

SFA  
School of  
Theatre  
2008-2009 Mainstage Series

SFA College of Fine Arts and School of Theatre present

# Brighton Beach

## Memoirs



by Neil Simon

September 30 - October 4, 2008

W.M. Turner Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

sponsored in part by



**SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE**  
and the  
**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**  
present

# **Brighton Beach Memoirs**

by  
**Neil Simon**

**Directed by Kyle Kennedy**

**Stage Manager: Christopher Flores**

**Scenery by Tomy Matthys**

**Costumes by Angela Bacarisse**

**Lighting & Sound by CC Conn**

**Hair & Makeup by Courtney Parker**

**Dramaturg: Brenda Truett**

**September 30-October 4, 2008**

**W.M. Turner Auditorium**

## About the Cast

**Faye Austin** (Nora), a senior from Fort Worth, has appeared in *Take Five*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *States of Grace* on the SFA Mainstage. She also acted in *The Bald Soprano* and *Chamber Music* in the Downstage, and she directed *Grey Matter* in the Upstage.

**Mark McManus** (Stanley), is a senior from Houston. His Mainstage credits include *Take Five*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Grease*. He has also appeared in *The Death of Bessie Smith* and *Picnic on the Battlefield* in the Downstage. He is working on a double major in theatre and political science.

**Nicholas Mills** (Eugene), is a senior from Houston. He has been in *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Grease*, *China Dolls*, and *Hair* on the Mainstage, as well as a being member of the Original Cast. A BFA Performance major, Nick just recently returned from an internship abroad at Rose Bruford College and in Tallinn, Estonia.

**Jessica Moore** (Blanche), a senior from San Antonio, has acted in *This Day Forward* and *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System* on the Mainstage, as well as *Chamber Music* and *The Unwicked Witch* in the Downstage. She also designed the hair and makeup for *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*.

**Erin Morris** (Laurie) is a sophomore from Frisco. In her first year at SFA she appeared as Monica in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and as Audrey in *As You Like It* on the Mainstage. She is a theatre and hospitality administration double major.

**Emily Womack** (Kate), is a senior from Katy. She has appeared in *Tribute*, *Who Will Carry the Word?*, and *Tales of the Lost Formicans* at SFA. She also played Antonia Quijana in the Country Playhouse in Houston's production of *Man of La Mancha*. She will complete her BFA in performance this December.

**Jason Zednick** (Jack) is a senior from Jacksonville. His credits include: *Cornbury*, *This Day Forward*, *As You Like It* and *Six Degrees of Separation* on the Mainstage and *Side Man*, *The Gas Heart*, and *All Saints' Day* in the Downstage. Jason also appeared in *Othello* at Shakespeare Dallas. He will be directing *The Sniper* later this semester.

## About the Artistic Staff

**Angela Bacarisse** (Costume Designer) has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her most recent SFA costume designs include *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Androcles and the Lion*, *The Bartered Bride*, and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She also designed lights for *Crimes of the Heart* and the annual SFA dance concert.

**Barbara Blackwell** (Costume Shop Supervisor) holds a BA in Art from SFA. This is her ninth year as Costume Shop Supervisor. She has also designed or co-designed *Tribute*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *Trudi and the Minstrel*, and she was Costume Illustrator for *The Land of the Dragon*.

**Christine Branch** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior from Sugar Land. Her stage management credits include *This Day Forward*, *Catastrophe*, *The Boy in the Basement*, and *Can-Can*. She has also served as Props Master for the 2008 Summer Rep season.

**CC Conn** (Lighting and Sound Designer) holds an MFA from Indiana University. Her most recent SFA credits include scenery, lights and sound for the 2008 Festival of New American Plays; lights and sound for *Driving Miss Daisy*; lights for *Androcles and the Lion* and *The Bartered Bride*; and sound for *Crimes of the Heart*.

**Christopher Flores** (Stage Manager), a senior from Austin, has stage managed *Blithe Spirit*, *Grease*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Night of the Iguana*, and *Anton in Show Business*. While on his internship at the Guthrie Theatre, Chris was an assistant stage manager for their productions of *After a Hundred Years*, *9 Parts of Desire*, and *Pen*.

**Julie Glover** (Assistant Costume Designer) is a senior from Galena Park. She was Costume Coordinator for the 2008 Play Reading Festival and Costume Designer for *The Piano Lesson*. She also served as Wardrobe Master for *As You Like It*, *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*, *Tintypes*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Grease*.

**Kyle Kennedy** (Director) has directed *Take Five* and *Six Degrees of Separation* and acted in *Lend Me a Tenor* and *The Tempest* at SFA. He has performed with professional companies across the country, most recently this summer at Cortland (NY) Repertory Theatre in *A Few Good Men*. Kyle is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and an eligible player member of Actors Equity Association. He holds an MFA from the University of Texas.



