

B. Iden Payne Artistic Guidelines

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: The cohesive synthesis of all production elements including design, direction, & performance

- Clear execution of story/mood/theme elicits a strong visceral or intellectual response
- Displays creativity and innovation
- Precise attention to detail
- Effective use of available resources
- Cohesive synthesis of all production elements including design, direction, & performance
- *For Musical Productions:* Effective integration and execution of music, movement and dance to further the story
- *For Youth Productions:* Production is age appropriate

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: Guides and supports all creative and technical elements of a production to tell a unified & integrated affecting story

- Vision was executed in a way that honored the story
- Established an appropriate style, mood and pace
- Story was clearly articulated: Actors guided vocally and physically (speech/voice & movement/blocking)
- Casting: All actors were suited to their roles
- Clear collaboration between director and designers which supports all creative and technical elements of a production to tell a unified & integrated affecting story

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/ACTRESS - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL

DEFINITION: An entertainer who represents a character(s) for an audience

- Executes the text with understanding of story and character without paraphrasing or editing the playwright's text
- Portrays a clear & consistent character arc conducive to the director's vision
- Honest and believable performance
- Utilizes physical & vocal attributes to embody the style of acting chosen for the production
- Establishes and maintains characters' relationships even as they evolve during the story
- Coherent & consistent dialect (when applicable)

OUTSTANDING FEATURED ACTOR/ACTRESS - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL

DEFINITION: An entertainer who represents a character(s) for an audience

- Executes the text with understanding of story and character without paraphrasing or editing the playwright's text
- Portrays a clear & consistent character arc conducive to the director's vision
- Honest and believable performance
- Utilizes physical & vocal attributes to embody the style of acting chosen for the production
- Establishes and maintains characters' relationships even as they evolve during the story
- Coherent & consistent dialect (when applicable)

OUTSTANDING YOUNG PERFORMER - YOUTH

DEFINITION: An actor/actress who is 18 years or younger, or still in high school or below, or performance occurs in the summer after graduating high school who represents a character(s) for an audience

- Executes the text with understanding of story and character without paraphrasing or editing the playwright's text
- Portrays a clear & consistent character arc conducive to the director's vision
- Utilizes physical & vocal attributes to embody the style of acting chosen for the production
- Honest and believable relationships established and evolved throughout the performance
- Work as a unit onstage to support and enhance one another's performances in accordance with the director's vision

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: A group of performers (two or more) representing harmonious character(s) for an audience

- Executes the text with understanding of story and character without paraphrasing or editing the playwright's text
- Portrays a clear & consistent character arc conducive to the director's vision
- Utilizes physical & vocal attributes to embody the style of acting chosen for the production
- Honest and believable relationships established and evolved throughout the performance
- Work as a unit onstage to support and enhance one another's performances in accordance with the director's vision

OUTSTANDING CAST PERFORMANCE - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: An entire cast (typically small, 3-4) representing harmonious character(s) for an audience

- Executes the text with understanding of story and character without paraphrasing or editing the playwright's text
- Portrays a clear & consistent character arc conducive to the director's vision
- Utilizes physical & vocal attributes to embody the style of acting chosen for the production
- Honest and believable relationships established and evolved throughout the performance
- Work as a unit onstage to support and enhance one another's performances in accordance with the director's vision

OUTSTANDING SET DESIGN - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: The 'look' or physical appearance of the stage for a play.

- Supports director's vision of the world while providing opportunity for staging appropriate to the telling of the story
- Complements other production elements
- Creative and varied use of space while maintaining appropriate visibility
- Allows scene changes to flow seamlessly
- Set is professionally constructed with attention to detail and safety

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: Use of lighting instruments to create the 'look' of a production

- Clearly supports and delivers director's vision of the piece by enhancing the tone/mood of the production
- Consistently reflects the atmosphere (place, time, weather)
- Complements other production elements
- Allows for appropriate visibility while maintaining selective focus
- Creative use of standard lighting effects/special effects

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: Any voiceover, pre-recorded non-original music, and live or pre-recorded sound effects.

