

## *Auditions and Casting Policy*

### **PHILOSOPHY**

Although serving many different functions and constituencies, University Theatre (UT) is primarily where theatre majors put into practice what they learn in the classroom. Productions, then, are vitally necessary to a full theatre education. For this reason theatre majors are expected to participate fully and to ‘play as cast.’ It is against the spirit of the program for students to ‘self-select’ those roles or productions in which they will participate. Students attending open auditions should consider themselves available for casting in any production sponsored by the University Theatre. Occasionally, the UT will welcome other producing organizations to sit in on auditions and call students back after the UT cast lists are confirmed. Students are encouraged to participate in these other activities but are not required to do so. Those choices do not affect the relationship the student has with the UT.

### **AUDITIONS**

Open auditions are held several times each year. Usually more than one production is cast from each open audition, sometimes three or four. Students are required to prepare a memorized selection from a play, not to exceed two minutes. Students sign up for a specific time and fill out an audition card. **It is vital that this is done thoroughly and accurately. Callback and casting decisions are made on the basis of information provided on the audition card.**

Auditions are open to all University of Kansas students regardless of their major. Undergraduates must be enrolled in 6 hours or more, while graduate students must be enrolled in one hour or more.

It is the policy of the University of Kansas not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or political affiliation in its educational programs, activities, and employment practices. UT is committed to this policy in its theatre productions. At the same time, casting decisions must always be based, at least in part, on the characters in the plays.

Guest artists, faculty, staff and other non-students may be invited to perform in productions as circumstances warrant. This is an important educational and artistic dimension of the program. Such casting will be announced by the UT Artistic Director before the auditions.

### **CALLBACKS**

Following open auditions, callback notices for individual productions will be posted. Directors will list the general period of rehearsal, performance dates both locally and on tour, and any other matters affecting a student’s time commitment. If a student’s name appears on one or more of the callback lists, directors are considering the student for a role or roles.

If the student is unable to appear at the posted time because of other callbacks, they should let the directors know of the problem and a more convenient audition time can be arranged.

**The Department of Theatre**  
**University Theatre**

There are usually several callbacks on successive days. Watch the board closely. Students should not assume that because they were not called back for the first callback, they will not be called for subsequent callbacks.

It is strictly against the spirit of UT production programming for any director to pre-cast actors or to urge actors to attend one callback to the exclusion of others.

### **CAST LISTS**

Following the callbacks, the Artistic Director and Managing Director for University Theatre and the directors of all the productions meet for a casting session. Cast lists will then be posted. At this point casting is final and represents a commitment by actors and UT alike. It is unethical for students to go through auditions harboring any reservations about roles they will accept. Because of the complexity of the casting process, UT will impose sanctions against any actor who declines a role once cast lists have been posted. The usual penalty is casting ineligibility for the remainder of the current semester in which he or she is enrolled.

**Students may be cast in productions for which they were not called back.** Directors contemplating such casting will refer to the auditions card for expressed conflicts and will normally assume students are available unless it is otherwise stated on the card. Watch the callboard!

### **ACADEMIC CREDIT**

Academic credit for acting, dramaturgy, assistant directing, or technical work in UT productions is an option. Pick up a **TH&F 101, 210, 301, 401 Practicum Guidelines** sheet in the Green Room and sign the clipboard provided.

### **CONFLICTS WITH AUDITIONS**

If a student is unavailable to audition, they must see the Artistic Director of Theatre or the Managing Director before the first day of auditions to determine eligibility. A list of those being considered for casting *in absentia* will be posted on the callboard during the audition week.

***For additional helpful information, see “Advice for Auditioners”***