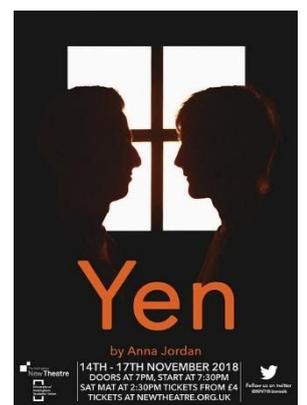
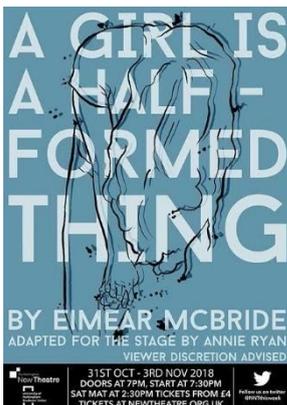
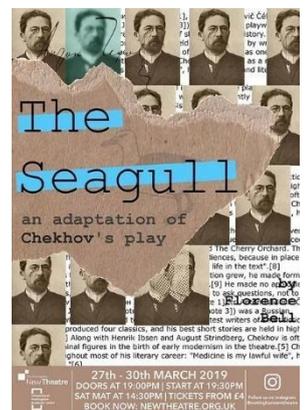
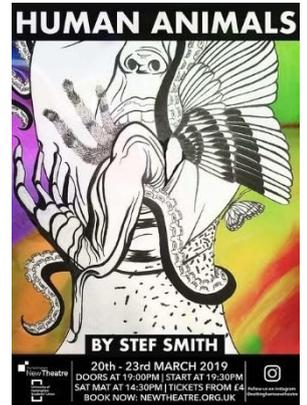


The Nottingham
New Theatre

Quarantine Proposals
Pack 2020



Committee 2020/21

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A note from your Coordinators:

Hello! Little did we know that when putting our names down to coordinate the 2020/21 seasons of shows at NNT that we'd face an artistically crippling pandemic. However, this coordinator team is not one to back off. Instead of waiting for the theatres to reopen to put on shows, our creative frustrations have become too inflated to ignore and put to waste. Although we are realistic about the circumstances, we are just as ambitious as ever in these fairly surreal times, so we have decided to create an online season of shows for the summer months!

This "Quarantine Season" serves multiple functions; one of which being a contingency plan for the autumn season should social distancing measures still be in place. We would much rather have a foundation for the upcoming season rather than completely winging it. The Quarantine Season allows flexibility and enables us to know in greater detail what our limitations are and just how far we can push our ambitions for a cracking season. Whatsmore, I'm sure we'd all agree that these last few months have been a rather novel yet difficult time, so enabling us to provide an outlet would go a long way in releasing our collective creative frustrations. We realise that this has the potential to be a really fulfilling process, and think that it is undoubtedly worth trying to recreate and adapt our standard process to the current circumstances.

Most of all, we all just want to have a bit of fun as well. We believe that this process has the potential to be incredibly rewarding, not only for the actors involved, but also for the aspiring writer, the imaginative video designers and editors, and the inquisitive member who wants to learn new skills without having the same kind of intense pressure found in a normal production process.

We are no different. This is a brand new process for us as well, so naturally this will be a bit of a learning curve. Mistakes may be made, but we feel it's

best that we learn from our mistakes now so we can go into next season understanding more wholly what we can and can't do. Rest assured that we are completely behind this and will consistently support the process to the best of our ability.

Although these are fairly unusual circumstances, you could feasibly perceive this as a free trial to perfect our process before putting it on properly next year. So if you have been doing your own writing, get involved. If you have been playing around with Photoshop or iMovie, get involved. Even if you just need a project to keep you occupied for the time being, GET INVOLVED!

Don't be afraid to drop any of us a message if you have any questions!

Your humble coordinators,

Jake, Jack and Caitie

xxx

Summer Quarantine Season 2020 – IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal Dates:

Autumn:

Forms Deadline – 01/07/20
Proposals – 04/07/20

Launches and Auditions:

Season Launch – 08/07/20
Auditions – 09/07/20 to 10/07/20
Recalls – 11/07/20
Casting – 12/07/20

Upload Dates:

Slot 1 – 29/07/20
Slot 2 – 05/08/20
Slot 3 – 12/08/20
Slot 4 – 19/08/20
Slot 5 – 26/08/20
Slot 6 – 02/09/20

We expect complete show footage to be sent to fringe@newtheatre.org.uk **at least 2 days** prior to your allocated upload date.

We advise that all filming is completed **at least 9 days** prior to your upload date to allow the editing team sufficient working time.

