# Direction: Considerations for Selecting a Show

*Or what a director goes through to pick shows each year.*

**Rights-** The first thing you have to check is whether or not the rights are even available. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself “Is this show currently on Broadway?” If the answer is yes it usually means the rights are not available. So NO we cannot do *Book of Mormon, Wicked, Hamilton*, or *Mean Girls*. There are a few licensing companies that hold the rights to shows.

* To find out who holds rights to a show and if they are available you would google {show name licensing rights}

**Major Expenses:** Does this show have any major expenses? Do you need a massive set? Do you need to rent expensive equipment (such as a fly system)? In this part of the process you would want to make a quick budget to have an idea if its within reason.

**Creative Requirements:** Are they realistic within the space you have? You would want to already have a plan here if the show is going to be difficult to stage at your venue. Is this going to be difficult to light or costume?

**Casting Needs:** Do you have the personnel to cast the show? You will want to look at the male to female ratio and how many leads there are. You will also want to look at the racial make-up of the cast. Is race important to the story telling (think *Hairspray* or *The Color Purple*)? Are the communities you want to cast involved in theatre?

**Content:** Is the content appropriate for your community? You may also want to consider the types of show you have done in the past. Should you do a family show for the community? Each community is going to be different with the reception of a show- but you don’t want to “burn the community bridge” meaning you would not want to lose patrons. Do you need to get approval from someone before selecting shows? I get approval from Mr. Bounds and the LDA Board.

**Social Issues:** Does this tackle an issue within your community? Is it important to you to address social issues? Some shows are for pure entertainment- and that’s ok. It is important to know your audience and to think about the messages you are providing.

**Your Team:** Is your whole creative team excited about this show? Will your current cast be excited about the show? It helps to have your team on board- to be honest this is the most difficult step.