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**HINTS ON HOW TO WRITE A TECH SHOW**

Wellesley J. Seligman Points Out Some Methods of Procedure.

No one can tell you how to write a show. This idea is not original, but has been stated by many well-known playwrights over and over again. The best that I can do is to explain the needs of the Tech Show in the way of a book, and to give you three little tips. 

1. **Study your audience.** 
2. **Study your material.** 
3. **Tell a story.**

These three little hints are all you need to write a book for any production, professional or amateur. Let me explain:

- **The first tip:** I dislike to call them rules or principles) needs little explanation. Who are you going to play to? What do they like in the first place? As an example, one of these parts is to get your audience, no matter how dramatic a form it may take.

- **Quoting from my own experience,** I can say that Mr. Vose and myself outlived at least eleven shows last summer at work last summer, all of which were discarded simply because we did not have the material to produce one of them. This one could cost too much, but one was too difficult to other was not the type of book that is repaired by Tech Show, and so it was discarded. Remember this. It is much better to play your feminine roles, so subtle shies of parts according to whatever possible. Get an idea of what your book will cost and see if the show can afford it. Stick to "stock scenery" and "stock costumes." Avoid if possible modern feminine costumes especially, as these have to be made up, are most expensive, and are most apt to fall short in appearance. Watch your "side props," or the list of articles used during the play. Do not call for elaborate settings as all these things have to be hired by the show.

- **Lastly, tell a story.** At first glance it seems absurd to tell you this, but in reality this is the hardest point to make and, is the substance of over half of the thousands of volumes written on play-writing.

The Tech Show is a musical production, and the question at once presents itself as to how, when, and where to introduce your musical numbers. Although it is true that shows have been written around a musical synopsis, I believe the proper method is to plan your story first, then your musical synopsis, and then write them together.

Make the story as farcical as possible; that is, put the humor in the situation rather than in the lines. The best type of story is one in which one factor, usually headed by the hero, is working against another factor to accomplish certain things. Farcical situations are best obtained by having someone appear to be, or be mistaken for, someone else. After deciding on the main idea, see that it divides up into acts and scenes, and is not too long, or too short. Avoid explanatory dialogue, and always tell a thing by the audience by stage business rather than by lines. Make it mapppy, and as easy and natural as possible. Remember this: An audience is judging your play simply applied it or condemn it without thinking it is easy or difficult to do. As far as "stage technique" goes, I do not believe that a writer of a Tech Show needs to know LIFE from a "second hand," but if you want a reference I would suggest "Principles of Playwriting," by Hennemann.

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**WELLESLEY J. SELIGMAN**

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