

THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Meadows Initiation

'First-year Showcase' and auditions begin fall theatre season

By Lily Shanks

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Pressure on upperclassmen, too

While the first-years study to prepare for the spring, upperclassmen faced a similar experience as they auditioned for the fall season. Directors held a general audition Friday, and all actors performed a monologue with the option of also singing. Saturday, directors held callbacks. Some had students read scenes from their play, while others relied on improvisation.

Director Mahmood Karimi-Hakak led his group through a group warm-up, followed by heavy physical and emotional drills that showed him the actors' different energies and how they matched one another. Once he saw them together, they all joined in an open interview, allowing the actors to ask him questions and vice versa. Karimi-Hakak said he wants a cast that will work well together and with him.

The directors and faculty decided how to cast each show Sunday, a difficult process if several directors want the same actor. In this situation, the student, not director or show comes first.

"The intent is to cast the productions based on the artistic quality and education of each student" Hofeditz said.

Karimi-Hakak agreed.

"My job at SMU is not to do the best play but to perceive the work in a way that my actors can learn something," he said. "We are here to teach them. The plays are only tools for them to practice."

Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," the first show, opens Oct. 3.