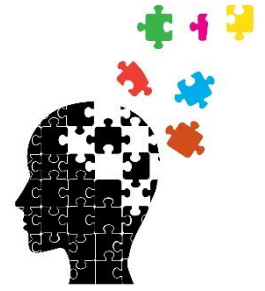


THE FATHER

By Florian Zeller – translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed for RDG by Nancy Lund

07846 129 672 Email – njbrown66@yahoo.co.uk



Read Through: Friday March 17th 7.30 RDG Studio

Auditions: Thursday April 13th 7.30 RDG Studio

Rehearsals – Monday and Wednesday evenings

Performances Wednesday – Saturday 26th to 29th July 2023 at Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Walton on Thames.

This play is a gripping psychological drama seen through the eyes of the protagonist.

As Andre's dementia seeks to overwhelm him, he struggles to retain control of his life and make sense of his changing circumstances. He steadfastly tries to resist help and assistance from his daughter Anne, while his mind slowly loses its grip on reality. As the play unfolds, he increasingly begins to doubt the validity of the support offered by those close to him, and the fabric of his own existence begins to ebb away. His memories become more fractured and ability to assess what is real becomes more tenuous, as gradually he is reduced to a shrunken shadow of his former self.

This thought-provoking play allows us a unique insight into the world of dementia through the eyes of the Father. It is an astonishingly unguarded play about the cruelties of love and the limits of patience, and the way child-parent relationships become inverted with old age.

The Father by Florian Zeller translated by Christopher Hampton, was commissioned by the Ustinov Studio, Theatre Royal, Bath and premiered in October 2014. The production transferred to the Tricycle Theatre, London, in May 2015, and subsequently to Wyndham's Theatre in the West End. The Father was awarded the Moliere Award for Best Play and the Olivier and Tony Awards for Best Actor.

Cast

Andre 60+ – an elderly gentleman – struggling to make sense of his reality whilst desperately holding on to all that he thinks he knows. Increasingly confused and at times obsessive, becoming angry and irritated at various points. This part needs to be played with absolute truth to enable the audience to experience the angst, sadness, confusion and heartache he goes through, as he increasingly begins to lose his hold on his own reality. As his world continues to shift and as things, places, people and memories become less and less stable as anchors to pin his world onto, what is he left with?

Anne – 40's+ Andres' long-suffering daughter who takes care of Andre. Inviting him into her home to continue his care, she struggles to know what to do in the best interest of her father as his condition worsens. Her marriage is impacted by the increasing demise of her father's mind. Hardworking, caring and compassionate, Anne bears the pain of her father's questions about why his "favourite daughter" (Elise) does not seem to come and visit him.

Pierre – 40's+ Anne's husband of some 10 years – He begrudges his father-in-law coming to live with them and is passive aggressive in his interactions with Andre even suggesting at one point that Andre is 'making up' his condition in order to spend more time with his daughter. His increasing frustration with his father-in-law leads to acts of aggression which seem to put even further strain on the marriage. Pierre is resentful of Andre's presence in their lives and wants him gone.

Laura – 20 - 30's - Home help who comes in to assist the family in taking care of Andre. She is aware of his condition and although at one point she is chastised by him, she remains calm and collected in her dealings with him – she is cheerful and upbeat in her demeanor.

Man – 40's+ Andre seems to think that this man is his son in law appearing in 'his flat'. Indeed, there is an interaction between them as if he were the son in law. However, he later appears in the play as one of the nurses who takes care of Andre in the care home.

Woman – 40's+ Andre believes that this woman is his daughter Anne and at one point also his deceased daughter Elise and even (in his confusion) the carer Laura. The woman also appears later in the play as one of the nurses where Andre ends up. The play finishes with a touching scene with them both in the care home.