



kanata theatre

Presents its 55th Season

Brighton Beach Memoirs

Written by
Neil Simon

Directed by
Brian McManus



Brighton Beach: "Brighton Beach Memoirs" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com



Presents its 35th Season
**Ken Ludwig's
Baskerville:**
A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

Directed by Michael Goren



May 15 - 25, 2024

Box Office: 613-599-3000 | Box office: 613-599-3000 | kanatatheatre.ca

The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises, and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than forty characters.



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There are 12 eggs hidden in this program - can you spot them all!

Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon

Brighton Beach Memoirs is the first play in Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical comedic Eugene trilogy, which also includes *Biloxi Blues* and *Broadway Bound*. The story of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* follows almost 15-year-old Eugene Jerome as he grows up in 1937 Brooklyn. Eugene learns about girls, family, relationships, and the impending war. Eugene makes many witty observations about life and the need for family throughout the play as he interacts with his passionate, quirky Polish-Jewish relatives, who provide delicious comic tension.

Opening on Broadway in 1983, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is the last non-musical play to run over 1,000 consecutive performances on Broadway.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In my family, stories were told and retold around the large kitchen table at the cottage every summer. These were stories of the heroics and misdeeds of loved ones past and present. Hard times and ridiculous challenges made the best stories. Storytellers with the best flair for drama and exaggeration got the biggest laughs. *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is a semi-autobiographical story about an extended Jewish family in the Depression era. I can easily imagine Neil Simon smiling to himself at his kitchen table with his typewriter. You may hear the voices of some of your loved ones this evening. Brighton Beach is adjacent to Coney Island in Brooklyn and remains the largest Russian-speaking diaspora outside Russia. Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* remains the longest-running non-musical play on Broadway. We all fell in love with this script right from the start and continued to laugh through each rehearsal. I want to thank the many creative people who contributed so much to this project. This was the work of many good friends, and this director will remain forever grateful. Enjoy the show!

Be our guest...

Refreshments will be available for purchase pre-performance and during the intermission. Choose from a selection of wine, beer, coffee, tea, soft drinks and artisanal butter tarts.



Cash, debit and credit card accepted



CAST

In order of appearance

Eugene	WILLIAM MANN
Blanche	ANISSA STAMBOULI
Kate	LAUREN SOLSKI
Laurie	JAMIE CACHERO
Nora	EVELYN SHAW
Stan	MATTHEW WALKER
Jack	BRIAN DERBY

SETTING

Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, New York.

Act 1 - Sept 1937 - 6:30 pm

Act 2 - Wednesday, a week later - 6:45 pm

There will be one 20 minute intermission

WARNING: THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS MILD ADULT THEMES

Please be considerate: ensure that mobile devices are turned off. The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by copyright law.



PhonicEar On-Wave hearing assistance systems can be picked up at the cloak room. These receivers permit control over listening volume levels through a 3.5 mm plug headset or T-Switch hearing aid loops.

BIOGRAPHIES



BRIAN MCMANUS (Director) has been active in local community theatre since the early 1980s, acting frequently and directing periodically. He got his start in the director's chair with the Valley Players of Almonte, with Neil Simon's *Rumours* in 1991, followed by *Steel Magnolias* (1994) and Norm Foster's *Looking* (2010), which won two Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL) awards. He later directed *Noises Off* for the Mississippi Mudds in Carleton Place,

which won a Capital Critics Award in 2012. As a member of Kanata Theatre since 2016, he was part of a wonderful team of directors for *Nunsense* 2018. Most recently, he directed Norm Foster's *Opening Night* (2022).



KARINE CHARLAND (Assistant Director) seems inevitably drawn to the northeastern US in her pursuits with Kanata Theatre; she is thrilled to set foot in Brighton Beach this season with a stellar cast and crew, after serving as Assistant Director in the not-quite-town of *Almost Maine*, last winter. An old soul at heart, she has deeply enjoyed travelling back to the 1930s and experiencing the world through the eyes of the Jerome family. Karine has also written, appeared in, and

directed various 10-Minute plays for Kanata Theatre and appeared onstage at Ottawa Little Theatre (*Love from a Stranger*, *Holmes and Watson*). She hopes to soon write her own family memoirs and still has a much to learn from Eugene.



