

# Auditions

The Flynn Youth Theater Company (FYTC) holds auditions throughout the year for our Show Choir program and Summer Youth Theater productions. All auditions are by appointment only and, unless otherwise noted, are open to students in grades 4-12. Tuition Assistance is available for all programs.

## Casting & Audition Policies

Auditions are an essential component of the performing arts. They can be a wonderful opportunity to share your talents and hard work, but can also feel intimidating, and being nervous is part of the experience. We sincerely appreciate the courage it takes put yourself on the line and to risk what may feel like rejection when you don't get the role or placement you want, or even a part in a show. Casting is a lot like choosing the perfect outfit and coordinating all the pieces together. You may have the most awesome pair of purple shoes, but they probably don't match every outfit in your closet – just like actors don't match every role for which they audition.

## Audition Feedback

FYTC is an educational program committed to keeping exceptional training at the heart of what we do, and we believe that young artists learn at every step in the performing arts process. Auditioning is the first and one of the most challenging parts of what performers do, and so we want to offer every student an opportunity to learn from their audition experience. One way we do this is by providing all FYTC production auditioners individualized constructive feedback about their audition — something rarely provided in the world of professional theater.

If you feel it would be helpful, we will take email requests from and respond to students directly (not parents). Please note that it can sometimes take up to a week to get back to everyone. If you would like feedback on your recent audition, please email us at [flynnarts@flynncenter.org](mailto:flynnarts@flynncenter.org).

This feedback takes a very specific form, and is crucially distinct from the casting process. The following guidelines clarify this, and are meant to help students and their parents know just what they can expect from us, and what in turn we expect of them.

### WHAT WE WON'T DO:

1. **Reconsider a casting decision.** Once a placement or casting decision has been made, it is final. The casting team will not offer explanations for, entertain complaints about, or discuss in any way the decisions that have been made, with anyone.
2. **Discuss the casting decision with parents.** The casting team will not discuss the casting decision or the student's audition with the student's parent(s).

### WHAT WE WILL DO:

1. Provide written feedback to student inquiries about the audition. If a student wishes to receive written feedback about their audition, they are welcome to write an email to [FYTC@flynncenter.org](mailto:FYTC@flynncenter.org) and one of the directors on the casting team will respond to them with a personal email as soon as they are able after casting is completed. The response will include kind and constructive criticism regarding a student's audition, and specific advice about where to most effectively direct efforts for improvement.
2. Help describe what does go into casting a show. Casting is a challenging and complicated process, involving multiple variables. A number of key elements that go into a casting decision are simply out of a student's control. By the same token, we would like students to know what elements they can control and improve upon. Toward this end, we have enumerated "[Ten Qualities That Influence Casting](#)" (see below).

3. Encourage ongoing training. Finally, we urge students to continue their training through workshops, classes and private instruction, whenever possible, and will happily point any student toward upcoming opportunities at FYTC (or elsewhere) that require no audition to participate. We believe it is much more productive and effective to work on one's performance skills when the pressure of auditioning is not looming ahead.

## Ten Qualities That Influence Casting (Musical Theater)

We are often asked what directors look for when they cast shows. Here is a list that might be helpful as you work to develop your performance skills, and prepare for auditions for YMTC or any other school or company.

*\* qualities specific to show choir*

1. **Acting ability:** A person's theatrical "instincts"; believability as a character; versatility; willingness to try new things; and learned and developed skills that provide a broad intellectual and emotional pallet from which to draw.
2. **\*Vocal ability:** A person's vocal quality, flexibility, and range.
3. **\*Musicality:** (admittedly hard to describe) A person's sense of ease with music in general and singing in particular; their intuition about and expressiveness through music.
4. **\*Dance/"physicalization":** Dance skills, grace, and accuracy; a sense of control with the body and ability to use it in the service of a character.
5. **\*Preparedness:** How well presented the audition is — memorized, rehearsed, clearly thought out, and appropriate to the role/show for which a person is auditioning.
6. **Type:** How "right" someone is for a given role — this is not simply a question of how someone looks but pertains more to their energy, how they hold themselves, and their all-around temperament. (This is not a fixed thing — it's something one can work on expanding in themselves.)
7. **\*Chemistry:** How the actor works or "connects" on stage with another actor or actors with whom he/she will be in relationship.
8. **\*Energy:** A person's energy level, focus and a willingness to invest in whatever it is he/she is doing on stage.
9. **\*Professionalism:** promptness, preparedness, discipline, respect for directors and fellow actors; appropriate balance between confidence and humility; and an ability to collaborate with others for the good of the group. *Your audition begins the minute you walk through the door, and continues even when you're waiting for your turn.*
10. **\*Courage:** Evident openness to taking direction and to taking risks, enabling an actor to venture into unknown territory and to be willing to stretch beyond one's "comfort zone" to embody a character; whether it's a physical or emotional characteristic.