

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WXAC's 50th Anniversary Concert

April 18, 4-6 p.m., Campus Center South Lounge

Sounds of Spring, a Symphonic Band Concert^{EE, TAD}

April 25, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel

String Chamber Orchestra and Big Cat Jazz Ensemble Concert^{EE}

April 26, 3 p.m., Memorial Chapel

Albright Dance Team Recital

May 1, 7:30 p.m., Wachovia Theatre

Gospel Choir Concert

May 2, 4 p.m., Memorial Chapel

Green and Growing: Student Projects in Theatre^{EE}

May 4 and 6, 7:30 p.m., Wachovia Theatre

Annual Juried Student Exhibition

May 5-14, Freedman Gallery; Award Ceremony and Reception, May 7, 5-7 p.m.^{TAD}

Albright Student Film and Video Showcase^{*EE}

May 7, 7:30 p.m., Klein Lecture Hall, Filmmakers will be present for a Q&A session after the screening.

Beach Party Bonanza IV, Electric Boogaloo III, Dreams Come True II

May 8, 6 p.m., CFA Mary Miss Amphitheatre, The Less Than or Equal To Improv spring finale showcase

Xion Step Team Dance Showcase

May 8, 7:30 p.m., Wachovia Theatre. Don't forget the after-party in Jake's; \$3, students only at door.

Albright's Annual Fashion Showcase and Runway Show^{*EE, TAD}

May 9, Bollman Gym, \$5 students, \$10 adults, \$20 VIP

Exhibition Showcase, 4-5:30 p.m. • Runway Show, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

VIP Reception, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Red and White Room

Celebrate Spring^{EE}

May 9, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel

Children's Theatre of Albright Spring Production

May 10, 1 p.m., Mary Miss Amphitheatre

Roar Like a Lion

May 11, 7 p.m., Roop Hall

Albright's end-of-the-semester student recital offers a variety of vocal and instrumental performances.

Lydia Panas

May 23-June 28, Freedman Gallery (MG); Reception, May 23, 5-7 p.m. • Meet and Make, June 21, 2 p.m.

The Body in Motion, Freedman Kids Camp 2015*

June 22-26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., brown bag lunch, Freedman Gallery & Schumo Center

Summer Jazz Workshops with Mike Eben*

June 15-19 and July 20-24, 9 a.m.-noon, Roop Hall



For details, updates and more great events, visit www.albright.edu/CenterfortheArts.

* For prices/tickets, call the CFA Box Office at 610-921-7547 or purchase online at www.albright.edu/CenterfortheArts.

^{TAD} Denotes an official Teens After Dark program ^{EE} Denotes Experience Event



BRIGHTON BEACH
MEMOIRS
BY NEIL SIMON

APRIL 10-11 & 16-18, 8 P.M.; APRIL 19, 2:30 P.M.

Wachovia Theatre

A Domino Players' 2014-2015 season production directed by Matt Fotis.



Welcome

Thank you for attending this performance. Your support and appreciation as an audience member challenge us to present the very best visual and performing arts programs. We hope to see you again in the near future. A partial list of upcoming events can be found on the back cover of this program, and a full list is always available and updated with new programs on our website at www.albright.edu/CenterfortheArts. Be sure to take a copy of our 2014-2015 season magazine, if you don't have one already.

As a theatre patron, I hope you will save the dates for next season's Domino Players' productions.

***Marybeth Mary Roth* by Matt Fotis**

Thur.-Sat., Oct. 1-3, 8 p.m., & Sun., Oct. 4, 2:30 p.m.

***Clybourne Park* by Bruce Norris**

mid-November, final dates to be determined

***4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane**

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 19-20, 8 p.m., Sun., Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m.

***Norway Today* by Igor Bauersima**

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 26-27, 8 p.m., & Sun., Feb. 28, 2:30 p.m.

***Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare**

late April, final dates to be determined

To keep great programs like these going, it takes talented students and dedicated faculty and staff. It also takes private donations from individuals like you. If you have already made a gift this year to support the arts at Albright, I sincerely thank you. If you haven't, please join me and our many other generous donors who continue to make a difference.

