

FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players

presents Neil Simon's



BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

**Directed by
Valerie Ruel**

**Produced by
Heather Barnett &
Kathryn Dershimer**

**July 10 - August 15, 2015
Fridays and Saturdays
at 8pm
& Sundays at 2pm**

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French

**Westchester Playhouse 8301 Hindry Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-5156 www.kentwoodplayers.org**

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

by Neil Simon

Director

Valerie Ruel

Producers

Heather Barnett and Kathy Dershimer

Set Design	Lighting Design	Sound Design	Costume Design
Jason Renaldo Gant	Bruce Starrett	Susan Stangl	Marie Olivas

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Eugene Jerome	Matthew Van Oss
Blanche Morton	Veronica Alicino
Kate Jerome	Lori Kaye
Laurie Morton	Katie Rodriguez
Nora Morton.....	Laura Slade Wiggins
Stanley Jerome	Louis Gerard Politan
Jacob “Jack” Jerome	Harold Dershimer

Setting

Act One. Brighton Beach, NY, September, 1937

Act Two. Wednesday, a week later. About six thirty in the evening.

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts I and II.
Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission courtesy of Kentwood Players.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

About the Cast



Veronica Alicino (Blanche Morton) – Veronica has performed stand-up and was a founder of two sketch comedy troupes. She performed in *Nickel & Dimed*, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, *Durang/ Durang*, *The Good Steno*, *Belz*, *Blackout*, *Girl's Room*, *Club Disco*, *Inaccurate Information*, and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*. Her film credits include *Grumpy Cat's Worse Xmas Ever*, *Hop*, *Alvin & the Chipmunks*, *Garfield*, *Rehab*, *Muppets from Space*, *Max Keeble's Big Move*, *Kimberly*, *S.O.S.*, *Lethal Weapon III*, *Viva*, *Made of Honor*, *Falcon Song*, *Crime Scene*, *Vampire Dance*, and *Mob Rules*. Television credits: "CSI: NY," "Players," "Time of Your Life," "George & Leo," "Welcome Freshmen," "Eddie McDowd," "Mafiosa" (pilot), and "General Hospital." She also dances Argentine Tango.



Harold Dershimer (Jacob "Jack" Jerome) – Harold's local credits include *What the Butler Saw* at the Morgan-Wixson Theater; *Has Anybody Here Seen Roy?* at Theatre Palisades; *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the El Segundo Playhouse; *Joseph and the Amazing...* at El Segundo's Broadway in the Park; *Night Must Fall* at the Long Beach Playhouse; and *Mame*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Into the Woods*, *Sordid Lives*, *The Hollow*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Candide*, *Parade*, *Annie*, *A Little Night Music*, *Working*, and *The Odd Couple* at the Westchester Playhouse. He served as Stage Manager here for *Orphans* and has also directed the multiple award-winning Kentwood Players productions of *Oliver!* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Harold thanks his family for their continued support.



Lori Kaye (Kate Jerome) – Lori has worked in television, stand up comedy and theatre as an actor, writer, and producer. As a professional stand-up, her career spanned twelve years, scores of comedy clubs and numerous television appearances. As an actor, Kaye originated the role of Rose in The Cornerstone Theater production of *Making Paradise: The West Hollywood Musical*, Jodie in *Girls Room* (which she also wrote) at the Imagined Life Theater in Los Angeles, and Marge MacDougall in *Promises, Promises* at The Abbey Stage Door in Philadelphia. As a writer, her latest play, *The Bagel Principle* was part of The Road Theater Company's *The Word @ The Road* new play reading series in 2014. As a television showrunner, Kaye has executive produced unscripted television hits like "Work Out," "Kathy Griffin: My Life on The D List," and "First Class All the Way" for Bravo; "Arranged" for FYI, and the highly acclaimed LOGO documentary series "The Ride: 7 Days To End AIDS." Kaye is currently developing a documentary film about the life of famed make-up artist Kevyn Aucoin. She is proud to be a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is thrilled to be in a Neil Simon play. For more info: puttimedia.com



Louis Gerard Politan (Stanley Jerome) – Louis was born in Deal, New Jersey. He attended the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL, where he studied acting for the stage and screen. He has studied method acting and theatre both in New York City and Los Angeles. His influences include John Garfield, Tyrone Power, Marlon Brando, Burt Lancaster and Paul Newman, to name a few. Currently, he is pursuing his acting career and taking acting classes in West Hollywood under the guidance of coach Julie Ariola.



