DAVID COURT THEATRE PENDLEY TRING



FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY

in association with Samuel French presents

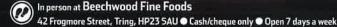
Neil Simon's

Hit Comedy

about life, love and growing up.







CAST & CREW

Eugene Oliver Loades

Kate Becky Knight

Sereh Howard Perker Blanche

Jack Dan Clucas

Nore Lily Elborn

Stanley Callum Harbour

Laurie Emme Herrington

Neomi Glasser Director

Neomi Glasser Producers

Sarah Amsden

Joyce Parker Stage Manager

Hazel and Sebastian Gibbs, Costume and props

Rob Farrow

Aletha Robertson, Josephine Waterman Hair & Make Up

Chris Cooper, Angels Allen Light8

Bruce Sherring Luces, Simon Ruck, set Design

Neomi Glasser

Simon Ruck, Bruce Sherring Luces, Set Build

Frayed Knot friends & family

Inn and David Wells BOX Office

Adem Hollier Photography

Simon Blenchard Graphic Design

Anne Chatterley, Stephen Brown, special thanks to 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.



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.



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.



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.

Directors 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.

Dasmi 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.



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