

Production Committee Report September 2023

The production committee had a brief meeting to set the groundwork for the technical needs of the Holiday concert series. All committee members as well as Dillon Beede, Artistic Director, were in attendance.

Working from the outline created by Dillon, for Bring on the holi-daze, it was decided to break the meeting topics into 4 broad areas: structure, sets, props, and costumes.

Based on the structure that had been developed, it was suggested that Steve do the financial acknowledgements before we start the main body of the concert as was done this past spring. After the opening number, *Sparklejollytwinklejingley*, Paul would do an audience welcome and introduce Dillon to the audience as our new artistic director. Dillon would then do the show introductions and we would progress onward. While debating what to do with the other breaks in the concert, the idea developed to set the concert as though it were a late 1950s/early 60s Christmas TV special. We could then utilize the three written in breaks in the concert structure to have specific “commercials” that would address the various asks that are needed for the fundraising portion of the concert. It was suggested that one of the breaks actually be scripted as a period commercial just to create a diversion for the audience and so they won't think that every time the concert shifts, we are going to ask them for something. Some other possibilities that were discussed to create this studio image were to see if we could borrow old style microphones, to check with Theatre Harrisburg if they had the prop TV camera from the 50s still, that we might utilize one or two of the singers as stage managers with headsets, another singer could possibly be the online announcer or we could discuss with Dan Snyder, our sound technician, about pre-recording the commercial intros.

It was thought that we should have small “sets” to help give the impression of different scenes in the TV show. After a bit of discussion, the suggestion was made that we might try to create periaktoi style set pieces; 3-sided triangular picture flats that can be easily rotated to create a fresh look. We also discussed the possibility of creating tree cut outs, looking to see if we could locate silver tinsel trees with colored wheel lights, as well as wrapped boxes that looks like presents. Additional props that we know for certain we will need are a set of Jingle Bells, and horse

collar sleigh bells. Paul will check with Adam to see if he has any of these at Penn State. We also decided that for the final set of songs we incorporate the battery-operated candles that we have in storage.

Costumes were the biggest portion of our discussion; trying to find simple items that could be rapidly changed in full view of the audience. It was decided that the basic look for the concert would be black trousers (formal slash/formal?) and long sleeve red or green T-shirts which are in stock. For the opening song, singers would use elf hats, again in stock. During the introduction they would remove the elf hats and put on ugly Christmas sweaters for the first set. During the commercial break, singers would remove the sweaters and add red or green Blazers. These would stay on then for the rest of the concert with other smaller pieces added or mixed in with the Blazers and the T-shirts. Some of the small pieces would be scarves and caps for *L'Hivre* (stock) oversized handkerchiefs for *Cold and Fugue Season*, tutus for six potential dancers for the *Sugar Plum Fairy Funk*, and possibly, an Elvis costume for *Blue Christmas*.

Some discussion continued around what would be needed to transport so many items with multiple locations as well as the possibility of adding any stage lighting at each of the locations. Paul was charged with contacting Dan Snyder to discuss the possibility of pre-recording as well as contacting Mark Simpson to ask about lighting possibilities at Heidelberg. He will also check inventory to get costume numbers of items as well as pricing blazers. Dillon and Steve were charged with working with the evening structure and roughing out talking points for the various commercials. Steve will also talk to his husband, Jefferson, about painting the periaktoi. Lawrence is going to see about the development of show graphics.

At this point several members had to leave for additional appointments and the meeting was adjourned until next month when we will try to flesh-out the ideas for the holiday concert as well as lay the groundwork for the Anti-Valentine cabaret.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul R Foltz
Chair