

# Southport Dramatic Club

A Hilarious Comedy

# The Odd Couple

Female  
Version

By Neil Simon

Directed by Ray Mann

4th - 12th  
April 2014  
7.45pm

Produced by special  
arrangement with  
Samuel French Inc.



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# Director's notes

First question to answer is, why is it called *'The Odd Couple (Female Version)'*?

Those of you with long memories may remember the film of Neil Simon's classic stage comedy which hit our cinema screens in the late 1960s. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau were its stars and the pair devoured Simon's typically sharp and witty script in a frenzy of classic one-liners. The former played Felix, manically obsessed with cleanliness and house-keeping, the latter played Oscar, his slovenly poker-playing pal. When their respective marriages fall apart, Oscar invites Felix to take over a spare room in his New York apartment with disastrous results.

So great was the success of this male version of 'marital



**Ray Mann**  
Director

incompatibility', that Neil Simon created a female version of the original plot some twenty years later. Florence and Olive, and their circle of friends, are the equivalent of Felix and Oscar, and their poker-playing mates- only the females meet each week at Olive's to play Trivial

Pursuits, not cards. The gossip of both groups centres on their domestic and social activities, enabling both scripts to follow the same patterns, indeed very many of the original one-liners are to be found in the female version, too.

We have had great fun preparing this gem of a comedy for your entertainment. The cast and I are grateful for the essential support and expertise that we are receiving from Prompt, props, stage-crew and all the other vital elements of the Club's membership.

So... let's roll the dice and have fun!

*Ray Mann,*  
Director



Maghull Musical Theatre Company

presents



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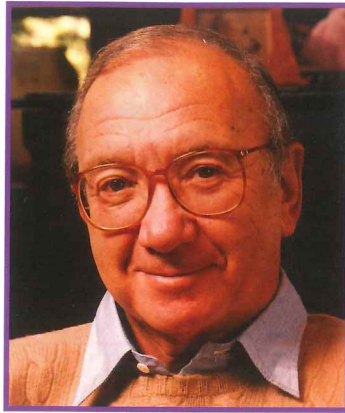
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# Neil Simon

The American playwright and screenwriter, Neil Simon, was born on July 4, 1927 in The Bronx, New York to Jewish parents. He is believed to have had an unhappy childhood as his parents struggled with their marriage during the Great Depression.

As a form of escape, Simon would go to the cinema. He enjoyed watching the films of Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy and Buster Keaton. It was these pictures that would prove to be the inspiration for his later writing. After graduating from high school Simon joined the Army Air Force Reserves, became a corporal and was stationed in Colorado.

He began his writing career in television and produced scripts for 'The Phil Silvers Show' and Sid Caesar's 'Your Show of Shows'. This also included work by Mel Brooks and Woody Allen. His first Broadway play



**Neil Simon**  
Author

was presented in 1961 and was called 'Come Blow Your Horn'. It ran at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre for six hundred and seventy-eight performances. He re-wrote the play over twenty times and it took him three years to finish it.

His plays 'Barefoot in the Park' (1963) and 'The Odd Couple' (1965) were to follow. Simon won a Tony Award for 'The

Odd Couple'. In 1966 Simon had four of his plays running at the same time on Broadway and they were: 'Barefoot in the Park', 'The Odd Couple', 'Sweet Charity' and 'The Star-Spangled Girl'. In the 1970s theatregoers on Broadway could see work by Simon including: 'God's Favorite' and 'The Good Doctor'.

The writer has also produced screenplays for over twenty films. He has adapted his own plays and new work. The original work has included: 'Murder by Death' and 'The Out-of-Towners'. His screenplays have earned him four Academy award nominations.

His 1991 play 'Lost in Yonkers' won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1991.

The 86-year-old is currently married to the actress Elaine Joyce, who is his fifth wife. He has three children.





