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Taylor University Theatre
presents

NEIL SIMON'S

THE ODD COUPLE



October 24, 25, 26 & 27, 1979
Little Theatre
Taylor University

THE ODD COUPLE

Directed and Designed by Ollie Hubbard

Costumed by Jessie Rousselow

THE CAST

(In Order of Their Appearance)

Speed Doug Oliver
Murray Tom Albinson
Roy Mike Burchfield
Vinnie Aaron Brown
Oscar Madison Ken Delp
Felix Unger Randy Wyatt
Gwendolyn Pigeon Joanne Bryant
Cecily Pigeon Robin Chernenko

An Apartment on Riverside Drive, New York City.

Act I A hot summer night.

Act II Scene 1: Two weeks later About 11 p.m.

Scene 2: A few days later. About 8 p.m.

Act III The next evening. About 7:30 p.m.

There will be a six-minute intermission between acts

The music heard this evening is the theme from
"The Odd Couple"

Communication & Theatre Arts Department Production

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Mr. D. L. Green from the Indiana Bell Telephone Company, Mr. Ed Miller, Upland Police Department, Mr. Tim Kirkpatrick, Director of Educational Television Services at Taylor, Tri State Sales, 120 West Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana, and the Taylor Maintenance and Housekeeping Departments for their help in making this production possible.

During intermissions, we invite you to visit the art exhibit by alumni Dale Patterson and his students at Columbus, Indiana High School now on display in the Chronicle-Tribune Art Gallery on the main floor.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

FREE TO BE... YOU AND ME DECEMBER 7 and 8

PROGRAM NOTES

NEIL SIMON was born in New York in 1927, and began writing comic material as a fifteen-year-old high school student in collaboration with his older brother, Danny. After an Air Force hitch, Simon got a job in the mail room of the New York office of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc. through the "influence" of Danny, who was working there in the publicity department. The brothers spent their evenings writing comedy material. They managed to get into an on-the-job comedy-writing training program which led to a year's assignment of writing for the Robert Q. Lewis Show. They also wrote Vaudeville skits, used in stage shows, and T.V. shows for Phil Silvers, Jackie Gleason, Red Buttons and Tallulah Bankhead. Then brother Danny decided to try T.V. producing in Hollywood while Neil stayed in New York and wrote for Sid Caesar. He did, however, take one five-week assignment for Jerry Lewis on the West Coast. He completed the job in one week and began writing his first play COME BLOW YOUR HORN.

Back in New York he continued sporadically working on the play but two years elapsed after its completion before it was staged at the Bucks County Playhouse in the summer of 1960. The following winter it was successfully produced in New York while Simon was drafting his second play, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK. Once again there was a tryout at the Bucks County Playhouse. The New York opening of BAREFOOT that fall made history. It ran continuously for three years and eight months - a total of 1,532 performances.

Simon began to work on THE ODD COUPLE almost immediately after the opening of BAREFOOT IN THE PARK. Paramount Pictures had purchased the movie rights to that hit and were delighted with Simon's idea for THE ODD COUPLE, offering him a half million dollars in advance. THE ODD COUPLE opened in December 1965 starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney and ran continuously for two years and four months. It became a film 3½ years later, winning an Academy Award for Matthau, and still later a successful T.V. comedy series starring Tony Randall and Jack Klugman (who won an Emmy for his portrayal of Oscar.)

While in London in 1964 for the opening of his hit LITTLE ME Simon wrote an original screenplay which was filmed under the title AFTER THE FOX in Rome with Peter Sellers in the leading role. The versatile Simon was asked to rewrite the libretto for the musical SWEET CHARITY and it became his fifth successive smash hit on Broadway when it opened in January 1966. His sixth hit, THE STAR SPANGLED GIRL, came to a close in August 1967 after 262 performances. In the Fall of 1967 Simon purchased the Eugene O'Neill Theatre on Broadway which has since served as a showcase for his plays. In May 1968 he was the recipient of the Shubert Foundation Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the American Stage."

Simon's PLAZA SUITE, three comedy sketches on marriage, opened in February 1968 and enjoyed 1,097 performances, running concurrently with his play THE LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, which dramatized 3 flings of a middle-aged New Yorker. THE GINGERBREAD LADY, a depiction of a fading singing star, opened in 1970, followed by THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE in November 1971. Simon also scripted the motion picture THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS starring Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis. Additional entries on Simon's track record include THE SUNSHINE BOYS (1972), THE GOOD DOCTOR, based on the short stories of Anton Chekhov (1973), and GOD'S FAVORITE, a modernized retelling of the story of Job (1974).

Following that play, Simon made a revolutionary move to Hollywood - partly to renew his strengths as a playwright, partly to please his new, second wife, actress Marsha Mason (his first wife had died of cancer early in 1973). In California he wrote "a western bookend" to PLAZA SUITE called CALIFORNIA SUITE which opened in June 1976. His next play, CHAPTER II, premiered in New York in December 1977, and is an autobiographical account of a writer's remarriage after the death of his first wife. In Hollywood, Simon wrote two detective spoofs, MURDER BY DEATH and THE CHEAP DETECTIVE which starred Peter Falk. In 1977 he wrote the film story THE GOODBYE GIRL starring Marsha Mason and Richard Dreyfuss for which Dreyfuss won an "Oscar" in 1978.

Refreshingly witty, Simon continues to entertain audiences with his plays and films in an unabated output.

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Ollie Hubbard
Assistant to the Director Kathy Sheppard

Set Committee Aaron Brown
Dale Dobias
Scott Hewlett
Mike McGinnis
Jim Ogborn
Brenda Russell
Randy Treu

Lighting BEV LINDQUIST
BILL WALLACE III
Laura Binder
Vicki Cruse
Steve Nelson

Sound Joe Jeter
Tim Kirkpatrick

Properties GALE WALLOWER
Teresa Cress
Karen Garner
Doug Marlow
Julie Rabine
Sue Schuneman
Beth Thomas

Make-up TAMMY LANE
Laurie Mowery
Julie Rabine

Costumes Linda Britton
Sue Chow

House EDIE RADER
Julie Cook
Sherilyn Creutz
Vicki Daugherty
Barb Hauter
Beth Jacober
Pam Kareus
Janet Lavin
Jill Lawrence
Kathy Lehman
Pam Miller
Sheryl Price

Promotional Design Bob Todd