



Our Philosophy



Choosing and casting a show is a difficult task. We've all heard the old Proverb by J. Lydgate, "You can please **some** of the people **all** the time, you can please **all** of the people **some** of the time, but you can't please **all** of the people **all** of the time."

However, our goal is for everyone to have a **fulfilling, rewarding and positive learning experience** during auditions and throughout the whole musical season. At auditions, we observe the ability and maturity of each student. But it's not just about talent and maturity; there is so much more that goes into casting a show. Directorial decisions are also based on (in no particular order) chemistry with other actors, physical appearance, previous experience, and each student's personal character and integrity, as well as dancing, acting and singing ability as appropriate for each character. It is important to keep in mind that not every student is "right" for every role. Our job is to look at the "whole picture" and make sure that the cast works as a whole unit. Musical theater is a "team effort" and we want every student to feel that his or her role is important, because it **IS. Period!** We know that sometimes students get their hearts set on one particular role, but we can only give that role to one person. Someone is bound to have their feelings hurt. We've all been in that situation and it's perfectly normal to feel disappointed. But we want our students to persevere and display an attitude of "maybe next time" or "I'll work harder for the next audition/interview, etc." We relate this experience to real life situations.

We ask the parents to help prevent and alleviate disappointment by not putting too much emphasis on a particular part before auditions, and to react to the cast list posting with enthusiasm and support towards ALL of the students. It is our policy to NOT discuss casting decisions including the how and why students were cast in a specific role. We understand that sometimes parents must deal with their child's disappointment at not being cast in a particular role. The reality is that successful students learn how to deal with those situations, and parents can help by being supportive and realistic to the situation. Parents should tell their child stories of similar circumstances that they've encountered and how they overcame them.

The Directors are doing their best. The Director's word is final on all circumstances. The students' (and parents') job is to realize the director's vision and accept his or her decisions without question. Challenging the Director's authority, judgment or decision is not acceptable. The Directors strive to give every student actor a moment to "shine" in the show. Every student's part is unique and invaluable to the "whole picture" and the show is not successful unless EVERYONE acknowledges and accepts that not ONE ROLE is bigger than the show itself; and no ONE contributor to the show is more important than another.

In order for everyone to have a positive and successful experience, there are some important things to keep in mind:

1. Many students may be "right" for a particular role, but only one can be cast. Everyone must accept that.
2. Student should focus on doing their absolute BEST at the auditions, rehearsals and throughout the entire musical season. The directors are taking mental notes of which students are acting as role models and behaving appropriately and attentively, with integrity.
3. We LOVE watching students grow as actors and individuals!
4. The Directors expect that students will:
 - Behave appropriately in a professional manner
 - Promptly attend all rehearsals they are scheduled for
 - Make a commitment to prepare and learn the material they are responsible for
 - Cooperate with the Directors and fellow cast members, and participate attentively
 - Be Team Players
 - Be supportive and encouraging towards all involved with the show

~Respectfully,
The Directors