

The Cross and the Switchblade *Audition Information*

The Logos Theatre is excited to bring a new original production to the stage this spring! This production of **The Cross and the Switchblade** will come to life on The Logos Theatre stage, and you might have the opportunity to be a part of the cast or crew that makes that happen!

Below you will find the important information you will need to know to audition for this incredible opportunity as well as answers to questions you may have.

Please read the entire packet thoroughly, and we can't wait to see you all at rehearsals!

**This packet contains interactive links that you can click.*

Frequently Asked Questions

When are auditions:

All auditions will be done by video and should be submitted by **10PM on January 8th, 2025.**

Does it cost to be in the production(s):

There is a \$50 fee to be in each cast. This goes to assist with all costs associated with cast member involvement including make-up, costumes, etc. This fee is only due when the cast list is released.

How do I register:

[Click here to go to the registration website.](#) You can create an account by clicking "Create your account." If you are above 18, you can add yourself as the parent/guardian and then add yourself as a camper. and complete the remaining questions. You will have finished your registration once you make it to the checkout part of registration. It is crucial that you complete the checkout process, otherwise your registration will not be submitted.

If you already have an account, please just login and select the person that you wish to enroll in the audition.

Each participant should upload a clear, recent headshot on the parent dashboard.

NOTE: By registering, you are stating that you can attend **all rehearsals and you are willing to be cast in any role.** Each and every cast member is essential to the production, and no roles are "small" parts.

How do I audition:

Participants will need to memorize at least one scene given in the audition packet. Lines for just one character or for multiple characters can be memorized. **NOTE: Please only audition for roles whose age and physical requirements match that of your own.**

**Participants are expected to have at least one character's lines memorized for their audition.*

Participants will need to say their full name and height at the beginning of the audition. Please be sure to record yourself from head to toe for your entire audition piece.

Hard work is valued at The Logos Theatre. Casting decisions will be made based on how prepared each participant is for the audition. The audition panel needs to see the best you can do to make the wisest decision in casting the roles.

Audition Accents

The production has several different accents, so we have included below several resource videos to demonstrate the accents required for this production. Most of the characters will need to audition with New York accents (aka Brooklyn, Bronx, etc. accents). We would love to see some Irish accents if you are caucasian and trying out for a gang member. Below is a basic breakdown of needed accents for different parts.

Wilkersons: mid - atlantic / transatlantic accent (there are youtube videos of David Wilkerson preaching)

Police / Journalists / Judge: New York Accent

Hispanic Gang Members: Natural accent with New York Accent (dropped r's, etc.)

African American Gang Members: New York Accent

Caucasian Gang Members: New York Accent / also some Irish is welcome

New York Examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykmG9gKv6AQ&list=PLOQI1Q0NknLGGKzDnnGkj8GhkhcnNt0ZQ&index=12>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCBpwBpZOvk>

***Please carefully follow these instructions.*

How to upload your video to YouTube:

- 1) Sign into YouTube. You may need to create an account if you do not already have a YouTube or Google account.
- 2) Click the Upload button at the top of the page.
- 3) Before you start uploading the video you can choose the video privacy settings. Select unlisted.
- 4) Select the video you'd like to upload from your computer.
- 5) As your video is uploading, you can edit both the basic information and the advanced settings of the video.
- 6) Click Done to finish the upload or click Share. Copy the link of the video, and send link to audition@TheAcademyofArts.org
- 7) Put in the subject line of your email "The Cross and the Switchblade Audition: (Name of Participant)"

*Please email us at audition@TheAcademyofArts.org if you have any questions. You will receive a confirmation email to confirm that your video was received.

When will rehearsals begin:

Please see attached rehearsal schedule. **Once the cast list is released, a more specific rehearsal schedule will be sent out. Cast members should plan to be at all rehearsals on the rehearsal schedule until the detailed rehearsal schedule is released.**

While we do not anticipate changing the rehearsal schedule, there may be times that a change must be made for the good of the production. We will communicate any necessary changes as soon as they arise.

