**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS AND DANCE**

**MAVERICK THEATRE COMPANY & MAVERICK DANCE COMPANY**

**CASTING POLICY v3 – Revised Spring 2022**

**Statement of Principle**

Department of Theatre Arts and Dance productions are the “laboratory” for students to further develop the practical skills learned in the classroom. Productions will be cast with student-centered concerns (pedagogy and development) as the primary consideration, while creating the best possible rendering of the show as an important secondary concern.

Casting for all Department of Theatre Arts and Dance sponsored productions is open to any student, staff, or faculty member of the University of Texas at Arlington, or any invited guest artist. Casting shall be determined by open auditions. Notices detailing the time, place, and specific requirements of each audition shall be posted in advance on the website’s virtual callboard. Auditions are attended by all show directors scheduled for the beginning of each Fall and Spring semester, as well as any individual auditions as needed.

The Department of Theatre Arts and Dance is committed to a policy of equal opportunity designed to promote a positive model of equity, inclusivity, and the elimination of discrimination in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance casting. Casting of all students, faculty, and guests will be conducted in such a manner as to provide full and fair consideration of performers of all backgrounds and abilities in accordance with university policies. “Color Conscious and Identity Conscious” casting principles will be followed by all directors throughout the casting process. Unless textually indicated or specifically stipulated by the author(s), all parts/roles shall be open to all actors without prejudice. This shall be evident in all casting notices. Non-traditional and equal-opportunity casting will be discussed and strongly encouraged.

Theatre performance majors (BFA A and BFA MT) will be given priority consideration for all available Mainstage roles, (unless prior permission has been granted by the Chair of the Department to engage a guest artist), followed by theatre majors in any degree program. It is the responsibility of each student to be knowledgeable about the shows being produced, and to discuss with their program Area Heads in advance of the audition if there are roles they feel are inappropriate for them for personal reasons. Unless otherwise arranged prior to the initial audition, individuals will accept any role “as cast.”

If a role cannot be suitably cast from those who have auditioned, auditions may be extended beyond the original schedule, or specific individuals may be invited to fill the need(s). This may involve the engagement of a guest artist or faculty guest artist. This practice will occur only with the authorization of the Chair of the Department, Artistic Director, and in consultation with the Area Heads.

Under certain circumstances directors may pre-cast a role or roles, including guest artists, with the authorization of the Department Chair, Artistic Director, and in consultation with the Area Heads. If any roles have been pre-cast, that information will be included in all audition announcements.

Students are cautioned that over-extension may hinder their creative and academic growth. For this reason, significant conversations will take place between directors, faculty, and the Area Heads before a student will be cast in more than one project per semester.

Final casting decisions for each semester will be made immediately following callbacks at a joint casting session. Casting is not final until approval is given by the Department Chair.