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FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY  
in association with Samuel French presents

# BRIGHTON BEACH *Memoirs*

Neil Simon's

*Hit Comedy*  
*about life, love and growing up.*

**APRIL 18-21**  
2018



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# CAST & CREW



Oliver Loades	Eugene
Becky Knight	Kate
Sarah Howard Parker	Blanche
Dan Clucas	Jack
Lily Elborn	Nora
Callum Harbour	Stanley
Emma Harrington	Laurie

.....

Director

Neomi Glasser

Producers

Neomi Glasser

Sarah Amsden

Stage Manager

Joyce Parker

Costume and props

Hazel and Sebastian Gibbs,

Rob Farrow

Hair & Make up

Aletha Robertson, Josephine Waterman

Lights

Chris Cooper, Angela Allen

Set Design

Bruce Sherring Lucas, Simon Ruck,  
Neomi Glasser

Set Build

Simon Ruck, Bruce Sherring Lucas,  
Frayed Knot friends & family

Box Office

Ian and David Wells

Photography

Adam Hollier

Graphic Design

Simon Blanchard

Special thanks to

Anne Chatterley, Stephen Brown,  
Lynn Woods, Suzanne Newman at Tring  
Beauty Box and anyone  
we've forgotten





**Oliver Loades**  
*Eugene*

Oliver is delighted to be back at the Court Theatre with a local theatre company for the first time since Peter Pan and A

Christmas Carol in 2011. During his years away he has been in Fagins Gang for the Cameron Mackintosh tour of *OLIVER!*, Bruce in *MATILDA* for the RSC, Zack in *GOODNIGHT MR TOM* in London and on tour and as Portly in *WIND IN THE WILLOWS* with the Australian Shakespeare Company in Kew Gardens. He has performed with Tring School at the Court Theatre in *CORAM BOY* and *DR FAUSTUS*. Oliver is thrilled to have the chance to play such a great role in this fabulous comedy and hope you all enjoy the show.



**Sarah Howard Parker**  
*Blanche*

Sarah Howard Parker is thrilled to be making her return to the UK stage after many

years across the pond. She was last seen here as Bangles in the Redroofs Theatre School production of *BUGSY MALONE*. Since then, she has been busy obtaining her Drama degree from Ithaca College in New York; appearing as a TV presenter on several US networks, including MTV; and perfecting her American accent! Favourite stage roles include Abigail in *THE CRUCIBLE*, ALICE IN YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, and Sooze in *SUBURBIA*.



**Becky Knight**  
*Kate*

Becky has been involved in a number of productions in Tring, from *ALFIE* to *OLIVER!*,

*ALICE'S ADVENTURES* and *ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS*. She has particularly enjoyed being part of the *BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS* cast and playing the part of Kate.



**Lily Elborn**  
*Nora*

Lily is very excited to perform again with Frayed Knot Theatre Company after being in their production

of Jerusalem a few years ago. Lily has been in a mixture of plays and musicals including Vi in *FOOTLOOSE*, Patrice in *13 THE MUSICAL*, Audrey in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, Cathy in *DNA* and Miss Hannigan in *ANNIE*. This is Lily's first performance in a few years and she is excited to get back on the stage with such a great cast and crew.



**Dan Clucas**  
*Jack*

Dan has been in many Frayed Knot productions including *JERUSALEM*, *JOURNEY'S END* and *ONE MAN TWO*

*GUVNORS* which he also directed. Last year he played Lawrence Jameson in *DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS* and directed Jez Butterworth's *MOJO*. He has directed many other plays for Frayed Knot, written pantos for the Limelight Theatre, appeared in several seasons of Pendley Shakespeare and has one play published by Samuel French.



**Callum Harbour**  
*Stanley*

This is Callum's sixth show at The Court Theatre, having previously been in *SPAMALOT* and *SPRING*

*AWAKENING* in recent years. Also this will be his second show with Frayed Knot Theatre Company.

He's had great fun rehearsing for *BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS* with such an excellent cast and crew and looks forward to playing the role of Stan.



**Emma Harrington**  
*Laurie*

Emma is delighted to be taking part in her first proper "grown up" play and has really enjoyed the fun

she has had with the team. Previously she has performed in *BUGSY MALONE* and *HAIRSPRAY* with RARE productions. She sings with the Great Britain's National Youth Choir and has won awards for singing in both Watford Music and Orpheus Festivals. She was recently awarded the prize for Best Chairperson at a Rotary Youth Speaks Competition District Final. With her soprano voice, opera is the area Emma would like to perform in next.



**Naomi Glasser**  
*Director*

Naomi has directed many shows for Frayed Knot including *Jerusalem*, *JOURNEY'S END*, *THE 39 STEPS* and *AN*

*INSPECTOR CALLS*. Occasionally seen onstage her favourite roles have been playing Mrs Lovett in *SWEENEY TODD*, Bianca in *KISS ME KATE*, and Natella Abashvili in *THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE* for which she was awarded a regional NODA, 'best actress' award.



# Director's Note

In 1986 Brighton Beach Memoirs played at London's Aldwych Theatre, and operating the 'follow spot' was my then boyfriend Richard. On more than one occasion I was snuck in by the technical team to watch the show from a 'restricted view' seat (at the top, at the back, and behind a pillar), but that didn't matter because I loved it.

When looking for plays to stage Frayed Knot is often drawn to exciting, challenging and prominent theatre pieces. Brighton Beach Memoirs is actually none of these! The story is simple, a family's struggle during the depression era, softly poignant and rich with Simon's Jewish wit. Based on his own childhood, we experience the highs and lows of living in an overcrowded and underfunded 1930s New York. There is no profound message, there is no cut and thrust, your pleasure tonight will come simply from love, laughter and tears.

I've yearned to stage the show in Tring and additionally knew I would enjoy the pleasure of being involved in a play that has a 'family'. My temporary 'family' have been a joy to work with, I've greeted back seasoned actors, and welcomed new and young performers to our company. On stage and behind the scenes all have been committed, honest and hardworking, thank you.

Finally a word of reassurance - whichever seat you sit in tonight, there absolutely won't be a pillar restricting your view! Enjoy the show.

*Nasmi Glasser*

Frayed Knot's next production will be:  
THE ACCRINGTON PALS by Peter Whelan  
November 14th -17th 2018

## Neil Simon, the writer

Marvin Neil Simon is an American playwright, screenwriter and author. He has written more than 30 plays and nearly the same number of movie screenplays, mostly adaptations of his plays. He has received more combined Oscar and Tony nominations than any other writer.

Simon grew up in New York during the Great Depression, with his parents' financial hardships affecting their marriage, giving him a mostly unhappy and unstable childhood. He often took refuge in movie theatres where he enjoyed watching the early comedians like Charlie Chaplin. After a few years in the Army Air Force Reserve, and after graduating from high school, he began writing comedy scripts for radio and some

popular early television shows including The Phil Silvers Show, which ran from 1955 to 1959.

He began writing his own plays, beginning with *Come Blow Your Horn* (1961), followed by two more successful plays, *Barefoot in the Park* (1963) and *The Odd Couple* (1965), for which he won a Tony Award. It made him a national celebrity and "the hottest new playwright on Broadway." During one season, he had four successful plays running on Broadway at the same time, and in 1983 became the only living playwright to have a New York theatre, the Neil Simon Theatre, named in his honour.



Hair by

*Aletha Robertson*

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