Any publicity material (posters, trailers etc.) should be sent to publicity@newtheatre.org.uk **at least 9 days** prior to your upload date so they can be posted on the main NNT pages.

THE PROPOSALS PROCESS

The aim of this pack is to show you all of the necessary requirements that will need to be fulfilled in order for your production team to make a proposal to the Nottingham New Theatre. It will guide you through filling out the form and how the proposals day works.

In order to submit a proposal you must make sure that you have:

- Have completed all sections of the proposals form
- Have sent the form to the relevant coordinator by midnight on the Wednesday before proposals (dates above)

For this Season we have taken the decision to **not provide shows with a budget for rights**. This is for a number of reasons, the primary of which being the current pandemic limiting the theatre's revenue and our desire to encourage student written pieces. Because of this the shows on offer to you are either ones that are written by members of the NNT, shows in the public domain or any show that you can negotiate getting the rights for for free (although we anticipate this to be a difficult process).

General Advice For Proposing:

- **Speaking to the relevant committee members is vital for your proposal. It will work against you if there is a fault/something unfeasible in your form and you haven't spoken to the relevant committee member.**
- There is no such thing as a stupid question! It is much better that you ask the committee if you have any queries (as opposed to guessing what the answer might be).
- If you are unsure who to talk to, the season coordinators can point you to the correct member of committee for your question.

PROPOSALS FORMS (A HOW TO GUIDE):

This section will break down each section of the proposals form and show you what is expected of you in each question.

- All production teams must have submitted a typed proposal form to the relevant coordinator by midnight on the Wednesday before proposals (see key dates).
- Handwritten proposals will not be accepted.
- Word counts are approximates and guidelines.
- If you would like to see an example form, please contact the relevant coordinator.
- The key to filling out a proposals form is to be as detailed as possible whilst still remaining clear and succinct.
- It is completely okay to not be certain on all ideas – please don't be afraid to include a few different ideas for things such as costume or editing in your form.
- The form should be treated as an application to the theatre and is a chance for you to justify why you want to put your play on.
- The best advice for the form is to be prepared to justify all of the decisions you make. It is great to push yourself but being aware of your own limitations too.
- Forms will be shared in their entirety with all other proposing teams. If you would like to redact any creative aspects from your form from other teams, such as plot spoilers, you must speak to the relevant coordinator first. A complete form must still be submitted alongside a redacted version. Any redactions made without permission will be ignored.

FORM SECTIONS

Key Information

This is simply a list of the key elements of your proposal and production.

- Please make sure the mobile numbers in the section are accurate and workable as this is how we will contact you to tell you the outcome of the proposals
- A good way to approximate run time is by pages of script where 1 page of script correlates to 1 minute of stage time.
- We ask if you are happy for your form to be shared with other teams for the sake of transparency and to help eliminate any doubt of committee bias. If you allow your form to be shared, you will be given access to all of the forms being proposed with teams who have also said that they are willing to share forms. If you opt out of sharing your form, please also provide a reason as to why you are opting out of the form share. It is worth noting that by not sharing your form, you may not have access to the forms that have been shared by other teams.

Synopsis

This is the first opportunity to sell your show to the committee. This will also be the synopsis that is used to advertise your show to the membership if your proposal is successful. The best way to think about this is if your production was a book, this would be the back page blurb.

Plot Summary

It is very important to provide a brief summary of the play's plot. A scene-by-scene breakdown is suggested but if your play does not have traditional scenes then it is okay to use your own judgement on how to present this. We advise that you be succinct in this section but please make sure you highlight the key areas of the story so that a complete understanding of the plot can be formed from this section.

Cast Breakdown

This is your chance to further introduce us to the characters in your play. It is important that these are written well and that percentage

stage/speaking times are as accurate as possible as this information will be presented to the membership at auditions. The best way to work out percentage stage time is to calculate how many pages of the script each character appears on. Similarly, percentage speaking time is best calculated by counting individual lines of the script. This is also a place to highlight which (if any) characters are gender-bent/gender neutral or multirole parts.

Welfare

It is advisable that you have a plan of action as to how you will make sure that difficult elements of your play are treated sensitively. Consider both the depictions of certain topics as well as any overarching discussions or themes that the play presents. Also consider the levels and intensities of these elements - for example whether violence is slapstick or realistic - as this will alter how welfare is addressed within the production.

In this section, also outline if there are any physical as well as mental and emotional welfare considerations within your play (e.g. how you would maintain actors' safety during rehearsals on physically strenuous sections, such as lifts).

Welfare issues need to be considered from different perspectives as the response to problems could differ between groups (for example, cast, crew and audience welfare may all be handled in very different ways).

