

# Auditions and Casting

## Auditions

An audition is part of the process of casting a production. We have always felt that the audition process is an important part of theater arts training since this is the primary way in which students learn how to present themselves. As a result of this process, whether a student is cast or not, a number of character traits are developed: hard work, discipline, commitment, and accepting disappointment.

Old Town Theatre has chosen to use the audition process versus simply casting all children in the production in order to further develop these important characteristics. In addition, our mission statement includes presenting a quality product to the community. This involves allowing directors to make choices that reflect their artistic opinions.

Auditions are a wonderful way for students to gain self-confidence and experience in performing in front of people. Students aged 8 to 17 are invited to audition, and they do not need previous theater experience to audition.

## The Casting Process

Casting a show is a complex process. We want to help you understand some of the factors that go into casting decisions. There are some things you can do absolutely nothing about which may have a bearing on casting. However, there are some things you can do that may affect the outcome of your (student's) audition.

**PREPARATION:** Prepare the best audition that you can. For callbacks, research the show and learn about the parts.

**BEHAVIOR:** Directors want to work with people who behave well. Don't harm your chances of being cast in a show by exhibiting poor behavior at auditions, callbacks or rehearsals.

**PARENTS:** This is also good advice for parents. Don't harm your student's chances by exhibiting poor character or behavior. Your behavior is also factored into difficult casting decisions.

**VOCAL TRAINING:** Voice classes and/or private voice instruction will help improve your (student's) vocal range and performance.

**DANCE TRAINING:** A lack of dance ability often keeps good singers and actors from getting parts in musical theater. Dance classes and/or dance instruction will improve your (student's) skills.

## How To Handle Disappointment

Anticipation, excitement, nervousness, and sometimes disappointment are all part of the process for students auditioning for theatre productions. With so many students auditioning and a limited number of roles, decisions are always extremely difficult for those casting the show.

There are three ways that students can react to disappointment. They can choose to give up and never try again; They can work hard to improve their skills and plan to come back and try again; They can choose to become involved through another role in the show.

How we react to disappointment is a tremendous test of character. Although disappointment is painful, it can bring about a new understanding of goals and what life has in store for you.

## Other Opportunities

Unfortunately, we are sometimes unable to cast every student who auditions for a show. The process is called cutting. We trim the cast to a size that fits the stage, fits the script, fits the number of available costumes, and fits the aesthetic of a particular show.

Cutting is painful for an artistic team, but it's especially difficult for the students who don't see their names on a cast list. If your student is cut, the role was simply not right for them this time. Cutting is not the end of the line. We offer a number of (age appropriate) positions with the show for students who want to train or assist in other areas, including costuming and makeup, sets and props, assistants to the Stage Manager and Director, wrangling and tech (lights and sound).

We do our best to help every student and their family navigate the highs and lows of casting. We want every student who is committed to the process to have a chance to succeed and shine. If your student auditions and isn't cast for the show, please look over our **Options to Acting Form** and encourage your student to participate.