

# Kildare Youth Theatre Casting Policy

(Includes selection criteria for exchanges and festivals)



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 college hopefuls 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:

- showing commitment (attending all rehearsals, being on time, having lines learnt, etc)
- being open to collaboration with each other
- having a tireless work ethic
- being willing to try/risk/experiment – be brave in your acting choices
- 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.**

- We aim to cast all young people in the theatre **at least once** in a production.
- 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.
- 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.

- The Shakespearian 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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).
- 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.