What should I wear to rehearsals:

Please:

- No clothing with holes or rips.
- Make sure that shorts or skirts come at least to the middle of the knee.
- Do not wear leggings as pants.
- Make sure that clothing is not form-fitting for both guys and girls.
- Make sure that all shirts are long and necklines high.
- Please wear closed-toed shoes to all rehearsals.

****The Academy of Arts staff reserves the right to ask a person to change clothing if it does not follow these guidelines.**

Are there things that I need to supply for my costume:

A list of items that you need to bring for your costume will be emailed shortly after the cast list is released.

Who should I ask if I have questions:

Any and all questions should be submitted to Claire Killiany at claire@discipleofchrist.com

Should I pack a meal for rehearsals:

Please pack a supper for rehearsals. Microwaves are available to heat up meals. Lunches will need to be packed on days that rehearsals go 9:00am - 9:00pm.

What does it mean to be an understudy:

In theatre, an understudy is a performer who learns the lines and blocking/choreography of a regular actor or actress in a play. Should the regular actor or actress be unable to appear on stage because of illness or emergency, the understudy takes over the part. *Understudies will **not** perform unless an unforeseen circumstance occurs.*

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						15
9	10	11	12	13	14	
		Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	Rehearsal 4PM—9PM	
30	31					

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Rehearsal 9AM—9PM	2 Rehearsal 9AM—9PM	3 Rehearsal 9AM—9PM	4 Performance 7pm	5 Performance 2pm
6	7	8 Pictures/ Filming	9	10 Performance 7pm	11 Performance 7pm	12 Performance 2pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

The Cross and The Switchblade

Character Bio List

(about 30 actors needed; including at least 5-10 additional nonspeaking gang kids)

David Wilkerson: Caucasian male, mid 30s-40s. Studied in the Scriptures, mature, yet grows to be bolder and fully reliant on the Holy Spirit's power throughout the script. Deep Christ-like love and compassion for inner-city gang members, ignorant of their lifestyle, walks in constant faith, strong believer/prayer warrior.

Nicky Cruz: Late teens, early 20s; preferably Mexican/Hispanic. War-lord for the Mau Mau gang, one of the toughest gangs in New York City. Addicted to drugs, hate-filled, and preys on weakness. He struggles with a damaged, strangled voice from a previous gang murder attempt on his life, consistently haunted with the fear that no one could handle him or love him; never settled. Actor must be able to display tortured, haunted mind at times from past memories and decisions, and contrast when he experiences radical salvation from former life.

Maria: Preferably Hispanic/Mexican female mid-late teens. Heavily addicted to heroin. Script says she sells herself to buy more drugs but actual play will not show any physicality or much sensual behavior. In one scene, goes through the process of making heroin from crystals. Is high in several scenes, and threatens to commit suicide publicly with a knife once. All identity is wrapped in love from Israel and her life on the streets - desperate for love. Fierce, tough, president of a 300-strong girl gang - been physically beaten to get to where she's at.

Israel: President of one of the toughest gangs in New York City, the Mau Maus; won't stand for weakness, violent whenever needed, loyal to his gang until he realizes there could be a way out.

Police Officer 1/Jim: Mid 40s, male. Been in the force for several years and seen a lot of gang violence. Nothing surprises him. Doesn't believe any of the gang members could truly change. Stands for justice and the American people. Tough.

Security Guards/Police Officers (at least 2 actors needed) Mid 20s or older, male. Seasoned officers who do their job well. Efficient. Respect Police Officer 1/Jim.

Nicky's Mother/MAMA: Female, mid 40s or older, preferably Hispanic/Mexican. Witch doctor. Known for sorcery and ability to talk to dead spirits. Actor who can portray going into a satanic euphoria without the actor actually being emotionally, mentally, and spiritually effected. Actor needs to be mature, strong communicator, and strong in her personal Christian faith.

Nicky's Father/PAPA: Male, mid 40s or older, preferably Hispanic/Mexican. Tall, broad, most feared man in Puerto Rico - is known for the ability to communicate to dead spirits and help his wife cast out demons. Physically abusive to Nicky and siblings; controlling, fierce, harsh, unloving, disciplinary. Actor needs to be mature, strong communicator, and strong in his personal Christian faith.