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# The Odd Couple

'The Odd Couple', directed by Mike Nichols, premiered on Broadway in 1965 at the Plymouth Theatre and then transferred to the Eugene O'Neil Theatre. Walter Matthau played the part of Oscar Madison and Art Carney that of Felix Ungar. Oscar and Felix are two mismatched roommates; Felix is neat and uptight whilst Oscar is slovenly and easy going.

At the 1965 Tony Awards, Neil Simon won the Best Author prize (Dramatic) and Walter Matthau was named Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play. The show closed after nine hundred and sixty-four performances on July 2, 1967.

The following year, 1968, the play was made into a film with Walter Matthau returning to the role of Oscar and Jack Lemmon as Felix. Directed by Gene Saks it was a hit with audiences and critics. All the action in the original stage play takes place in an apartment, but the film incorporates various outside scenes.

Simon's screenplay earned him an Academy Award nomination. At the Golden Globes, Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau both received nominations for the award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.

The 'The Odd Couple (female version)' was written in 1985 and

features female room mates, Florence Ungar and Olive Madison with Gene Saks as director.

This version of the play premiered on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theatre on June 11th 1985 and starred Sally Struthers as Florence and Rita Moreno as Olive.

The Odd Couple II film was released in 1998. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau reprised their roles and the film was produced by Neil Simon.

'The Odd Couple (female version)' ran at the Apollo Theatre, London, in 2001 and starred Paula Wilcox and Jenny Seagrove.

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# Synopsis of Scenes

Time: 1995-ish

Place: Olive's New York apartment

## Act One

A hot summer's night

## Act Two

**Scene 1:** Two weeks later, about 11.00pm

**Scene 2:** A few days later, about 8.00pm

**Scene 3:** The next evening, about 7.30pm

*There will be an interval of approximately 20 minutes*

*We recommend that you beat the rush and pre-order your drinks in the bar prior to the performance.*



A Hilarious Comedy

# The Odd Couple

Female Version

## By Neil Simon

Cast in order of appearance

Mickey ..... Jan Hale

Sylvie ..... Val Davies

Vera ..... Georgina Gillen

Renee ..... Suzanne Gray

Olive ..... Helen Bennett

Florence ..... Helen Pickavance

Manola ..... Paul Wilkinson

Jesus ..... Lee Butcher



**Florence**  
Helen Pickavance



**Olive**  
Helen Bennett



**Mickey**  
Jan Hale



**Sylvie**  
Val Davies



**Vera**  
Georgina Gillen



**Renee**  
Suzanne Gray



**Manola**  
Paul Wilkinson



**Jesus**  
Lee Butcher

# Staging

Stage Managers .....	Roy Carr
Assistant Stage Manager (Prompt) .....	Jean Watkinson
Properties .....	Lynn Hawksworth & Muriel Leefe assisted by Lynn Gosling, Glenys Critchley & Ceri Watkins
Wardrobe .....	Margaret Mann and the cast
Lighting .....	Adrian Roberts
Sound Design .....	Brian Hodge
Scenic Artist .....	Bob Jessamine
Set Design .....	Syd Coley
Set Construction .....	The SDC Construction Team
Photographs .....	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor .....	Jacquie Bolshaw
Programme Sub Editor .....	Barry King
Programme Content & Research .....	Henry James
Programme Layout and Design .....	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

## Music in the production

Theme tune - 'New York, New York' by John Kander (Sung by Frank Sinatra)

## Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:  
Queenscourt Hospice for the loan of furniture.

### The Little Theatre - Home of the Southport Dramatic Club.

The SDC wishes to ensure that all our patrons enjoy a comfortable, enjoyable and safe visit to our theatre. We should be grateful for your co-operation in helping us to achieve this. Please note the following:

- Should you arrive after the performance has started, you will be guided to your seats when a suitable opportunity occurs.
- At the end of the performance, exits will be open at both the front and back of the auditorium.
- First Aid assistance is regularly provided by volunteers from the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Should you require help, please advise our stewards on duty in the Foyer.
- Patrons with hearing impairments should note that the auditorium has an Induction Loop System for your assistance.
- Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic devices are switched off during the performance.
- Photography and video recording are not allowed during the performance.

