

CASTING

Frequently Asked Questions

Who makes the casting decisions?

The director, music director and the choreographer. These three staff members work together as a collaborative team. They begin to discuss and rate the audition participants as soon as each participant completes the audition process. This has to be done in order to initiate the Callback process. These staff members take home copies of the registration forms and continue to email and talk with to one another during the entire Callback process.

Who is responsible for making the final decision?

The director will make the final decision, especially if the three staff members cannot agree on a casting choice.

When is the casting meeting held and who attends this meeting?

The casting meeting is held after the last Callback. The following people attend this meeting: the director, the music director, the choreographer, and the production manager. Sometimes the choreographer does not attend this meeting and sometimes the stage manager does. A stage manager will attend this meeting if they have been present at the auditions and if the director has asked her to come.

What does the production manager do at the casting meeting?

The production manager keeps track of carpool requests, sibling requests, cast requests due to conflicts, and the amount of conflicts for each participant. The production manager also keeps the paper work organized as the two casts are formed, and will make any phone calls pertaining to conflict questions or role requests. If the stage manager is present they will also check requests and conflicts.

Why is the cast list usually posted two days after the casting meeting?

This two day period gives the director, the music director, the choreographer, the production manager and the web master the time to check for errors and omissions. This is particularly helpful when casting a large cast.

Who is in the room during auditions and callbacks?

Auditions and callbacks are closed. The director, the choreographer, the music director, the audition pianist (if someone different from the music director) and sometimes the stage manager can be in the room.

Do the production manager, stage manager or board members participate in any casting decisions?

No, they do not. The director, choreographer and music director are the only ones in the room during the auditions and callbacks so we rely upon their knowledge and expertise and trust them to make the right decisions

What is the director looking for in an ideal actor?

The ideal actor

- Is well prepared, with an appropriate monologue from a published source,
- Shows an understanding of the role and a commitment to the requirements of the role,
- Has a well-prepared, appropriate song in the correct key, with either sheet music or recorded music,
- Has a good attitude, accepts responsibility, and does not make excuses,
- Demonstrates maturity and the ability to stay focused and “on track” in spite of mistakes or other distractions,
- Gives 100% performance energy all of the time,
- Is willing to accept any role,
- Has few or no conflicts,
- Dresses appropriately for the audition, including movement clothes and shoes for the dance audition.

Things that can influence casting include:

- Training and experience
- Motivation and energy
- Attitude
- Being well prepared
- Choice of monologue and/or song
- Vocal range and singing ability
- Previous work with the Director, Music Director or Choreographer
- Matching the director's vision of the role
- Excessive conflicts
- Only accepting specific roles

How are final casting decisions made?

Final casting decisions are made based on the Director's vision of the show and the characters, the recommendations of the Music Director and Choreographer, carpool requests, and scheduled conflicts. While the Director has a certain vision of the show, casting may also be influenced by the specific actors that auditioned, and the requirements of certain roles (such as a singing role with a particularly high vocal range.) Because we double cast shows, the director is also trying to assemble two equally balanced casts in terms of age and experience.

How can I get feedback about my audition?

An actor may be able to request and schedule a small amount of time to talk about their audition with the Director, Music Director or Choreographer. As auditions tend to be emotionally charged, it is also recommended that the actor wait a week or so before requesting audition feedback in order to gain some emotional distance.