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THEATER

THEATER; Theatrical Casting Can Be High Drama

Since directors and producers seldom cast plays on their own, it falls to the casting director to compile extensive lists of candidates for each role. After conferring with agents and screening actors, the casting director advises the director in auditions. But before auditions begin, the casting director will probably have performed a most important function: selling the idea of theater to actors, many of whom have agents advising them to take or wait for a film or television job.

"An actor has to want to do theater very badly because it isn't economically viable," says Pat McCorkle, who, along with others mentioned here, is a top theatrical casting director. "They have to balance their theater work with a commercial career," she adds, "so the theater now competes directly with movies and television for the same actors."