

RABBIT

Written by Nina Raine

Directed by Hayley Cameron

25 - 29 October 2016

Barons Court Theatre



1. Auditions

The play has an even mix of male and female parts. Most of the characters are in their twenties/thirties but one character (Bella's father) needs to be in his fifties or older. There aren't any dictated accents – we're open to all interpretations of the characters in this respect! You do not need to prepare anything in advance. The audition will involve a few warm up exercises and games followed by some readings from scenes in the script. You'll get a chance to read for more than one character. The aim is that the audition is not a daunting experience but a fairly relaxed and fun one!

When: 6.45-7pm registration, auditions 7pm-9pm, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August 2016. Choose whichever date suits you best.

Where: Clean Break Studios, 2 Patshull Road, Kentish Town, NW5 2LB. The nearest tube is Kentish Town.

Recalls: 10am-2pm, Saturday 3 September

Venue: Clean Break Studios

You will be called by Friday 2 September if the directors would like to see you again.

2. Show Dates

The show will be performed from Tuesday 25 October to Saturday 29 October at Barons Court Theatre in West London. Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you'll be called at least an hour beforehand to warm up. The dress rehearsals will be on Sunday 24 October all day and Monday 25 October. On Monday you will preferably be available from midday onwards but if this is impossible for you, it's not vital.

3. Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be mainly on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings. You might not be needed for every single rehearsal. All rehearsals will be in central London. A rehearsal schedule will be created as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for.

4. About the Play

Rabbit centres around Bella, a single woman celebrating her 29th (could change dependent on casting!) birthday with a dinner for a group of very different friends, including two of her exes. As the wine flows, the conversation becomes heated and a battle of the sexes commences. However, what most of the guests don't know is that behind Bella's bravado, she is struggling to cope with the fact that her father is dying from a brain tumour.

Most of the play consists of the flirtations, disputes, mockery and interrogations between the group of five at the restaurant. Throughout the depiction of the evening, we also gain a glimpse into Bella's life with her father, a man she loves fiercely but finds equally frustrating. These poignant scenes are in stark contrast to the brashness and frivolity of the restaurants scenes. Bella's revelation to her guests at the end of the play is greeted by total shock by a group of twenty somethings who have spent pretty much the entire night debating the topic of sex.

Rabbit is real mix of comedy and more tragic, dramatic scenes. It was the debut play of writer Nina Raine and won her both the Evening Standard's Charles Wintour Award and the Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright in 2006.

5. Cast Breakdown

6 actors (3 male, 3 female)

BELLA (twenties)

Sexually liberated and unashamed, Bella invites not one but two of her exes to her birthday party. Her feelings can be volatile and the actress will need to be able to alternate quickly between incredibly diverse emotions.

FATHER (fifties or older)

Bella's father is an endearing character who we witness at various points in Bella's life. His scenes range from reprimanding a teenage Bella for loud music right through to his attempts to justify his decision not to have surgery to remove his tumour to a grown-up Bella.

EMILY (twenties)

A doctor who is one of the more reserved and sensitive characters in the play. She alone knows Bella's secret until the end of the play.

TOM (twenties or early thirties)

Quieter and more amiable than Richard, Tom is a recent ex of Bella's. He works in the city and provides a bit of grounding to the otherwise rather hysterical group.

RICHARD (late twenties or early thirties)

A barrister and would-be writer who dated Bella for five years and still harbors sharp feelings for her. He realises half way through the play that Tom was the "other" man for whom Bella left him and his poorly hidden jealousy drives a lot of the conversation.

SANDY (twenties or early thirties)

One of Bella's oldest friends, Sandy is the biggest extrovert of the bunch. She's confident and brash – she also has some of the funniest lines in the play!