



ABOUT THE CASTING PROCESS

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

Some things are "fixed" - you can't do anything about them - your height, coloring, your overall "look" - your general vocal range (soprano, etc.) and the parts available in a given show.

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

Some things depend on other people. What is the director's vision of how the cast should look on stage and in various parts? How tall are other auditioners? Scale may determine who gets adult and child parts, etc. Decisions are the purview of the artistic team... this includes the Director, Choreographer & Musical Director. The Coordinator(s) are NOT part of the "artistic team".

Some things you *can* do something about:

- **PREPARATION:** Prepare the best audition you can. For callbacks, research the show and learn about the parts. Watch a video, if available, and learn the songs.
- **BEHAVIOR:** Directors want to work with people who behave well, and they will ask your Coordinator and other directors and teachers about you. Don't harm your chances of being cast by poor behavior at rehearsals, at shows, even at auditions and callbacks (It happens!)
- **VOCAL TRAINING:** Taking vocal classes to improve your range and performance. Projection and enunciation are incredibly important in musical theater!! Remember that!
- **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:** Call-Backs usually involve cold-reading from a script provided by the director. 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).

Attitude will make your audition and call-back GREAT!! Humility will keep you from disappointment.

DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT

Auditions can be a very frustrating process for parents and children. Inevitably there are not enough lead roles for everyone. Leaving the decision and control making to an artistic team is important, but requires trust and confirmation that **GOD IS IN CONTROL**. As parents, we should set an example of how to deal with disappointment.

There are three ways one can react to disappointment:

1. You can give up 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 a part."
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 would like to be involved in another aspect of 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 the Lord has in store for you. When disappointment comes your way, whether it be in auditioning or in another area of your life, take a deep breath, open your eyes, and then see what wonderful new doors the Lord will open for you.

What is ENSEMBLE?

Ensemble is a very important part of the cast. This talented group will provide the choral support in songs and dance routines throughout the show. Without the ensemble, stage productions lose their "depth" and drama. Children in ensemble will learn vocals, dance routines and even have chances at solo lines. Ensemble members get to wear costumes and are part of the "environment" of the show.

Experience in ensemble will give your child(ren) a chance to learn and grow and prove themselves, and if they apply themselves, give them a chance at a "name" part in coming shows. Ensemble is also less demanding as far as rehearsal times, as it is generally the leading roles that will be kept late for rehearsals throughout the rehearsal period.

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 is 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.