

Audition Notice

Brighton Beach Memoirs, by Neil Simon

directed by Karen Vickery

Season 30 April – 16 May

Auditions for REP's production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* will be held Saturday **1 February** & Sunday **9 February**. Auditions will be held in the Ryan Room at Canberra Repertory Theatre.

Please call Canberra REP on 6247 4222 (business hours 10am – 4pm Mon – Fri) or email auditions@canberrarep.org.au to book an audition time and arrange access to a script if required, for which a \$5 refundable deposit is payable. Auditionees should have read the play and be familiar with their desired role. The auditions will include some scene work – details of the relevant scenes for each character will be posted shortly. Watch this space!

Please note that all auditionees must be aged 15 or over, and therefore should be able to portray the character's age, rather than actually be that age. Because some dialogue is of a sexual nature, all auditionees under 18 **must** provide written approval from a parent or guardian.

Characters

Kate – wife of Jack, mother of Stanley and Eugene

To Kate, family is all-important. They are her contact with the world outside her home. Houseproud, dominant, occasionally judgemental, she is “mother” to all in the household, and keeps any resentment of her situation well hidden.

Jack – husband of Kate, father of Stanley and Eugene

A very perceptive and gentle man, Jack keenly feels the responsibilities to both families in his household. Very aware of his own human failings, he is usually receptive and responsive to the needs of individuals. He works himself into ill health over the course of the play.

Stanley – age 18, the older son of Kate and Jack

Stanley is the older brother, alternately protective of and angry with his younger brother. Not yet fully adult, he is still learning the judgement required of an adult. He regards himself as a disappointment and a failure. He develops a stronger sense of self and responsibility as the play progresses.

Eugene – age 15, the younger son of Kate and Jack

Eugene is largely self-centred, dealing with the struggles and mental anguish of puberty. He relies on Stanley and is fiercely loyal to him. The story is told through Eugene's eyes, and he frequently steps into “narrator” mode. He is obsessed with baseball and sex.

Blanche – widowed younger sister of Kate, mother of Nora and Laurie

Blanche is an overprotective yet indecisive mother, who relies on Jack to provide a father-figure to her daughters and to make family decisions. Not confident of her abilities, she allows Kate to bring her and her girls into the household and to take over her life. She begins to show a developing independence throughout the play. She is extremely short sighted.

Nora – age 16, the older daughter of Blanche

Nora is a teenager with aspirations to Broadway. She is hurt by what she sees as her mother's favoured treatment of her younger sister. She rebels but reconciles with her mother after a long overdue conversation.

Laurie – age 13, the younger daughter of Blanche

Laurie gets out of doing chores when she can. She has a mild heart “flutter” which, while Blanche and Kate treat her as an invalid, she is not averse to using to her advantage. She is studious, and reads whenever she can.

Brighton Beach Memoirs... Eugene's memoirs show us how
the Jerome family meet life's challenges with **pride, spirit, and wonderful humour.**
[edge of childhood]