

# Audition and Casting Policy

## Goals of the Policy

### To ensure all productions are of the highest quality

One of the most important obligations of Sawston Youth Drama Ltd. is to our audiences. We must provide them with an experience they will enjoy, and for which they will be satisfied they have received value commensurate with ticket prices. Therefore, SYD will select a cast that will result in the best production possible. Criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Standard of acting, singing, and/or dancing
- Enthusiasm and morale
- Availability to attend rehearsals

### To preserve the health of the organisation

Sawston Youth Drama Ltd. is a youth theatrical organisation. The health, growth, and long-term viability of the group depends largely on the quality of productions. Casting decisions will thus not be based upon the following criteria:

- Past and current involvement with SYD
- Potential for future involvement
- Prior donations made to the group

### To ensure fair and open auditions

Theatrical groups can be stigmatised when casting decisions do not appear to be fair and/or open. The casting policy of Sawston Youth Drama Ltd. must be above suspicion.

Subsequent policies must be articulated to ensure that this goal is achieved, including:

- Audition procedures and requirements
- Clear procedures for cast selection
- Communication of casting policies before and at auditions

## Casting Policies

### Who may audition

Sawston Youth Drama Ltd. holds auditions open to all who have registered their details with the organisation and have made a donation in line with running costs of the group, thus becoming members for the duration of that year. Auditions are open to all members unless specifically noted for a particular show and/or role (i.e. age, physical requirements etc.).

## Casting Decisions

Casting decisions are made collectively by the production team of a particular show, including but not limited to the Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, and any Rehearsal Assistants in the team. The production team will select the most qualified individual for each role, consistent with:

- The vocal, acting, and physical requirements of the role
- The concept of the role and/or production as envisioned by the production team
- The morale and collective well-being of the group, and individual auditioning

## Audition Process

The audition process will differ from production to production as deemed necessary by the production team at that time. Audition requirements will be made known to members auditioning with ample prior notice to the audition. The following will be observed at all auditions, irrespective of show:

- An equal and fair amount of time to audition
- The same audition process for each individual in a show

If further auditions, or callbacks are required, the production team will re-audition a smaller subsection of a cast, as necessary, at the discretion of the team.

## Casting

After casting decisions have been made, the production team will inform the company, and the successful individuals, within a time frame as stated during the audition process. Individuals not cast will be supported and further considered for lines or featured moments during a production as required and/or at the discretion of the production team.

## Filling Vacancies

Should a vacancy in the cast occur, the production team may hold additional auditions with regard to the Audition and Casting Policy, or may invite a suitable individual to fill the vacancy based upon prior audition of this production.