

Season 2026 – Proposal Submission Guidelines

About the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild

The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild ('the Guild') is a not-for-profit community-based amateur theatre company located at the University of Adelaide's North Terrace campus. The Guild is the second oldest amateur theatre company in South Australia having celebrated its 85th anniversary in 2023. This longevity in itself is exceptional but what is remarkable about the Guild is the pivotal role it has and continues to play in the development of both amateur and professional theatre in Adelaide and in Australia. Since 2017, the Guild has a dedicated Student Society who are responsible for their own productions throughout the season.

The Guild's productions are regularly nominated for (and often win) a range of prestigious awards within Adelaide's amateur theatre circles. The Guild prides itself on the quality of all productions, and given its strong link with a globally recognised education institution, places particular importance on supporting student-led productions, and fostering a learning environment through workshops and other events. It is the Guild's intent that each season reflects an enduring focus on our strengths, the courage to embrace the obscure, support modern Australian playwrights, and a willingness to work with new talent from our wonderful city.

About our Venue

Guild productions normally take place in the University's Little Theatre, which is located on the ground floor of Union House in The Cloisters. Arguably one of Adelaide's finest small theatres, this intimate 120-seat venue has the audience arranged in a semi-circle on three sides of the main playing arena. There is also an upstage balcony playing area (the "Actors' Gallery"). The Little Theatre is a unique space that celebrated its 50th birthday in 2024.



Access to the Little Theatre for evening and weekend rehearsals is dependent on the availability of the space. Where possible, rehearsals occur in the theatre itself. Alternative rooms on the North Terrace campus are used when the theatre is not available. Bump-in normally occurs one week prior to opening night. Bump-out occurs immediately after a show closes.

All directors and stage managers should complete the required induction for Security access.

About our Repertoire

Historically, the Guild has set no pre-conditions about repertoire and likes to take a 'something for everybody' approach when putting together a Season. The table below outlines a range of production types and a brief description for each.

Potential Directors are asked to consider these guidelines when submitting proposals. Of course, some creative licence with the interpretation of these guidelines is encouraged and discussion regarding new and exciting ideas is very much welcome.

Type of Production	Description / Vision
Major Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two-week show run, typically 8 nights, inc. at least 2 matinees - Curriculum driven, mainstream plays or popular classics, or - Newer plays, exciting, edgy, something you might not see anywhere else. - Timeslot to suit larger audiences including school groups, historically May, August and October/November.
Student Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Theatre Guild Student Society production - Limited show run, typically 3 or 4 nights - Age relevant content - Exclusively student led in terms of direction, production, cast, crew, etc. - Timeslot to suit student calendar.
Play Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited show run, typically a one-off or 2 nights maximum - Open content, opportunity to 'test' a play's suitability for major production - Low-key, low-cost event - No setting required; can be online
Creative Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited show run, typically 1 day or 1-2 nights - Support of technical education workshops, new writing, 24-hour theatre, etc. - Flexible timeslot based on theatre availability and associated events

About the Selection Criteria

The development of these guidelines does not mean the Guild will select and perform one of every production type. Typically, the Guild will select 3 or 4 Major Productions each calendar year. First time directors are encouraged to submit.

The choice of plays will be determined by the Programming Committee based on the following criteria:

- Fit with the Guild's repertoire guidelines
- A complementary season
- Audience appeal
- Availability of performing rights
- Director's ability to bring own crew (stage management, design, costumes, props, lighting, sound, etc.)

A general note on Crew

Directors are encouraged to provide own crewmembers where possible. However, the Guild is building a database of volunteers and will do its best to help fill vacancies.

About the Process

Potential Directors are requested to complete the required online form when submitting proposals for the 2025 season.

All 2026 proposals to be received by midnight Friday 28 February 2025.

Directors can submit multiple proposals and should state an order of preference. Any constraints regarding timeframes should be outlined as part of the submission process. Directors may be asked to make a (informal) presentation in person to the Board before final decisions are made.

Auditions

Directors should hold **open auditions for all roles**. If pre-casting is required, the Guild is happy to discuss options. Everyone participating in Guild productions are required to be members of the Theatre Guild before the start of rehearsals. Auditions typically take place up to 1 year prior to the production opening date.

Further information

The Theatre Guild Board is happy to discuss proposals with interested directors, and to talk more about the Guild itself. We can be contacted via email: theatreguild@adelaide.edu.au

Expressions of Interest can be submitted, together with electronic copies of all scripts proposed, to the Guild via email: theatreguild@adelaide.edu.au

What happens next

Submissions close 28 February 2025.

All proposals, and all scripts, will be read by our Programming Committee. They will meet regularly to discuss and decide on a short list based on the criteria above.

Shortlisted directors will be asked to come in and chat with the board about their proposal in further detail.

The board has final approval on play selections. Successful directors will be contacted and auditions will be scheduled.