

# Kildare Youth Theatre Casting Policy

Updated November 2016

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We aim to provide every teenager with several performance opportunities throughout their time with us in Kildare Youth Theatre. Many young people remain by choice in supporting roles until their confidence grows, and then take on larger roles – sometimes this can take years. Others want to be challenged in larger roles from early in their time with us.

We aim to especially support those planning to audition for a place in a drama college, or a PLC in performance/acting. Our policy generally favours such young people in large-cast plays (i.e. where there are plenty of parts, for example, in Shakespeare).



Young people progress from being cast in supporting roles to being cast in leading roles by:

1. showing commitment (attending all rehearsals, being on time, having lines learnt, etc)
2. being open to collaboration with each other
3. having a tireless work ethic
4. being willing to try/risk/experiment – be brave in your acting choices
5. and – perhaps most importantly – showing *kindness* to others during workshop, off stage, and outside of workshop and classes.

These are the qualities that strongly favour your getting cast in larger roles. Talent or performance skill is not a guarantee of progressing through levels of performance.



1. We aim to cast all young people in the theatre at least once in a production.
2. Newcomers will usually be cast in productions directed by trainee directors, drama leaders. These are cast early in the season (September – November), and an attempt is made to give everyone a part in the plays at this time.
3. People who impress by their commitment, work ethic and collaboration skills will generally be cast again. They may be challenged in lead roles especially if they played supporting roles in the first plays.
4. The Shakespeare production will be directed by the Artistic Director. Main parts will always be given to those auditioning for drama college, and all other parts are available to the rest of the company by audition.
5. The NT Connections play will be cast by audition. Those who impressed in their first productions (not necessarily by performing well but by their other skills – see No 3) will often be given preference. Preference may also go to those who are auditioning for drama college and who need performance experience in a contemporary play.
6. Devised plays are open to the whole ensemble – each actor creates the level of part they wish to play (it's up to the person and their group whether that's large or small).
7. Incidental projects (such as performances for festivals, exchanges, conferences) will be cast (a) by closed invitation (based on who the director feels has the *performance* and other skills necessary for the part), or (b) by open invitation (posted on Facebook).
8. For international projects, we aim to have open invitations for all eligible young people to audition. Selection will be based on your commitment to the youth theatre (helping to maintain the place, to volunteer, etc); the support we receive from your family (help with fundraising, for example); your interest in the project; and the social/artistic benefit we believe you will gain from taking part.
9. We are conscious of gender while casting and providing opportunities for young people. We attempt to have equal numbers of males and females, and include those who identify as neither, in all exchanges, international opportunities and devising projects. Shakespearian plays are open to gender-blind casting. We aim to strike a balance when we do plays with majority male parts by staging works with large female casts.
10. Auditions for scripted plays generally take the form of workshops. An open call is made via social media and members turn up at a scheduled time. They are led in a warm-up and then asked to divide into small groups where they are given a small section of the text to prepare together for 30 minutes. Each chooses the role they wish. They then present this. They will be asked to swap roles should they wish and present it again. Casting decisions are made within one week of auditions.