- Supports and delivers director's vision of the piece by enhancing the tone/mood of the production
- Complements other production elements
- Volume, balance, and mix are clear throughout the space
- Origin of sound appears to emanate from the exact direction/location/source to support the onstage action
- Innovative and creative

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: The fabrication of apparel for the overall appearance of a character or performer in a production (includes accessories, wigs, & masks)

- Supports and delivers director's vision of the piece by enhancing tone/mood of the production
- Complements other production elements
- Informative to character's social status, occupation, gender, age, style and/or reflects key info with regards to time of day, place, period, weather
- Creative design and use of materials
- Well constructed and tailored pieces

OUTSTANDING MEDIA DESIGN - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: Visual composition that is not one of the other standard technical design elements that can include but is not limited to still & moving images or text usually delivered by projections & televisions

- Supports and delivers the director's vision of the piece through use of all media design which enhances or furthers the story, theme, and/or mood
- Cohesive with all other production elements
- Visually creative and innovative
- Technical execution of cues supports telling of the story
- Pacing of transitions are consistent and appropriate

OUTSTANDING MUSIC DIRECTION - MUSICAL

DEFINITION: Guidance and support of all live musical components of a production

- Execution of all musical components enhance/further the story, theme, and/or mood
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- Casting: All voices were suited to their roles
- All technical elements of the music and vocals are precise, clear, and cohesive o May include but not limited to: tuning, tempo, melodies/harmonies, dynamics, balance, diction

OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

Definition: Original composition and arrangement of dance, movement, steps, and patterns in a production

- Supports and delivers director's vision of the piece through choreography/movement which enhances or furthers the story, theme, and/or mood
- Cohesive with all other production elements
- Effective use of space
- All technical elements of a performer's physicality are precise, clear, and cohesive o May include: rhythm, energy, dynamics, balance, gestures, facial expressions, body, levels, synchronicity
- Creative and innovative composition and arrangement of movement

OUTSTANDING FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: The illusion of physical combat for the benefit of an audience through a series of preplanned, safely executed moves

- Execution of all fight choreography enhances or furthers the story, theme, and/or mood
- Creative use of space
- Consistent fighting style: Realism of fight is consistent with piece
- All technical elements of a performer's physicality are precise, clear, and cohesive
- Maintains safety for all performers and audience
- Fight style is consistent for each character

OUTSTANDING PUPPETRY - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: The creation, manipulation, and/or animation of inanimate objects.

- Enhances or furthers the story, theme, and/or mood
- Complements other production elements
- Design is creative and innovative and well-constructed
- Honest and believable animation
- Conveys character comprehensively: physical manipulation of both puppet and puppeteer(s), vocal variety

OUTSTANDING STAGE MANAGEMENT - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: To support and execute the show with technical excellence in order to realize the Director's vision for the piece

- Executes technical cues with precision and timing appropriate to supporting the Director's telling of the story, mood and style
- Transitions operate smoothly and in a timely manner which supports the flow and style of the Director's story
- The play world, as defined by the production team and director, is executed with consistency.
- Stage is set with pre-show lights and/or sound when the House is opened

OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCORE - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: A body of music written specifically for a particular production. The term "music" may/may not include lyrics.

- Every song or piece of music serves a clear dramatic purpose/clear transitions such as: establishing the setting/mood, developing character, or advancing the story
- All musical elements work together to create a technically cohesive score (Elements include but are not limited to: melody, harmony, lyrics, instrumentation, dynamics, tempo, rhythm)
- Lyrics match the language style of the overall production
- All elements of the score are original

OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCRIPT - DRAMA, COMEDY, MUSICAL, YOUTH, IMPROV, SPECIAL EVENT

DEFINITION: An unpublished & previously unproduced in Austin, with the exception of readings & workshops, written version of a play or other dramatic composition used in preparing a performance

- The structure/framework of the script creates a cohesive theatrical experience
- Language and Action is credible/believable/effective. (Language is any spoken text. Action is anything other than spoken text the actor does to accomplish their character goals.)
- All characters have a clear history and character arc and purpose
- Innovative and engaging storytelling
- Communicates a consummate story with clear point of view