

Showstoppers Production Slots

Fresher's Show

This is the time that the Fresher's have the chance to get involved in the society and to show us what they can do. With a short rehearsal period (performing late November/early December) is it a fantastic way for the new intake to learn the ropes of the society as well as to meet others who are in the same boat. The show choice is normally one with a reasonable sized cast so that we can get as many individuals involved as possible (around 30 people). This show rehearses on the same days as Small Show. This is so those in both shows can still be in the biggest show – Spring Show. Previous Fresher Shows include 'Grease', and Jason Robert Brown's '13'

Small Show

This is the chance for those shows with a small cast to perform. Anyone can audition for this show – including Fresher's (although only advisable if they are confident with their work load). This shows rehearsal process is a little longer than the Fresher's show and performs early February right after the January exams. The cast size of this show can be as small as the show demands but probably no larger than 15. Previous shows have included 'RENT', 'Little Shop of Horrors' and 'Fresher: The Musical'.

Spring Show

Spring Show normally has the largest sized cast; again, anyone can audition for this show – in fact more the merrier. That is because this is the show that gets the chance to pitch for The Nuffield. Every year, The Nuffield Theatre (Southampton) allows a week's slot in their calendar for a show put on by Showstoppers, Theatre Group, LopSoc or Dance gets the Nuffield slot if decided by the PA committee. The Showstoppers committee decide if it's financially viable to put forward a show for this pitch, but it is then entirely down to the production team if they want to go for the pitch. If the show is successful then it will be taken forward as The Nuffield show, however if none of the pitches are, then Showstoppers will hold their own pitches to decide which show will get their Spring Show slot in The Annex. This show takes place towards the end of March. Previous shows include 'Sunday in the Park with George', 'Parade' and 'Guys and Dolls'.

Summer Show

Summer Show takes place at the end of April/beginning of May. This is the show where pretty much anything goes – you can have fun with it. There is no strict ruling on what the show should be or how big the cast should be therefore, any show could be pitched. It is one of the most intense rehearsal

periods as the cast are normally expected to return to University a week early in the Easter holidays for their intensive week, as the show runs the first week back at Easter. Previous shows have been 'Spring Awakening', 'Fame' and 'Merrily We Roll Along'.

The 24 Hour Show

This is a charity event held by Showstoppers. Pitches are held by the new committee and the chosen show is normally decided before the end of term exams. Once the show is chosen by the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, it is down to these members and the production team to keep as quiet as possible. This show is kept a secret right the way through auditions and until 5pm on the Saturday of the first day of rehearsals. At this point, the cast are then told the show and are given their rehearsal schedule – which goes right through the night! The cast work continuously until around 2pm on the Sunday. The tech run then takes place and the first show performs at 5pm and the second at 8pm. This all takes place after the end of term and before graduation to ensure that any student who would like to be involved can be. The production team who pitches for this slot needs to be extremely organised and tight as a team as 24 hours is not a very long time therefore every minute should be used wisely. The show which is chosen is likely to be well known as it is a bonus if the cast know some of the music before hand.

The Nuffield Show

Each year the main theatre on campus – The Nuffield – opens a slot for a SUSU society to put on a show there. Teams from Showstoppers, Theatre Group, LopSoc and Dance are allowed to pitch for this slot. The slot takes place around the same time as our Spring Show therefore if a Showstoppers show was to win The Nuffield slot then this would be our main show. If a showstoppers show was unsuccessful at the pitch then the society holds separate pitches for The Annex.

As it is in The Nuffield, it tends to be a show with a big name to attract audience members. The Nuffield is a large theatre so Showstoppers can't rely solely on friends and family to fill it. It also should have a large cast size to ensure that the society is getting the most out of this opportunity.

The Nuffield pitch is not always financially viable for the society and it is up to the committee to decide if it is affordable on a year by year basis.

Independent Shows

These can be pitched by a production team at any point throughout the year, simply get in touch with committee to arrange a suitable time. They have no restrictions at all - the cast can be any size and the show can be whatever

sort of show you like. These do not have to take place in the Annex, and should therefore not require significant amounts of tech.

Funding an independent show works slightly differently to our other shows. You must work with the treasurer to submit a self-sufficient budget (one that breaks even without any Showstoppers contribution) to committee for approval, as well as a written pitch. Any further expenditure is at the production team's discretion and risk, so if you want to spend more than you have budgeted for then you do so accepting that you may make a personal loss. Any profits will go to Showstoppers' Independent Fund, which will allow us to contribute more to future independent shows.