

Casting Policy

Turpin Theatre emphasizes the educational experience and development of each student as an artist, and growth of the program as a whole; we each come to the theatre on an individual basis but it is the sum of our parts that make an exceptional department. Directors strive to cast fairly, basing casting off of who is right for each role, and to best serve the artistic vision of each production. In the audition room, directors are looking for the right fit, which can be made up of personality, talent, and professionalism among other factors. Of those factors, seniority is not included. The Turpin Theatre artistic staff members take their roles very seriously as theatre professionals and experts, and wish to best serve the program and educate those students involved. Some of the best performances in theatre come from ensemble members, or cameo roles that steal the show. Be the best performer you can be in whatever role you have, it's about you as a performer, not about the role. The qualities of the role do not change from production to production, the qualities of the performance change, so make this the best performance you can and pursue personal growth as an artist and human being.

It is also imperative to keep in mind that performance is not the only opportunity for students' theatrical education and experience. Part of having a successful program comes from having students that are well versed in various theatrical roles. Creativity, decision making, communication, and an enjoyable experience happen both on stage and off; it is highly encouraged that students who do not get cast get involved through the technical side of theatre- besides, everyone looks good in black!

After the cast list is posted, it is encouraged for students to take the weekend to consider their casting and evaluate their audition. If individual students are interested in feedback on their audition, Ms. Kean will discuss with them on a one-on-one basis; there will be no discussion of another student's audition or comparison between auditions. It is also crucial that students initiate this conversation themselves. Theatre is akin to track and field in that we are all part of one team, but we still value personal records. Remember, the only person you are competing against is yourself in your last performance. Theatre is considered one of the humanities, so remember to keep it humane- build each other up, support one another, and create an environment full of compassion and respect.