Designated Premises Supervisor, Alan Newport



The SDC has produced 'The Odd Couple (Female Version)' before in 1992. Below is an extract from the programme for that show which you might find interesting.



# The Odd Couple

by NEIL SIMON  
Directed by RAY MANN

Cast in order of appearance

Sylvie .....	Frieda Kelly
Mickey .....	Fran Gregson
Renee .....	Sandra Threlfall
Vera .....	Robin Hirsch
Olive Madison .....	Marianne Hardy
Florence Unger .....	Sandra Unsworth
Manolo Costazuela .....	Les Gomersall
Jesus Costazuela .....	Andy Melia

## STAGE STAFF

Stage Manager .....	Peter Heslin
Asst. Stage Manager .....	David Smith
Prompt .....	Rebecca Gomersall
Properties .....	Trudi Hirsch, Alma Clark, Julie Whelan, Jenny Young, Hilary Thomson
Wardrobe .....	Radley Haynes
Lighting .....	Dawn Meadows
Sound .....	Andrew Gregson
Set Designed by .....	Derek Haywood and built by the Production Team
Scenic Artist .....	Bob Jessamine

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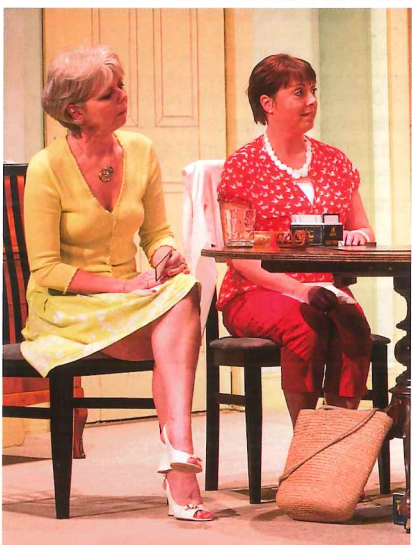
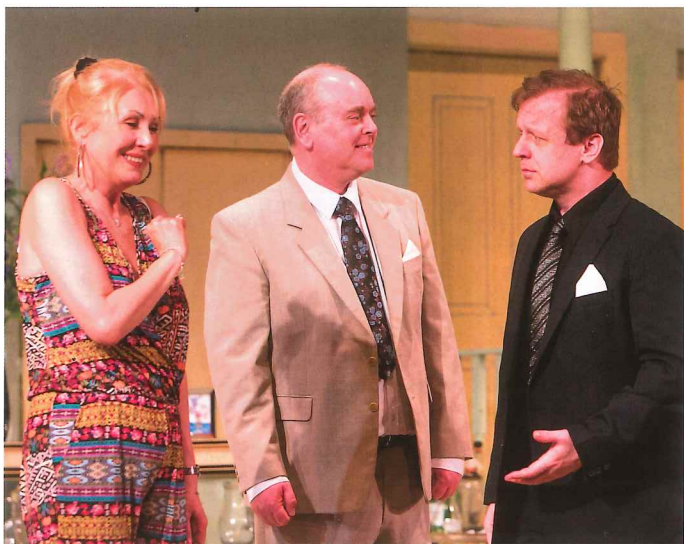
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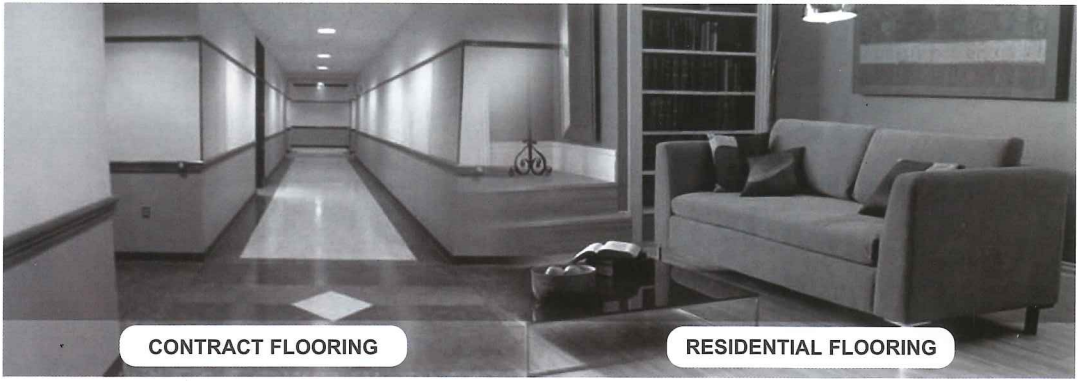
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**STEPHEN HUGHES-ALTY**  
**DIRECTOR**

