

Program Committee Annual Report 2019-20 (5-20-2020)

Members: Joni DePerno-Zahas, chair; Dan Fusillo, VP; Rayna Schneider; Stephen Wagner; Kelly DeGrace; Dee Fiorentino. Report Prepared by Joni DePerno-Zahas

Main Stage

Our main focus was on preparing for the 2020-2021 season. To this purpose, we revised the Director Invitation/application to include requesting more in depth information from the directors, especially since we were seeking some new talent. We requested that directors share their vision of their production, including how they would approach the script, thematic ideas, set plans/designs, costume concept, time period, adaptation, etc. We also widened our search through social media and adding names to directors we reached out to via e-mail.

Summer Offerings

Having received more submissions than we were able to use and a few original pieces, we had planned to invite these directors to be part of a Summer Playwright Offering. Unfortunately the Pandemic caused us to cancel both our Summer offerings and our last two shows of the season. We hope to reach out to these directors for our next summer session (2020-2021).

Overview of Year

- * Successfully presented 3 of the scheduled productions of our subscription season
- * Took decisive action for the common good by regrettably cancelling the remaining two productions of the season
- * Summer of 2019: new playwrights' productions staged & established a Playwright in Residence
- * Summer of 2019: Preview of the upcoming season
- * Extras: Halloween / Christmas cabarets, Magic Show and Open Mic
- * Solicited directors' proposals
- * Created our 2020-21 Subscription Season (including 2 student matinees to raise \$\$\$)
- * Discussed stage reconfiguration possibilities for Black Box

Voices from the Committee

"We had excellent meetings and fine synergy." - Dan

I think this was a great first experience for me with this committee. I joined late but was glad I chose this one as I think it was very challenging to read these scripts through the eyes of the audience we get and to figure out how to put an entire season together indeed is not an easy at all task. I love the diversity of this group, as I think we all respect each other's opinions about what we think and work very well together and this indeed will work to the success and continued success of the Program Committee." –Kelly

I love this group and I love what we do. I feel an enormous sense of responsibility in that we guide the direction of the theater but there is also an enormous sense of joy in the art of creation- from reading scripts to a finalized successful season! - Joni