JAMIE CACHERO (Laurie) is making their Kanata Theatre debut with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. They couldn't be happier to be performing alongside such an amazing cast. While this is Jamie's first play, they are no stranger to the stage. Previous onstage credits include *Newsies*, *Something Rotten*, and *Matilda the Musical* with Orpheus Musical Theatre. During the day, Jamie pursues their passion for theatre in Canterbury High School's drama program. Jamie

would like to thank their parents for commuting them to each rehearsal and for all their support. They hope you enjoy the show!



BRIAN DERBY (Jack) first appeared on the Kanata Theatre stage as Gary in 2022's *The Pear Tree* and then as Bob in 2023's *A Dark and Stormy Night*. Both part of the Kanata Theatre's 10-Minute Play Festival. He has also appeared in Kanata Acting Studio's 2023 EODL festival play *Crosstalk* and as Al in 2023's KAS's actor showcase, *The Philadelphia*. Brian would like to credit his mentor, John Muggleton, for igniting a passion for acting. Brian would also like to thank

his wife Joanna, and his kids Lillian and Winston, for all their support.



WILLIAM MANN (Eugene) is super pumped to be making his return to the Kanata Theatre stage as Eugene Morris Jerome. Most recently, Will was on the Kanata Theatre stage in 2023's 10-Minute Play Festival. Previously, he played Linus in 2019's *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and Mort in 2018's *Madagascar*. He is a Grade 9 student in the Canterbury drama program. Aside from acting, Will loves to watch movies and play the guitar. He would like to thank the

whole cast and crew for the amazing experience.



EVELYN SHAW (Nora) is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* for her first show with Kanata Theatre. Evelyn was most recently seen in the principal role of Princess Clara in the Art Beat Theatre production of the new Canadian musical, *Just Say the Word*, at The Gladstone Theatre this past February. Previous shows include Ensemble in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Greely Players, 2023) and Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* (A Company of Adventurers, 2022). Her next big goal is getting her driver's license after turning 16 a few weeks ago.



LAUREN SOLSKI (Kate) is ecstatic to finally perform with Kanata Theatre. Since moving to Ottawa in 2022, Lauren has appeared in Phoenix Players' *God of Carnage* (Annette) and *The Mousetrap* (Miss Casewell). Her past productions also include *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Grease* (Sandy), *A Fox on the Fairway* (Louise), *The Cake* (Jen), *Into The Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy). Aside from acting, she enjoys ice cream, embroidery, travel, and being with her nephews. Lauren thanks her family and dogs, Chloe and Bane, for their ongoing support and love.



ANISSA STAMBOULI (Blanche) is excited to be back on the Kanata Theatre stage alongside the talented cast of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Recent stage credits include *12 Angry Jurors*, *The Siegel*, and *Of Mice and Men* (Ottawa Little Theatre), *Doubt: A Parable* (Kanata Theatre), and the musical *Scream Queens* (Lost Baggage Musical Theatre). When not at rehearsals, she enjoys outdoor adventures with her dog and time with friends and family—big love and thanks to them for their support!



MATTHEW WALKER (Stan) is happy to be make his theatrical debut on the Kanata Theatre stage. Matt graduated from York University with a Film Production degree and works as a post-production editor. He has been behind the camera in a variety of different positions in many genres. He is thrilled to step into the world of acting and thanks the amazing cast and crew for all their support.

