belittles Native Americans. Sterling Playmakers highlights "by the community for the community" plays and musicals; thus we tend to choose shows appealing to a wider general audience.
    - Many older plays considered "classics" then, today read dated.

As an example of shows that might be rejected for these guidelines, note that the following plays were rejected last season: *The Foreigner*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Baby with the Bathwater*.

### *Acceptance Process*

While the committee will accept proposals until the deadline, Sterling Playmakers encourages you to apply as soon as you are able, as this allows more time for the committee to review your proposal.

The Board reserves the right to choose from the application pool, to extend the application deadline if necessary, or seek out other alternatives.

Following submission, the committee and the Board will review applications. The Board may reach out to applicants with questions. Finalists will then be selected and interviewed either in person or virtually. After interviews are completed, the Board makes final decisions, and applicants are notified.

Sterling Playmakers looks forward to considering your submissions! Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,  
The Season Development Committee  
Jim Bowen-Collinson and Jeannie DeLisi, Co-Chairs  
Director@sterlingplaymakers.org