Demon-possessed Puerto Rican Girl: Female, child-young teenager, preferably Hispanic/Mexican. Young actor who can portray flailing, moaning, and seizure-like qualities without harming themselves.

Possessed Girl's Parents: Preferably Hispanic/Mexican. Late 20s- early 30s.

Young Puerto Rican Boys (4-5 actors needed): Male, age 7-13, preferably Hispanic/Mexican/Black. Rough around the edges, at first will be bullying Young Nicky, and in a later scene will be bullied by Young Nicky. Pick young actors that have strong voices that are willing to yell onstage and can portray fierce and fearful personalities to an audience.

Tommy: Male, age 15-20, preferably black or caucasian. President of a lesser-known gang. With David when they watch the process of heroin-making. Energetic, wiry, slightly brash.

Willie: Male, age 15-20, preferably black or caucasian. War-lord of Tommy's gang. Bold, not afraid to violently remove any disloyalty within his gang, reserved in speech, dark presence.

Miles: Mid 20s or older, preferably white caucasian, male, willing to support David through this unusual ministry opportunity.

Jimmy: Mid 30s or older, preferably white caucasian, male, trumpet player, good at lightening tense situations, strong Christian leader, courageous, doesn't let fear of the unknown or inability to control a situation make him back down or hesitate. Preferably can play live trumpet.

Journalist & Cameraman (2-3 actors needed): At least one male, mid 20s or older. Efficient at their profession, always desperate to get a good story and manipulate questions to get more viewers and money. Initially more interested in views and money than the actual heart of the people they are interviewing or the direness of the situation.

Grandpa Wilkerson: Male, age 65-75, preferably caucasian. Very spiritually mature, energetic, wiry, brash, bold for the Lord, blunt, not afraid to cut through the emotion of a situation and get through to the real heart of something, experienced in calling out greedy pastors and comfortable, lukewarm Christians, takes no thought in what man thinks of him, a great and respected mentor of David's, patient, kind, wants to set David up for Godly success in a wicked atmosphere.

Stagecoach: Male, mid teens - early 20s, preferably black. Vice-President of the Chaplains - the second toughest gang in NYC. Amazed at what David preaches, willing to get saved in front of everyone. Big guy - not someone you want to mess with.

Buckboard: Male, mid teens - early 20s, preferably black. President of the Chaplains - the second toughest gang in NYC. Slightly more leery than Stagecoach of David, but willing to change his life in front of his gang. Proud of his boys, slightly more wiry and nasal/strained voice - acts like a mafia leader.

Little Jo-Jo: Male, early 20s. Resentful of anything resembling charity. President of the Coney-Island Dragons, strategic and not afraid of Mau Mau gang, really doesn't think much of life in general, slightly spiteful, lashes out easily. Curious later of David's faith in God because it seems very real and genuine. Becomes very meditative and quiet, taking in David's heart for God and how it plays out in his everyday life, and because of a desire to know and experience more, allows himself to be slightly vulnerable around David.

Mrs. Ortez: Mid 40s, female, preferably Hispanic/Mexican, strong pastor's wife, cares deeply for others, does her best to meet their physical and emotional needs, able to speak truth into Maria's life and help her set down the knife before committing suicide. Believes deeply in her value in Christ, and her faith of His protection.

Mr. Ortez: Mid 40s, male, preferably Hispanic/Mexican. Very faith driven, helps David with his rallies and hosts David in his home several times in NYC. Mature, understands much about gang life, very spiritually led, prayer warrior, vocally confident and speaks the truth often.

Young Nicky: About 8 years old, male, preferably Hispanic/Mexican. Fearful, slightly malnourished, as his hatred grows, so does fear, but the fear is masked by violence. Trying to fight for life and identity outside of his abusive parents by being feared in the community. Does not have strangled speech difficulty yet. Desperately lonely and wants to be loved.

Nicky Double: Male, must have similar look/build/skin coloring to actor who plays Nicky Cruz. Must be able to act as if being strangled to death and fighting for his life. Will be double-cast as another gang member for rest of the play.

General Gang Members (Male: 8-10 actors; Female: 5-6 actors; nonspeaking): Male/Female, age 13-20. Gang members portray stabbings, gang fights, alcohol intake, are loud and disruptive at rallies, etc.

