

'Broadway Bound' lands

Clemson Little Theatre to present Neil Simon classic

in Pendleton

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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PENDLETON — Mixing drama and comedy into a seemingly effortless batch of theater perfection is not the easiest thing to produce.

However, power writer and producer, Neil Simon, has been doing it for decades and the latest show to hit Clemson Little Theatre wastes no time proving it.

"Broadway Bound" is a post-WWII story of a family trying to make ends meet in Brooklyn, NY.

While doing so, two wise-cracking brothers, Eugene and Stan, are doing their best to break out into the world of comedy writing.

However, their unapologetic Jewish mother, Kate, continues the rocky relationship of

her marriage and works on her relationship with her father, Ben.

Directed by playwright and community theater enthusiast, Bill Bruehl, "Broadway Bound" will hit the CLT stage Jan. 20-22 and 27-29. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for students with a student I.D.

Bruehl is a member of the Actors Equity Association and the Dramatists Guild. During his career he has authored more than 25 plays. He is the recipient of several fellowships and awards including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. From 1994 until 1998 he was playwright-in-residence at the Institute for Medicine in Contemporary Society

University at Stony Brook Medical School.

"Not only is the play great

— so is the director, Bill Bruehl ... he's a professional," CLT's Barry Richards said.

Bruehl said it's been an absolute pleasure to work with the current cast and crew.

"It has been an amazing experience to work with such dedicated, skilled, and talented theatre people," Bruehl said.

According to CLT, "'Broadway Bound' is the third play in Neil Simon's semiautobiographical trilogy. The play centers on Eugene and his older brother, Stanley, working together to become comedy writers for the radio ... and, eventually, television, while dealing with their parents' relationship troubles. The story is both rib-tickling and heart-wrenching as Eugene tries to succeed as a comedy writer amidst the turmoil of

his extended family."

During the play, the young men start to see their careers grow serious wings, but their parents' marriage is crumbling quickly.

The family comedy and family drama collide in an interesting manner when the sons use the situation at home as fodder for their first big break in radio.

But the move isn't understood by some family members, who don't think it's right to joke at their expense.

Still, the unfolding drama keeps a hint of comedy throughout, as most families can relate to the fine line between the instinct to love and the urge to strangle.

"Broadway Bound" offers the best of both worlds. There are generous helpings of character-based comedy within the

family relationships. There is plenty of joking as the brothers grapple with the impending deadline for their first comedy writing sample. Because the audience knows and likes these charming characters, the drama lands with force and the characters show surprising sides the audience never saw when Kate's marriage begins to unravel.

Bruehl agrees that the play is a must-see and a great choice for the CLT stage.

Main characters include Kate, played by Lucy Rollin; Ben, played by Stewart Adamo; Eugene, played by Matt Harriess; Stan, played by Kurt Nolte; and Jack, played by Ken Marsh.

For more information or to order tickets, call (864) 646-8100.

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Stan, played by Kurt Nolte, isn't putting up with any funny business — or is he? "Broadway Bound" comes to Clemson Little Theatre on Jan. 20-22 and Jan. 27-29.



Kate and Ben exchange a few heated remarks, played by Lucy Rollin and Stewart Adamo respectively.

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