



# Stage Write

The Newsletter of ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Volume 14, Number 4

March 2005

## Neil Simon puts a new dress on his classic comedy in *The Odd Couple - Female Version*

by Jeanne Danis

When Neil Simon's comedy, *The Odd Couple*, first opened in New York in 1965, nobody could predict that it would run for two years, morph into a long-running TV show, then a sequel, a couple of motion pictures, and, in fact, become a lasting American institution called Oscar and Felix.

But Simon wasn't through. Dared by a friend that his masterpiece wouldn't work with women playing the misfit couple, he created a female version that many feel is funnier than its male counterpart. It arrived on Broadway 20 years after the original. Oscar and Felix became Olive Madison and Florence Unger, two female opposites, who share a New York apartment in *The Odd Couple - Female Version*, delivering in a decidedly feminine way some of the same lines as the original.

Olive, a divorcee, invites Florence to stay with her after Florence's husband throws her out. As soon as she moves in, Florence begins to drive Olive crazy with her penchant for incessant cleaning. Their four friends come over to play Trivial Pursuit, only to discover that Florence has disinfected the cards! Then Olive arranges a double date with the Costazuela brothers, whose English is far from perfect. When they show up, the hilarity soars to new heights.

The fun begins at OnStage on March 11 and continues for five weeks through April 9. Director Jeffrey Gastauer has assembled a first-rate cast to play Olive and Florence, their friends, and the Spanish bachelors who live in an apartment upstairs.

In the cast of *The Odd Couple - Female Version* are Rett Becker, Jo Dempsey, Joseph Georges, Kathryn Renee Kelly, Laurie Keltz, Kelly E. Lapczynski, Lisa Moctezuma, and Gloria Rymysza. Be sure and make a date for this popular comedy.



Jesus and Manolo arrive at Olive's apartment laden with flowers and candy. Rett Becker, Kelly Lapczynski, and Joey Georges. *-photo by Tony Eisenhower*

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the VOLUNTEER efforts of Janis Vanderford, Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, and Charles Nichols.

# SEASON FOR 2005-2006 ANNOUNCED BY ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE BOARD

by Teri Brown and Bob Christiansen

Two powerful dramas and four comedies ranging from farce to comic-drama will be on the schedule for the 2005-2006 season at OnStage Playhouse.

This will be the “power of” season for OnStage. Artistic Director Teri Brown has assembled a slate based on director submittals wherein each play will show how a certain aspect of life has the power to move us in one way or another. The Board of Directors has enthusiastically endorsed this slate, which includes the well-known comedy drama *Steel Magnolias* and Arthur Miller’s classic, *The Crucible*.

First, the power of ... FRIENDSHIP.

Be ready for lots of laughter and perhaps a few tears when a close-knit group of friends in a Southern beauty parlor get together to talk about what’s going on in their little town. It’s Robert Harling’s *Steel Magnolias*, best known from the 1985 film starring Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley MacLaine, Julia Roberts and Olympia Dukakis. A Broadway revival will open next month featuring Delta Burke. Opens July 15 and runs through August 13. Bruce Wilde will direct.

Next, the power of ... SUGGESTION.

*The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller, will be our second show. This classic drama tells of the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem. The gripping historical play focuses upon a young farmer, his wife, and a young servant-girl who maliciously causes the wife’s arrest for witchcraft. The farmer brings the girl to court to admit the lie—and it is here that the monstrous course of bigotry and deceit is terrifyingly depicted. The farmer, instead of saving his wife, finds himself also accused of witchcraft and ultimately condemned with a host of others. Opens September 9 and runs through October 8. Marjorie Mae Treger will direct.

Next, the power of ... LAUGHTER.

Opening in November will be an English farce by Robin Hawdon, *Birthday Suite*. Bob’s friend has arranged a special birthday treat for him—a hotel room for the night and an attractive girl called Mimi. Add a shy Kate who anxiously awaits her computer agency date Dick, who has been shown into the wrong room; Bob’s wife Liz, who believes she is dining with Geoff; and a con-

necting door between the two rooms and you have the recipe for a fast-moving and hilarious comedy. Runs November 4 - December 4. Bob Christiansen will direct.

Then, the power of ... LOVE.

Okay, so it’s a magical and quirky kind of romance. It’s Craig Lucas’ comedy, *Prelude to a Kiss*. At a young couple’s wedding reception, the bride Rita discovers an Old Man who has wandered into their party. At the beginning of her romantic life, she wonders what it must be like for the old man to be at the end of his. In a magical moment, she kisses him and their spirits are exchanged. The groom Peter notices the difference in his young bride and ultimately becomes convinced that this is not the Rita he fell in love with. Through enchanting and daffy complications he seeks to reclaim his true love. This show runs in January and February of 2006. Daniel Zisko will direct.

Then, the power of ... MEMORIES.

The spring show in 2006 will be *Dancing at Lughnasa*, an Irish family drama by Brian Friel. The action of the play is told through the memory of an illegitimate son as he remembers the five women who raised him, his mother and four maiden aunts. This haunting play is Friel’s tribute to the spirit and valor of the past and its people. Runs in March and April of 2006. Ron Lang will direct.

