

**BRIGHTON**Little**THEATRE**  
AUDITION NOTICE

# When the Rain Stops Falling

by Andrew Bovell

<b>Director:</b>	<b>Steven Adams</b>
<b>Production dates:</b>	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> March (6 performances including a matinee on Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Auditions:</b>	<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2pm</b>
<b>Rehearsals:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (2 weeks) and 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 6 <sup>th</sup> March (4 weeks) Rehearsals 3 evenings a week plus Sunday afternoons – not everyone will be needed at every rehearsal.

*Alice Springs. 2039. A fish falls from the sky – it still smells of the sea. It's been raining for days and Gabriel York knows something is wrong. **When the Rain Stops Falling** unfolds like a puzzle to be solved. Told through the interconnected stories of two families over four generations, between a prediction in London 1959 and its outcome in Australia eighty years later.*

*This intricate, multi-layered story explores betrayal, abandonment, destruction, forgiveness and love. Where damage to the planet serves as a metaphor for the damage inflicted from generation to generation. Until finally, as the desert is inundated with rain, one young man finds the courage to defy his legacy.*

***When the Rain Stops Falling** is a beautiful and expansive play spanning four generations and two continents, from a claustrophobic London flat in 1959 to the windswept southern coast of Australia in 2039. All throughout 80 years of torrential rain.*

*It sees a series of interwoven stories come together, as seven people confront the mysteries of their past, revealing how patterns of betrayal, love and abandonment are passed on.*

Andrew Bovell is best known for scripting the award-winning film **Lantana**, hit play **Speaking In Tongues**, and co-writing Baz Luhrmann's **Strictly Ballroom**.

*"Superb... fiendishly ingenious... utterly compelling"* - The Guardian

*"A work of gripping mystery and emotional depth... something very special"* - Daily Telegraph

*"Extraordinary... grabs you by its imagination, its heartrending originality, its tragic vision"* - Sunday Telegraph

**Warning: This production contains mentions of child abuse and references to childhood trauma, suicide and assisted suicide, dementia.**

**BLT actively encourages auditionees from ethnic minority communities**

**For more information and audition pieces, please contact director Steven Adams by email [stevenadams1969@gmail.com](mailto:stevenadams1969@gmail.com)**

Where it says \*Australian accent – please don't be put off! We are not looking for perfection, and can support you learning one. It would be handy if you could give the accent a go if you are auditioning for one of these roles.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Playing age</b>
<b>Gabriel York</b> <i>-Son of Gabriel Law and Gabrielle York</i>	Gabriel is a loner struggling through life in climate challenged 2039 Alice Springs. He feels he has achieved very little with his life. Estranged from his own mother and stepfather he has also abandoned his own son. <b>*Australian accent</b> This character has a 4-page monologue at the start of the play and then doesn't reappear until the last scene of the play. A very important character but obviously not that large a part. <b><i>May possibly be doubled with Henry Law.</i></b>	50
<b>Elizabeth Law (Younger)</b> - <i>Married to Henry Law and mother to Gabriel Law.</i>	Elizabeth is an academic and intelligent woman who feels trapped when she has an expected child. Married to Henry who she loves dearly, and worries he will leave her for another woman. Devasted when she finds out Henry's dark secret and in turn grows cold towards their son, Gabriel. We see Younger Elizabeth in 1959 – 1968 London	30s/early 40s
<b>Elizabeth Law (Older)</b> - <i>Married to Henry Law and mother to Gabriel Law.</i>	Elizabeth has tried to protect her son by telling him nothing about his father. She has grown even more cold and emotionless. She has also become an alcoholic. She has made it very difficult for her son to love her. We see Older Elizabeth in 1988 London.	56
<b>Henry Law –</b> <i>Married to Elizabeth Law and Gabriel Law's father.</i>	Henry is an academic and a deep thinker. Though he sometimes seems absent minded. He struggles with his feelings towards children and worries that he may abuse his own son. He leaves for Australia when his wife discovers his tendencies. <b><i>Please note that Henry is a paedophile. He will not be portrayed as a “creep”. This is a very nuanced role and a great challenge for the actor playing him to strike the balance of evoking sympathy and disgust. If you do not wish to play this role, you can mark this on the audition form.</i></b> We see Henry in 1959 – 1968 London and 1970 Australia <b><i>May possibly be doubled with Gabriel York.</i></b>	Late 30s/40s
<b>Gabriel Law -</b> <i>Son of Elizabeth Law and Henry Law. Father to Gabriel York</i>	Gabriel is an awkward young man seeking answers and some purpose for his life. He has a distant relationship with his mother who bought him up alone from the age of 7. He wants to know what happened to his father and follows his trail to Australia. There he meets Gabrielle and falls in love. We see Gabriel Law in London and the Coorong National Park, Australia in 1988. <b><i>May possibly be doubled with Andrew Price.</i></b>	28

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<b>Gabrielle York (Younger)</b>	Gabrielle lives in the Coorong National Park and works in a road-house there. She longs to get away from the Coorong and start a new life somewhere else. Her parents both killed themselves after her young brother was abducted and killed. She falls in love with Gabriel as he is so different from the local men and sees him as a possible way to a new life. <b>*Australian accent</b> We see Younger Gabrielle in Australia in 1988	24
<b>Gabrielle York (Older)</b> - <i>Married to Joe Ryan and mother to Gabriel York.</i>	Older Gabrielle lives in Adelaide with Joe Ryan. They have had a fairly happy life but she has had a difficult relationship with her son Gabriel York and he has not been in touch for 6 years. Gabrielle is suffering from confusion and early dementia or Alzheimer's disease – possibly a result of the car crash she was in in 1988. She asks Joe to help her end her own life. <b>*Australian accent</b> We see Older Gabrielle in Adelaide in 2013	50s
<b>Joe Ryan</b> - <i>Married to Gabrielle York, stepfather to Gabriel York.</i>	Joe is straight forward Australian man. Happy with his lot and very much in love with Gabrielle. He is slightly absent minded. He knows that Gabrielle cares for him but that she doesn't love him the way she loved Gabriel. He tries not to resent this. He does his best to support Gabrielle through her illness but seeing her slipping away affects him greatly. <b>*Australian accent</b> We see Joe in Adelaide in 2013	50s/early 60s
<b>Andrew Price</b> - Gabriel York's son	Andrew appears at the end of the play, seeking answers about his family's past. His father abandoned him when he was 7 but he doesn't resent him. He just wants answers. A small but very important role. <b>*Australian accent</b> We see Andrew in Alice Springs in 2039 <b><i>May possibly be doubled with Gabriel Law.</i></b>	28

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