



Priory Theater Casting Information

“There are no small parts, only actors that have not seen the possibilities.”

-Konstantin Stanislavski, by way of Mr. Sugden

Philosophy of the Priory Theater Program

The Priory Theatre is founded on the concept of “Ensemble”. All Actors and Techies are of great and equal worth, with strong imaginative choices to share. We are dedicated to serving young people by providing a rich experience that they will find interesting, stretches their skills and is well worth their time in an environment of support and respect. Our theater is collaborative, with actors asked to bring in choices and ideas that can be combined with others. Everyone is highly valued, and their commitment, support of and respect toward one another, and active engagement are vital for Priory Theater to work.

Auditioning

As actors the element of being cast that you control is your Audition. Come prepared to read from the script and give the best performance you can. Work to connect with your character, your scene partner and the circumstances. Make bold choices and commit fully.

Casting Policy of the Priory Theatre

- It is the Casting Policy of Priory Theater that regardless of whether you are a 6th Grader or Senior, every actor has a shot at every role. Occasionally, some roles may be restricted to high school students, often due to romantic content.
- In Casting, the primary thing that determines who gets what part is the strength of the actor’s Audition measured against the other actor’s performances. In addition to that, other factors that come into play are: the actor’s availability for rehearsals, if they are free when other actors are available, and matching people with one another. Having many extra-curricular activities or heavy involvement in sports may affect your casting and size of role, though we work closely with coaches to maximize your rehearsal time. A last factor can be the number of actors trying out, compared to the number of roles.
- The final and important factor is Professionalism and Commitment.
- If you have acted in previous Priory shows with professional behavior, generosity of spirit and commitment to your fellow Actors and the Production, then that is taken into account. If you have NOT, that is also taken into account.
- If you are in your first Priory show, your behavior toward other actors and your own work is noted and speaks for you going forward.

What determines a “good part” and how to respond to casting

What gives a role significance and value is not how many lines it has, it is how much the actor invests their full imagination in bringing the character to life. I speak as someone that has had terrible experiences in parts with many lines, and truly transformative experiences in parts with six lines and sometimes no lines.

A part a less experienced actor might consider insignificant, an experienced actor sees as an opportunity to develop character and skills. If you are cast in a smaller role, and feel you must withdraw from the play, I encourage you to consider this thought and the potential for growth that each theatrical role provides.

To place it in the context of sports, something I did a lot of in my middle school and high school years, if you try out for the Varsity Soccer team and you don't make the squad, what has a greater likelihood of getting you on the Varsity Soccer team: hanging up your cleats, not playing for a year, and then trying out again with skills that have 12 months of rust on them, or joining the team, growing your skills, working with other great players, committing and pitching in body and soul, and then trying out again?

If you are cast in a part, and find your schedule will not accommodate it, you must let Mr. Sugden know within 48 hours of the Cast List being posted.

Is everyone who tries out for a play automatically cast in that show?

It is always our hope that all actors who audition can be cast however, due to high actor turnout, this is NOT always possible. We once had 89 actors try out for a show with 23 roles and that was both too many for the theater to hold backstage, and too many for a strong experience to be offered to all.

If you are not cast in a show, the following is recommended

- Talk to Mr. Sugden about Assistant Directing/Stage Managing the show. There are few ways to improve faster as an actor, then helping other actors make discoveries.
- Volunteer to work tech for the show. All actors should . Learning how the theater works, helping to run the show and working with actors will help you grow.
- Volunteer to work costumes/make-up for the show. You'll learn how the theater runs and it's a vital and important job.
- Take an acting class here at the Priory, or that won't fit in your schedule, elsewhere. This will continue to allow your skills to grow, and your work to expand and specificity in scope.
- Definitely try out for the next show!!!