

Audition – Closure by Ron Blicq -- Australian Premiere

Saturday 21 February at 1.30pm

Plot summary –

Gordon Deveraux was one of 25,000 WWII Canadian service-men whose liaison with a British girl conceived a child, but he returned to Canada at the end of the war unaware that he had done so. He has built up a successful lumber business in western Canada and now, at age 75, is enjoying his retirement with his wife Helen. Donald Barlow's mother endured considerable financial difficulty, yet managed to send her son to grammar school. He is now manager of a major bank in Nottingham and is married to Daphne. They have two children, but we meet only their daughter Claire and her 9 year old son, Gordie. Barlow's mother died a year before the play opens.

This play is about children of wartime romances trying to establish contact and meet their fathers, and it resonates so very well today, where adopted children or people in single parent families attempt to fill a 'hole' in their lives and achieve closure.

Cast required -

DONALD BARLOW 54 and is a bank manager in Nottingham. He's married to Daphne and

tends to defer to her as the home decision-maker, but he is the one who pushes ahead with trying to locate his father. His mother Wendy Barlow died about a year before the play opens. Donald is the result of a wartime love affair that she had with Gordon Devereaux and Gordon did not know she was pregnant when he left to go home to Canada during the War. Donald finds out that Gordon may still be alive through a letter from his mother that seems to hint that he should follow it up; all the while until his mother's death, he had been told very little of his father and feels that he needs to gain closure about his father.

DAPHNE BARLOW 51. She is conscious of her social position with Donald (though he's not so much concerned with that). She loves Donald but is somewhat over-protective and her children in some way resent that aspect of her. She runs a local community church group, using her accountancy skills, which she has set aside to stay at home and bring up the children. She can be outspoken and speak her mind in ways that may not be all that diplomatic.

CLAIRE SUMMERS 28. The daughter of Donald and Daphne. She has a degree in journalism and is a research writer for a magazine called 'The source'. She is strong willed, dedicated to her work when tracking down a story. She can be brusque with people. She loves her father rather more than her mother, whom she finds too controlling of her father. She talks to her son Gordie as if he's not a child and encourages him in all his endeavours. She is married to Malcolm, who is seldom home, and the marriage is about to falter when Malcolm returns from Africa.

GORDIE SUMMERS 9. Active, well spoken, articulate, friendly, he speaks and thinks beyond his years. He is absolutely goal-oriented, and he in fact is the catalyst for much of what occurs

in the course of the story as he establishes a very friendly relationship with Gordon Devereaux when he and his mother visit the Devereaux in Canada and he is the one who unknowingly lets slip the relationship which leads to a confrontation between Claire and Gordon.

GORDON DEVEREAUX 75. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at 18. He trained as a pilot and flew the DeHavilland Mosquito. He led a special raid on Bruges in Belgium, to release prisoners. His wartime experiences have left mental scars on him and he has simply closed the door on his experiences and doesn't discuss them with his wife or daughters. He is a successful businessman and has run his own company and had his own way in the decision-making processes for a long time. He and Helen are comfortable in Vancouver and have two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

HELEN DEVEREAUX 71. She and Gordon have a successful, stable marriage. She came from a well-to-do family. She is also a success in business and makes decisions on a thoughtful basis. She is used to being someone of some prominence in the local community.

PAUL HOOGSTRA Is the agency investigator hired by Donald to follow up the links with Gordon Devereaux. He likes people, likes helping them, but has often found that the people with whom he establishes contact are rather abrupt in refusing to help him achieve the goals for which he has been hired. He is described by the author as being 47, but the age is more flexible for this role than the others. He ideally should have at least the hint of a Dutch Accent.

The play is set in the UK (in Nottingham) and in Canada (in North Vancouver). Standard English accents for the Barlows and standard American/Canadian accents for the Devereaux family will be required.

General –

The audition will be held at the Chelmer Community Centre, Cnr. Queenscroft & Halsbury Streets, Chelmer.

The audition will be structured readings from sections of the script; no prepared piece will be necessary.

If you would like to read a copy of the script before the audition, please ask and we'll send you one.

Depending upon the auditions on the day, there may be call backs.

Season - **9, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 May**

Any inquiries, please call the director, Gary Kliger, on 0417012418