



## **AUDITION NOTICE**

### ***BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS*** **by Neil Simon**

**Directed by John Shepherd**

**Performances: 3 to 8 July 2023**

**Read through: Tuesday 7 March at 7.30pm in the rehearsal room**

**Auditions: Tuesday 14 March at 7.30pm and Saturday 18 March at 3.30pm  
in the theatre**

**Weekday rehearsals will be on Mondays and Wednesdays (from 7.30pm to  
approximately 9.30pm) starting on 17 April**

**Sunday rehearsals (from 2.15pm to approximately 5.15pm) are scheduled  
from 4 June**

For further information or a copy of the script please contact John on 020 3489 3693  
or at [johnshepherdcta@outlook.com](mailto:johnshepherdcta@outlook.com)

The PA is Kirsty MacDonald. She can be contacted at [kirstyjmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:kirstyjmacdonald@gmail.com)  
or on 07961 901119

*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. Somewhat lacking in confidence, but 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 America 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.