

## **Casting Brief: *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter**

Sport for Jove is looking to cast 3 actors for the following roles in *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter. This play will be directed by the wonderful Cristabel Sved. The roles require a high level of precision, naturalism and dramaturgy. All three roles are physically, vocally and technically demanding.

This production is part of The Old Fitz 2025 season and is an Independent Production that will have an upfront fee for the Performers plus any profit share. Rehearsals are preferred during the day but can be flexible to work around cast needs.

Rehearsals – TBC but dates around June 23 – July 13. Can also be held over a longer period in a part time capacity.

Tech Week – July 14 – 17

Previews – July 18,19

Opening – July 20

Season – July 22 – August 14

Please send an EOI to [admin@sportforjove.com.au](mailto:admin@sportforjove.com.au) by February 7 to secure an audition. Depending on the volume of submissions we may not be able to guarantee everyone an audition.

### **Audition Dates: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Audition Sides – Will be sent with your audition confirmation

Digital copy of play available on request

Accents: Not decided yet but please be prepared for a British accent version as well as your own voice at the audition.

The play spans between 1968 and 1977. This production will acknowledge the specificity of the period that it is set but the design will not lean into being a realistic replica of the time and place, leaving space for it to resonate into the present.

There will be a stripped back design, putting the actor front and centre in the intimacy of the Old Fitz space.

This play is a brilliant piece of writing and probably Pinter's most accessible work. The play examines truth on a micro, personal level and the corrosive effect of betrayal - not just the betrayals to others but the betrayals and lies we tell ourselves – leaving in its wake a deep sense of loneliness and isolation. What are the effects of lies and deception in a post-truth world?

**Emma:** Wife of Robert and mother of two young children. 38 years old. Well educated and enjoys literature. An appearance of strength but in need of validation. She is longing to find purpose and expression in the world. She is searching to find a way to liberate herself from the expectations of 'wife' and 'mother' in a nuclear family setting. Her frustrations and desires are revealed as she explores herself and her sexuality within the limitations of these

structures. She looks for intimacy outside her marriage and family. Emma betrays her husband by having an affair with his best friend, Jerry, that is discovered by him after 5 years and then betrays Jerry by not telling him that her husband knows about their affair. She betrays herself by not being able to communicate how she really feels and loves. Her sense of self has been defined by men but begins to liberate herself from this when she makes her own way in the world, successfully running an art gallery.

**Robert:** Husband of Emma and father of two young children. Best friend to Jerry. 40 years old. A publisher in 1970's London. A man who keeps his cards close to his chest and is hard to read. A tightly bottled-up vulnerability. He is strategic with himself and the people around him. He's good at concealment and perception. When he learns of the affair between his wife and his best friend, he is not able to express his pain or love to either of them and instead plays games and controls them in order to out the truth of their affair. He betrays himself by not being able to communicate the truth of how he feels. He also betrays his wife by having affairs. He has a dangerous and deep-seated violent edge. A good squash player.

**Jerry:** Best friend and best man to Robert and lover of Emma. Married with children. 40 years old. A literary agent in 1970's London. He avoids confrontation at all costs. Self-centred, self-focused, romantic and impulsive. He is in love and sexually attracted to Emma and has a 7-year affair with her. He is not prepared to leave his family for Emma when she hints towards a future. Has a tendency to get frantic if he thinks his comfortable idea of himself and world is threatened. He has deep seated, perhaps unrealised feelings of anger and competitiveness.