

## Thoughts on handling casting decisions...

I often describe casting as putting together a puzzle. A very complex puzzle. Even if the puzzle pieces all fit together, the overall picture of that puzzle is the ultimate goal. It is the director's job to make sure the picture works in the best possible way. Not getting a certain role (or not getting cast in the show) doesn't necessarily mean that the person can't play that role at all, it means that for whatever reason, the puzzle pieces needed to fit together a different way to create that vision – that overall picture for the production. It may mean that sometimes you get the lead, sometimes you are in the ensemble, sometimes you are a crew chief, sometimes you are on a crew, and sometimes you don't make the show.

This can be difficult to understand for students and parents. It is the hardest part of a theatre teacher's job. Casting students in a production can be exciting, but cutting students is painful for everyone (yes – the directors, too).

Unfortunately, dealing with rejection is part of theatre. We need people to be excited to audition for any role, and willing to be a part of a crew. Learning how to endure the rejection, continuing to work, and coming back to audition are the ways to succeed in theatre.

When you see the cast list, please think before reacting publicly (including on social media).

It's absolutely natural to be disappointed in not getting the role you wanted or not being cast – don't ignore those feelings. Just consider how your reactions reflects on you. Remember the saying "You're always auditioning" – if you throw a fit, talk poorly about the staff or cast members, post negative things on social media – it gives a more negative impression of you rather than a positive one.

The same is true when cast in a show. Please think before reacting to others or publicly. Sometimes reactions can come across as too cocky or being a showoff. Being excited for the role is natural and it's okay to share that you're excited. Simply a reminder - it's again important to consider how your reaction reflects on you.

In any situation – it's always best to think things through carefully before posting or commenting on any social media. It's always best to make sure your reactions, whether they are in person or on social media, are reflecting your best self!

Thank you for reading through this information and taking these tips into consideration.

***Congratulations to everyone who auditioned – everyone did a fantastic job and made the casting process extremely difficult. Please be a part of this show - and all productions at South!***