

Excerpts from the ebook...

PLAYS in DAYS

**A Fun, Focused Set of Helpful Tools
for the Busy Church Drama Director**

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From the Preface...

Plays in Days – Preface

Is the story of your life as a director anything like mine?



There I was, stumbling into rehearsal with a giant plastic tub loaded with a stack of scripts (to replace all those lost by my actors over the last two months of rehearsal - Gee, only two more months to go. Yippee!), a three-hole punch (with that annoying plastic bottom thing that keeps falling off and strewing little white circle-dots everywhere) and a bunch of brightly colored, empty three-ring binders (for the cast to put their scripts in so they can't POSSIBLY lose them this time). Pens, hi-lighters, bottles of water, snacks, some youth group kid's lost hoodie (with remnants of *last* week's rehearsal snacks smeared on it) filled the bottom half of the tub. Complete the overloaded picture with several half made props, a (poorly constructed) costume sample or two, to-do lists, reminders, and notes-to-self on fast food napkins. I had enough tales of exhaustion, frustration, and disappointment to fill a book.

Perhaps you could fill a book with stories like that yourself.

Or maybe you're new at this. You are considering starting a drama ministry or theater group but you're a little worried you will meet with frustration and too many demands on time you don't really have to spare.

This book and our corresponding website are filled with tested ideas and tools that suggest a fresh approach to doing a play that we hope will encourage, uplift, inspire, and convince you that it doesn't have to be like I described it above. Whether you are just starting out or you need a little help transforming a tiring and overwhelming drama ministry into a fruitful teamwork experience that glorifies the Author of All Creativity – this set of tools is for you. Use that great creative imagination of yours to have fun, get it done, praise the Son, and look forward to the next one!

From Chapter 5...

Chapter 5

To the Diligent, Devoted Director

"Semper Paratus!" US Coast Guard Motto - "Always Prepared."

The great news is that the key to having a successful Plays in Days production is...YOU! Yep - You're the first string key player and it's yours to win. But unlike a sporting event, nobody is ever going to blow the whistle and yell, "Substitution!" because there is no substitute for you on this one. The nice thing is, you can determine how much time you'll take, you can prepare as many weeks ahead of time as you want and spend as many hours on it as you need, and all without taking up the time of one single other person, or worrying about coordinating their schedules with yours. You can be flexible scheduling your time and effort. You have autonomy over the whole thing.



KEY POINT

The preparedness, diligence, and focus of the director are the things that make this system work.

You're probably one of those people who takes a lot on your shoulders anyway and that's why everybody loves you and wants you to be their director. So why not let that diligence be the character trait that brings you success now? The best thing you can do for yourself, your sanity, and your own enjoyment of the production process is to be like the US Coast Guard (or the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts) and "Be Prepared." Okay, you can stop saluting now.

From Chapter 9...

Chapter 9 **Production Pizazz!**



“There’s no business like show business like no business I know!” -
Annie Oakley in Irving Berlin’s *Annie, Get Your Gun*

Soundtracks – The Sparkle on Your Gem

An old, out of tune piano is being played in a smoke-filled western saloon, when suddenly, a scruffy-bearded cowboy, dressed all in black, snarl on his lips, hands hovering over his six-shooters, kicks open the squeaky saloon door. (Piano music changes to an anxious song in a minor key) “I’m lookin’ for the fella that shot my Pa,” snarls Jake. “I aim ta even up the score.” Duhn, Duhn, Duhn...

Let’s face it – We have come to expect movies, television, and video games to be enhanced by sound effects and music. Think about the last time you saw a commercial, movie, or TV show that had only dialogue and no music or other sound effects. The omission of these things is only done for

effect on rare occasions, so it is obvious to say that music and sound has become an integral part of show business of any kind.



“But I’m no musician,” you say, “and we don’t have people at our church who can do that sort of thing.” Don’t

Worry – You don’t have to do it yourself!