LEAF Studio Performing Arts In-House Casting Statement

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Contents

1. Overview 3
2. Diversity 3
3. Casting Process 4
4. What Are We Looking For? 4

1. Overview

LEAF Studio Academy of Performing Arts is committed to a casting process that is fair, transparent and rooted in professional industry practice. The objective is to assemble a company that best fulfils the creative vision and integrity of each production, event or performance.

Most auditions at LEAF Studio operate using an open audition format, unless explicitly restricted to specific year groups. On occasion, audition opportunities or direct casting decisions may be made at the Academy's discretion. This may be necessary due to factors including, but not limited to, rehearsal timelines, timetable constraints, staff capacity, or student availability.

Casting decisions are based on suitability for role, performance quality and the overall balance of the cast. Decisions are not influenced by prior casting history or length of involvement in Academy events. It is important to acknowledge that, due to curriculum structure and timetabling, some year groups, predominantly Sixth Form students, naturally access a greater volume of performance opportunities across the academic year. However, LEAF Studio is committed to ensuring that all year groups are provided with a breadth of performance experiences across a range of disciplines.

In line with LEAF Studio's commitment to student development and wellbeing, teaching and Pastoral staff are available to provide constructive feedback and guidance following auditions. Feedback is offered upon student request and is not routinely issued automatically. Supportive one-to-one discussions or conversations via Microsoft Teams may be arranged where appropriate. Please note that feedback will be directed to students; it is not standard practice to provide detailed casting rationale or critique via parent/carer correspondence.

Supporting students to reflect on outcomes and identify areas for development is central to the Academy's approach. Every role—regardless of size—is essential and requires full commitment.

As LEAF Studio operates within a professional training framework, all performances are expected to meet industry standards. Audiences may include:

- Family and friends
- Industry professionals
- Vocational colleges, universities, and casting representatives
- Professional reviewers
- Accreditation bodies
- Wider school and Trust stakeholders

Maintaining excellence in performance quality is essential to uphold the Academy's reputation and support meaningful progression pathways.

2. Diversity

LEAF Studio actively promotes diversity, inclusion and representation across all areas of its provision.

We are committed to creating performance opportunities that reflect:

- A wide range of backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences
- The breadth of global performance traditions and cultural influences
- An inclusive, respectful, and supportive training environment

Students are encouraged to bring their authentic selves into their work, contributing to a dynamic and representative performance culture.

3. Casting Process

Casting is a rigorous and collaborative process led by the Creative and Teaching Team. Decisions are informed by:

- Technical skill demonstrated in audition
- Acting, singing, and/or dance performance quality (as relevant to the production)
- Ability to respond to direction and adapt material
- Professional attitude, focus, and preparedness
- Casting balance, including chemistry and ensemble cohesion

As part of professional training, students will experience both successful and unsuccessful outcomes. LEAF Studio places strong emphasis on developing resilience, professionalism, and reflective practice, preparing students for the realities of the performing arts industry.

Where performance opportunities are cast by external industry professionals, auditions will align with professional industry standards and expectations. Casting decisions in these instances are made solely by the external panel and are final.

4. What Are We Looking For?

When allocating roles and performance opportunities, LEAF Studio prioritises students who demonstrate:

- Clear progression and commitment to improvement
- Confidence, energy and stage presence
- Strong technical ability and performance accuracy
- Musicality and interpretive understanding
- Professionalism, reliability and consistent attendance
- A positive, proactive approach to training
- Strong retention skills, including movement memory and line recall
- Artistic flair and stylistic awareness
- The ability to respond effectively to direction and apply corrections

THE CREATIVE AND TEACHING TEAM MAKE ALL FINAL CALLS ON CASTING.