

The Cross and the Switchblade

Audition Information

We are excited to bring **The Cross and the Switchblade** back to The Logos Theatre's stage for the 2025-2026 Production Season! This is the true story of David Wilkerson and his ministry, Teen Challenge, that continues world-wide today!

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 begin working on your audition now!

**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 September 22nd.**

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 ckilliany@theAcademyofArts.org.

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.*



October 2025

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

November 2025

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

The Cross and The Switchblade

Audition Character Bio List

NEEDED: Male and female older youth, teenagers, and adults of African American, Hispanic, and Caucasian races.

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: Preferably Mexican/Hispanic male; late teens, early 20s. 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, 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 accomplish her status.

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. Eventually has a powerful conversion and encourages Nicky's salvation.

Detective: Mid 40s, male. Been in the force for several years and seen a lot of gang violence. Doesn't believe any of the gang members could truly change. Stands for justice and the American people. Tough.

Police: Efficient at their profession; tough; no nonsense. Seen a lot of violence on the force. Realize any day could be their last amidst the gang wars of New York City.

Journalist & Cameraman 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.

Gang Member: Resentful of anything resembling charity. President of a gang; bored with life, slightly spiteful, lashes out easily. Is affected by David's genuineness and becomes interested in God.

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.

AUDITION SCRIPT
THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE
by David Wilkerson adapted for
stage by Claire Killiany

SCENE #1:

*David Wilkerson, Detective, Journalist, Officer, Herbert Matthews
(looking for immense energy, natural interactions & vocal reactions)*

PATRICK: All right! Where's the gun?

DAVID: Gun? What gun?

JOURNALIST: Valusek! Get a shot of this!

CAMERAMAN: I'm right here! Is he carryin' a Bible?

(A barrage of questions)

NEWSMAN/MATTHEWS: Herbert Matthews with *The New York Times*. Is there a message you are sending to other men of the cloth by threatening to attack Judge Davidson?

(OFFICERS searching David - pull out his wallet)

DAVID: Wait, what? I'm not *attacking* anyone! Please, sir,

DETECTIVE: *(to journalists)* Back away!

DAVID: Sir/ma'am, please! I'm here for those boys. I simply wish to have Judge Davidson's permission to see them.

OFFICER: They're both clean.

DETECTIVE: Judge Davidson isn't receiving anyone right now, but don't worry...uh...Mr. Wilkerson, there's already a minister assigned to this case. *He'll* see to it they get what they need.

JOURNALIST: Do you believe that book in your hand can change lives?

DAVID: It's why I carry it with me.

DETECTIVE: Too bad you didn't think about these boys *before* they committed the crimes, then, huh, Mr. Wilkerson? Save us a lot of trouble.

SCENE #2:

Israel, Maria, Nicky

(looking for tension and break of tension, strong mental wrestling)

(lights come up on a table in the MAU MAU “bunker” with NICKY, MARIA, and ISRAEL entering)

ISRAEL: Nicky, what is wrong with you?

NICKY: *(to MARIA)* You gonna’ be happy when things change around here?

MARIA: Nothin’s gonna’ change.

NICKY: Oh yeah? That preacher’s getting’ into people’s heads.

MARIA: He’s only in yours. Here, Israel...

ISRAEL: What is it?

MARIA: A blunt.

ISRAEL: I don’t want it.

NICKY: Ahh! Give it to me! I’ll take it!

ISRAEL: No, Nicky! You’ve gotta’ think, this could be our one chance...and you can’t think if this stuff’s in you! Maria, get this out of here! Just go home!

MARIA: But Israel...

ISRAEL: Leave! *Ahh! (MARIA leaves)* Listen to me! The stuff in the past...keep it there! Stop runnin’ from Puerto Rico, your parents...everythin’ that’s in your head. You can’t sleep, you wake up screamin’ all the time ...Nicky, what if the preacher can help?

NICKY: My Mama made a living castin’ out demons and Papa talked to dead people every day! If they couldn’t handle me, I don’t want anyone else tryin’.

ISRAEL: That preacher is different.

NICKY: I never thought I’d see you so afraid. Face it. *This* is the best we’re gonna’ get. And I’ll kill him if he comes near any of it.

SCENE #3:

David Wilkerson, Gang member

(looking for “I don’t care” attitude, and courage amidst uncertainty)

(DAVID walks up to bench where GANG MEMBER is sleeping. GANG MEMBER is startled)

DAVID: I’m David Wilkerson. I’ve come to invite you to-

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

DAVID: Is this where you live?

GANG MEMBER: I’m not talking with you.

DAVID: Well...I’ll just sit here.

(DAVID attempts to sit. Gang member is protective of his/her space)

GANG MEMBER: Oh, come on, man! What is this for you?

(silence)

GANG MEMBER: You’re sitting in my parlor. Happy?

DAVID: Where do you go when it rains?

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

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

GANG MEMBER: 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.

(GANG MEMBER lays back down. DAVID bends down and takes off his shoes and sets them by GANG MEMBER)

GANG MEMBER: Hey! Wha-What is this?

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

(beat)

DAVID: Put them on.

GANG MEMBER: I ain’t never had new shoes.

(DAVID leaves)

GANG MEMBER: Hey! Aren't you forgetting these?

DAVID: They're yours.

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

SCRIPT #4:

*Mr. Ortez, Mrs. Ortez, David Wilkerson, Maria (high on heroin)
(looking for intense energy, vocal reactions, vulnerability)*

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

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

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

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

MRS ORTEZ: *(gasps)* Maria!

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

MR ORTEZ: 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)

MRS ORTEZ: Something's happened.

MR ORTEZ: 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!)*

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

DAVID: Yeah, I know that much. Why?

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

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

MR O.: 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! Don't touch me! I want to know why you're breaking us up!

MRS O.: 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.

MRS O.: 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.