

Welcome to THE FRONT PORCH PLAYS.

What is THE FRONT PORCH PLAYS PROJECT?

The Front Porch Plays is an evening of socially-distanced micro-theatre performed in yards and viewed from the safety of your front porch.

Why THE FRONT PORCH PLAYS?

The Front Porch Plays Project was created to offer communities an opportunity to safely gather while enjoying the communal experience of live theatre.

What are The Front Porch Plays?

The Front Porch Plays are a collection of FOUR monologues performed live in FIFTEEN MINUTES. When you produce The Front Porch Plays you will receive eight monologues. Choose the four monologues that best serve your community and your actors.

Why only four?

Because each performance should run under 15 minutes.

Why only fifteen minutes?

Because you want to leave them wanting more. Also, people are going to be outside, possibly standing and it's going to be hot. Keeping the performances short also allows you to do multiple performances in an evening as you move from house to house. I recommend no more than five performances in one night.

Where should we perform THE FRONT PORCH PLAYS?

Identify neighborhoods in your community and focus on one or two each evening. You want the houses to be close together so that the travel time in-between performances is minimal.

How do we find an audience?

Start small. Reach out to your community. Create a sign up that can be shared. Once people sign up then you can create an itinerary that allows you to travel from place to place efficiently.

How big should our audience be?

No more than TEN people should congregate at any performance. Households can invite people outside their household, but if so, require masks and no more than ten people at a time. This will also make the experience more intimate. Remember, you're going to be outside so you don't want the performances to get lost in a crowd.

Every show needs music, right?

I think so. Recruit a guitar player who can play a simple intro, as well as music to bridge the transitions. Seriously, it will make all the difference. They don't need to play for long – no more than a minute at the top of the show and no more than 30 seconds during transitions.

How do we rehearse?

Schedule Zoom/Facetime rehearsals to read through each piece and talk about the work, then another rehearsal to run it once the actor is off book. The great thing about this is that everyone can rehearse on their own and the time commitment is minimal. The pieces are relatively short, so keep it simple. When you're ready, gather your cast in a big, outdoor space, and run everything with music.

How do you travel from house to house?

Each actor drives in their own car in order to maintain social distancing. Of course, this is up to the individuals involved, but please do everything possible to keep everyone healthy and safe. Meet at a central location before the first reading and caravan over. Audiences love to see the cars parading up to their house.

What about sets and costumes?

You don't need them. In the spirit of site-specific theatre, each piece takes place in a yard. Each character is talking to someone on a front porch. Actors should wear what makes the comfortable.

Who wrote THE FRONT PORCH PLAYS?

Me. Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder. The plays were a huge hit in my community, and I want to share them with other people. There is no royalty due as long as the performances in your community are free, or the show is produced to benefit a non-profit theatre company or another non-profit or cause that is in need of support. All I ask is that you give me credit in any publicity.

Still interested?

Email egw@wilderwriting.net to request the script.

www.wilderwriting.net
egw@wilderwriting.net