

## THE ODD COUPLE

By Neil Simon  
Directed by Pat Trott

### Cast in Order of Appearance

Sylvie	Helen Schumann
Mickey	Nikki De Vries
Renee	Jeanette McCurry
Vera	Susan Reynolds
Olive Madison	Pam Campbell
Florence Unger	Angie Bain
Manolo Costazuela	Duncan Mitchell
Jesus Costazuela	Damien Van Der Meulen

### Synopsis

The girls all meet for their weekly game of "Trivial Pursuit" but Florence arrives in a depressed state, having been rejected by her husband, Sidney. Olive, whose apartment is the venue for this week's game, feels sorry for Florence and offers her a place to stay. Unfortunately, the fastidious Florence and the sloppy Olive are a very odd match and the results are hilarious.

### Setting

Olive Madison's apartment in New York, in the 1980's.

#### ACT I

A hot summer's night

First INTERVAL 20 minutes - Refreshments will be served in the Supper Room

#### ACT II

Scene 1: Two weeks later, about 11pm  
Scene 2: A few days later, about 8pm

Second INTERVAL 15 minutes (raffle will be drawn)

Scene 3: The next evening, about 7.30pm

### Pat Trott (Director)



Pat is a newcomer to the Coast but has been in amateur theatre for some 46 years, appearing in Kuwait (where she bit the bug), Papua New Guinea (where the bugs bit her), West Sussex, Surrey and Kempsey – the latter for the past 27 years. During this time she has appeared in too many productions to count – plays, musicals, pantomimes, melodramas – as both actor and director, and during the 1980's and early 1990's hit the Theatre Festival Trail, mostly as a Director but with acting roles interspersed, along the way winning trophies for Best Actress and Best Production. Her only appearance for WDG was as the brandy-sodden pianist in 'Allo 'Allo but she has twice done her bit for the group backstage as prompt.

There is a touch of déjà vu about this production as she last produced it in Kempsey some 10 years ago, and on that occasion both Millie and Barry Sampson worked with her in the same capacity as they are this time round.

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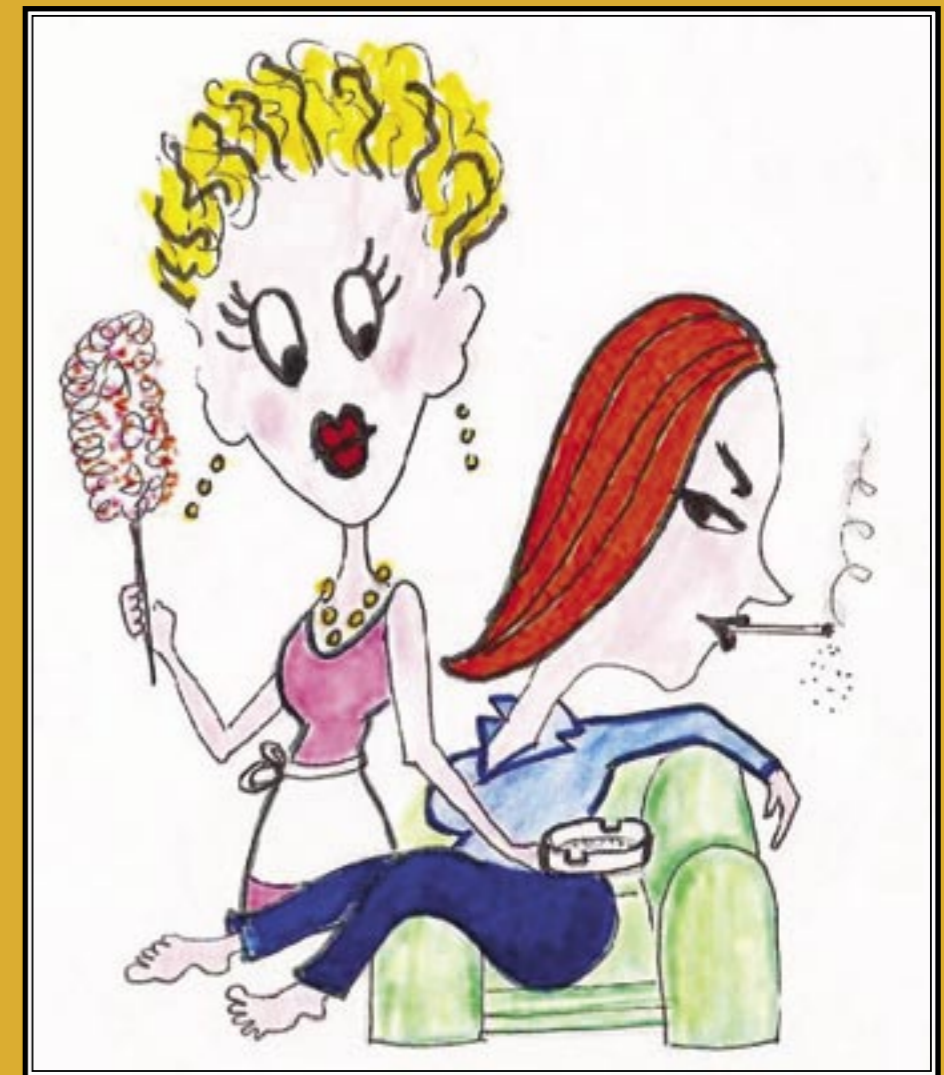
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# The ODD Couple



by Neil Simon

# August 2006

directed by Pat Trott



### Angie Bain (Florence)

Angie is well-known for her comic roles with WDG in such plays as *Daylight Saving*, *The Maltese Mouse*, and *Not Now, Darling*. More recently we saw her as Olive Leech in *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. Angie has also tapped her way through *Stepping Out* for WDG and cried her way through *Speaking Out* at Laycock Street. By day a Drama Teacher at Terrigal High School, Angie is looking forward to playing Florence in our current production.