Purchase your tickets here: www.kanatatheatre.ca.
The Kanata Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Please call the Box Office at 613-831-4435 to secure wheelchair seating.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Catriona Malcolmson
Assistant Director	Karine Charland
Stage Manager	Anne-Marie Smith
Assisted by	Sheryl Bell, Kaitlynn Ford
Media Liaison	Lauren Solski
Set Design & Construction	Heidi Roberts
Assisted by	Sally McIntyre
Construction Crew	Paul Behncke, Jim Clarke, Enver Dokuzoguz Dean Flockton, Elisa Frost, Mike Giovinazz Mark Guzowski, Clyde Le Geunier, Sally McIntyre Gregory Newell, Luke Shortt, Arsenii Skvortsov Chris Squires, Dan Winters, Sandy Wynne
Set Painting	Elisa Frost
Assisted by	Donna Burlock, Julie Dustin, Joy Forbes Harper Grineau, Nathan Hagggar, Noah Hagggar Gordon Harrison, Ilona Henkelman, Barb Kobolak Karen Lemieux, Nicole MacLaren, Sheila Trivisonno, Sandy Wynne
Set Décor	Nicole MacLaren
Assisted by	Peggy Lavery
Sound Design	Mike Bosnich
Assisted by	Mike Hogan
Sound Operator	Jennifer Heale
Lighting Design	Bill McLaughlin
Assisted by	Anthony Rumsey, John van Schouwen
Lighting Operators	Yolande Aki, Anthony Rumsey, John van Schouwen
Projections	Jean-Marc Seguin
Costume Design	Maxine Ball
Assisted by	Saundra Eaves
Properties	Nicole MacLaren
Assisted by	Kelly Griffin, Ilona Henkelman, Peggy Lavery Alana Lavoie, Julie Melnyk, Miranda Shelly, Sandy Wynne
Stage Crew	Elisa Frost
Assisted by	Mariana Cavelier, Miranda Shelly, Krae Shortt Luke Shortt, Trevor Sullivan, Cameron Wood
Continuity	Diane Burke, Jill Doherty, Caileen Dolan Miriam Fitzgerald, Nancy Hough, Petra Watzlawik-Li
Hair Design	Carol Walkey
Make Up	Martha Johnstone
Assisted by	Sophie Caisse, Sierra Clouthier, Kelly Griffin Lise McManus, Liz Nash, Hilary Philebrown
Green Room	Laurie Hogan
House Manager	Anthony Rumsey

We also thank all other Kanata Theatre volunteers that helped make this production possible who are not listed here, including publicity, marketing, box office, signage, front of house and server, operations, and more.



Dear Patrons,

Welcome to the Ron Maslin Playhouse for tonight's performance of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. You're in for a real treat as the extraordinary cast and crew, ably directed by Brian McManus, illuminate the wit and charm of Neil Simon's classic on our stage! Their dedication has brought to life the timeless humour and poignant family dynamics that make this play an enduring masterpiece.

As we celebrate the success of this heartfelt production, we're thrilled to unveil our captivating lineup for the 2024-2025 season. Get ready for sharp wit and hilarity with *Let It Be*, the intrigue of *Dangerous Liaisons*, the whimsical charm of our holiday show *Cinderella (A Panto)*, the thrilling mystery of *The Girl on a Train*, the modern satire of *Home, I'm Darling*, and the comedic brilliance of *I Hate Hamlet*. Indulge in the magic of our upcoming season with a 5-Play Package for just \$100 - an affordable way to ensure you don't miss a moment of excitement on our stage.

Whether you're a seasoned patron or here for the first time, we're grateful you're here. Your support ensures Kanata Theatre continues to be a hub for exceptional talent and memorable performances.

Cameron Bishop

President, Kanata Theatre



Brighton Beach
c. 1937



**KANATA
NORTH**
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Website: KanataNorth.ca

Twitter: [@KanataNorth](https://twitter.com/KanataNorth)

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Brighton Beach Trivia

- Founded in 1868 with the development of the 'Brighton Beach Hotel', which 20 years later, had to be moved 500 ft inland to stop it being washed away. It was the largest building moved in the 19th century.
- Notable residents include two other famous 'Neils': the musicians Neil Diamond and Neil Sedaka. Arthur Miller, the famous playwright and one-time husband of Marilyn Monroe, also resided here.
- Brighton Beach has also been a hotspot of the Russian mafia, including the 'Potato Bag' gang from the 1970s.

A moment in time... 50 years ago...