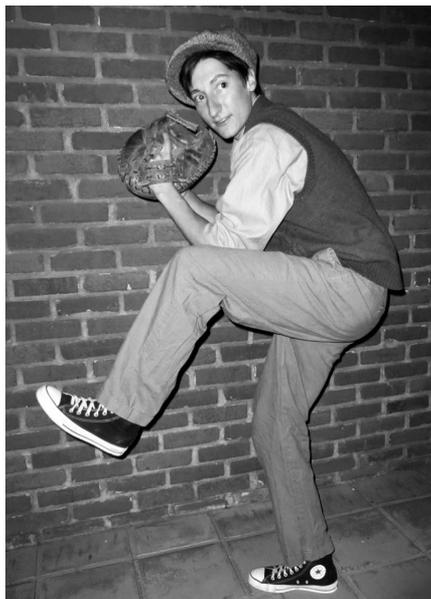
Katie Rodriguez (Laurie Morton) – Katie is thrilled to be making her Kentwood Players debut in such a heartfelt show. She is an AMDA graduate and proud Groundlings student. She was most recently seen in Chance Theater's *Alice in Wonderland*. Other favorite theatre credits include Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Mrs. Douglas in *Hors d'oeuvres*, Osric in *Hamlet*, Loretta/Sister Glenna in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and Mary Jane in *Jesus Hopped the A Train*. A million and one thank yous to the cast and crew! Mom and Dad, I am forever grateful.



Matthew Van Oss (Eugene Jerome) – Matthew is beyond excited to be playing Eugene with such a great group. He most recently guest starred on the season premiere of “Grey's Anatomy.” Other TV: “Dog with a Blog,” “Crash & Bernstein,” “Deal with It,” “Fameless.” Favorite stage credits include *Red Hot Patriot* with Kathleen Turner (Geffen Playhouse), *End Days*, *Speech and Debate*, *With a Bang* (Phoenix Theatre), *Cymbeline*, *Taming of the Shrew* (Notre Dame Shakespeare), and *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* (LA Theatre Works). He will next be seen starring opposite Robert De Niro and Meryl Streep in his dreams.



Laura Slade Wiggins (Nora Morton) – Laura moved from Athens, Georgia in 2007. Three odd jobs and two years later Wiggins found herself working on Showtime's hit show "Shameless" opposite Joan Cusack. Since then, Wiggins has built her credits to include “Law and Order: SVU,” “CSI,” “The Tomorrow People,” and other television productions.



About the Director

Valerie Ruel (Director) – Valerie is at home on stage as well as behind the scenes. Originally from the Berkshire area of Massachusetts, she received training at the Actor’s Institute in New York City and at DreamWorks Studio in Universal City, CA. After treading the boards in numerous plays, including award-winning turns in *Hollywood Arms* and *Sherlock Holmes The Final Adventure*, she is proving the actor’s adage: “But what I really want to do is direct.” Valerie is happy to call Kentwood home and make her directing debut with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

About the Producers

Heather Barnett (Producer) – Although this is Heather's first time producing at Kentwood, it is not a new experience all together. While living in Illinois, she was President and Co-owner of MOBY Theatrical Company for nearly three years. She and three others started MOBY from the ground up, doing everything from writing and filing the corporation papers to acquiring shareholders. Her duties included promotion, production, directing, casting, set building, set design, and costuming, as well as acting. A special thank you to all who gave their time and talents to make this show possible. To the wonderful cast: Break a leg!

Kathy Dershimer (Producer) – *Brighton Beach Memoirs* marks Kathy's first time as Producer at Kentwood Players. She is so grateful to share this role with Heather and to work with Valerie and the entire wonderful cast, crew, and production team. Kathy directed last season's production of *Orphans* at Kentwood and *All My Sons* and *The Subject Was Roses* with Actors' Repertory Theater in Palos Verdes. She has costumed a baker's dozen shows at Kentwood over the past several years starting with *As You Like It*, including favorites *Parade*, *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Into the Woods*, and most recently *4000 Miles*. Kathy is currently serving on the Board as President and is continuously impressed with the caring, supportive attitude and commitment of the amazing Kentwood members. Kathy would like to thank her husband and children for their support of her endeavors.

