



Richmond Shakespeare Society  
**AUDITION NOTICE**

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## **TABLE MANNERS**

by Alan Ayckbourn

**Director: Mair Graham**

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- Reading:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. at 7.45pm at the Mary Wallace Theatre
- Auditions:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 7.45pm at the Theatre. Registration at 7.00pm
- Playing dates:** Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Rehearsals:** Starting on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**  
(and from then on - Tuesday, Thursday, Friday evenings & Sunday afternoons).  
... Rehearsals will take place in the vicinity of the theatre.

**AUDITIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL. The RSS actively encourages diversity in casting and casting decisions will *not* be constrained by the perceived gender or ethnicity of the roles being auditioned, unless specified by the author.**

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A classic 1970s comedy and one of Ayckbourn's finest - the first play of the Norman Conquest Trilogy. Annie and her brother in law, Norman, have planned an illicit weekend in East Grinstead. Annie is a put-upon carer for Mother. Reg, her brother, and his wife Sarah have arrived to look after Mother while Annie is away. Things do not go to plan - chaos follows, helped by the arrival of Ruth, Annie's sister (and Norman's wife) and of Tom, the local vet who uses any excuse to visit the house as he's rather sweet on Annie but finds it difficult to tell her. The play reflects the attitudes of the time it was written (early 1970s) and will be played as a period piece.

### **Characters**

Please note: these ages are playing ages.

#### **Female Roles**

**Annie** (late 20s to late 30s) Feels trapped in her role as an unpaid carer and thinks that life is passing her by.

**Sarah** (early 30s to early 40s) Married to Reg. A stay-at-home wife and mother, roles she relishes.

**Ruth** (30s) Annie's older sister, a high-flying career woman. Married to Norman but she is the breadwinner.

#### **Male Roles**

**Reg** (late 30s-50s) Annie's and Ruth's older brother. Married to Sarah. Estate agent. Nostalgic for his boyhood.

**Tom** (30s-40s) The local Vet. Shy and diffident. Understands and gets on better with animals than with people.

**Norman** (30s-40s) Charismatic, charming. Enjoys ambling through life. Unscrupulous and totally unambitious.

## Audition Pieces

The page numbers for the Audition Pieces refer to the French's Acting edition.

**Annie** (with Sarah) Page 1 to bottom of Page 3. **Annie** (with Norman) Page 29 to bottom of Page 30

**Sarah** (with Annie) Page 4 to middle of Page 6. **Sarah** (with Norman) Page 49 to Reg's entrance on Page 50

**Ruth** (with Annie) Sarah's Exit on Page 35 to bottom of Page 36. (With Norman) Top of Page 25 to bottom of Page 27.

**Reg** (with Sarah) Middle of Page 13 to bottom of Page 15.

**Tom** (with Annie) Page 54 to middle of page 55.

**Norman** Bottom of Page 20 to middle of 22.

Reading copies and more information about auditions etc. - contact the director on **01963 364 063**

*N.B. We are unable to put text online for copyright reasons.*

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**You do not have to be an RSS member to audition but, if cast, you will be required to become a member before the first rehearsal.**

**Membership Application** forms are available in the theatre - or contact the Membership Secretary at - [membership@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:membership@rss-mwt.org.uk)

**Audition Application** forms are available in the theatre, or can be downloaded via the GET INVOLVED and ACTING pages of [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk) Please return your form to the Hon. Secretary at the theatre, or by e-mail to - [secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk)