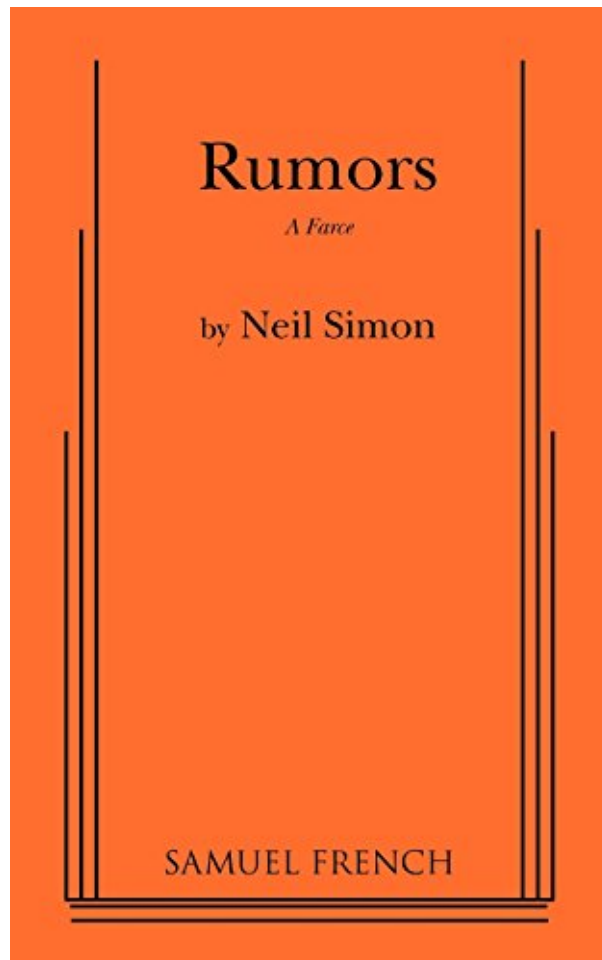


# RUMORS BY NEIL SIMON



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# Rumors

*A Farce*

by Neil Simon

SAMUEL FRENCH

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### About the Author

America's most prolific and beloved playwright, Neil Simon is the author of more than two dozen plays and screenplays. In 1990, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He is also the winner of three Tony Awards. Simon splits his time between New York and Los Angeles.

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Farce / 5m, 5f / Int. 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 evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity. "Light, frothy and fun." - New York Post "Has nothing on its mind except making the audience laugh." - The New York Times "Neil Simon makes people laugh-a lot!" - USA Today "Not only side splitting, but front and back splitting." - NBC-TV

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## Most helpful customer reviews

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Hilarious and well written

By Tom Reinstein

Comedy is difficult to write, especially a play. Comedic plays (especially farces) must move quickly, or the audience is lost. Humor can get very stale if the situations do not change dramatically. Neil Simon said that Rumors was the hardest play he had to write because every line had to further the plot. I had the privilege of acting in this play, and I say with all sincerity that there is never a dull moment in this play. It is hilarious, with absolutely no redeeming social value. In an age where plays and movies must either be stupid comedies with outlandish plot twists and completely unbelievable characters or have dark humor with a depressing hidden message, it is nice to see a well written, straight forward farce where the jokes never get old, no matter how many times you see it and it is very easy to lose yourself completely when either watching it or acting in it. In Rumors, Neil Simon has written a gem of a play.

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

A Modern Farce.

By tvtv3

RUMORS was first performed in the early days of the 1990s. So much has changed since then. Yet, one of the tests of a classic is its staying power. Though I wouldn't say that RUMORS is a classical comedy, it is a modern gem that has staying power.

RUMORS was written by Neil Simon. It takes place in upper Manhattan at the home of Charley and Myra Brock. The Brock's are holding a party to celebrate their 10th Wedding Anniversary. However, the first guests to arrive at the home, Ken and Chris Gorman, hear a gun shot. They find Charley upstairs bleeding from the head, Myra and the servants missing, and a bunch of frozen and half-thawed food in the kitchen. Soon after the other couples for the parties begin arriving and the Gormans do everything they can to keep the truth from leaking out until they figure out exactly what has happened.

I've acted in RUMORS twice and have thoroughly enjoyed it both times. Performing in a Neil Simon play is always fun. However, the play does have one drawback. In his early days, Simon kept his plays from being too vulgar. However, since the mid 1980s, Simon's plays have become increasingly filled with foul language, making many of his unaltered shows unfit for family audiences. RUMORS was written near the beginning of this pattern, so though it's no ODD COUPLE, it's not as bad as some of his later shows either.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A brilliant fast-paced comedy farce

By Official NetNanuNanu

Rumors is a play that is perfect for the stage. It is filled with quick-wit humor, lively action, entertaining real-life dialogue and the plot construction is brilliant. Most of Simon's plays would make a fun movie with colorful characters, and I don't know if a movie version has ever been done.

Neil Simon is truly one of the funniest playwrights ever. I have not read anyone else who can match his comedic talent for playwriting. It is a style that is clearly his own.

Rumors moves very fast, never a dull moment and is what sticks out for me is the humorous dialogue. It's not one-liners, it's real.

The play takes place in New York in a Victorian house in Sneden's Landing. All characters appear to be financially comfortable. The play consists of about 4-5 couples who enter at different stages.

The story focuses on a couple, Chris and Ken, in their mid-thirties, who arrive at the home of Charley, deputy mayor of New York, and Myra for their 10th anniversary party. Myra is gone, the Chinese maid is gone, the dinner is thawing out on the table, pasta is in the pot with no water and they discover that Charley shot himself in the head but he has only managed to nick his earlobe.

To prevent a scandal, Chris and Ken plot to keep the truth out, rumors of why the attempted suicide begin and the fun starts when the guests start arriving and everyone schemes to cover up the attempted suicide.

This is brilliant comedy.....Rizzo.

See all 26 customer reviews...

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