About the Designers

Jason Renaldo Gant (Set Design) – Jason is a new member of the Kentwood Players. He is a licensed architect by trade and teaches Revit, a 3-D architectural modeling application, to architects engineers and construction companies. This is Jason's first involvement on a set design project, and he is excited to help Kentwood Players visualize the set for *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in 3-D. Additionally, Jason has been in the talent industry since his college years doing print modeling, dance, acting, and promotions.

Bruce Starrett (Lighting Design) – Bruce is pleased to be a part of bringing *Brighton Beach* to life! Recent lighting credits include *An Ideal Husband* and *Orphans* for Kentwood Players and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* with Infinite Jest Theatre Company. Bruce has been a Kentwood member since 2009 and is currently serving as the theater’s Technical Manager. Thanks to Valerie for the opportunity. Love to D and the H’s. Enjoy the show!

Susan Stangl (Sound Design) – Susan has provided sound and/or music for over 80 productions—this is her 39th at Kentwood. Last year at KP she directed the Scenic-Award winning *Becky's New Car* and appeared on stage last summer as the guitar-playing singer Bitsy Mae Harling in *Sordid Lives*. She will be playing, singing and acting this summer in Culver City Public Theater's *The Would-Be Gentleman* by Moliere.

Marie Olivas (Costume Design) – Marie is a former dancer who discovered Westchester Playhouse through her stage-struck children. After costuming Kentwood Kid productions, she is now working on main-stage productions. Costuming credits include Morgan Wixson, Broadway in the Park, and South Bay school productions.

Director's Note

Taking place in 1937, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* takes us back to a simpler time. Before cell phones and modern conveniences made life more hectic. People wrote letters, dinner was the focal point of the day, and family always came first. Fifteen-year-old Eugene narrates the story of his family with wit, love, laughter and tears as he comes to terms with his dreams, family struggles and adolescence. With *Brighton Beach*, Neil Simon created a beautiful canvas upon which this wonderful cast has brought the story to life, supported by a marvelous crew.

Valerie Ruel
July 2015



Production Staff

Stage Manager	Jerrilyn Kacena
Script Supervisor.....	John Duncan
Booth Crew	Kira Sherman, John Beckwith
Sound Design	Susan Stangl
Set Decoration Design	Linda Reinhardt
Original Graphic Design	Miranda Devert
Master Builder	George Kondreck, Frank Olivadoti
Set Construction.....	Heather Barnett, Doug Carlson, Jim Crawford,
.....	Terry Delegeane, George Kondreck
Set Painting	Heather Barnett, Terry Delegeane, Kathy Dershimer,
.....	Lori A. Marple-Pereslete
Costume Assistance	Sheridan Cole Crawford
Wig Design	Jon Sparks
Chef de Cuisine.....	Glen Kacena
Properties	Linda Reinhardt, Carl Miller
Publicity Photos	Shari Barrett
Audition Assistance	Jeanne Spain, Max Heldring Stormes
Hospitality Coordinator	Janet Lee Rodriguez, Samuel Goldman
Box Office.....	April Kacena

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Veronica Alicino, Miriam Amster, Heather Barnett, Margie Bates, John Beckwith, Jenny Boone, Barbara Brophey, Pattie Butler, Doug Carlson, William Carter, Sheridan Cole, Nikki Corso, Jim Crawford, Terry Delegeane, Harold Dershimer, Kathy Dershimer, Samuel Goldman, Charlotte Lee Gunter, Glen Kacena, Jerilynn Kacena, George Kondreck, Gretchen Luna, Ben Lupejkis, Lori A. Marple-Pereslete, Virginia Mekkelson, Melvin Miller, Barry Nackos, Frank J. Olivadoti, Marie Olivas, Dave Parke, Lee Polak, Louis Politan, Linda Reinhardt, Victor Reinhardt, Katie Rodriguez, Valerie Ruel, Bruce Starrett, Max Stormes, Shawn Summerer, Michael Swank, Lynn Warech, Laura Wiggins

Special Thanks

Drew Fitzsimmons, Scot Renfro, mirandadevert.com, and Theatre Palisades

This production of Brighton Beach Memoirs is dedicated to the memory of Manfred "Fred" Wolf (1924 - 2015). As an Auschwitz survivor, Fred lived the life referred to in this play. He was an inspirational, funny, gentle soul who will be greatly missed.

