

# Brighton Beach Memoirs

By Neil Simon

Brighton Beach Memoirs is Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical story of a struggling Jewish family living in Brooklyn in 1937. Eugene Morris Jerome is a nearly 15 year old boy who lives in a house with his parents (Jack and Kate Jerome), his older brother Stanley, his widowed Aunt Blanche Morton and her two daughters Laurie and Nora Morton. The 'memoirs' are Eugene's point of view of the experience.

Aunt Blanche's husband died of cancer six years ago and Eugene's father, Jack, has worked two jobs to support everyone for three and a half years. Stanley (18) also works and gives his income to the family. Nora (16) wants to be a Broadway dancer and may even get that opportunity. Laurie (12-13) has a heart condition but it may not be as serious as it seems; she keeps mostly to herself.

In this comic drama, the family deals with financial strains, illness, lost jobs, hurt feelings and the rise of WW II but Eugene provides frequent comic relief in his memoirs throughout the play. As Eugene is the central character we see the young teen learn about girls, puberty, relationships, foul language, and responsibility; all with Simon's classic humor. The family that fights together and laughs together, stays together.

**Audition Date:** 09/06/2014 - 11:00AM ♦

**Location:** Ruhala Performing Arts Center 1846 Haslett Rd. E. Lansing, MI 48823

**Rehearsals/class days-** Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-10:00PM

**Show Dates:** Saturday, Jan 24, 2015@ 7PM & Sunday, Jan 25, 2015@ 3PM

Director: Celina Matos Ruhala

## ROLES AVAILABLE \*

**Eugene Morris Jerome** – A normal 15 year old boy who has recently discovered girls in a BIG way. He is obsessed with the female anatomy, which he's never seen, and his other love of baseball. He wants to be a baseball player, but if that does not work out, he'll settle for being a writer. He keeps a detailed journal of his family's eccentricities. Eugene is concerned for his family, especially his overworked father, but complains about their demands on him. The play revolves around his memoirs, which are those of the young Neil Simon.

**Stanley Jerome** – 18-21 years old – He is the older brother of Eugene. Due to financial reasons, must work a factory job, which he hates. He tries to temper Eugene's passions while attempting to please his parents, but he struggles with feelings of being trapped.

**Jack Jerome** – late 40's – Father of the Jerome family who feels the pressure of supporting an extended family by working two jobs. In addition, all family members turn to him for advice and answers. He is patient, but very weary.

**Kate Jerome** – mid 40's – She is the very strong mother who attempts to hold the family together and solve the hurts and problems of all of them. She is opinionated and very verbal, but also very loving.

**Aunt Blanche** – early 40's – She is Kate's younger sister, recently widowed, very indecisive, and dependent. She wants to have a life for herself and her daughters, but she does not know how or where to begin. She feels buried with her husband.

**Nora** – daughter of Blanche, Cousin to the Jerome boys – She is a very beautiful and ambitious 16 year old girl with dreams of Broadway. She is often resentful of her younger sister who is pampered due to heart flutters. In addition, she is angry at her father for dying and leaving her with a weak mother.

**Laurie** – daughter of Blanche, Cousin to the Jerome boys- She is a studious, yet quietly mischievous, 13 year old who is all ears around the adult situations. She appears innocent, but she really has a grasp on what the others around her are "up to."

\* RPAC casts in race, age and gender blind ways and encourages anyone interested to audition for any of the roles, even if they are not the "type" for the roles listed above. Most important is a desire to experience the joy of acting with a cast of fellow ensemble members and a desire to learn and grow your craft.

♦If you are unable to attend the audition date, Please call 517-337-0464 to set up an audition appt.

# “Brighton Beach Memoirs”

By Neil Simon

AUDITION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED ROLE (S): \_\_\_\_\_

IS YOUR RESUME ATTACHED? (circle one) YES NO

PLEASE LIST EXPERIENCE and PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING (not already on an attached resume):

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PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL SKILLS: (juggling, playing instruments, hairstyling, woodworking...)

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PLEASE LIST SCHEDULING CONFLICTS:

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