Kanata Theatre proudly presented 11 plays in 1973–1974 season:

- *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward, directed by Laurence Thornton
- *Snow White and Rose Red* by Jean Feather, directed by Eufron Williams
- *Take Away My Shadow* by June Franklin, directed by Joan Long
- *Bea, Frank, Richie, and Joan* by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna, directed by Bob Knight
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Jim Holmes
- *Igor and the Time Machine* by B.Keneford, D.Strong and G.Holland, directed by Helen Hunter
- *Hunting Stuart* by Robertson Davies, directed by Dewi Williams
- *Pinocchio* by Brian Way, directed by Nancy Jackson
- *The Tunnel Of Love* by Joseph Fields and Peter de Vries, directed by Ron Maslin
- *The Public Eye* by Peter Shaffer, directed by Maurice Dubras
- *The Reluctant Dragon* by George C. Fosgate, directed by unknown

Jim Holmes made his Kanata Theatre directing debut with *The Importance of Being Earnest* (January 1974) at Earl of March School. Tickets were on sale for \$1.50. This season Jim directed his 29th play, with Kanata Theatre's presentation of *12th Night*, and he is probably among the longest-serving members of Kanata Theatre. Many thanks to Jim and everyone else who participated in that season and every season since!

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The paintings in the foyer are by courtesy
of the Kanata Civic Art Gallery

For information or to purchase the art,
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What do an eccentric history buff, French aristocrats, a prince and a scullery maid, an unhappy commuter, a 1950's housewife, and John Barrymore's ghost have in common?

Probably nothing, but you'll find them all in the upcoming season!

Join us for the 2024–2025 season to meet these and more characters, and to follow their stories.

Find out more on the next page...

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kanata theatre

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A tale of seduction set in France among aristocrats before the revolution. A classic drama for exploring decadent sexuality, morals, and manipulation played as the ultimate game, with tragic results.

DAINGEROUS LIAISONS

NOV. 6 - 16, 2024



CINDERELLA (A PANTO)

DEC. 27 - 30, 2024



Cinderella lives under the tyranny of her horrible ugly step sisters and wicked step mother following the death of her beloved father. The prince is looking for true happiness and a princess. It's time for a royal ball!

Rachel longs for a different life. Her only escape is the outwardly perfect couple she watches through the train window every day. When she learns that the woman has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect.

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

FEB. 5 - 15, 2025



HOME, I'M DARLING

MAR. 26 - APR. 5, 2025



Every marriage needs a little fantasy to keep it sparkling. But behind the gingham curtains, being a domestic goddess isn't as easy as it looks... a dark comedy about sex, cake and the quest to be the perfect 1950s housewife.

Follow successful television actor Andrew Rally as he struggles with taking on the dream role of Hamlet, dealing with a girlfriend who is keeping a firm grip on her chastity, and playing host to the ghost of John Barrymore.

I HATE HAMLET

MAY 7 - 17, 2025



MEMBERSHIP

Kanata Theatre is celebrating its 55th anniversary this season. Since 1988 a lot has changed. Growth has been exponential and the diversity now present in our community has enriched our membership. One thing that has not changed is the commitment to volunteerism that KT members embody. Kanata Theatre is completely volunteer run; from directors and producers to lighting designers and box office agents. Consider joining our vibrant membership and playing a part in bringing quality live theatre to audiences.

You can offer as much time as suits your lifestyle and you will be rewarded with a creative outlet that is fun and fosters great friendships.

Contact Kathleen Walsh Director, Membership and Training for more information at: membership@kanatatheatre.ca or scan the QR code



Find us on Facebook at **Kanata Theatre**
Follow us on Instagram @**KanataTheatre**

We have updated the program! So, if you love it or hate it, or have suggestions or comments, please let us know at programs@kanatatheatre.ca. We would love to get your feedback!

Scan for more information about Kanata Theatre's upcoming show season!



TICKET POLICY

The box office opens 1.5 hr prior to show times. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.kanatatheatre.ca.

Tickets are non refundable. Please contact the ticket office at 613-831-4435 to exchange tickets for another performance within the current show.

The Kanata Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Please call the box office to secure wheelchair seating.

Kanata Theatre's telephone number for emergency calls is 613-831-4436.

The Ron Maslin Playhouse is built on and Kanata Theatre operates on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples, the stewards of this land for millennia.