A list of current members can be found at the end of this program. Members receive invitations to exclusive events, like art salons, backstage tours and reserved seating at concerts and lectures. For a full list of benefits, see the form at the back of the program.

David M. Tanner
Director, Center for the Arts

Director's Notes

Despite overwhelming odds Eugene Morris Jerome believes he will play for the New York Yankees. Eugene's dream is at the heart of our production, and his dream is one that balances between the scars of the past, the hardships of the present, and his hopes for the future. In many ways, baseball is the perfect symbol for this family. Baseball is perfect for its unattainable pursuit of perfection: the perfect symmetry of the field, the ball, the bases; the perfect arc of a homerun; the perfect simplicity of a stolen base. There's even the chance of a perfect game. Yet baseball is a game dominated by failure. The best players the game has ever seen failed seventy percent of the time. Because of this, or perhaps it is just the Cubs fan in me, baseball is a game of hope. You get three strikes. You get 162 chances. You get over a century to try and win a World Series. Perhaps because the season is so long and anything *might* happen we believe that our favorite team is simply one pitch away from turning everything around. It is a game of temporary permanence.

In the midst of all those chances, however, is the one play that changes the game. The one swing and miss, the one base hit, the one opportunity amongst the thousands. The characters in this play embody the hope of imperfection. The hard times are (hopefully) only temporary. There are (hopefully) better days ahead. We will look back someday and (hopefully) see how our struggle and sacrifice paid off. This imperfect hope drives them throughout the play from Neil Simon's signature comedy to the ties that bind all families together.

Matt Fotis, Director

Dramaturge's Notes

What creates our identity? Is it the culture we are born into or the society that is constantly around us? The question of identity is one that all of our characters struggle with throughout the play.

Eugene and Nora were born into a Jewish family but are nothing short of all-American with dreams of baseball and Broadway. Jack, Blanche and Kate stick to their Jewish roots, and through them, try to thrive in the American work place.

Through this identity struggle we also see a struggle of duty versus hope. Can one have both? The older generation seems to lean heavily on this idea of duty, as it is what drives them to keep going and make the best out of their situation. Eugene, Nora and Laurie fall into the hope category, dreaming of a better life in the seemingly limitless possibilities of America. Stanley bridges the divide—dutiful to his family as a way of feeding Eugene's hope. These constant battles between duty and hope, culture and nationality, were prevalent in the 1930s, and are also very common today, which is why this piece still resonates the way it does.

Through this coming of age story we see the uniting and decaying of family bonds. We see how hard times can make people act in ways they would not have otherwise. This is a play about the American struggle and the American dream. What does it mean to be American? Is it the fact that you were born here or is it something more? Is it a sense of duty that you owe to your family and your country? Or is it the hope for a better life and trying to fulfill your dreams?

Ellie Smith, '16, Dramaturge

Brighton Beach Memoirs

by Neil Simon

Place: Brooklyn, NY

Time: Act I – September 1937

Act II – Two Weeks Later

There will be one, ten-minute intermission between acts.

CAST

Eugene Jerome.....	John Tallarida*
Stanley Jerome.....	Garrett Solomon
Jack Jerome.....	Devin Palmieri*
Kate Jerome.....	Emily Carey*
Laurie Morton.....	Gwenievere Birster
Nora Morton.....	Emily Weaver
Blanche Morton.....	Rachel Spause*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Matt Fotis*
Scenic Designer.....	Phill Hickox
Lighting Designer/Technical Director.....	Wayne E. Vettleson*
Costume Designer.....	Susie Marie Benitez*
Production Stage Manager.....	Sean Sassaman*
Dramaturge.....	Ellie Smith*
Assistant Director.....	Lani Panico
Assistant Technical Director.....	Billy Balmer*
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Ean Ammerman and Rachel Roseman*
Props Mistress.....	Heather Palmer
Hairstylist.....	Alexis Young
Dressers.....	Mariah Gibson*, Jenna Paiano and Nathan Rothermel
Shop Assistants.....	Connor Feeney*, Anna'le Hornak* and David Tupas*
Costume Shop Manager.....	Paula Trimpey
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Autumn Galka, Samantha Gardecki*, Samantha Gordon, Lydia Johnson and Alison Kluxen*
Booth Crew.....	Jonathan Lamangan* and Maura Sheehan*
Front of House Managers.....	Jose Martinez and Emily Piket*
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Box Office Assistants.....	Samantha Rushworth* and Emma Spade
Photographer.....	John Pankratz*
Poster/Program Design.....	Heidi Derstler and David Tanner*

* Denotes a Domino Player.

Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon is produced by special arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Costume Designer's Notes

Brighton Beach Memoirs is the third main stage production that I have designed costumes for Albright College. The process of designing this show has been an incredible one. This play is near and dear to my heart, as my family history resembles that of the Jerome family. I was able to start my research process by looking through photos of my relatives who were Jews living in New York in the 1930s. The play is about the meaning of family, and I was so glad to be able to incorporate some of my heritage into the design.

As I continued to research the world of the play, the image of Eugene's baseball really stuck out to me. I saw the baseball as a metaphor for the family. The baseball, which was once new, is now worn. It has taken many hits just as the family has been hit by economic stress, health scares and the impending war. The seams of the baseball have begun to tear apart and the layers underneath are coming to the surface, just as the dreams and oppressed feelings of the characters burst to the surface.

The colors and textures of the materials inside a baseball served as the main inspiration for the colors and textures of the costumes. The color of the red-orange rubber surrounding the cork ball at the center of a baseball is reflected in the color of Nora's Act 2 skirt. The colors of the wool yarn used as packing material in a baseball are reflected in Jack and Stanley's costumes.

The play also deals with the struggle to maintain the balance between the responsibility to the family and following one's dreams. Eugene is a dreamer and does not yet feel much responsibility. His costume, in turn, is much bolder with respect to the rest of his family. Each character's position on the hope-responsibility continuum is echoed in their clothing.

The colors and textures of the costumes strive to represent the true feelings and personalities of the characters. Overall, the costumes come together harmoniously with the other design elements just as the family comes together at the dinner table once more before the final black out.

Susie Marie Benitez, Costume Designer



Biographies

Ean Ammerman (English and Theatre, 2018). Ean is ecstatic to be making his debut behind the scenes! *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is his first show on the production team and he would like to thank Matt Fotis for giving him this opportunity. He would also like to thank his stage manager for showing him the ropes; Thanks, Sassy!

Susie Marie Benitez (Costume Design, 2015). This is Susan's third show as a costume designer. It is also her final production at Albright College. She would like to congratulate everyone involved with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. It has truly been a wonderful experience. She previously worked as a costume shop assistant on multiple Albright productions. Susan also worked as a dresser, stitcher, and first hand at the Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Totem Pole Playhouse.

Gwenievère Birster (Psychology, 2017). Gwenievère is an active member of the Concert Choir and the Symphonic Band here at Albright. She is also a member of the Albright Angels as well as President of the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. This is Gwenievère's first Domino Players production and she is so grateful for how welcoming and helpful everyone has been in this new endeavor.

Emily Carey (Communication and Theatre, 2017). After stage-managing Albright's previous production, Emily is happy to hand over the reins to Sean and finally take the stage as Kate Jerome. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this such a wonderful experience. Break a leg, everyone!

Matt Fotis (Director). Matt is an Assistant Professor and Co-Chair of the Theatre Department. He teaches courses in acting, improvisation, and writing for performance. He is the advisor/artistic director for Albright Improv and The Children's Theatre of Albright. Past Domino Player directing credits include *Short & Sweet* and *God of Carnage*.

Mariah Gibson (English and Theatre, 2015). Mariah is excited to work with the cast and crew as a dresser for her last production here at Albright. She wants to wish the best to all of the Domino Players in their future productions and thanks for an incredible four years.

