

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 put ads online or in publications (i.e. Backstage) catering to actors, describing the character and what they are looking for in an actor (age, gender, special skills, etc.) They select actors from those submissions to audition and decide who they'd like to cast.

Casting Calls Explained

Casting calls, AKA 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, ethnicity, etc.)
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.
- Union or Non-Union
- A short synopsis of the film