

TUC Policies and Customs

This page is to serve as an introduction to how things are done in The Upstart Crow. Some things are formalized in the Bylaws, but most are based on usual practice.

Cast

1. Auditions are usually about 2 weeks prior to start of rehearsals.
2. Rehearsals usually start 5 1/2 weeks before opening.
3. Rehearsals are weeknights, usually 7:30 ***sharp*** until around 10.
4. Set and costume work is done by the cast and sometimes additional volunteers. Set and costume work happens weekend afternoons.
5. A person who has made a significant contribution who is not a member of the Upstart Crow receives a stipend of \$35 for the production. A person who has made a significant contribution who is a member of the Upstart Crow receives a stipend of \$60 for the production. What constitutes a significant contribution is at the discretion of the director of the show.
6. Move-in to the theater is the Monday (or sometimes Sunday) before opening. This is where set and costumes are moved from the rehearsal space to the theater and the set put in place. All members of the cast are expected to help with this. (exceptions made for work schedules.)
7. Strike is done immediately after close and all cast members are expected to participate.
8. There is usually a cast party (bring food & drink) following the opening performance and strike.
9. Photographs are taken during one of the final dress rehearsals of each production. These photos will be shown following the second Friday's performance.
10. Following the first Saturday performance there is a "Meet the Cast" reception with soft drinks and snacks. Cast members are requested to change to street clothes and mingle with those members of the audience who stay for this.
11. Following the second Saturday performance there is a "Talkback". There will be a short presentation providing additional insight into the play followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Cast members are requested to change and come out on stage in case anyone has a question for him/her. Cast members are encouraged to add comments of their own at any time.

Membership

1. A person who has made a significant contribution to 3 major productions out of the last 6 is a member of The Upstart Crow. What constitutes a significant contribution is at the discretion of the director of the show.

2. A person who has made a significant contribution to 10 major productions and who has been a member for 4 years shall be a member emeritus. Emeritus members have all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of regular members but do not need to have been in 3 of the last 6 major productions.
3. Members who audition for a show are guaranteed to be cast (although no particular role is guaranteed) provided there are not more members auditioning than roles and there is a reasonable match-up in age and gender. (At the director's discretion, gender may be switched from that called for in the script.)
4. At the annual company meeting members may submit the names of plays they wish to be considered for the following season. These plays will remain on the list of plays to be considered for 3 years. The member should have read or seen the play recently. Plays may be resubmitted any number of times. It is the responsibility of the submitting member to provide the Board of Directors with access to the play.
5. Any member of The Upstart Crow may call for a meeting of the company at any time, with 1 week's notice.
6. Members receive comps to all shows.

Board of Directors

1. At the annual company meeting 6 members will be elected to the Board of Directors for 1 year terms.
2. The BoD appoints from among their number the president, secretary, and treasurer.
3. The BoD handles most of the business decisions and planning for the company. These decisions and planning may be delegated as the BoD sees fit. (Artistic and logistical decisions for individual productions are handled by the show's director and/or producer.)
4. The BoD reviews the plays that members have submitted and selects the plays to be produced the following season and the order that they will be produced.
5. The BoD announces the plays to the membership and requests applications to direct them. The BoD chooses each director from among those that apply. (NOTE: non-members are welcome to apply to direct also.)
6. All meetings of the BoD are open to all members. Members will be notified in advance when and where such meetings will occur.
7. Decisions of the BoD can be overturned by a vote of the membership.

Audience

1. Thursdays are Name-Your-Price (Auditors are given an envelope upon entry and return it later with whatever they choose to donate.). The first NYP is an actors benefit (Donations from that performance will be divided evenly among the cast and crew.).

2. Actors do not get comps. Encourage friends to come to NYP instead.
3. A person who has seen the show can return to see it again for free on a space available basis.

Miscellaneous

1. At present, the Upstart Crow has 4 major productions a year. These run for 2 weeks in late August/early September, November, February, and late April/May. The exact dates vary based on the availability of performance space.