

# AUDITION NOTICE



## PLAY READING AUDITIONS FIRST REHEARSAL PERFORMANCES

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 8pm in the Studio  
Sunday 2 July 2023, 2pm in the Theatre  
Wednesday 4 October 2023  
30 November – 9 December 2023, 8pm  
Matinee on Saturday 9 December 2023, 2.30pm

## DIRECTOR PA

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Scripts available from Keith Orton – keith.orton@gmail.com

When is the right time to tell the truth? In this brand new play, the sudden arrival of Eddie to his son's home in Australia at Christmas, brings about a chain of events with a few surprises. Eddie is unwell and has a secret which he needs to tell before it's too late. However, so much is standing in his way, including ghosts of his dead ex-wife and his partner. Will he be able to tell the truth and put things right before it is too late? Will decisions made in the past affect the present? This haunting story loosely based on a Christmas Carol, deals with adult themes and is funny, yet painfully moving, in equal measure.

This will be an unique opportunity to be part of a world premiere and a highly collaborative process, as all involved discover the delights of this modern Christmas tale.

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS:

*Please note that the only character which will require an Australian accent is Thomas.*

### **ROB SPENCER** (Playing age late 30s)

Rob is the financial consultant, son of the title character, Eddie. His father left the family home when he was a young boy and he was consequently brought up by his mother. He has never really forgiven his father for his parent's separation. He has very similar traits to his father, mainly stubbornness and therefore the drama centres around both men trying to work through their supposed differences. He's a modern man who wants a family of his own.

### **Audition piece:**

P.72 Rob says "I don't have time for reminiscing..." to P.74 where 'Rob gives Eddie a hug and gets up to collect his things'

### **LUCY SPENCER** (Playing age late 30s)

Lucy is a Primary School teacher and wife to Rob. A caring, supportive, strong figure who is very sensitive and perceptive with people and the drama around her. She acts as a confidant to Eddie, trying to encourage both, father and son, to talk openly about how the family was separated when Rob was a young boy. Lucy can see the similarities in the men and is very much the linchpin and reason, Rob and his father reconcile. She too though is grappling with a personal issue, as she is struggling to become pregnant.

#### **Audition piece:**

Top of P.7 to P.10 Lucy says “Not Eddie you!”

### **EDDIE SPENCER** (Playing age late 60s)

Rob’s father, a retired teacher. Eddie is not a well man. He arrives in Australia to spend what could be his last Christmas with his estranged son, Rob and wife. He’s clearly struggling physically (he enters in a wheelchair and uses a stick to move around) and then his mentality is questioned as he sees people from the past and future whilst striving to repair his fractured relationship with his son. He’s a lovely guy who had to make some difficult decisions concerning his family. Eddie rarely goes off stage so this is a large, yet rewarding role.

#### **Audition piece:**

P.72 Rob says “I don’t have time for reminiscing...” to P.74 where ‘Rob gives Eddie a hug and gets up to collect his things’

### **SARAH SPENCER** (Playing age late 50s)

Eddie’s ex-wife. Sarah arrives very unexpectedly, giving Eddie a fright he could do without! Sarah likes to hold a grudge and has never forgiven ‘Edward’ for leaving Rob and herself all those many years ago. There’s an element of bitterness and denial in her character. She could be seen as coming across a bit melodramatic and this will require careful handling. Deep down she was heartbroken but she’d hate to admit it and likes to remind Eddie that she soldiered on, bringing up Robert whom she feels suffered the most.

#### **Audition piece:**

Top of P.13 Sarah says “I’m surprised this was still in it’s box” to P.16 where ‘Sarah remains seated’

### **JAKE MORLEY** (Playing age 50s)

Eddie’s partner. Jake is definitely a blast from the past and provides us with some cracking comedy moments which are then balanced with tender, heartfelt reflections, giving us a glimpse into Eddie’s past life. He’s a handsome chap and thinks he’s still like the ‘Teen Angel’ in Grease.

#### **Audition piece:**

Top of P.45 to P.49 Eddie says “Don’t mention stabbing”

### **THOMAS SPENCER** (Playing age 8)

Rob and Lucy’s adopted son. Thomas, ‘Tom’, is a bubbly boy who loves Christmas and like all children, can’t wait to open his presents on Christmas morning! He reminds everyone about the joy Christmas can bring to a family and the importance of having those you love around you.

#### **Audition piece:**

Top of P.64 Thomas says “Who are you?” to the bottom of P.68 – Eddie is overcome and takes out a handkerchief to mask his emotions...