

## Neil Simon Script Plaza Suite

**Leon Tolchinsky is ecstatic. He's landed a terrific teaching job in an idyllic Russian hamlet. When he arrives, he finds people sweeping dust from the stoops back into their houses and people milking upside down to get more cream. The town has been cursed with Chronic Stupidity for two hundred years, and Leon's job is to break the curse. No one tells him that if he stays over twenty-four hours and fails to break the curse, he too becomes stupid. But he has fallen in love with a girl so stupid, she has only recently learned how to sit down.**

**"Rose and Walsh" follows two**

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**great literary figures and the depth and consequence of their enduring love. At a beautiful beach house on the tip of Long Island, Rose, a celebrated but penniless author, receives nightly visits from Walsh, the love of her life and a famous writer himself. Now Walsh must go away forever, but not before securing Rose's financial future with an extraordinary proposal that promises to change everything.**

**Writers for the 1953 Max Prince Show cope with the pressures of creating a weekly comedy show  
Comedy Characters: 6 male, 6 female  
Interior Set From  
America's master of  
Contemporary Broadway Comedy,  
here is another revealing comedy**

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**behind the scenes in the entertainment world, this time near the heart of the theatre district. 45 Seconds from Broadway takes place in the legendary "Polish Tea Room" on New York's 47th Street. Here Broadway theatre personalities washed-up and on-the-rise, gather to schmooz even as they lose. This touching valentine to New York**

**Come Blow Your Horn**

**A New Play**

**Rumors**

**The Dinner Party**

**A Comedy in Two Acts**

"Comedy / Characters: 2 males, 4 females Scenery: Interior Mel Edison is a well paid executive of a high-end Manhattan firm which has suddenly hit

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the skids and he gets the ax. His wife Edna takes a job to tide them over, then she too is sacked. Compounded by the air-pollution killing his plants, and with the walls of the apartment paper-thin, allowing him a constant earfull of his neighbors private lives things cant seem to get any worse ... then hes robbed and his psychiatrist dies with \$23,000 of his money. Mel does the only thing left for him to do-he has a nervous breakdown and its the best thing that ever happened to him." --Back cover.

The complete memoirs of Neil Simon, the greatest—and most successful—American playwright of all time, the author of such iconic works as *Lost in Yonkers*, *The Odd Couple*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *The Goodbye Girl*, now with an insightful Introduction by

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Nathan Lane. This omnibus edition combines Neil Simon's two memoirs, *Rewrites* and *The Play Goes On*, into one volume that spans his extraordinary five-decade career in theater, television, and film. *Rewrites* takes Simon through his first love, his first play, and his first brush with failure. There is the humor of growing up in Washington Heights (the inspiration for his play *Brighton Beach Memoirs*) where, despite his parents' rocky marriage and many separations, he learned to see the funny side of family drama, as when his mother thought she saw a body on the floor in their apartment—and it turned out to be the clothes his father discarded in the hallway after a night of carousing. He describes his marriage to his beloved wife, Joan, and writes

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lucidly about the pain of losing her to cancer. *The Play Goes On* adds to his life's story, as he wins the Pulitzer Prize and reflects with humor and insight on his tumultuous life and meteoric career. "Neil Simon's terrific memoirs are worth revisiting" (*New York Post*). Now, with the whole story in one place, he traces the history of modern entertainment over the last fifty years as seen through the eyes of a man who started life the son of a garment salesman and became the greatest—and most successful—American playwright of all time.

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

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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.

A coming of age tale that focuses on brothers Arty and Jay, left in the care of their Grandma Kurnitz and Aunt Bella in Yonkers, New York. Their desperate father, Eddie, works as a traveling salesman to pay off debts incurred following the death of his wife. Grandma is a severe, frightfully intimidating immigrant who terrified her children as they were growing up, damaging each of them to varying degrees. Bella is a sweet but mentally

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slow and highly excitable woman who longs to marry an usher at the local movie house so she can escape the oppressive household and create a life and family of her own. Her brother Louie is a small-time, tough-talking hoodlum who is on the run, while her sister Gert suffers from a breathing problem with causes more psychological than physical problems. Missing much of the sentimentality of the plays comprising Simon's earlier Eugene trilogy, *Lost in Yonkers* climaxes with a dramatic confrontation between embittered mother and lonely daughter that creates a permanent fissure in this highly dysfunctional family.