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During the performance please turn your pagers to silent,
and turn off your cell phones and alarms on your digital watches.
There is no louder sound in a theatre than the rattle of cellophane.
Please unwrap your candy or cough drops before the play begins.

Kentwood Players is a Member of the
LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Lobby.

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website

www.kentwoodplayers.org

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If you plan to attend a performance with a group of at least
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Reservations are Necessary

Please call (310) 645-5156 between 4:00pm – 7:00pm WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY
Tickets MUST be paid for by cash, check or VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER
at the time reservations are made.

Are you a Neil Simon fan?

We hope you're planning to come to see our next Kentwood Players production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

We are happy to offer a package deal with **Theatre Palisades**, our sister theater. When you buy your ticket for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, you can also purchase a ticket for *Broadway Bound* at a total of \$35 for both shows and save \$5.

Brighton Beach Memoirs and *Broadway Bound* are the first and last of Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical "Eugene Trilogy."

Neil Simon's



Brighton Beach Memoirs



If you are a season subscriber and are interested in attending *Broadway Bound*, tell the Theatre Palisades Box Office that you are Kentwood subscriber to receive a \$2 savings off the ticket price.

Brighton Beach Memoirs at Kentwood Players runs from July 10 through August 15 and *Broadway Bound* runs at Theatre Palisades from September 4 to October 11. Contact the Kentwood Players Box Office for more details at 310-645-5156.

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Ravenscroft

A Dark Comedy by Don Nigro
September 11 – October 17, 2015
Director: Sheridan Cole Crawford

Something's Afoot, a Musical

Book, Music and Lyrics by James
McDonald, David Vos, and Robert Gerlach
Additional Music by Ed Linderman
November 13 – December 19, 2015
Director: Catherine Rahm

A Raisin in the Sun

A Drama by Lorraine Hansberry
January 8 – February 13, 2016
Director: Harold Dershimer

Man of La Mancha, a Musical

Book by Dale Wasserman
Music by Mitch Leigh, Lyrics by Joe Darion
March 11 – April 16, 2016
Director: Susan Goldman Weisbarth

Clybourne Park

A Comedy by Bruce Norris
May 13 – June 18, 2016
Director: George L. Rametta

Olive and the Bitter Herbs

A Comedy by Charles Busch
July 8 – August 13, 2016
Director: Kirk Larson

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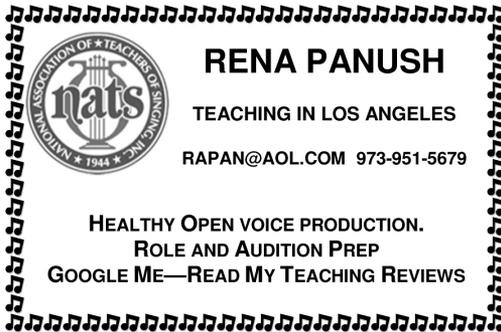
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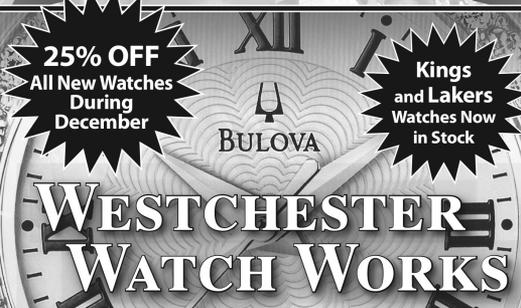
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August 14 & 15 at 7 pm
August 16 at 2 pm

Presale (July 23 - August 6): \$8

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General Admission: \$10

Stephen Flaherty's musical based on Dr. Seuss books. *Seussical* tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to a military school for thinking too many "thinks." Horton's attention to the speck of dust and his "loitering" care of Mayzie LaBird's egg has elicited taunting and accusations from the rest of the animal kingdom, except for Gertrude McFuzz who longs for his attention, and Jojo whose "thinks" may save them all in the end.

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