



AUDITION PACK – CHATS

PRODUCTION DETAILS

- Production name: “It Runs In The Family” by Ray Cooney
- Directed by Steve North
- Production company: Presented by Coffs Harbour Amateur Theatrical Society (CHATS)

Production Week – Everyone required

- Bump in - Sunday October 11 at The Jetty Theatre
- Tech run - Sunday evening October 11
- Full Dress Rehearsal - Monday October 12
- Full Dress Rehearsal - Tuesday October 13
- Full Dress Rehearsal - Wed October 14
- Production Dates: 16 October – 25 October 2026
- **ALL CAST MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL BUMP-INS, TECH RUNS PERFORMANCES AND BUMP-OUT.**
- Show dates –
 - Friday 16 October – 7:30pm (Opening night)
 - Saturday 17 October – 2pm & 7:30pm
 - Sunday 18 October – 2pm
 - Wednesday 21 October – 7:30pm
 - Friday 23 October – 7:30pm
 - Saturday 24 October – 2pm & 7:30pm
 - Sunday 25 October – 2pm (followed by Bump-Out.)
- Performances are at the Jetty Memorial Theatre, 337 Harbour Dr, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

AUDITIONS

Time and date: Sunday June 21st at 10am.

Audition Location: Community Village Meeting Rooms, Village Room 1,
22 Earl Street, Coffs Harbour

To book an audition, complete the separate Audition form and email to: CHATSItRunsInTheFamily@gmail.com

The cast is likely to be announced on or close to 23rd June.

REHEARSALS

There is a rehearsal schedule where not all characters are required for all rehearsals, however it is expected that the cast will be available for all rehearsals called for their character.

- **Rehearsals:** **Weeknights – Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 pm,
Sunday Afternoon 1pm - 4pm**
- **Rehearsal Venue:** Cavanbah Centre, Room B (at rear of main Hall),
191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour
Parking is available – drive through Community Village entrance
(near Coles) and turn left to park.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW & SYNOPSIS

"It Runs In The Family" is scheduled for production in October 2026 for 9 performances. The production involves 12 actors.

Synopsis

If you are a leading surgeon in London's most prestigious hospital, delivering the "Lecture of the Year" to two hundred of the world's leading neurologists, the last thing you want is a mistress from 18 years ago arriving unexpectedly.

Just as Dr Mortimore is preparing for his big moment, Jane Tate, a former nurse and long-forgotten romantic fling, turns up and drops a bombshell: that their brief affair produced a child, now 18, who is currently in the hospital looking for his father.

Dr Mortimore, desperate to protect his reputation, tries to hide the truth. But in true Cooney fashion, every outrageous lie spawns three more, and the situation spirals into a whirlwind of mistaken identities, slamming doors, and frantic improvisation.

Typical madcap complications ensue, involving faithful friend, Dr. Bonney, a police sergeant, Dr. Mortimore's wife, a severe hospital matron, Dr. Bonney's mother and a patient who makes the most of being dragged into the whole maelstrom.

Themes and Style

"It Runs in the Family" is characterized by classic British farce, featuring rapid-fire dialogue, mistaken identities, and a series of misunderstandings that escalate throughout the play. Cooney's work often includes elements of humour and absurdity, making it a popular choice for theatrical productions.

A NOTE ON ACCENTS – This is a British farce set in a London hospital so if you can do a British accent, this will be preferable and help the flow of the play. Otherwise, a 'polished' Australian accent will be OK.

TIME SETTING

Set in St Andrews Hospital, London in 1960's.

COSTUMES AND PROPERTIES

The costumes will be appropriate for a hospital setting set in 1960's.

PRODUCTION CREW

1 x Stage Manager, Lighting operator, sound operator, set construction crew.

CHARACTERS AND CASTING

The following allows for a cast of 12 characters.

Women

- Rosemary Mortimer
- Matron
- Jane Tate
- Sister (small role)
- Mother (small role)

Men

- Dr David Mortimer
- Dr Mike Connolly
- Dr Hubert Bonney
- Sir Willoughby Drake
- Leslie
- Police Sergeant
- Bill

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

CHARACTER NAME	AGE RANGE **	CHARACTER
Dr David Mortimer	50's - 60's	Central character. Likeable, polished, confident, ambitious and mildly pompous. Resorts to increasingly outrageous lies as the play progresses to cover an old indiscretion and keep the secret from his wife and colleagues. Actor needs to have good comic timing, be fast-thinking, inventive and endearing as he faces each dilemma that causes panic and chaos.
Dr Mike Connolly	30's – 40's	Exuberant, theatrical doctor. Would much rather be in the hospital pantomime than treating patients. A little irreverent and blunt with his seniors but all in good humour. Needs good comic timing.
Rosemary Mortimer	40's - 50's	Wife of David Mortimer. Calm, likeable, strong, attractive woman, smartly dressed. Witty, sharp and observant. Sometimes dismissive of her husband.
Dr Hubert Bonney	50's - 60's	Mild-mannered, loyal, likeable and obliging colleague and long-time friend of Dr Mortimer. Gets roped into covering David's scheming. Needs good comic timing and ability with physically expressive comedy.
Matron	30's - 50's	A no-nonsense, stern, commanding woman who gets caught up in the confusion. Can be a large woman or can be padded up to resemble a large woman.
Sir Willoughby Drake	50's - 60's	Pompous, self-important, formal, bombastic gentleman, who is the chairman of the board of governors at St Andrew's. Loosens up after a few drinks to reveal his fun-loving side.
Jane Tate	40's - 50's	A warm, honest ex-nurse who had an affair with David 18 years ago when she worked at St Andrew's. She announces that David has a son and watches the mayhem unfold. Needs good comic timing.
Leslie/Lesley (Can be a boy or girl)	18 years old.	Jane Tate's naïve son/daughter, rebellious, desperately trying to find his (or her) father. Unconventional appearance (think punk or Goth). Becomes increasingly manic, obsessive and unpredictable as the play progresses.
Sister	Any age	Small role - A regular nurse.
Sergeant	Any age	A policeman. Stoic, blunt and conventional plod who tries to uncover the many lies told by multiple people as the play progresses.
Bill	50's or above	A good natured, elderly man, who is a patient in St Andrew's. Good comic role, sometimes seated in a wheelchair, is easily confused and adds to the chaos.
Mother	60s or above	Small role - Dr Bonney's mother. A lovely grandmotherly type, who everyone seems to love.

** Note: This indicative age is **how you look on stage**, not necessarily your chronological age.

SOME TIPS FOR A GREAT AUDITION

Here are some simple tips for preparing for your audition:

Read the Play - Familiarise yourself with the dialogue passages and character(s) descriptions so you can understand the context of the role you're auditioning for.

Practice, Practice, Practice - Rehearse your lines so you're confident and natural in your delivery. Know your material well enough to perform it without hesitation.

Be Punctual - Arrive a little before 10am so you are not stressed. Please relax and congregate in the corridor adjacent to the audition room.

Auditions start at 10am and you will be called into the room in character groups.

Dress Appropriately - Wear something comfortable.

Stay Calm and Confident - It's normal to be nervous but take a deep breath and trust your preparation. Confidence can go a long way.

Be Open to Direction – The Director may give you feedback or ask you to try something different. Show you're flexible and willing to take direction.

Have Fun!

We want you to enjoy the process. Remember this is a very funny play!
Relax and let your enthusiasm for acting shine through!