

CASTING AT LYRIC BELFAST

Casting for our in-house productions is led by the Lyric's Casting Director and Producers, working in close partnership with each production's artistic team. Casting at the Lyric is in-house and seeks to employ the absolute best available, professional talent for every role. We have a responsibility to consider and cast native Irish performers and actors based locally to the theatre, but we also cast outside of this remit. We strive to create an integrated, fair and professional process that engages emerging and established actors. We consider artists from diverse backgrounds and cast without prejudice in terms of the path performers have taken into the industry. We operate an inclusive approach and aim to ensure that casting sessions take place at accessible venues. Artists applying to audition at the Lyric must hold a minimum of two professional credits or have completed professional actor training at an accredited drama college.

Lyric Production Casting

We try to cast most roles through auditions. Casting breakdowns are sent to agents, emailed upon request, or posted on Spotlight. Extensive casting lists are drawn up by the Casting Director for most roles in productions. Submissions are welcomed. Generally, there are two rounds of auditions. Self-tapes are common in the first stage of casting with recalls taking place 'in the room.' Information regarding the role / production / dates / scripts is sent digitally in advance of an audition. For new writing, actors will be provided with confidential draft scripts or scenes. Auditions take place at the Lyric in Belfast with the Lyric Casting Director, the Director of the play, the Playwright (if appropriate), and a professional actor to read opposite. They last 15-20 minutes. We aim to communicate decisions within 4 weeks of an audition and try to offer constructive feedback to as many actors as possible.

Lyric Reading and Development Casting

We do not hold auditions for play readings. Actors will be chosen by the Casting Director, Executive Producer, Director and Playwright. We try to ensure opportunities to be involved in readings are equitable amongst the acting community. Readings operate on limited budgets and priority is given to actors based locally to the theatre. If required, actors from outside NI will be considered. Readings are professional paid work and in line with Equity / UK Theatre Repertory Rates.

Open Auditions / General Meetings / Invitations / Showcases / Submissions

There are currently no open auditions at the Lyric however it is under review. The Casting Director is available for general meetings throughout the year.

The Casting Director and Lyric Producers regularly attend shows across the island of Ireland and in the UK to see performers. Invitations can be emailed to each directly or through the Production Coordinator email: kerryfitzsimmons@lyrictheatre.co.uk

We also welcome advance notice of appearances on all other media – Screen / Online / Audio etc.

The Casting Director will attend as many graduate showcases as possible, please email invitations directly or send online links to streamed showcases.

Actors and agents are welcome to submit digital CVs and headshots by email to the Casting Director: clare@lyrictheatre.co.uk . Please do not submit hard copies.

Professional Development

We believe actor training is a lifelong challenge and offer workshops with recognised experts, in a variety of fields, to those working in the profession, keen to hone their performance skills. Throughout the year, we run workshops for professional actors, providing the opportunity to explore new ways of working and refresh the skills they already have. We invite practitioners at the top of their field to share their expertise with local actors. We keep course fees to a minimum and are keen to respond to requests from actors and agents with suggestions for further workshops. Please visit: <https://lyrictheatre.co.uk/creative-learning/professional-development/> for the latest information.