



BLT CASTING PROCESS – GUIDANCE FOR ACTORS

The Reading & Casting Committee meets regularly to choose the cast of forthcoming productions - this may be up to six months in advance and sometimes longer.

New members must complete a membership form. If they indicate that they are interested in acting on that form, they will be contacted and auditioned by the Reading & Casting Committee, who will then consider them for future roles. A bank of audition material compiled by the R&C committee is available for use, or candidates are welcome to source their own.

The productions are usually cast in the order in which they take place. However, this may change if there is a particularly complex production to cast which requires specialist skills, for example singing/ dancing or a specific accent.

Usually, the casting process will start with the Season announcement (around February) and individual play sheets will be placed on the notice board in the entrance to BLT (side door) at the bottom of the staircase to the bar/rehearsal rooms. Members should sign up for productions they are interested in and may also choose to indicate their preferred choice of part. In addition to the noticeboard, there will also be an invitation from Reading & Casting via social media and email for actors to indicate their interest in a particular role or a general interest in the production. The invitation will usually include a synopsis and character overview, indicating what Reading & Casting is looking for. Also, any special requirements that the Director may have will be included. It is of help to the Reading & Casting Committee to know who is both available and interested, although all acting members are considered for each production.

The views of the relevant Director are taken into account throughout the casting process, but the final decision is made by the Reading & Casting Committee. If a Director approaches people in advance of a production to check their interest and availability, please note they do not have the authority to offer a part. Only a representative of the Reading & Casting Committee may do that, in accordance with decisions made at a meeting. The outcome of the casting decision is a complicated one involving, in some cases, large numbers of actors. The Committee will use its best endeavours to release information regarding casting in the most equitable way that it can under the prevailing circumstances.

It is usual at BLT to cast without auditions. The Reading & Casting Committee will consider all those who have expressed an interest, as well as the wider acting membership, and cast accordingly. Being on the acting list does not guarantee anyone a part in a particular season. The final decision about the suitability for each role lies with the R&C committee. Once a complete cast is in place for a production, this is released via email updates, on the noticeboard at BLT, and via social media.



The Director and/or Reading & Casting Committee may decide to hold auditions for a particular role, in order to assess suitability where this may not be obvious: e.g. where the member has not played that type of role before, or where specialist skills are required, such as singing, movement or accent. All those who have expressed a wish to audition should be seen and all should be advised of the outcome as soon as is practical after the auditions and once the casting process is complete.

When an actor gives up a part between casting and production dates, then that vacancy can be filled directly by Reading & Casting from the acting list bearing in mind any unsuccessful expressions of interest or audition pieces that may have been given.

Members of the Reading & Casting Committee who wish to be considered for a role can express their interest in the same way as other members. They will be asked to leave the casting meeting so that a fair, honest and unbiased discussion can be conducted by the rest of the committee and the Director. The same policy applies if a family member of a Reading & Casting team member is being considered. Where possible, any member of Reading & Casting should only accept one role per season, unless there are emergency casting gaps to fill or specialist skills.

Any member who feels they have been unreasonably overlooked for a particular role, or that they have been unfairly treated by the Reading & Casting Committee, has the right of written appeal, initially to the Reading & Casting Chair who will respond via email. If any member feels that their appeal hasn't been dealt with satisfactorily, they can contact the Artistic Director who will review it: ad@bingleylittletheatre.co.uk

Please note that Bingley Little Theatre very much welcomes and would actively like to encourage expressions of interest from actors from any ethnicity for roles.

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