

AUDITION NOTICE

Actors are invited to audition for

Alan Ayckbourn's TABLE MANNERS

A dramatic comedy

Directed by Barry Park

Presented by the Old Mill Theatre by Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French, A Concord Theatricals Company

Unpaid community theatre work

3m and 3f roles available

Accent: South-east England. Sarah adopts a much posher tone.

Ages: approximate stage ages

Reg (40s)

Annie's older brother and Sarah's husband. He is a "beige" estate agent who seeks to make it through the weekend without drama. He is frequently henpecked by his wife and often tries to avoid family arguments.

Norman (30s+)

A scruffy, persistent, and "shambolically loveable" assistant librarian. As the husband of Ruth, he considers himself a "gigolo trapped in a haystack" and a "poet". He acts like a child in need of attention, aiming to make all the women "happy" via seduction, causing mayhem and defying social conventions.

Tom (30s)

Annie's gentle, slow-witted, socially awkward suitor who is oblivious to emotional cues. He is a local vet who prefers animals to people and is continuously ridiculed by Norman.

Sarah (40s+)

Reg's nagging and micromanaging wife. She is a formidable, high-strung character constantly on the brink of a nervous breakdown who attempts to impose order and "manners" on the chaos.

Annie (30s)

The unmarried, younger sister who has spent her life caring for their invalid mother and the house. She is tough and feisty but frustrated by her role and her relatives. She arranges a "dirty weekend" with Norman, which sets the chaos in motion.

Ruth (30s+)

Annie's elder sister and Norman's wife. She is sophisticated, sharp-tongued, and a workaholic who is initially absent from the weekend. She is largely self-absorbed and takes no nonsense from anyone, being the only character who can control Norman.

Performance Dates: 11th to 26th September 2026

Evening Shows at 7:30 pm and matinees at 2.00pm

Fri 11th, Sat 12th, Sun 13th (2.00pm), Wed 16th, (Thu 17 keep free), Fri 18th, Sat 19th, Sun 20th (2.00pm), (Wed 23rd keep free), Thu 24th, Fri 25th, Sat 26th September 2026

Bump out: Sun 27th at 10am

Performance Venue: Old Mill Theatre, 4 Mends Street, South Perth, WA, Australia

Rehearsal Venue: The first five weeks of rehearsal, after the read-through at the theatre will be at St Andrews Church Hall, 259 Barker Road, Subiaco. Thereafter, rehearsals will be at the theatre.

Rehearsals Commence: Saturday 18th July

Mondays & Wednesdays – 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Saturdays – 2:00 PM to 5:00 pm

Additional rehearsal: Tuesday 8th September – 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Due to the structure of the play, all actors will be required at all rehearsals unless advised otherwise by the director in advance.

Actors must have their scripts down early in the rehearsal period, so that they can give their best performances. Script will be given well in advance.

Actors must be available for all performances.

Audition dates and times, by appointment (Exact time slot selected upon registration).

Saturday 18th April (10am to 5pm) and Monday 20th April (7pm to 10pm)

Sign up for an audition slot at: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLAYB>

If you are unavailable, you may submit a filmed audition, with an audition application form, to enquiries@oldmilltheatre.com.au

Audition Venue: Old Mill Theatre, 4 Mends Street, South Perth, WA, Australia

Please notify the theatre in advance if you are unable to attend your booked audition.

For any queries about the play, production, or audition, and to obtain an audition application form and audition extracts, please contact enquiries@oldmilltheatre.com.au

Audition Requirements:

Please bring your audition application form* (or fill one out when you arrive), your acting CV and a recent headshot if you have one. (*The form is at the end of this information)

Arrive 10 minutes early to check in and collect an excerpt from the script (or request a copy in advance).

You will be required to read a short excerpt from the play.

You are also encouraged to prepare a short monologue or a text excerpt that suits the tone and character(s) for which you are auditioning. Memorisation is encouraged but not required.

The auditions will be closed, with the director and an assistant.

You should not be involved in other productions during the rehearsal and performance period, unless agreed to by the director.

Signing the audition application form indicates your availability for, and commitment to rehearsals and performances.

You will be notified if you have been successful in your audition. The director's decision is final.

CREW:

Some additional crew members may be required. If you are interested in being involved in the production, or other productions, please contact the theatre, informing us in what aspect of the production you would be interested.