Plaza Suite

The Odd Couple



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The Star-spangled Girl

Lost in Yonkers

Biloxi Blues

*At a large, tastefully-appointed Sneden's Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce.*

*Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room, and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer, Ken, and wife, Chris, must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the*

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*evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.*

*Al and Willie as "Lewis and Clark" were top-billed vaudevillians for over forty years. Now they aren't even speaking. When CBS requests them for a "History of Comedy" retrospective, a grudging reunion brings the two back together, along with a flood of memories, miseries and laughs.*  
*-- publisher description.*

*Length: 2 acts.*

*In the late 1950s, Mike Nichols (1931-2014) and Elaine May (b. 1932) soared to superstar status as a sketch comedy duo in live shows and television.*

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*After their 1962 breakup, both went on to long and distinguished careers in other areas of show business—mostly separately, but sporadically together again. In Nichols and May: Interviews, twenty-seven interviews and profiles ranging over more than five decades tell their stories in their own words. Nichols quickly became an A-list stage and film director, while May, like many women in her field, often found herself thwarted in her attempts to make her distinctive voice heard in projects she could control herself. Yet, in recent years, Nichols's work as a*

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*filmmaker has been perhaps unfairly devalued, while May's accomplishments, particularly as a screenwriter and director, have become more appreciated, leading to her present widespread acceptance as a groundbreaking female artist and a creative genius of and for our time. Nichols gave numerous interviews during his career, and editor Robert E. Kapsis culled hundreds of potential selections to include in this volume the most revealing and those that focus on his filmmaking career. May, however, was a reluctant interview subject at best. She*

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*often subverted the whole interview process, producing instead a hilarious parody or even a comedy sketch—with or without the cooperation of the sometimes-oblivious interviewer. With its contrasting selection of interviews conventional and oddball, this volume is an important contribution to the study of the careers of Nichols and May.*

*A Departure from the Script*

*Routledge Guide to Broadway*

*Last of the Red Hot Lovers*

*Nichols and May*

*The Gingerbread Lady*

Full Length, Comic Drama / 3m, 4f /

Comb. Ints/Ext. Here is part one of Neil

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Simon's autobiographical trilogy: a portrait of the writer as a young teen in 1937 living with his family in a crowded, lower middle-class Brooklyn walk-up. Eugene Jerome, standing in for the author, is the narrator and central character. Dreaming of baseball and girls, Eugene must cope with the mundane existence of his family life in Brooklyn: formidable mother, overworked father, and his worldly older brother Stanley. Throw into the mix his widowed Aunt Blanche, her two young (but rapidly aging) daughters and Grandpa the Socialist and you have a recipe for hilarity, served up Simon-style. This bittersweet memoir evocatively captures the life of a struggling Jewish household where, as his father states "if you didn't have a problem, you wouldn't be living

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here." "Brings a fresh glow to Broadway...In many respects his funniest, richest and consequently the most affecting of his plays."-New York Daily News "Simultaneously poignant and funny. The characters are fully dimensional, believable... An outstanding show...the best seen on Broadway in too long a time."-Variety "Hilarious comedy...His finest play...A delightful and enriching experience."-CBS-TV

Martin has just married the girl of his dreams. Only moments after their vows, however, Irene reveals that she, in fact, is deeply in love with someone else, a gas station attendant named Emil. To make matters worse, she called Emil during the reception and he ' s on his way to confront the groom. By the end of Act I,

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Irene has left Martin to be with her love. Act II is set forty-six years later. Noah, Irene ' s son, is waiting for his mother to be delivered by the police, having been found disoriented at the airport. We learn from Noah that Martin and Irene did, in fact, end up together. The mystery of how that happened is slowly revealed as Noah grapples with his combative and confused mother, his desperate sister, and Leo, the young man Noah pushes away despite the love between them.

"After a short stay in rehab, her best friend age-defying Toby, her daughter Polly, and Jimmy Perry, a gay actor try to help her adjust to sobriety with a jolly birthday party. Enter Lou Tanner, a former lover, who ends up giving her a black eye. The party is a wash out, the



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"gingerbread lady" falls off the wagon and hits the ropes once again. Later rewritten by Neil Simon as the film *Only When I Laugh* starring Marsha Mason."

-- Publisher's description.

Comic trouble with Unger and Madison-- Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is.

