

The University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance produces plays and productions that embrace the theatrical canon, including classical works, contemporary plays, and new works. The School of Theatre & Dance productions are an extension of the classwork, and are designed to serve the students.

Upon acceptance into the program, BFA and MFA actors must be willing and eager to “play as cast” in any given production.

All MFA acting students and all BFA seniors and juniors will be cast in a production each semester. BFA sophomores and freshmen are also eligible for casting every semester, though casting is not guaranteed. Though some non-majors or students who are not in the performance track may be allowed to audition, casting preference will be given to performance students.

If a student feels that casting in a given production would cause legitimate personal concerns, the student must contact the Head of Performance and/or Head of Graduate Acting at least one week before Auditions/Assessments/Casting Sessions. The student must submit their rationale, in writing, as to why they wish to be excluded from consideration for a given production. Legitimate requests will be reviewed by the Head of the Area and may also be reviewed by faculty.

Exclusion from a given production due to acting work outside the program is not acceptable. Senior BFA Acting students that are in good standing with the department may request permission to audition for outside casting, but any request must be approved by the Head of BFA Acting.

All requests for outside casting must be made to the Head of BFA Acting prior to the outside show's callbacks. This request must not be delayed until the actor has been cast, as withdrawing from that show after being cast could damage the student's career, tarnish the reputation of other students, and reflect poorly on the School of Theatre & Dance. Such unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated.

In general, approval to audition for outside theatres will be limited to companies that are exclusively Equity, or companies that use Equity actors under special agreements with the Union.

ANY STUDENT WISHING TO AUDITION FOR OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT THAT CONFLICTS WITH THE UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION SEASON MUST SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE HEAD OF BFA ACTING IN ADVANCE. DO NOT ACCEPT OUTSIDE WORK WITHOUT APPROVAL.

If a BFA Senior student with outside casting would like to still be considered for UH casting that

semester, there is a portion on the audition form to fill out. The dates of the outside contract should be listed, and they will be placed into consideration. Every student, regardless of outside casting, is required to audition each semester for faculty review.

It is the responsibility of the student to make themselves available for all scheduled rehearsals, technical rehearsals, and performance schedules. All potential conflicts need to be submitted for approval to the Head of BFA Acting or MFA Acting at least a week before the auditions.

If a student fails to fulfill their obligations to a production, it could result in departmental probation or potential discontinuation as a BFA or MFA theatre student.