



Casting & Guest Director Policy

(revised March, 2019)

THE CASTING COMMITTEE

The Casting Committee shall consist of five [5] members. Three [3] members of the Casting Committee must be present at each audition, and the three members may cast one vote each, in the event of a disagreement.

St. Dunstan's shows are cast by a committee which consists of: three [3] members of the Play Reading & Casting Committee (PR&C), the Director of the show, the Musical Director (if applicable), and the Choreographer (if applicable).

In the event of a disagreement, or in a situation that calls for a vote, each of these individuals casts one vote. The Assistant Director[s] may be present, in a non-voting capacity, unless it is agreed upon ahead of time by the Director and the Chair of PR&C that the Assistant Director will be given a vote.

If members of PR&C are auditioning or unable to attend auditions/casting sessions for any reason, they may be replaced at the discretion of the Chair of PR&C to ensure that a voting quorum of three [3] PR&C members will be present, in addition to the Director[s], the Musical Director (if applicable), and Choreographer (if applicable).

If fewer than three [3] PR&C members can be present, replacement[s] are selected in this order:

- Members of last year's PR&C Committee who selected the show, and are familiar with the play
- The Board of Directors Representative to PR&C
- Members of the Board of Directors

The Chair of PR&C or his/her designate will run the audition/casting sessions. This person will ensure that:

- All information provided by each auditioner on the audition sheet is filled out completely and honestly;
- Discussions during casting are kept confidential;
- Auditions follow the specific St. Dunstan's casting policy listed below.

OPEN CASTING POLICY

Effective with the 2009-2010 Season, by decision of the Membership, casting became open to the public in addition to the members for all public shows produced by St. Dunstan's. The following policies are in place:

- Auditioners must be 18 years of age or older at time of auditions unless otherwise required by the part/role.
- Auditioners must fill out the audition form completely and honestly.
- Auditioners must have their picture taken at the time of auditions for the casting committee's reference.
- Conflicts/availability of the performer for rehearsals and performances will be considered.
- After casting is complete, all auditioners will be contacted with casting decisions by phone or email ASAP. In addition, a cast list will be posted on the St. Dunstan's website.

If cast, all non-members are required EITHER to pay a \$35 rehearsal fee OR to become a member of St. Dunstan's, within the first week after auditions. If an individual pays the rehearsal fee and then decides to join, during the run of the show, the \$35 will be applied to membership dues for that season.

Individuals who join St. Dunstan's are entitled to all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a member, including serving on a committee of their choice and receiving all publications (electronic or paper). For individuals joining membership during the first or second show, the dues are \$80, and he/she receives one ticket to all shows. Individuals joining membership during the third or fourth mainstage show pay \$55 and receive one ticket to each of the remaining productions.

The aim of the casting committee in the audition process is to select a balanced cast, to avoid any noticeable holes or weaknesses in the show. Age, gender, physical characteristics, the ability to act, sing and dance the part will be taken into consideration. Should there be two (2) or more individuals deemed to be correct for a particular role, the following additional factors will be considered.

- All things being equal, preference in casting will be given to members.
- All things being equal, including membership status, preference in casting will be given to the director's choice.
- The auditioner who has not appeared on stage at St. D's in a role of similar importance (major/lead) will be given preference over one who has.

- The schedule conflicts/availability for rehearsals and performances, especially for a major role, will be considered.

To be considered a Member of St. Dunstan's for casting purposes, the following criteria must be met:

- Dues must be current and a work commitment fulfilled or scheduled.
- Reinstated members must have completed the Board requirements, including payment of dues, before the first day of auditions.
- Incoming new members must complete the MAC process, including payment of dues, before the first day of auditions to be eligible for any preference given to members during casting.

GUEST DIRECTORS

At the March 15, 2011 Board meeting, the Board voted to approve inviting Guest Directors to submit proposals to direct slated productions. Guest Directors are always welcomed to join St. Dunstan's membership, with the same fees applying: \$80 during the first or second show (he/she receives one ticket to all mainstage shows), or \$55 during the third or fourth mainstage show (he/she receive one ticket to each of the remaining mainstage productions).

If a member and a non-member submit equally good proposals for a production, the member will have preference.

If a Guest Director is selected, either the Assistant Director or Producer must be a member of St. Dunstan's. Assistant Directors and Producers who are not members must be approved by the Board of Directors. The amount of money allotted for the production will be determined by the Board, with the detailed budget being prepared by the Producer in conjunction with the Director. Please see Budget Rules (dated February 28, 2019).

A Guest Director will not be paid for his/her work.

An individual who wishes to direct a production as a Guest Director should prepare a written proposal for PR&C to consider. A presentation to PR&C is advisable whenever feasible, and especially in cases where the individual is not known to PR&C.