This Day Forward

Neil Simon's 45 Seconds from Broadway

A Casebook

A History of American Literature

Barefoot in the Park

First Published in 1997. The 16 essays and interviews in this volume explore the background and works of Neil Simon, the most successful playwright in American history. Several of the entries trace Simon's Jewish

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heritage and its influence on his plays. Although Simon is best known as a writer of a remarkable series of hit Broadway comedies, the contributors to this book have identified a number of "serious" recurring themes in his work, suggesting that a reassessment of the playwright as a dramatist is appropriate. Three interviews with Simon and his longtime producer yield valuable facts about the playwright that will, along with the critical essays, aid the scholar seeking new insights into contemporary American drama in general and Neil Simon in particular.

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Neil Simon's plays are to some extent a reflection of his life, sometimes autobiographical, other times based on the experiences of those close to him. What the reader of this warm, nostalgic memoir discovers, however, is that the plays, although grounded in Neil Simon's own experience, provide only a glimpse into the mind and soul of this very private man. In *Rewrites*, he tells of the painful discord he endured at home as a child, of his struggles to develop his talent as a writer, and of his insecurities when dealing with what proved to be his first great success -- falling in love.

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Supporting players in the anecdote-filled memoir include Sid Caesar, Jerry Lewis, Walter Matthau, Robert Redford, Gwen Verdon, Bob Fosse, Maureen Stapleton, George C. Scott, Peter Sellers, and Mike Nichols. But always at center stage is his first love, his wife Joan, whose death in the early seventies devastated him, and whose love and inspiration illuminate this remarkable and revealing self-portrait. Rewrites is rich in laughter and emotion, and filled with the memories of a sometimes sweet, sometimes bittersweet life.

Koprince (English, U. of North

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Dakota at Grand Forks) seeks to grant the prolific and popular playwright a measure of the serious literary attention that has passed his work by. She analyzes 16 of Simon's comedies beginning with his first Broadway effort, *Blow your horn* (1961) and ending with *Laughter on the 23rd floor* (1993).

Koprince emphasizes Simon's versatility, craftsmanship, and willingness to experiment with the comedic form as well as the fundamentally serious nature of his plays. Small format: 5.25x7.25". Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

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Plaza Suite  
Concord Theatricals  
Conversations with Neil Simon  
The Prisoner of Second Avenue  
California Suite  
1950 to the Present  
God's Favorite

*Cast size: medium.*

*The History of American Literature from 1950 to the Present offers a comprehensive analysis of the wide range of literary works that extends into the 21st century Covers drama, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, science fiction, and detective novels Features discussion of American works within the context of such 21st-century issues as globalization, medicine, gender, education, and other topics*

*This elegiac memory play delightfully recalls the last time the Hines family gathered at their retreat in the*

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*Poconos. The summer of 1953 brings romantic entanglements that coalesce one idyllic afternoon; Burt Hines, mid-50's and convalescing from a second heart attack, eagerly anticipates the arrival of the ex-wife he still loves. Daughter Josie has just broken her engagement to a Harvard law student and pines for his buddy Ray, an aspiring writer with whom she once had a brief fling. Clemma, the black housekeeper at the center of the action casts a astute eye on the complications while facing with her own unresolved past.*

*A comedy of present-day New York life.*

*Broadway Bound*

*A Comedy in Three Acts*

*Jake's Women*

*Rewrites*

*Neil Simon*

***Neil Simon's inimitable play about the trials and tribulations that test family ties—winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. What happens to children in the absence of love? That is the question that lies at the heart of this funny and heartrending play by one of America's most acclaimed and beloved playwrights. Debuting at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in 1990, Lost in Yonkers went on to win four Tony Awards, including Best Play, as well as the Pulitzer Prize, and tells the moving drama about the cruelties and painful memories that scar a family. It is New***



***York, 1942. After the death of their mother, two young brothers are sent to stay with their formidable grandmother for the longest ten months of their lives. Grandmother Kurnitz is a one-woman German front—a refugee and a widow who has steeled her heart against the world. Her coldness and intolerance have crippled her own children: the boys' father has no self-esteem; their Aunt Gert has an embarrassing speech impediment; their Uncle Louie is a small-time gangster; and their Aunt Bella has the mentality of a child. But it is Bella's hunger for affection***

*and her refusal to be denied love that saves the boys—and that leads to an unforgettable, wrenching confrontation with her mother. Filled with laughter, tears, and insight, Lost in Yonkers is a heartwarming testament to Neil Simon's talent.*

*Neil Simon (1927-2018) began as a writer for some of the leading comedians of the day—including Jackie Gleason, Red Buttons, Phil Silvers, and Jerry Lewis—and he wrote for fabled television programs alongside a group of writers that included Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, Michael Stewart, and Sid*