Heroin Addicts Gang Members (Male: 3-5 actors; Female: 3-5 actors; nonspeaking): Male/Female, age 13-20. Also will be general gang members or cast as a specific part, but are specifically involved in the heroin-making scene. Need to be able to portray seizure-like qualities and moaning before getting their drug "fix", and then immediate relief and dream-like hallucinations/euphoria afterwards. Pick strong actors who will not be emotionally and mentally affected by watching this "process".

Michael Farmer (nonspeaking): Male, age 14-17, preferably black. Actor must be able to portray weak/limping leg. Brutally stabbed to death in first scene. Will most likely be double cast as another gang member at different points in the play.

Roger McShane (nonspeaking): Male, age 14-17, preferably black. Actor is beaten up and runs away in first scene. Will most likely be double cast as another gang member at different points in the play.

Judge Davidson (nonspeaking): Older male; may/may not be needed to portray courtroom scene. Strong presence; determined body language.

AUDITION SCRIPT

THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE

by David Wilkerson adapted for
stage by Claire Killiany

SCENE #1:

NEEDED:

David: male; about mid 30s; pastor

Jim: male; about mid 30s - 50s; chief of police

Security Guard: male; 20+

Journalists: male or female; 20+

(DAVID is being searched after being taken outside of the courtroom doors.)

JIM: Now...uh, Reverend Wilkerson, I'm assuming you have parental permission to see the boys?

DAVID: Well, no, I didn't know that –

JIM: I'm going to ask you to leave the premises until you get parental permission.

DAVID: If I could just see Judge-

JIM: Reverend there already is a minister assigned to this case. The judge doesn't want to see anyone else. *(to guards)* Calmly get him outside.

GUARD: This way.

JOURNALIST 2: Mr. Wilkerson, would you tell us why you are so interested in boys who have committed heinous crimes? Do you know them from a previous connection?

DAVID: I've never met those boys a day in my life, but...this picture - have you looked at this picture? I mean really looked – at their faces, at...

JOURNALIST: Sure. We all have.

DAVID: Well, if that's true, you should already know the answer to your own question.

(JOURNALIST acknowledges pointedness.)

JIM: Alright, back up - we're comin' through!

SCENE #2:

Needed:

Papa: male; 30s - 40s

Mama: female; 30s-40s

Young Nicky: male; 7-10 years old

(NICKY is hiding in fear. MAMA and PAPA start silently looking about the room. MAMA suddenly "senses" where NICKY is at and points to the basket. NICKY has his back turned as parents are advancing. PAPA and MAMA come to basket and PAPA rips it away. When MAMA sees NICKY, she starts swaying back and forth, head and eyes roll back.)

NICKY: *(whimpering)* No, Papa. Don't hit me! Please not today! *(backing up against the wall as PAPA comes towards him)*

PAPA: Come here.

MAMA: *(moans loudly)* No! This...not...my...son.

PAPA: What? Yes, this is your... *(sees 'Toria')* 'Toria?

NICKY: Mama?

MAMA: No, NO! Not my son! You child of greatest witches!

PAPA: It's one of her visions. Step back, Nicky. *(steps towards MAMA cautiously)* 'Toria, what do you see?

MAMA: *(MAMA reacts to NICKY, pointing at him - horrified - and screams hysterically)* No! You! Get away from me! Son of Satan! Child of Devil!

PAPA: What?

NICKY: Why is she sayin' that? That's not me! It's me! It's Nicky, Mama!

(NICKY starts to walk forward a little. MAMA screams at him walking towards her and backs up a little against the wall.)

MAMA: Away! Away! AWAY!

PAPA: All right, 'Toria, alright!

SCENE #3:

Needed:

David: male; mid 30s

Jo-Jo: male; teenager - mid 20s

Who is Jo-Jo? President. Tough – out on the night with a hangover. Sleeping on a bench.

(DAVID walks up to bench. LITTLE JO-JO sleeping - gets startled a little as he wakes up, realizes who the person is, DAVID sticks out his hand, and JO-JO ignores him.)