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Directed by Stephen Hughes-Alty

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This fun filled play, hilariously adapted by Lee Hall is based on the commedia dell'arte classic which was also the inspiration for the West End hit, 'One Man, Two Guvnors' starring James Corden as the silly servant.

Our performers are busy developing their physical theatre skills ready to bring this high energy ensemble piece to the SDC stage. Will Silvio and Clarice be reunited? Will Truffaldino ever get fed? What does a spotted dick have to do with anything? Come along and find out. It promises to be an enjoyable and exciting end to the season.

*Stephen Hughes-Alty, Director*



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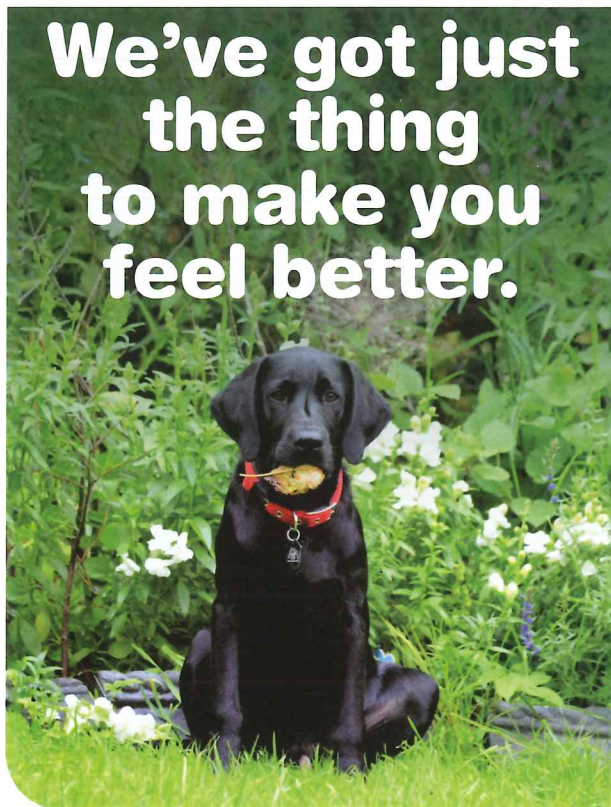
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9th May - 17th May 2014

## A Servant To Two Masters

A farce

by Carlo Goldoni, adapted by Lee Hall

Directed by Stephen Hughes-Alty

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Music by Richard Rodgers

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

SDC Bar/Studio  
Production



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Directed by Celia Timmington

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# Southport Dramatic Club

## A SERVANT TO TWO MASTERS

A FARCE BY CARLO GOLDONI  
ADAPTED BY LEE HALL  
EDITED BY JOSEPH FARRELL  
FROM A LITERAL TRANSLATION BY GWENDA PANDOLFI

DIRECTED BY STEPHEN HUGHES-ALTY

9TH - 17TH MAY 2014  
7.45PM

Contains strong  
language

  
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