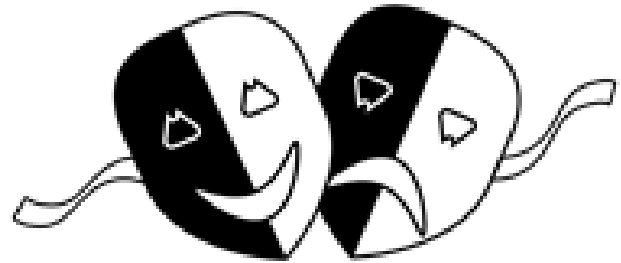


Tips and Tools for Starting A Theatre Outreach Ministry

Ideas for innovative ministry wherever you are.

Five Tips for Theatre Ministry:

1) Theatre Ministry is most successful when the whole church buys into the entire process. Even if church members have no desire to sing, dance, or act, there are plenty of opportunities to help out behind the scenes with lights, sound, scenery, costumes, ticket sales, dinner and/or refreshments, etc.



2) Musicals are an expensive undertaking (think rights, royalties, etc). A good season includes a smaller, less expensive play in the fall or during the winter holidays, with profits helping fund a larger, more expensive musical in the spring. Choose a ticket price that meets your budget and stick to it. (Selling local advertisements in your playbill is a helpful fundraiser, as well.)

3) Select shows that appeal to the entire family. Comedies and musicals will give a broader scope to your ministry than even the most famous of dramas. Also, they absolutely don't have to be faith-based shows, though it doesn't hurt to start with one.

4) For many community theatre productions, there is a direct correlation between the size of the audience and size of the cast. Find shows that utilize all-age casts and don't be afraid to add extra roles for children.

5) Remember, as much or more disciple-making takes place during the two months leading up to the performance than the two hours of the production on stage. It doesn't need to be perfect. Balance your focus accordingly.

Helpful Websites for Plays, Rights and Royalties:

- www.mtishows.com - major broadway musical productions
- www.tamswitmark.com - classic and new broadway musical productions
- www.samuelfrench.com - large collection of popular plays and some musicals
- www.dramatists.com - large collection of popular plays and some musicals
- www.pioneerdrama.com - Christian plays and musicals
- www.lazybeescripts.co.uk - short, easy plays for beginners

Additional Resources:

- Swanson, Richard. *Provoking The Gospel: Methods to Embody Biblical Storytelling Through Drama*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2004.
- Pederson, Steve. *Drama Ministry: Practical Help for Making Drama a Vital Part of Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
- Arian Armstrong, Lena Wood and Daniel Armstrong. *Stage it Right: Beautiful, Practical, Theatrical Ideas for On and Off Stage*. Cincinnati, OH: Standard Publishing, 2010.

Free plays available from Rev. Kyle Durbin (contact imkyledurbin@gmail.com for information):

- “Glad Tidings” - a comic, musical retelling of the nativity story, utilizing Christmas carols
- “The Rotten and The Righteous” - a comic retelling of the nativity story
- “All For One (And Nun For All)” - a whodunit comedy for thanksgiving, with possible improv

“Where Your Treasure Is” - a whodunit comedy for thanksgiving, with possible improve

— *Rev. Kyle Durbin, pastor Frostburg United Methodist Church in Frostburg, Md.*