

ABOUT THE CASTING PROCESS

All students registered for one of our productions is automatically in the show! The first class session, we read, sing, dance and so forth to get know the kids and try to cast them in the best "part" for them. Below are some details about this process.

Casting is a complex process for the Artistic Team. We would like to help you understand it, and make it a bit less formidable.

Some things are “fixed” – and you can’t do anything about them – height, coloring, overall “look”, vocal range, and the parts available in a given show.

Sizes of any previously built costumes sometimes also play a part in casting.

Some things depend on other people. What is the director’s vision of the cast should look on stage and in various parts? Who are the other people in the cast? Scale may determine who gets adult and child parts, etc.

Some things that you CAN do something about:

-PREPARATION: Prepare the best you can. Research the show/story and learn about the parts.

-BEHAVIOR: Directors want to work with people who behave well and are on task. Don’t affect your casting you having poor behavior at rehearsals, shows, the audition class, etc.

-VOCAL TRAINING: Taking voice lessons to improve your range, performance and ability to “sell” a song. Projection and enunciation are incredibly important in musical theater!!!

-DANCE TRAINING: Lack of dance ability often keeps good singers and actors from getting parts in musical theater. Keep learning and practicing. Move with energy!!

-READING: The audition class involves “cold-reading” from a script provided by the production staff. Be animated and confident, and show emotion appropriate to the script and character you are asked to read. (You may be asked to read a number of different characters.)

A Great Attitude will make your audition GREAT!!! DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT

Casting can be a very frustrating process for parents and children. Inevitably there are

never enough lead roles for everyone. Leaving the decisions to the artistic team is important, and requires trust that the staff genuinely wants all cast members to have a positive experience and to learn and grow as performers and team members. It's a part of life to feel disappointed for a while, but as parents, we set an example of how to deal with disappointment.

There are three ways one can react to disappointment:

1: You can give up, quit and never try again.

2: You can say to yourself, "This is something I really want, and I'm going to work on my skills, so that the next time I audition, I will have a better chance of landing the part I really want."

3: You could say, "Acting and singing aren't really my thing. I don't have a driving desire to be on stage, but I want to be involved and will do my best." Which way do you react?

What is ENSEMBLE?

Ensemble ("smaller" roles) is a **very important** part of the cast. This talented group provides choral and dance support in songs and dance routines throughout the show. Without the ensemble, stage productions would lose their "depth" and drama. Students in the Ensemble learn vocals, dance routines and even have chances for sung solos, in addition to their lines. Ensemble members frequently even have more "stage time" than many of the lead parts, because they can portray MANY different characters during the show in many different scenes. Experience in the ensemble will give your child(ren) a chance to learn, grow and prove themselves, and if they apply themselves, give them a change at a "lead" part in upcoming shows. **When a child is cast in a role they are uncomfortable in....**

In theater, actors will frequently be called on to play roles they feel are not themselves. Often, this is a sweet and conscientious child who never likes to role-play the "bad-guy." Children are often concerned that they will be judged as a bad person by playing one on stage. Remind your child that this is the core of "acting" and that they will not be judged by the "character" they play on stage, but by the character they display behind the scenes!