***Caesar. After television, Simon embarked on a playwriting career. In the next four decades he saw twenty-eight of his plays and five musicals produced on Broadway. Thirteen of those plays and three of the musicals ran for more than five hundred performances. He was even more widely known for his screenplays—some twenty-five in all. Yet, despite this success, it was not until his BB Trilogy—Brighton Beach Memoirs, Biloxi Blues, and Broadway Bound—that critics and scholars began to take Simon seriously as a literary figure. This change in***

***perspective culminated in 1991 when his play Lost in Yonkers won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In the twenty-two interviews included in Conversations with Neil Simon, Simon talks candidly about what it was like to write commercially successful plays that were dismissed by critics and scholars. He also speaks at length about the differences between writing for television, for the stage, and for film. He speaks openly and often revealingly about his relationships with, among many others, Mike Nichols, Walter Matthau, Sid Caesar, and Jack Lemmon. Above all,***

***these interviews reveal Neil Simon as a writer who thought long and intelligently about creating for stage, film, and television, and about dealing with serious subjects in a comic mode. In so doing, Conversations with Neil Simon compels us to recognize Neil Simon's genius.***

***Theatre program.***

***THE STORY: Andy and Norman are two earnest young men using their apartment as a publishing office for a protest magazine in San Francisco.***

***Sophie, an Olympic swimmer and all-American girl, moves into another apartment on the same floor. Sophie ma***

***Neil Simon's Proposals  
I Ought to be in Pictures***

***Laughter on the 23rd Floor  
A Novel***

A comedy - straight from  
Broadway.

Recent widower, writer George  
Schneider, is encouraged by his  
younger brother Leo to start  
dating again.

Neil Simon Full Length, Comedy  
Characters: 1 male, 3 female  
Interior Set Middle-aged and  
married, overworked and  
overweight, Barney Cashman  
wants to join the sexual  
revolution before it's too late and  
arranges three seductions: the

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first, Elaine Navazio proves to be a foul-mouthed bundle of neuroses; Bobbi Michele is next, a 20-ish actress who's too kooky by half; finally comes September and Jeanette Fisher, a gloomy, depressed housewife who happens to be ma

Neil Simon Full Length, Comedy  
Characters: 1 male, 7 female  
Combination interior and Unit set. America's premier comic playwright makes another hilarious foray into the world of modern relationships. Jake, a novelist who is more successful with fiction than with life, faces a marital crisis by daydreaming about the women in his life. The

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wildly comic and sometimes moving flashbacks played in his mind are interrupted by visitations from actual females.

Jake's women i

Understanding Neil Simon

Interviews

Chapter Two

The Collected Plays of Neil  
Simon

Neil Simon's Memoirs

*The Routledge Guide to Broadway is the second title in our new student reference series. It will introduce the student to the Broadway theater, focusing on key performers, writers,*



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*directors, plays, and musicals, along with the theaters themselves, key awards, and the folklore of Broadway. Broadway is the center of American theater, where all the great plays and musicals make their mark.*

*Students across the country in theater history, performance, and direction/production look to Broadway for their inspiration. While there are illustrated coffee table type books on Broadway, there are few that offer a*

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*comprehensive look at the key figures and productions of the last two centuries. The Routledge Guide to Broadway offers this information in an easy-to-use, inexpensive format that will appeal to students, professors, and theatrical professionals.*

*A portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at the Plaza. A suburban couple take the suite while their house is being painted and it turns out*

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*to be the one in which they honeymooned 23 (or was it 24?) years before and was yesterday the anniversary, or is it today? This tale of marriage in tatters is followed by the exploits of a Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He calls a childhood sweetheart, now a suburban housewife, for a little sexual diversion. Over the years she has idolized him from afar and is now*

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*more than the match he bargained for. The last couple is a mother and father fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her or as Mother yells, "I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!"--Publisher's description.*

*A brand new lawyer and his young bride have returned from their honeymoon and are moving into their new high-rent*

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*apartment only to find that the place is absolutely bare of furniture, the paint job is all wrong, the skylight leaks, there is room for only one twin bed, and the wacky neighbors pop up at the worst times.*

*"Four couples arrive, in turn, from New York, Philadelphia, London and Chicago and seprately inhabit a suite at The Beverly Hills Hotel, bringing along their problems, anxieties, and comical marital*

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*dilemmas. The view from  
Beverly Hills will never  
look the same!"--Cover.*

*Female Version*

*Brighton Beach Memoirs*

*Rose and Walsh*

*The Sunshine Boys*

*A New Comedy*