## Cast List

(in order of appearance)

Eugene .....	Nicholas Mills
Blanche .....	Jessica Moore
Kate .....	Emily Womack
Laurie .....	Erin Morris
Nora .....	Faye Austin *
Stanley .....	Mark McManus
Jack .....	Jason Zednick *

\* Designates a member of the Beta Phi cast of  
Alpha Psi Omega,  
the national honorary dramatics fraternity

## Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play occurs in the Brighton Beach area of  
Brooklyn, New York.

Act One: September, 1937, 6:30 P.M.

Fifteen-Minute Intermission

Act Two: Wednesday, a week later at about 6:45  
in the evening and the next day.

*Brighton Beach Memoirs* is presented  
by special arrangement with  
Samuel French, Inc.

## Dramaturg's Note

Set in a location sandwiched between Coney Island and Manhattan Beach, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* takes place in 1937. The 1930s and 1940s brought a huge influx of people from Europe escaping the oppression of Fascists and Nazis. This was a somewhat volatile time in Brooklyn, New York's, Brighton Beach, marked by considerable discrimination toward Jews who had immigrated to America to escape persecution for their religion. Jewish families clashed with Irish-Catholic families. Though unwelcome at first, a number of Jews eventually came to be rather successful businessmen in America.

One of the most striking components of these Jewish families was, and still is, their sense of unity and support for one another. Women were often the managers of the household, ensuring that their husbands went to temple and the children did their work. Husbands were usually the decision-makers when it came to important issues. Wives, such as Kate, still played a strong role in the family. Her sister Blanche, on the other hand, must have relied heavily on her husband, for she has difficulty standing up for herself or her children.

First produced at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles on December 10, 1982, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* debuted on Broadway on March 27, 1983, at the Alvin Theatre. It starred Matthew Broderick as Eugene, Peter Michael Goetz as Jack, Elizabeth Franz as Kate, and Joyce Van Patten as Blanche. The play won the New York Drama Critics Circle Prize for Best Play. It is the first play in the "Eugene Trilogy" featuring protagonist Eugene Jerome and his family: the trilogy also includes 1985's *Biloxi Blues*, which dealt with Eugene's armed service years, and 1986's *Broadway Bound*, about life after the war.

--Brenda Truett

## About the Artistic Staff (continued)

**Tomy Matthys** (Scenic Designer) has taught for over 40 years at SFA, where he has designed over 200 productions. His most recent scenic designs include *The Bartered Bride*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *As You Like It*, *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*, *Tribute*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Grease*, and *The Servant of Two Masters*.

**Courtney Parker** (Hair and Makeup Designer) is a senior from Red Oak. At SFA she has designed for *Cornbury*, *Don't Say a Word*, *As You Like It*, and *Blithe Spirit*. This summer she was the wig and makeup intern for the Central City Opera in Central City, CO, for *West Side Story* and *Susannah*.

**Mark Porter** (Technical Director) came to SFA from the Austin Theatre Alliance in January 2007. He was Technical Director at St. Edward's University and at the Coconut Grove Playhouse. He has worked in television and film, on Broadway, and extensively Off-Broadway.

**Brenda Truett** (Dramaturg) is a senior from San Angelo Central High School. At SFA, she has appeared in the Original Cast, as well as serving as the One Act Play Assistant Contest Manager and One Act Play Clinic Assistant Director. She also acted in the Big Country Dinner Theater's production of *Smile*.

**Arrie Allen Tucker** (Production Assistant) is a freshman from Nacogdoches. At Nacogdoches High School he was the stage manager for *Visit to a Small Planet*, *Yellow Boat*, *Rhinoceros*, and *Everywoman*. He also stage managed *Emotional Baggage* in the Upstage earlier this semester.

**Chloe Westfall** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman from Stephen F. Austin High School in Austin. While there she stage managed their productions of *Mary of Scotland* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and was assistant stage manager for *Dearly Departed*. She also designed makeup for *Arabian Nights* and *The Little Prince*.

**Kristi Young** (Assistant Hair and Makeup Designer) is a junior from Brenham. At SFA, she has appeared as May in the Studio Hour *Time Flies*, and will perform as Elizabeth in *The Role of Della* later in the semester. She has crewed such SFA productions as *The Bartered Bride*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *How I Learned to Drive*.

