



## THE AUDITION PROCESS

As a reminder for existing members and for any new members who may wish to know how the audition process works, here is a brief explanation.

The articles of the society state:

### 15. SELECTION OF THE CAST

The principals and chorus for any production shall be selected by an audition committee consisting of the Director, Musical Director and three other people selected by the Committee. The decision of the majority of such members shall be final except where the Director and Musical Director are in agreement when their decision shall prevail.

Only fully paid up members of the society can audition. Subscriptions should be paid to the Membership Secretary or, in her absence, another member of the committee who will pass on the payment.

The main thing for auditionees to remember is that the audition committee want to choose the best cast possible for the show. It follows that the committee want everyone to do the best audition they can, giving them a good choice of candidates. It is preferable to have all auditions on the same day, however, if you are unable to audition on the selected date please tell the Secretary, Pamela Depledge, who will try to assemble the committee on an alternative date beforehand. Auditioning on a different date is exceptional and is not encouraged.

All candidates auditioning for a part will be asked to sit in a separate room whilst the auditions for that part take place. They will be called through to audition one by one. If you are watching auditions, please show respect and consideration for those auditioning by not talking or going in and out of the audition room whilst an audition is in progress.

As well as acting and singing, the audition committee need to look at the cast as a whole, taking into account heights and ages (the age a person can believably look on stage!) and how characters playing opposite one another will blend together. They also need to take in to consideration potential for improvement and availability for rehearsals and how this might impact both the production team and fellow cast members.

In addition to the Director and MD, the additional members of the audition committee will include a member of the Executive Committee who will chair the committee. The other two members will generally include the choreographer (if the production team includes one) and someone from outside the society (to give a fresh input).

It is also usual practice for the chairman of the audition committee to seek the views of the two 'additional' members at the start of any discussion to ensure that all views are taken in to consideration. Each audition will be discussed and as above, if the Director and MD agree then their decision will prevail. If they do not agree there will be a vote between the 4 members, excluding the chairman of the committee. If there is still no clear decision the chairman of the committee will, having taken in to account the views of all others present, have the casting vote.

The discussions of the audition committee are confidential and auditionees should not press members of the audition committee to disclose details. If auditionees feel it would be useful for the future to have feedback on their audition, there will be one member of the audition committee who will be nominated to provide this feedback in all cases. On this occasion, this is Bob Cantan who will be happy to speak to auditionees and give them feedback at rehearsals in the coming couple of weeks.