**WASHINGTON SCHOOL SHOW SCRIPT GUIDELINES**

**(Updated April 2017)**

1. The Show should be comprised of two acts. Act I is typically the longer of the two. Aim for a total running time of less than two hours, including a 20 minute intermission. This means that music and dialogue have to be around an hour and twenty minutes to allow for scene changes, applause, laughter, curtain calls, etc.
2. Dialogue for the entire show should run around a total of 30 minutes
3. Musical numbers: include approximately 20 numbers in total, and they should run for a total of 60 minutes. Specific songs should be suggested; however, this is subject to change at the discretion of the Directors.
* Solos/Small Group 5-6 songs
* Chorus 5-6 songs
* Dance 6songs (One tap number)
* Alumni Number Every tenth year (Next one is 2027)
1. There are required dances - The Men's Dance, the Teacher's Dance, and the Couple's Dance -
2. Songs should include some parodies, including the closing number after the curtain call. You are not required to use the exact lyrics of the published song.
3. You must avoid close parallels to existing shows. While Washington School Shows that combine elements from well-known Broadway Shows, movies and T.V. shows are common, you need to ensure your script is not too close to any one existing show.
4. It is useful to contact the Producers as you begin writing to find out their views and expectations of what the show should be each year.
5. Cast must consist of approximately 15-20 roles, excluding the teachers. Included in this number are both small and non-singing roles. Have an even distribution of male and female roles or make the roles gender neutral as to allow for flexibility. If you know the available talent pool, write roles and include songs that fit their abilities.
6. The teachers' roles should be self-contained so that they can rehearse independently. Dr. Perry usually likes a few lines prior to the teachers' number so they can be written in.
7. Suggested sets and scenery are welcome. There are usually three major set changes available on the set flats; however, keep in mind this could change based upon the availability of set design/painting resources. Presently there are three set designs: one is a Mindowaskin Park set, one is a countryside/road set and one is a living room set. Setting a scene in front of the curtain is typically used to facilitate set changes, but try to minimize its use as much as possible.
8. Include the "muck" and "mire" lines - at some point in the script, someone or a group must say "Hi Ya Muck!" to which the response is "Hi Ya Mire!"

**REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING A SCRIPT FOR CONSIDERATION**

Script Presentations should be no longer than 30 minutes. They usually take place in May.

At a minimum your script presentation should include the following:

1. **PLOT SUMMARY** - It is important that you explain how the plot is carried throughout the play, specifically, scene by scene.
2. **OUTILNE OF SHOW** - Including all songs and dances.
3. **CAST OF CHARACTERS** - A list describing each character and a description of their personalities. Include whether the character is singing or non-singing.
4. **SAMPLE SCENE** - Including dialogue, setting, stage directions and a definitive selection of songs and dances. Music selection examples must be presented on tape or in person.

All of the above material should be typed and at least ten copies should be made available for the Selection Committee.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**Story Line**

Children are THE critical audience for the show. Will the story be understood and appreciated by elementary school children? Is the show appropriate for them? Does the story have a logical flow and make sense? Do all scenes advance the story line?

**Music**

Is it "singable" by the chorus and small groups and soloists?

Is it easy to dance to?

Will the music appeal to our audience?

Do musical numbers fit well within the story line?

Music should be of different genre, i.e., not predominantly one artist or style

**Production Value**

Does the show provide visual appeal balancing the limitations of the Roosevelt School stage?

Can scene changes be done easily?

Are suggested set designs workable?

**Costumes**

Keep in mind that people create or buy their own. Try to avoid overly lavish or difficult costume requirements. Teachers cannot be charged for ANY costumes; therefore, teachers' costumes need to be something they can put together themselves at no expense. Teachers should not be asked to pay!

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

After selection, the entire script, including proposed music and suggested set direction, must be completed by July 1st. The Writer(s) should be available for rewrites through October 1st. As you are writing, even before submission, if you have any questions about the process or even concerns about the scenes or songs in your show, feel free to call the Directors for discussion. This will not create a bias either toward or against your show.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the Producers, Directors and Music Team (Music Director(s), Chorus Director(s), and Dance Choreographer(s)). The incoming PTO Presidents may also participate. If anyone on the Committee submits a script for consideration, he or she will not participate in the selection.

The Writers will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision by the evening following the presentations, if not before.

It is the Writer's responsibility to provide all musical materials for the show when the script is submitted July 1st, including

* Lyrics for each song to be sung
* Tape or CD for each song, or all on one CD
* Sheet music for all songs to be played by the band

***Note:*** Prerecorded music can be used for some dance numbers

**After script selection has been accepted, changes can be made at any time at the discretion of the Directors,** who are responsible for the development and staging of the show. It is always nice to assist in this process if you can.

The Producers expedite all facets of the Show's production and oversee all behind the scene committees.