We advise that you talk to the Secretary or the relevant coordinator if there are any possible welfare issues.

Interpretations

This section is so that you can tell us why you want to put on this play: why this play is important to you, what you want it to say to the audiences of NNT, your specific directorial choices for the style of the show, or any other information that you think is crucial. It is largely up to you what you focus

on when answering these questions. The committee wants to see why you are passionate about the show and why it is good for NNT.

Key Challenges

For this section we are looking for show specific issues that may arise throughout the production process. You can choose to answer this question how you see fit and highlight the parts that you consider necessary. The nature of these challenges will differ greatly between shows and could be about style, rehearsals, themes etc.

Upload Slot Allocation

If your show is successful in proposals, you will be offered a slot. These slots are non-negotiable and so it is vital that you only list slots you can commit to. We cannot guarantee that you will be given your first choice slot so it is worth considering your preference order carefully. The amount of slots that you can do will not impact your play being successful so don't worry about only being able to do a limited number of dates. Please ensure that you review how your preferred upload date relates to deadlines for filmed content and a finished piece.

Design Ideas

It is good to get creative in this section as you are explaining the aesthetics of your play. You are welcome to include a range of ideas but it is advisable to include reasons and justifications. It is a good idea to include pictures and drawings and also to ensure this aligns with your overall interpretation.

Editing

For proposals it is not expected that teams will have detailed technical knowledge however some understanding of the limitations of what one can do are useful, especially online.

After the initial filming period, you and your team will need to edit your film via software such as iMovie or Movie Maker. We will be adding an

editor role to the production team, so the job will not fall solely on your shoulders, however you will be expected to keep up and have a part in the editing process to ensure that communication is strong and the outcome of the production is of a decent standard.

Publicity

It is important that you have considered target audiences for your show and how you will attract them. A fully realised poster design and marketing plan is not necessary, merely an understanding of who you wish to attract and how you will do it. You should think about possible university societies you could contact or any social media campaigns you could run to market your show, this could include personalised profile pictures and show trailers.

Creative Team

If you have recruited any creative team members before proposals, please list their names and what position they will hold. An additional member may be added to your team if your show is successful. We ask that you have an idea of where this team member will be most useful to your show. Please note that the role of a stage manager has been reformed and is now a compulsory position in every In-House show. You are permitted to pre-assign one, otherwise a stage manager will be attached to your show post-season launch. For more information please attend the Proposal Advice Meeting and contact the Company Stage Manager.

Most shows will be assigned either Shadow or Assistant production team members (directors/producers). It is completely up to you if you would prefer Shadow or Assistant team members. Shadow team members are there to learn about the production team roles. They tend to want a more passive, observer role in rehearsals and during show week. Assistant team members take a more active role in the putting on of the show and can be used to help develop the show.

HOW PROPOSALS WORK:

Each show being proposed will be allocated a 15 minute slot on the Saturday of proposals where the director and producer will have a chance to discuss their form with the whole committee. The session takes on a round table, Q&A format. You may be asked to prepare and deliver a short (max 3 minute) speech about your show.

The allocations of proposal slots will be dependent on how many shows are being proposed. The relevant coordinator will contact each team to allocate a time. If you have a specific time requirement due to other commitments then please let the coordinator know when submitting the form.

Proposals will be conducted on zoom, please ensure that you have the software downloaded before proposals day. You will receive a link to the meeting at the start of the day. We ask that all proposing teams join the meeting at least 10 minutes before your allocated slot where you will wait in the zoom waiting room and be let into the meeting at the start of your slot.

There is no real way to prepare for the questions other than being able to justify your decisions. The most important tip is to keep calm and try and be as confident as possible. Everyone on committee knows how nerve-wracking proposals is and they aren't looking to trip you up! It is also important to take it seriously and answer the questions truthfully.

Following your proposal, it is essential that both director and producer keep their phones on at all times. Usually committee discussions run late into the evening before a final decision is made but you may receive a call at any point in the day so stick to your phone.

Every production team will be called once the final decision has been made regardless of whether they are successful or not. Successful teams

will be rang first so that they can confirm their slot and the season can be 'locked in'. If you are a successful team but we are unable to get hold of you this may result in you forfeiting your show and the slot will be allocated to another team. This is rare but has happened so keep your phones charged and on loud.

All other teams will then also be phoned. Unsuccessful teams will be sent written feedback about their proposal by Monday. If the team wishes, the relevant coordinator will be happy to make a meeting time for a zoom feedback meeting on the Monday or Tuesday before the season launch. Successful teams will also be given written feedback and the option of a zoom meeting but this is less urgent and may be given later in the season.