### Pam Campbell (Olive)

After directing the smash hit *Fawlty Towers* earlier this year, Pam is very keen to tread the boards again, in the role of Olive. This character ranks as one of her favourite roles, others include Bridie in *Shoehorn Sonata*, Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, Monica in *Caravan* and Maggie Bear in *The Last Straw*, which gained her the Best Actress Award at Wyong Theatrefest 2006.



### Nikki De Vries (Micky)

Drawn into WDG at the time of its 50th anniversary in 2002, Nikki has been involved in a variety of roles including backstage, prompt and stage manager. On stage, Nikki portrayed Marge in *Home Fires Burning*, which won 5 awards at the 2004 Theatrefest, and was recently seen as resistance girl Nicole in *'Allo 'Allo*.



### Jeannette McCurry (Renée)

Jeannette has been interested in theatre since an early age, and studied with the Rathbone Academy of Dramatic Art in Sydney, appearing in a number of plays. Her first production with WDG was as Martha in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, followed by *'Allo 'Allo*, and most recently as Miss Gatsby in *Fawlty Towers*.



### Susan Reynolds (Vera)

Susan has been with WDG since 1992 and has appeared in a broad variety of plays from the mystery of *Wait Until Dark*, the history of *Bloody Poetry* to the comedy of *Picasso at Lapin Agile* and Festival plays. She has fond memories of performing in *The Crucible* at Laycock Street with Fringe Theatre. Susan's last play with WDG was *'Allo 'Allo* in 2005.



### Helen Schumann (Sylvie)

Helen has been WDG's resident Make-up Artist for some 12 years, but also enjoys treading the boards. Her appearances include *It Runs in the Family*, *Wanted – One Body*, *The Farndale Murder Mystery*, and most recently as Helga in *'Allo 'Allo*.



### Duncan Mitchell (Manolo)

Duncan is somewhat of a veteran with WDG. His most recent appearances have been in *Home Fires Burning* at Theatrefest 2004, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, and *Hewers of Coal* for Theatrefest 2005. This time Duncan displays his versatility in the role of Manolo, an ardent "gentleman" from Spain – a role which he has much enjoyed in the making.



### Damien Van Der Meulen (Jesus)

Before joining WDG Damien worked mainly in musical productions, but since then has appeared as a policeman in *Arsenic & Old Lace* and now we see him as Jesus, the younger of the two brothers from Barcelona.

## Behind The Scenes

Director  
Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Wardrobe Manager  
Wardrobe Assistant  
Make-up  
Hair Stylist  
Props  
Prompt  
Set Design  
Set Construction

Pat Trott  
Millie Sampson  
Barry Sampson  
Robert Donahue  
Wendy Potter  
Nan Hawtin  
Helen Schumann  
Kellie Mortimer  
Millie Sampson  
Barry Sampson  
Pat Trott  
Barry Sampson, Mark Gerlach,  
Hagen Heinrich, Laszlo Weidlich,  
Robert Donahue and WDG  
members  
Craig Lawton and Simone  
Woodman  
Robyn Weidlich  
Matthew Richards  
Graham Vale  
WDG Members  
Robyn Weidlich  
WDG Members

Lighting & Sound

Production Manager  
Photography  
Program Design & Printing  
Suppers  
Bookings & Publicity  
Front of House

### Special Thanks

Mark Hoddinott & staff - Albert's General Store  
Rose Cooper - What? E-news  
Margaret Hardy - Multi-Arts Confederation  
James Tydd - Central Coast Express Advocate  
Bob Smith - Radio Five-O Plus  
Soroptimists

### Millie Sampson (Asst Director)

Millie has been in theatre for many years appearing in countless shows. She directed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Puss in Boots* for GMS Juniors and for WDG has directed *The Dear Departed*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Farndale Murder Mystery*, as well as *Hewers of Coal* for Wyong's 2005 Theatrefest, which won the prizes for Best Ensemble and Best Set.



## The Playwright

Born on the 4th of July, writer Neil Simon has for more than 45 years offered a unique, empathic and humorous look into the American character through the genres of film, television, and theatre.

Mr. Simon has produced more Broadway hits than any other playwright. (In fact, he once had four plays on Broadway at the same time!) Although he is probably best known for his characters Felix Unger and Oscar Madison from *The Odd Couple*, other plays such as *Plaza Suite*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady* and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* have assisted in making him the wealthiest dramatist in history.

Marvin Neil Simon was born in 1927, in the Bronx, New York. He started writing comedy for television in the 1950's. It wasn't until the late 1950's that he decided to switch his allegiance, and write for the theatre instead. In 1961 his first full-fledged stage play, *Come Blow Your Horn*, opened on Broadway. Even though it was received with mixed reviews, it ran for two seasons. But it wasn't until the



success of his second play, *Barefoot in the Park* (1963), that he could lay claim to a runaway hit.

Neil Simon's early plays were hugely successful at the box office, but not so with some critics, who said his one-liners outweighed the development of character and plot. The semi-autobiographical trilogy - *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues* (in which the issue of anti-Semitism is handled) and *Broadway Bound* changed those views, however.

In 1983 *Brighton Beach Memoirs* won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for best play. Neil Simon was again acknowledged that year when a Broadway theatre was given his name. It was the first time such an honor had been bestowed on a living playwright.

As well as his early television and stage successes, Neil Simon has had a writing hand in several musicals including, *Sweet Charity* and *Promises, Promises*. He was also responsible for writing the original screen play for many films including *The Goodbye Girl*, *Murder by Death* and *The Out-of-Towners*.

Mr. Simon is credited with 38 plays, the most recent of which, *Rose's Dilemma*, opened in 2003.