## Technical Staff

Technical Director .....	Mark Porter
Costume Shop Supervisor .....	Barbara Blackwell
Assistant Technical Director .....	Steve Bacarisse
Assistant Stage Managers .....	Christine Branch, Chloe Westfall
Assistant Costume Designer .....	Julie Glover *
Assistant Hair/Makeup Designer .....	Kristi Young
Master Electrician .....	Jason Cook
Properties Master .....	Sara Jones *
Wardrobe Master .....	Bree Sturtevant
Light Board Operator .....	Nikki Johnson
Sound Board Operator .....	Tony Douglas *
Production Assistant .....	Arrie Tucker
Scenery Construction .....	Theatre 150 and 350
Properties / Floor Run Crew .....	Jarrett Goer, Keidrick Goss, Kelli Grimes-Baggett, Adam Hill, Taylor Myers, Erin Nowlin
Light Hang Crew .....	Chris Barcus, Peter Borke, Aaron Hanna, JT Hearn, Rachel Hinds, Brittney Hudson, Palesa Moloena, Flosi Ofeigsson
Paint Crew .....	Amber Burkhalter, Lucy Drury, Caroline Harrell, Aiesha Lindsay, Susan Ly, Courtney Outlaw, Emma Palizza, Rachel Pennington
Load-In Crew .....	Peter Christdoulou, Lawrence Davis, Lindsey Fahrni, Daniel Gambill, Aaron Kline, Chad McElveen *, Chelsea O'Dell, Stephanie Ponder, Matt Ramos, Jacob Suggs, Kaitlin Wieseman
Costume Construction .....	Theatre 150 and 350
Wardrobe Crew .....	Lindsay Craft, Tiffany Craig, Cynthia Law, Bettina Palomina
House Manager .....	Alicia Earls
Programs .....	Marissa Harding, Rick Jones
Box Office Manager .....	Dianne Flynn
Publicity .....	Sylvia Bierschenk, Office of Arts Information

Special thanks to Shirley Watterston.



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Theatre  
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*Dean, College of Fine Arts*  
Mr. Scott Shattuck  
*Director of the  
School of Theatre*

Ms. Angela Bacarisse  
*Associate Professor*

Ms. Carolyn Conn  
*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Richard Jones  
*Associate Professor*

Mr. Kyle Kennedy  
*Assistant Professor*

Mr. Tomy Matthys  
*Associate Professor*

Dr. Alan Nielsen  
*Professor*

Mr. Allen Oster  
*Professor*

Mr. Jack Heifner  
*Playwright-in-Residence*

Ms. Shari Ellsworth  
*Lecturer*

Ms. Juanita Finkenberg  
*Adjunct Faculty*

Mr. Brad Maule  
*Adjunct Faculty*

Mr. David Raine  
*Adjunct Faculty*

Ms. Barbara Blackwell  
*Costume Shop Supervisor*

Mr. Mark Porter  
*Scene Shop Supervisor*

Mr. Stephen Bacarisse  
*Asst. Scene Shop Supervisor*

Ms. Nelda Hartley  
*Administrative Assistant*

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Karen Tucker, Rhonda Williams

**Scholarships 2008-2009**

**Regents Scholars**

Janette Bauer, Aaron Hanna,  
Brittany Nelson, Meaghan Rosenberger,  
Katrina Tarson, Brenda Truett,  
Chloe Westfall

**Alumni Scholars**

Marissa Harding, David Hathway,  
Miguel Maymi, Catherine Restivo,  
Caroline Smith, Brenda Truett, Arrie Tucker

**School of Theatre Scholarships**

Holly Adair, Waldron Archer, Faye Austin,  
Peter Borke, Lindsay Craft, Courtney Creed,  
Garrett Cross, Caitlin Dean, Brittany Djie,  
Tony Douglas, Samuel Flash,  
Nashanna Gates, Julie Glover,  
Jason Grigsby, Ella Haag, Aaron Hanna,  
Marissa Harding, Caroline Harrell, TD Harris,  
David Hathway, JT Hearn, Xzavien Hollins,  
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Margaret Lewis, Susan Ly, Miguel Maymi,  
Chad McElveen, Mark McManus,  
Robert Meza, Jessica Moore, Erin Morris,  
Allison Ostrander, Emma Palizza,  
Jane Parmelly, Brandon Polanco,  
Kory Pullam, Nathaniel Reid,  
Catherine Restivo, Cassidy Risien,  
Jessica Rodriguez, Meaghan Rosenberger,  
Katherine Rowe, Kevin Scholtes,  
Caroline Smith, Jacob Suggs, Katrina Tarson,  
Allen Titel, Brenda Truett, Arrie Tucker,  
Samantha Walker, Chloe Westfall,  
Emily Womack, Kristi Young, Sarah Zabinski,  
Ashley Zednick, Jason Zednick

SIFA  
*School of Theatre*  
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

**2008-09 Mainstage Season**  
**Faculty-Directed Productions**  
**All performances at 7:30 p.m.**

***Brighton Beach Memoirs***

by Neil Simon

September 30-October 4

***Big River: The Adventures  
of Huckleberry Finn***

by William Hauptman & Roger Miller

November 18-22

***The Elephant Man***

by Bernard Pomerance

February 24-28

***The Heidi Chronicles***

by Wendy Wasserstein

April 28-May 2

**Fall 2008 Downstage Season**  
**Student-Directed Productions**  
**7:30 p.m. Friday; 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday**

***The Rising of the Moon***

by Lady Augusta Gregory

September 19-20

***The Red Key***

by Charles Emery

October 10-11

***Purgatorio***

by Ariel Dorfman

October 24-25

***Line***

by Israel Horowitz

November 7-8