Finally, the power of ... HUMANITY.

Our final show of the 2005-2006 season will be Larry Shue’s classic comedy, *The Foreigner*. The scene is a fishing lodge in rural Georgia often visited by “Froggy” LeSeuer, a British demolition expert. This time “Froggy” has brought along a friend, a pathologically shy young man named Charlie who is overcome with fear at the thought of making conversation with strangers. “Froggy” tells everyone that Charlie is from an exotic foreign country and speaks no English. The fun really begins as Charlie overhears many damaging revelations made with the thought that Charlie doesn’t understand a word being said. This sets up the nonstop hilarity of the play. In the end, things go uproariously awry for the “bad guys,” and the “good guys” emerge triumphant. Opens in May 2006. Dave Rethoret will direct.

# President's Corner

by Paul Schaeffer

We are now well into the second half of our fiscal year which ends on 30 June 2005. It's a good time to have a financial health checkup. As we all know, theatre companies and other performing arts organizations, in general, are not able to support themselves solely by ticket sales. OnStage Playhouse is no exception. With our present ticket prices (\$14 adult - \$12 seniors/ students/ military) we need grants where they can be found, but most of all we need your donations. To survive as an *all volunteer company* without donations, our ticket prices would have to be \$20 or more. We don't think we can push our pricing to that level without making it unaffordable to many in our audience.



Thus, donations are a necessity to keep our theatre healthy. The donations so far this year have been less than are needed to end the year on budget. So we ask each of you within your means to make a donation between now and 30 June so that we can end the year safely in the black. Even if you have already donated this year, consider making a special, additional donation.

## **ANNUAL DONATING MEMBERS:**

- ~ Receive our newsletter (six issues per year).
- ~ Have their name printed in our programs.
- ~ May vote at our annual meeting in June.
- ~ Are invited to our special events.
- ~ Donors of \$100 or more receive one complimentary ticket for each \$100 donated to a play of their choice.

## **CATEGORIES:**

- ~ General (\$10),      ~ Patron (\$100),
- ~ Individual (\$25)    ~ Guardian Angel (\$500),
- ~ Family (\$50),      ~ Benefactor (\$1000), and
- ~ Life Member (a single donation of \$5,000).

Please mail your donation to OnStage Playhouse  
P.O. Box 120044  
Chula Vista, CA 91912-0044

THANK YOU for your support in the past! And  
THANK YOU for helping us end this year in  
the black!

## ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

### *Godspell*

musical by Stephen Schwartz  
directed by Raylene J. Wall

*Mon, March 7 and Tues, March 8 by appt.*

The classic musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Auditions will NOT be held in the theater. They will be held at Fredericka Manor, 183 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. Get an appointment time by emailing or calling the producer, Teri Brown, at teridtiger@yahoo.com or (619) 269-2317. Be prepared to sing your best 16 bars of an upbeat song. You will be asked to stay for a dance audition, so wear clothing you can move in. All characters sing and dance. Call backs will be on Wednesday, March 9.

For a description of roles and further information about the auditions, please log on to our web site, [www.onstageplayhouse.com](http://www.onstageplayhouse.com). There is no pay.

## Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

*The Effect of Gamma Rays*      *Ten Little Indians*  
on *Man-in-the-Moon*      Coronado Playhouse  
April 1 - May 8

*Marigolds*      Call (619) 435-4856

Poway Performing Arts

Company  
March 2 - 27  
Call (858) 679-8085

*45 Seconds from  
Broadway*

Lamplighters Community Theatre, La Mesa  
April 22 - May 15  
Call (619) 464-4598

*From Bed to Worse*  
Patio Playhouse, Escondido  
April 1 - 24  
Call (760) 746-6669

*Mahalia*  
Community Actors Theatre  
Feb 4 - March 27  
Call (619) 264-3391

*Return Engagements*  
Scripps Ranch Theater  
April 29 - May 29  
Call (858) 578-7728

# Stage Write



## ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

P. O. Box 120044  
Chula Vista, CA 91912

### ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Office Staff: Cornell Ellison, Kimberly Garland  
Technical Director: Dan Zisko  
Facilities Manager: Chad Oakley

### Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Paul Schaeffer
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<i>Members at Large:</i>	
Bob Christiansen	Charles Nichols
Marge Hale	Bruce Wilde
Rosemary King	

Theater telephone: (619) 422-7787

*Visit us on the web at*

<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>

email: [OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com](mailto:OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com)

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE. . .

### ***The Odd Couple (female version)***

by Neil Simon Directed by Jeffrey Gastauer  
March 11 - April 9, 2005

### ***Godspell***

by Stephen Schwartz, Directed by Raylene J. Wall  
May 6 - June 4, 2005

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA VISTA AT 291 THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET. LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a San Diego County Community Enhancement grant. Theatre renovation is being made possible by a grant from the Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation.