

The Chipstead Players

AUDITION NOTICE

“The Son”

by Florian Zeller, adapted by Christopher Hampton

Read Through: Tuesday January 23rd @ 8pm.

Auditions: Sunday 4th February @ 2.30 and Tuesday 6th @ 7.30 pm.

at the Courtyard Theatre, Chipstead

Rehearsals: Mondays and Wednesdays from 4th March @ 7.30 pm, plus

Sundays 2pm from 28th April

Performances on 20th - 25th May with matinee on 25th

Director Sheila Carr (07724 684689) or mrsseilacarr@gmail.com

P A Jane Foster (07971 179952) or jane_foster16@hotmail.com
(Copies of scripts available from Jane)

SUMMARY

First performed in Paris in 2018, “The Son” then opened to critical acclaim in London in 2019. This beautifully written and absorbing play deals with one of the current issues in society today – the resulting disruptive dynamics of family life, following separation and divorce.

Until 2 years ago, Nicolas was a smiling, happy boy but, now aged 17, he is going through a difficult time. He is depressed, listless, skipping school and lying and his mother (Anne) is unable to cope, Nicolas feels he will be happier living with his father (Pierre), his father’s new wife (Sofia) and their baby son, plus going to a new school. However, when he doesn’t feel comfortable there, or wanted, he decides that going back to his mother’s may be the answer.

Pierre has been trying to reassure Anne that Nicolas has settled well, Then Sofia finds a knife hidden under his mattress and they discover he has been “cutting” himself and is still not attending school. The options for Nicolas are lessening – so what will happen?

A poignant and searching exploration of adolescent depression, this play offers great acting opportunities and challenges.

CHARACTERS AND AUDITION PIECES

Nicolas (playing age 17) A large, pivotal role of a depressive teenager. He feels lost, lonely and abandoned, envious of his new family and unable to cope with life.

Page 87 *"It was dreadful.....I'm begging you"* (link speeches)

Page 9 (with Pierre) *"you have to do something, Nicolas.....Come on.... Trust me"*

Pierre (his father [playing age 40 – 50) An ambitious and successful lawyer with a new wife and baby. Having had a bad relationship with his own father, he is desperate not to make the same mistakes, but is quite unable to understand his son. He is caring but not coping with the needs of his new wife, his ex-wife, his son and the worsening situation. A large, challenging role.

Page 70 *"You're sorry?Is that clear?"*

Page 85 *"Come on little mantell me about it, little man"*

Anne (his mother – playing age 40 – 50) Devasted and lonely after the breakdown of her marriage, she hasn't been aware of, or dealt with, the increasing deterioration in her son's behaviour. She feels a failure – everyone leaves her.

Page 2 *"Am I disturbing you?I'm even wondering if..."* (with Pierre)

Page 31 *"I'm not seeing anyone.....I loved him so much you know"* (with Pierre)

Sofia (Pierre's new wife - playing age 27 – 35) Struggling with a new baby, she finds things very difficult when Nicolas comes to live with them and cannot cope. She tries to be caring but cannot understand him and becomes emotional and resentful,

Page 21 *"Nicolas? Are you ready?..... why don't you answer me?"*

Page 109 *"You did your best.....Everything will be alright"* (link speeches)

Doctor (playing age 40 – 60) Psychiatric specialist. A competent and caring professional, this is a cameo, but important, role involving 2 scenes.

Page 80 *"We'll decide that together.....he's finally in very good hands"* (with Pierre & Anne)

Psychiatric Nurse (any age between 25 - 50) Also competent and professional. Very few lines, and in 1 scene only, so will not actually audition for this part. Please tell the director if you are interested.

Sheila Carr

November 2023