DAVID: You're Jo-Jo, right? *(Startles Jo-Jo out of his sleep. DAVID sticks out hand)* I'm David Wilkerson. *(Jo-Jo slaps it away)* I've come to invite you to-

JO-JO: Back off, man! I don't want it – and this bench is mine. *(goes back to sleep)*

DAVID: Is this where you live?

JO-JO: *(mumbling in his "sleep")* I'm not talking with you.

DAVID: Well...I'll just sit here.

(DAVID attempts to sit. JO-JO blocks him with his feet while still "sleeping". DAVID "fakes" going around the bench by shuffling his feet and manages to sit down. JO-JO groans)

JO-JO: Oh, come on, man! What is this for you?

(silence)

JO-JO: You're sitting in my parlor. Happy?

DAVID: Where do you go when it rains?

JO-JO: I move down to my suite in the subway. You been there, too?

DAVID: When is the last time you lived in a home-

JO-JO: What do ya' want, man? Look atch' you. You've got new shoes...and a suit of clothes that match. I'm a bum. Now...we're all good, just...go help someone who wants it.

(JO-JO arranges his blanket and lays back down. DAVID bends down and takes off his shoes and sets them on JO-JO.)

JO-JO: Hey! Wha-What is this?

DAVID: You've been griping about shoes. Put them on.

(JO-JO looks at how nice they are...and smells them)

DAVID: Put them on.

JO-JO: I ain't never had new shoes.

(DAVID gets up and walks past JO-JO down the street.)

JO-JO: Hey! Aren't you forgetting these?

DAVID: They're yours.

JO-JO: *(jogging after DAVID)* Preacher, I forgot to shake your hand.

SCRIPT #4:

NEEDED:

Mr. Ortez: male; mid 30s+

Mrs. Ortez: female; mid 30s+

David: male; mid 30s

Jo-Jo: male; teenage - mid 20s

Maria: female; teenage - mid 20s; high on heroin

(MARIA knocks on the door. Others are gathered around a table. MRS. ORTEZ looks at husband and goes to open the door.)

MRS. ORTEZ: Maria! It's – *(sees she's high)* oh, Maria...

DAVID: Maria! Come in!

(MARIA pushes past her, searching, eyes glazed with heroin and raging mad.)

MARIA: *(stops when she identifies DAVID. Spits in front of him)*

PASTORA: *(gasps)* Maria!

(MARIA cries out and rushes at DAVID. PASTOR grabs MARIA, wrestling her away)

PASTOR: Maria-- Maria! *(looks around as he's wrangling her arms)* Will someone please help me?

(They get her arms pinned and her body against wall or in a chair. MARIA calms down a little, wailing)

DAVID: Maria, what's wrong?

(MARIA is quietly moaning)

PASTORA: Something's happened.

PASTOR: Are you gonna' explain what's going on?

MARIA: *(Pause. Looks with stony, glazed hatred at DAVID)* He knows. *(Starts rattling off against DAVID in Spanish: you double faced liar! You're trying to break us up! Nicky was right! Trying to get the kids to your church service! When I find you alone, I won't be afraid to kill you myself. You're dead, Wilkerson!)*

PASTOR: *(in Spanish)* That's enough! *(To DAVID)* Well, uh, she is mad at you.

DAVID: Yeah, I know that much. Why?

PASTOR: *(sighs)* I mean, you *are* messing up the gangs.

DAVID: That's why I'm here! And it's a good thing!

PASTOR: But they - she can't see anything past the life she's stuck in, David.

MARIA: Don't talk about me like...like I'm a child! *(PASTORA tries to comfort MARIA)* Don't touch me! I want to know why you're breaking us up!

MRS. ORTEZ: Breaking who up, Maria?

MARIA: What happens after, huh? Once they all come to your service?

DAVID: Maria, I think you've misunderstood my-

MARIA: No, *you* don't understand! You are ruining our lives!! You already have.

PASTORA: Maria...

MARIA: I said get off! *(Sees knife. Grabs it, swings it towards her)* No one's touchin' me! *(brings it to her throat slowly)* Stand back! I'm going to slit my throat like a pig, and you're all going to watch.