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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Guilford Center Stage's 2026 season includes search for
2 short plays

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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 Guilford Center Stage (GCS) enters its second decade
7 with the traditional spring and fall productions at Broad Brook
8 Community Center.
9 The 2026 season opens the first weekend in May with
10 "Shorts," a program of small plays. The stage manager will be Sue
11 Kelly. Several works by regional playwrights are already in the
lineup, and the group welcomes script submissions until Jan. 23.

12 Plays of 8 to 10 pages are ideal, and a maximum of 12
13 minutes running time is suggested. Playwrights may submit PDFs
14 or Word documents to producer Don McLean at
15 don.inscape@gmail.com or use the address below to arrange to
16 deliver a hard copy.

17 Open auditions for actors for "Shorts" will be held in two
18 sessions: Thursday, Feb. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 7,
19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment is needed. Auditioners
20 may come unprepared, or have a short monologue ready, and
21 scenes from the short plays will be available for an impromptu
22 reading.

23 Auditions take place in the fully accessible upstairs
24 theater room of the Broad Brook Community Center at 3940
25 Guilford Center Rd., about 4 miles west of the Country Store.

26 GCS also welcomes interested theater tech people, who
27 either have, or want to learn, stage lighting and sound skills.
28 Those interested may contact the group at
29 don.inscape@gmail.com or show up at the auditions.

30 The season concludes on the first weekend in October.
31 Guilford playwright Michael Nethercott returns to GCS with a
32 new full-length play that blends the human experience with the
33 history of a particular small town: Guilford, Vermont.

34 Auditions for this play will be Thursday, July 30, from 6 to
35 8 p.m., and Saturday Aug. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m.

36 The 2026 productions are GCS's 16th and 17th, since its
37 founding as the resident theater company at the BBCC in 2015.
38 The group has made a mission of presenting the work of local
39 and regional playwrights.

40 Work by authors living elsewhere in Vermont have
41 included plays by Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Sinclair Lewis.

42 In 2016, GCS presented *A Battle of Wits* (1916), written
43 by Guilford native Charles W. Henry, who had also designed and
44 painted the scenic curtains and flats in 1900 for the stage at the
45 Community Center.

46 Current Guilford playwright Verandah Porche has also
47 been featured. This past fall, Vermont playwright-director Miles
48 Ledoux brought a pair of Agatha Christie mysteries to the stage.

49 The theater group has brought the occasional venture
50 into the mainstream, as well, with shows such as last year's *Love*
51 *Letters* and the 2023 production of Wilder's *Our Town*.

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