



ON CASTING....

Casting is a tricky thing. When shows are cast, the directors and producers have a zillion things they have to take into consideration. When we cast at PGT, we are looking for positive energy, good auditions, a willingness to try, directability, actors who are growing in their work from season to season, focus and a collaborative spirit. We try to challenge each actor. We work to give each actor and each cast a good experience, in the rehearsal process and in performance. We look at group dynamics. We look at age and gender groupings. We try to cast so that the actors are in a group with friends but are also stimulated by meeting new people. And, we cast to serve the show. As a theatre company, we are bound to serve the performance pieces so that they succeed as good theatre, as well as providing each actor with a successful experience within the show. As a theatre company dedicated to children and teens, we are also restricted by the realities of each child's school, family and other activity commitments – your schedule plays a big part in how the season is ultimately cast. You may not like it, we may not like it, but it is the reality of doing theatre with kids.

Casting is like putting together a giant puzzle. The actors who audition are the puzzle pieces. Our challenge is to move the puzzle pieces around until we fulfill the big picture and complete the puzzle to the best of our ability, satisfying all of our requirements for each show...and there are so many puzzle pieces to place! Faced with such a challenge, it becomes clear how important the audition is. The audition process can be a scary, nerve-wracking, arduous experience, but it is essential as it is only through auditions that we can meet new actors and see how returning actors have grown within the work. Knowing this, it is our hope that our young actors take the audition process seriously enough to come well prepared. We know auditioning isn't easy.

For every role, there are at least, AT LEAST, 3 wonderful choices, and in most cases, many more—all of which would be great versions of these shows. Of course, this is why we can go to the theatre and see different casts do the same show many times. So many details to consider. So much talent. So many options. Believe me, we move those puzzle pieces around fervently. There is much discussion and debate. A lot of matching and moving and thinking and rethinking - trying out various combinations of people for the different casts. It is a long process, filled with many possible endings.

What happens when there is more than just one “right one” for a role? What do you do when one actor may be “just right” for more than one role? What do you do when that is the case for many roles? We want everyone to be happy. Of course, this is not always the case. We realize that. We are actors, too. We have all been cast in smaller roles than we would have liked. We have all felt crushed when casting announcements were made. But we have also gone through the process of learning that there is much joy to be found, even in the smallest of roles. Though a character may only have two lines, the playwright wrote those two lines for that character for a reason—not just because—but because those two lines were important for that character to say in order to further the idea of the play. It really isn't how big your part is—it's what you do with the part you have in order to best serve the play, and in order to continue growing as an artist. Here's the thing - you might be absolutely right for a certain part, you may want it more than you've ever wanted anything, you may even be sure you are going to get it – your friends may tell you that you are definitely going to get it – and then the part might just go to someone else. And that's how it goes in casting. As an actor, you must be able to handle those disappointments graciously and to learn to put your disappointment aside when it comes time to begin rehearsals.

At PGT, we have an additional factor which we consider when casting, and that is each child's journey with us throughout the years. We do not cast each season as if it is our first, or an isolated experience – we cast knowing that each child will sometimes get the role of their dreams, and sometimes not....each child will sometimes play leading roles and each child will sometimes be cast in the ensemble....each child will, over their years with us, get casting announcements that make them jump in the air and scream with excitement, as well as casting announcements that make them feel disappointed, even devastated. It is our hope that, in each child's journey, those experiences balance one another, for all of those are part of the life of an actor, and the reality of auditioning.

So, to all of the actors - thank you for having the courage to audition. Thank you for wanting to be a part of the theatre and the PGT family. Thank you for all being so right for so many roles in these shows. And thank you for making such an amazing puzzle of a PGT season. The overall picture is beautiful, intriguing, interesting, colorful, new, inspiring. We are all excited to bring the picture to life!

Now we challenge you to breathe and talk and walk and sing and dance for these characters in ways that have never been tried. We offer you these parts...now we wonder what you will do with them....

The PGT Artistic Staff