Bob Brill

Assistant Director

Crooked Tree Arts Center

461 East Mitchell Street

Director

Those auditioning will be asked to read from the script

2 Women

7 Men

Location

*(Those auditioning are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes prior to audition times)*

Rehearsals will be held May 19th to July 31st

Mon May 13th at 7pm

Wed May 15th at 7pm

Esther Brill

Casting

Auditions

Audition Dates

Rehearsal Schedule

The second in Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Neil Simon's trilogy which began with *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and concluded with *Broadway Bound*. When we last met Eugene Jerome, he was coping with adolescence in 1930's Brooklyn. Here, he is a young army recruit during WW II, going through basic training and learning about Life and Love with a capital 'L' along with some harsher lessons, while stationed at boot camp in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1943

**Winner - 1985 Tony Award for Best Play**

“*Joyous and unexpectedly rewarding.*” -The New York Times

“*A play that rings with a newer, deeper, sweeter truth.*” -New York Magazine

August 1 – August 4

Crooked Tree Arts Center

Due to mature content and language, “Biloxi Blues” is recommended for patrons 16+

# **Biloxi Blues**

# **By Neil Simon**

Little Traverse Civic Theatre

Nina Tollas

Assistant Director

BOB & ESTHER BRILL

1. How would you describe your take/style on the play and what effect will it have on the acting choices?

*(Esther): My personal style is to place the focus on the individual actor and each performance in order to showcase the talent on stage.*

*(Bob): I agree with Esther in that each individual performance needs to be honed so that the comedic timing is maintained and the emotional range of the play is not lost in the laughter. My style has always been to try to help the actors understand the minutiae of each word or line in order to fully realize their character.*

2. What characters do you feel are pivotal and will be focusing on at auditions?

*(Esther): Eugene of course is the main character and must be able to balance humor and innocence and remain a likeable, relatable character. But I really feel the most demanding roles will be those of Arnold and Sgt Toomey, particularly in the interactions between the two.*

3. Should volunteers read *Brighton Beach Memoirs* or *Broadway Bound*?

*(BOB): I don’t feel it is necessary to read either one, though they are great plays. If an actor is going to read for Eugene and really wants to get to know his character, then perhaps Brighton Beach Memoirs.*

4. How should volunteers prepare for auditions?

*(Esther): Actors should try to read the entire script and have a basic understanding of each character they might like to read for. While we have our own ideas for the characters, each individual actor will bring his or her own flavor to the role and together we can bring them to life.*

5. What will volunteers experience through the audition process?

*(BOB): We will make every effort to have everyone read for their most wanted roles, but we will also have different people read many parts so that we can see various interactions and try to find the actors best suited to certain roles. This will be a low stress, fun time and the main thing we are looking for is a wonderful group of actors ready to put on an amazing show as a cohesive cast.*

6. Any last comments?

*(BOB): The three things I want actors to realize ahead of time is that as a comedy, this is a rapid fire conversational type of play. The faster we memorize lines, the more natural the dialog becomes and the funnier the play becomes. Secondly, even though it is a comedy, this play deals with some fairly heavy issues as these characters come of age and there is some emotional range needed, some vulnerability. Finally, due to the time period as well as the characters themselves, there is some sensitive subject matter and a little foul language. While one minor edit may happen, all other language will remain.*

Scripts are available to check out at the Petoskey Public Library. Please return them back to library prior to auditions or at auditions.

WE ASKED THE DIRECTORS

OF

Biloxi Blues

Scripts are available for check out at the Petoskey Public Library

Potential Rehearsal Schedule:

We are going to shoot for 3-4 nights a week, but we will try to break it up in ways that allow for some actors to only have to be there maybe 2-3 nights at first. We will set a schedule once we see everyone’s schedule needs/requests.

Potential Audition Scenes

#1 Pgs 7-11 Selridge, Carney, Wykowski, Eugene, Epstein

#2 Pgs 12 – 17 (Toomey entrance) Toomey, Arnold, Eugene, Selridge, Wykowski, Carney

#3 Pgs 31 – 38 (Wykowski entrance)Hennessy, Wykowski, Eugene, Epstein, Selridge, Carney (Toomey entrance)

#4 Pgs 55 – 58 Rowena, Eugene

#5 Pgs 72 - 77 Daisy, Eugene

#6 Pgs 77 - 81 Toomey, Epstein (Stop at “ON YOUR FEET”)

Set Move In:

* Sat-July 20 Time TBA

Tech/Dress Rehearsal:

* Sun-July 28th Time TBA
* Mon-July 29th
* Tue-July 30th

Performances & Call Times:

* Thu-Aug 1 6pm Fri-Aug 2 6pm Sat-Aug 3 6pm Sun-Aug 4 12:30pm

Set Strike:

* Sun-Aug 4th
* Set Strike is an important part of wrapping up the production and all volunteers are expected to assist with this task. If unable to attend please discuss your situation with the directors or producers ahead of time.

Important Dates