

AUDITION NOTICE

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

by Neil Simon

Directed by John Shepherd

Performances: 20 to 25 July

Read through: Tuesday 28 April at 8pm

Auditions: Sunday 3 May at 2.30pm and Tuesday 5 May at 7.30pm

Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays (from 7.30pm to approximately 9.30pm) starting on 12 May

Sunday rehearsals (from 2.15pm to approximately 5.15pm) are scheduled from 21 June

Scripts are available from the PA, Linda Hall at lindahall309@gmail.com or on 020 8668 1382

For further information contact John at johnshepherdcta@outlook.com or on 020 3489 3693

Brighton Beach Memoirs is the first of Neil Simon's trilogy of semi-autobiographical plays, the others being *Biloxi Blues* and *Broadway Bound*. It is set in 1937 in Brighton Beach, a poor, mainly Jewish-American, neighbourhood of Brooklyn. Eugene Jerome (Neil Simon) is the narrator and central character of the play. He introduces us to his tight-knit and loving family struggling to get by in an overcrowded household. The tensions, disagreements, reconciliations, hopes and dreams are all brought vividly to life with Neil Simon's customary wit, one-liners and superbly drawn, totally believable characters.

CHARACTERS AND AUDITION PIECES

Eugene – age 'almost but not quite' 15

Younger son of Kate and Jack. Full of imagination, dreaming of becoming a famous baseball player or, failing that, a writer. He has also reached the stage of dreaming about girls! He breaks the fourth wall, speaking directly to the audience, inviting them into his world.

Page 9 from "They're clean. I'm wearing a glove." to the foot of page 11.

From the top of page 70 to the foot of page 71.

Kate – age 40

Eugene's mother. A hard working, loving mother, the rock of the family. Proud of her Jewish heritage and critical of those neighbours who do not live up to her standards.

Page 32 from "What's wrong?" to page 34 "God has time for everybody."

From the top of page 53 to page 55 "it's your business."

Blanche – age 38

Kate's widowed sister. Since her husband's death, she has fallen on hard times and been forced to move in with her sister's family. There is some friction between her and Kate as a result.

From the top of page 53 to page 55 "it's your business."

From the top of page 93 to page 95 ". . . is that what you think of me?"

Laurie – age 13

Blanche's younger daughter. A seemingly 'sickly' girl and over-protected by her mother. The scholarly member of the family.

From the foot of page 20 to the top of page 23.

From the top of page 91 to page 92 "I have to finish reading."

Nora – age 16

Blanche's elder daughter. An attractive, vivacious girl who has just been offered an opportunity to audition as a dancer in a Broadway show.

From her entrance on page 15 to page 17 "I'm glad somebody's excited."

From the top of page 93 to page 95 ". . . is that what you think of me?"

Stanley – age 18

Eugene's brother. Good-hearted and idealistic. He works in the local store as the family is not able to afford the fees for his college education.

From the top of page 24 to page 26 "I didn't want to go too far."

From the top of page 70 to the foot of page 71.

Jack – age 40

Eugene's father. A solid, hard-working man holding down two jobs to earn enough money to keep two families. Frequently finds himself the peacemaker when family conflicts arise.

Page 32 from "What's wrong?" to page 34 "God has time for everybody."

Page 72 from Kate's entrance to Nora's entrance at the foot of page 73.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Ages are 'stage ages' and may be flexible!
- The play is set in American so, ideally, American accents would be needed. Characterisation is more important than accent, however, so please do not be deterred if you think you cannot sustain an American accent.