

Holmdel Theatre Company

Play Reading Series

Welcome to the Holmdel Theatre Company!! We are happy to have you as part of our monthly Play Reading Series. Our Play Reading Series is a forum where new works are given their first voice and established works are sampled just for fun or for possible inclusion in future seasons as main stage productions. Evenings consist of a play reading performance followed by a lively audience discussion. Admission is free and coffee is served.

Some helpful information is included below. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at info@holmdeltheatrecompany.org.

- **PERFORMANCES** - All readings are performed on the first Monday of every month at 7pm.
- **REHEARSALS** - The barn is open for one reading rehearsal on the Sunday evening before the performance after 6pm. Any additional rehearsals that are required must take place at another location. Please have your entire cast available for the barn rehearsal.
- **CASTING** - We encourage directors to cast their readings from their own pool of talent. We especially encourage bringing new actors into the Holmdel Theatre Company. Of course, we are always here to provide help with casting should you need it. Please feel free to use members of the Actors' Equity Association. In order to comply with union rules, no costumes may be worn during the performance and you may not rehearse for more than 20 hours in one week.
- **PLEASE STAND WHEN POSSIBLE** - We find that the mere act of standing during play readings brings increased energy into the performances and engages our audiences. One effective system to adopt is to have actors sit when their characters are off stage and stand when they are on stage. It helps the audience more easily visualize the production. Of

course we understand that every play is different and you may have some unique staging ideas. We encourage our directors to use their own discretion when it comes to staging.

- **MUSIC STANDS** - The Holmdel Theatre Company has six (6) music stands for use in readings. We ask directors to secure any extra stands they may require. If this is not an option, please let us know.
- **LENGTH** - Please try to keep the performance to two (2) hours or less.
- **TECHNICAL** - Due to the nature of the black box space and the varying schedules of our main stage productions, we regret that we cannot guarantee board operators, stage lights, a sound system, or even a stage! We can guarantee and clean and safe place to perform, but please be prepared for the possibility of performing your reading under house lights in front of a set midway through construction.
- **PROGRAMS** - We do not print programs for readings, however we do serve coffee for our audience!
- **TALK BACK** - One of the wonderful things about the reading is that we encourage a post-performance talk back between the audience, cast and director. Please be prepared to lead this discussion.
- **PROMOTIONS** - The HTC will promote the reading through our website, an email to our mailing list and through postings on our Facebook page. We encourage our directors to create Facebook events. We will be sure to link to your event through our website and emails. Please write a one paragraph summary of your play and send along with your cast list to info@holmdeltheatrecompany.org one week before your reading for use in promotions.

Thank you!! Looking forward to having you at the barn!