

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa/Department of Theatre and Dance

CASTING POLICY

(Amended at a 10 January 1996 faculty meeting to include faculty, staff, and students of all branches of the UH System; this revision, made to reflect that amendment, was approved by faculty poll on September 22, 1998.)

The primary goal of the Department is to provide an education in theatre for students enrolled in the UH system. One of the ways students learn to act is by performing in Department productions. Public performances show to campus and community audiences the results of these educational efforts. It is therefore the general policy of the Department to cast all roles in Main Season and MFA productions from among currently enrolled students, as well as faculty and staff, in the UH system.

In order to carry out this aim of education in performance:

- Plays will be chosen that can be performed by student actors.
- Plays will be chosen that offer diverse roles which challenge and stimulate growth in student actors.
- No roles will be pre-cast and casting for all plays will include auditions open only to UH students.
- Auditions will be widely publicized on campus by poster, by Ka Leo notices, and by ads.
- Student organizations of the Department are encouraged to take an active role promoting audition turnouts.
- All Department majors and students enrolled in performance classes will be urged to audition.
- Students will indicate on audition cards which roles they will accept and be available for; they will be expected to fulfill the commitment so indicated.

Occasionally the Department may pre-cast an invited Guest Artist in a particular role, offering students an opportunity to perform with an older, experienced artist. Occasionally, if the special nature of a play demands it (large cast, unusual skills, etc.), auditions may be opened to those outside the UH system. These cases will be decided by the Department as part of the play selection for a season.

If an insufficient number of UH students, faculty, and staff attends auditions to enable a play to be cast, the director may cast from those outside the UH system.

In all circumstances casting priority is given to UH students.

RESOLUTION (Adopted by the faculty at its October 9, 1996 faculty meeting):

Plays are cast in order of their performance as reflected by the season's schedule. No play will cast until the preceding play has completed its announced series of auditions and call-backs, which normally may take up to a week en toto. When two (2) plays are opening within a week or *less* of one another, or where the director feels he/she needs additional rehearsal time than the norm and auditions might conflict, directors will consult with one another to arrange auditions. As a general rule, Mainstage and MFA productions take precedence in casting, should there be an unresolvable conflict in establishing audition schedules.

A directors' meeting at the start of each academic year is required. Joint auditions, when appropriate, are encouraged.

Size of production/numbers in the cast:

All productions under department aegis will conform to 'big play, small play' practice that has been in effect for Mainstage plays for many years. In particular, LATE NIGHT must conform to the following arrangement:

Assuming Mainstage/MFA productions occurring simultaneously with LATE NIGHT, the latter must adjust to number of actors thusly:

If Mainstage/MFA production requires eight (8) or more actors, the LATE NIGHT play must have no more than six (6).

Rehearsal length: It is generally assumed that most plays will require 6-7 weeks rehearsal; musicals, Asian plays and special events may require 2-3 months or more. This is noted vis a vis establishing audition schedules. It is not a hard and fast rule.