Phill Hickox (Scenic Designer – USA 829). Teaches design, technology, and management at Wagner College Theatre. Some of his favorites, out of the 50 plus scenic design credits, include *Titanic*, *Carousel*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. His most recent design credits in the city include *Visions in the Fun House* at Lincoln Center Plaza, *Marisol* at the Sanford Meisner Theatre, and assistant scenic design for *Queen of Hearts: The Musical*, at the Harold Clurman Theatre. Phill is pleased to have this opportunity to collaborate with the production team at Albright College.

Jonathan Lamangan (Theatre, 2016). This is Jonathan's first time working in the booth. He's very excited to be working with everyone involved in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

Heather Palmer (History and Religious Studies, 2015). Heather is thrilled to be involved in her third Domino Player production as the props mistress for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. She cannot thank the cast, crew, and Jeanette's cooking enough for making this experience so memorable. She sends her thanks to her friends and family for their love and support.

Devin Palmieri (Theatre, 2017). This is Devin's fourth time acting in a main stage production at Albright. He is very happy to be able to work with such an awesome cast and crew.

Lani Panico (Communications and English, 2017). Lani is thrilled to be an Assistant Director for the very first time. This is also her first time being thoroughly involved in a Domino Players production. It has been an honor to be a part of such a wonderful process and she would love to thank the cast and crew for making her experience so memorable and rewarding.

Rachel Roseman (English and Theatre, 2016). Rachel is privileged to assist as stage manager *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and gain invaluable experience and perspective.

Nate Rothermel (Theatre, 2018). Nate is very excited to join the crew of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* as a dresser for the first time. He thanks the cast and crew, as well as his friends and family for their wonderful support.

Sean Sassaman (Arts Administration and Theatre, 2016). Sean is thrilled to be back in the role of stage manager for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. He cannot thank the cast and crew enough for making this experience so memorable. He sends his thanks to his friends and family for their unwavering and undying support.

Maura Sheehan (Biochemistry and Theatre, 2017). Maura is happy to be operating the light board for the first time! If you see any lights out of place or the theatre suddenly gets dark, she apologizes.

Ellie Smith (History and Religious Studies, 2016). Ellie is thrilled to be working on her third Dominos Players production as a dramaturg. She is blessed to have been able to work on this project in conjunction with an ACRE grant over the interim period. She wants to thank Matt for providing her with this fruitful learning experience.

Garrett Solomon (English and Secondary Education, 2018). Garrett is humbled and excited to have the opportunity to play a role in this production. He would like to thank Matt, the entire cast and crew, his supportive family—and perhaps most importantly everyone who has ever believed in the magic of bringing daydreams to life for the world to see.

Rachel Spause (Arts Administration and Theatre, 2017). Rachel is ecstatic to be playing the role of Blanche in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. She thanks the awe-inspiring cast and magnificent crew for an amazing process. She also thanks Matt and Lani for being such marvelous directors. She sends her love to her family, friends, and Tyler for their never-ending love and support.

John Tallarida (Theatre, 2015). John's journey began four years ago with *Arcadia*, moving through *Streetcar*, *Vortex*, *Shape of Things*, *Maelstrom*, and now *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. He's had the time of his life at this school. He is honored to be ending his Domino Player career surrounded by the people he loves. "Let's knock it out of the ballpark!"

Emily Weaver (Communications and Theatre, 2018). Emily is ecstatic to be playing "Nora" in her first main stage show at Albright College. She is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with such a welcoming cast/director. She thanks all who support her and she has been blessed with the memory of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* as her first college production.

Domino Players' Executive Board

Maddie Sedler, President

Maura Sheehan, Vice President

Alexis Jenofsky, Secretary

Susie Benitez, Treasurer

Devin Palmieri, Events Manager

Julia Matthews & Wayne Vettleson, Faculty Advisors

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and the Wagner College Theatre & Speech Department

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Donor \$50-99	Above benefits, plus your choice of a free catalog or t-shirt from the Freedman Gallery (\$15 value).
Patron \$100-249	Above benefits, plus two complimentary vouchers for any Domino Player production (\$18 value).
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Director's Circle \$500-999	Above benefits, plus two tickets to the Alumni Relations Holiday Candlelight Dinner (\$56 value).
President's Circle \$1,000 and above	All of the above and additional invitations to exclusive College-wide events at the discretion of the President.

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