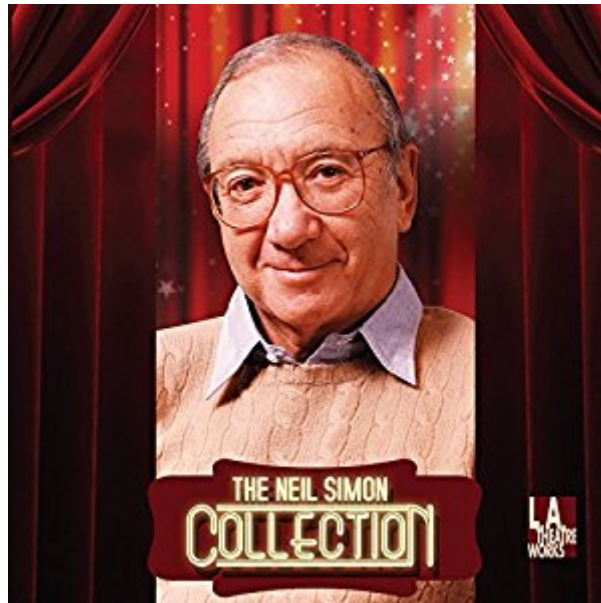


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# The Neil Simon Collection



## Synopsis

Ten essential plays by Neil Simon, one of the world's most celebrated, translated, and widely performed playwrights. *Barefoot in the Park*: Newlyweds move into a new apartment with no furniture, the wrong paint, a leaking skylight, and wacky neighbors! A classic comedy! Performed by Laura Linney, Eric Stoltz, et al. *The Odd Couple*: Two legendarily mismatched roommates bring down the house in this classic comedy by America's most successful playwright. Performed by Dan Castellaneta, Nathan Lane, et al. *Plaza Suite*: This hilarious comedy follows three brief encounters in the same suite at the famed Plaza Hotel in New York City. Performed by Ed Asner, Richard Dreyfuss, et al. *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*: Fast-moving dialog with nonstop Simon quips and jokes performed extremely well by two fine actors. Performed by Richard Dreyfuss, Marsha Mason, et al. *California Suite*: Four couples separately inhabit the same Beverly Hills hotel suite, bringing along their problems, anxieties, and comical marital dilemmas. Performed by Dennis Boutsikaris, Bruce Davison, Marsha Mason, and Amy Pietz. *Chapter Two*: Comedy and pathos mingle brilliantly in this portrait of a widowed novelist who fears he'll never love again. Performed by David Dukes, Sharon Gless, Gates McFadden, and Grant Shaud. *Brighton Beach Memoirs*: In Simon's first installment of his darkly funny semiautobiographical Eugene Trilogy, we meet his family in 1930s Brooklyn. Performed by Jonathan Silverman, et al. *Biloxi Blues*: The second hilarious installment of the trilogy follows a naïve Eugene Jerome through boot camp. Performed by Justine Bateman, et al. *Broadway Bound*: In the final installment of the trilogy, Eugene and his brother, Stanley, pair up to break into the world of comedy writing. Performed by Dan Castellaneta, et al. *Lost in Yonkers*: Set in Yonkers, New York, in 1942, two boys, aged 13 and 16, must spend one year with their austere and demanding grandmother. Performed by Dan Castellaneta, et al.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

These plays are remarkable , and having them all together on twenty CDs allows us to appreciate their range and depth in a way that seeing one of them as a play or movie does not. I am only half way through but can't hold back any longer (I'll do a second review when I finish the other half). We begin with Barefoot in the Park and I can just imagine out of town audiences getting their first glimpse of what New Yorkers who they only see from a distance are really like. And those audiences are staying in hotels, like the Plaza, so in Plaza Suite Simon goes on to show them there is drama everywhere - from an anniversary couple who have fallen out of love to a wedding in which the bridesmaid has locked herself in her parents' hotel bathroom and refuses to come out despite their threatening and cajoling her. These three acts both stand apart and complement each other. Then the formula moves to the West Coast in California Suite. Less good, but still in all the Simon plays the characters stand out because of their contrasting goals, Simon's often funny lines and his great humanity, which comes into full blossom with Brighton Beach Memoirs (and its sequel, Broadway Bound). Here the narrator is a young boy who wants to be a writer (Neil Simon) and who is caught up in the lives of his family members. Wow! To listen to these words and not be distracted by staging is magic. I found myself choked up by emotion that went well beyond the specifics of the play. You will too. I have written before about the pros and cons of audio productions, but this LA Theater Works production is a treasure you will be happy to have and listen to over and over. Thank you. You have given me and other listeners the unique chance to be an active participant in some of the great contemporary theater of our time. John Lehman, Rosebud Book Reviews.com

I'm SO glad they did this cd collection. If you're a Neil Simon fan, you'll love it. Simon's dialogue is always so strong and funny--not many playwrights could make it on audio books, but Simon's wit and humor carries all of these through with no visuals. A gem!

Amazing production.

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