

# Camden New Journal

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## LETTERS

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## THEATRE: Autumn Music at Pentameters

Image:



Autumn Music at Pentameters

**Published: 25 October, 2012**  
**by CAVELLE LEIGH**

No introduction is necessary for the audience at Pentameters as to Autumn Music's setting in the mountains of central Italy. They are immediately greeted by the inviting scent of an authentic Italian kitchen within the superb set designed by John Dalton.

This bittersweet play was written by Italian-born Bernardo Stella and inspired by his father's struggle in coming to terms with his unexpected widowhood.

Eugenio (played by the charming Chris Bearne) is the patriarch of a traditionally large Italian family and determined not to be "left on the shelf". Indeed, as he puts it, he has a few good years in him yet.

This is met with great disapproval from those around him, who seem to care more for their inheritance than his happiness.

All, that is, except for his hilarious friend and drinking partner Luigi (Roger Sansom), who gives him the encouragement he needs.

Soon Eugenio is courting Isabella (Dot Smith), only to find his family has issues with her family. Particularly her brother Francesco, played by Sansom again but in even better form.

Shots of grappa and fisticuffs follow to great comic effect.

Credit is due to the accompanying cast members: Albert Clack in several character roles; Linda Bardell as another, albeit short-lived, suitor for Eugenio; and Zeynab Sandi, the youngest of the cast, playing his headstrong daughter Roberta.

This production marks the 50th anniversary of the writer's restaurant La Gaffe in Hampstead, so where better to present it than Pentameters – itself an integral part of the community for over 30 years.

Directed by Michael Friend, Autumn Music is a wonderful and heart-warming comedy about getting old and those second chances in life.

**Until November 11**  
**020 7435 3648**



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