

# Grad Film and Open Arts Casting Guide

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## Casting

There are two main ways that people cast their student projects:

- Cast or audition actors you already know or who have been recommended to you by friends and colleagues.
- Casting Calls - Filmmakers submit a 'casting breakdown' by placing ads online or in publications (i.e., [Backstage](#)), catering to actors, describing the character and what they are looking for in an actor (age range, gender identity, special skills, etc.) They select actors from those submissions to audition and decide who they'd like to cast.

### Casting Calls Explained

Casting calls, also referred to as casting breakdowns, are notices made to the public or to casting agencies stating that actors are needed for an upcoming production. Most casting calls (also called breakdowns) include the following:

- Character Description (age range, gender identity, special skillsetc.)  
**Note:** Never use stereotypes of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, age, ability/disability, or insensitive language in a character description. Avoid using slang to describe characters.

- The status of the project as either union or non-union