About the play:

Table Manners (1973) is one of the three plays in Alan Ayckbourn's trilogy *The Norman Conquests*, each showing the same chaotic weekend from a different room of the family home. This play takes place in the dining room, where misunderstandings, failed seductions, and family tensions unfold. Annie, who cares for her bedridden mother, has secretly arranged a weekend away with Norman, her brother-in-law. But the plan unravels when her brother Reg and his bossy wife Sarah arrive to take over caregiving, followed by Norman himself and finally Norman's wife Ruth. Tom, Annie's socially awkward neighbour, is also drawn into the confusion. Over awkward meals and botched plans, the six characters collide in an escalating series of comic mishaps centred on Norman's misguided attempts to 'make everyone happy.'

About the playwright:

A playwright and theatre director, to date Alan Ayckbourn has written 89 plays – *Family Album* attracted four-star reviews when it premiered in September 2022 at the Stephen Joseph, where nearly all his plays are first staged. However, this year he will stage his 88th play *Welcome to the Family*, at The Old Laundry Theatre, Bowness-upon-Windermere, before premiering his 89th play, *Constant Companions*, at the SJT. Before the pandemic his other work, having won countless awards, could be seen on stage and television throughout the world, so it was good news when this year *Birthdays Past*, *Birthdays Present* was staged in Germany to a terrific response. *Relatively Speaking*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Season's Greetings*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Absurd Person Singular* and *Woman in Mind* were all recently revived to great acclaim. In New York, his biennial visits with the SJT company performing his plays for the Brits off Broadway Festival at 59E59 Theatres regularly received an enthusiastic reception. He wrote a best-selling guide to writing and directing, *The Crafty Art of Playmaking*. His first "novel," *The Divide*, was published in 2019. Inducted into American Theatre's Hall of Fame, a recipient of the Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts, he became the first British playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Special Lifetime Achievement Awards. He was knighted in 1997 for services to the theatre.

About the Director:

Barry Park has been teaching, acting and directing since the 1980s, winning many awards. In Perth he has directed *A Song at Twilight*, *The Lady in the Van*, *Private Lives*, *Beautiful Thing*, *Hay Fever*, *Present Laughter and Design for Living*, (Old Mill Theatre); *Hansard*, *The Lisbon Traviata* and *The York Realist* (Garrick Theatre); *The Deep Blue Sea* (Melville Theatre), *Arcadia* (Harbour Theatre); *The Normal Heart*, *French Without Tears*, *The Boys in the Band*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Real Thing*, *Broken Glass*, *M. Butterfly*, *All My Sons* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (GRADS Theatre Company); and *August: Osage County* and *Other Desert Cities* (Playlovers). He has directed many other plays and musicals overseas, and has performed professionally at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the Grahamstown Festival, and in London, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, in plays, musicals, pantomimes, films, and radio and television productions and commercials.

About the theatre

<https://www.oldmilltheatre.com.au/about>

AUDITION APPLICATION FORM

TABLE MANNERS, a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Barry Park

At the Old Mill Theatre

Performance Dates: 11th to 26th September 2026

by Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on Behalf of Samuel French A Concord Theatricals Company

Unpaid community theatre work

Please print this form, complete it, and bring to the audition if you can, or fill one in at the audition.

NAME: (As it should appear on the programme)

EMAIL ADDRESS: (Please print clearly)

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

AGE:

HEIGHT:

ROLE(S) AUDITIONING FOR:

Please specify details of any commitments which may impact upon your participation in the rehearsal process:

Please list previous productions and roles played, as well as any relevant training or experience: (Not required if you submit your CV.)

If you would like to:

If not cast, I would like to help in this or future productions as (please underline):

Stage Manager | Assistant Stage Manager | Lighting Operation | Sound Operation | Costumes | Set Building | Set painting | Props | Lighting design | Sound design | Ushering | Box office

Please confirm YES or NO to the following:

I am available to attend all performances.

I am available to attend all scheduled rehearsals specified above. (If no, I will list the dates I am unavailable.)

During the rehearsal and performance period for this production, I will not be committed to any other productions.

I am willing to style my hair appropriately for the production.

I will have all my lines learned within the first three weeks of rehearsal.

I will learn an appropriate accent for the role.

If successful, I give permission for my contact details to be included on a cast and crew list for the production team, and for my name and photo to be published on the website, official Facebook page, and other related publicity.

I will become a member of the Old Mill Theatre.

YES / NO

Signed: _____

Date: _____