# VICTORIA THEATRE GUILD PRESENTS The Odd Couple Female Version

**By Neil Simon** 

Directed by Sylvia Rhodes

September 29 - October 16, 2010 Langham Court Theatre



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# **Director's Notes**

No doubt comparisons will be made between this female version of *The Odd Couple* and the well known male version made famous by the film starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Although there are recognisable similarities, Neil Simon has made very effective changes in his reworking of the script for a female cast, which one could ascribe to the more fully developed characters of all the women, and especially a more balanced portrayal of the two strong woman who make up *The Odd Couple* by giving reasons for why they act as they do. Each play has its particular challenges; this version of *The Odd Couple* is no exception. How do you rehearse when the cast and crew repeatedly break up laughing? We hope you have the same problem.

Sylvia Rhodes



by Neil Simon

September 29 – October 16 2010 Langham Court Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Director	SYLVIA RHODES
Producer	VINNIE CHADWICK
Stage Manager	NICK STULL
Set Design	TONY HUBNER
Lighting Design	CRAIG MRACEK
Costume Design	ANN MARIE ARNESON
Sound Design	CORINNA GILLILAND
Properties/Set Decor	SALLY CRICKMAN

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Jesus	BRIAN ADAMS
Renee	JO BARNES
Florence	CHRISTINE KARPIAK
Sylvie	ΚΑΤΗΥ ΜΑCOVICHUK
Vera	FRAN PATTERSON
Mickey	COLLEEN SULLIVAN MARES
Olive	SHELLEY SUPERSTEIN
Manolo	WAYNE YERCHA

#### Act I

Scene One: The New York Apartment of Olive Madison

Intermission

Act II Scene One: Two Weeks Later Scene Two: A Few Days Later Scene Three: The Next Evening

# **Production Team**

Assistant Director Assistant Stage Manager	DIANA KEATING JOAN EMERY
Back Stage Crew	MARILYN KUSS, MICHAEL KUSS, JEAN DE CARTIER
Head Scenic Carpenter	BILL ADAMS
Set Construction	JULIUS MASLOVAT, GORDON ALEXANDER,
	BOB CLARK, BARRY GRIMSHAW
Set Painters	BILL ADAMS, JULIUS MASLOVAT,
	JOHN SMITH, BOB CLARK
Asst. to Lighting Designer	LANE CHEVRIER, MAXWELL TERPSTRA
Lighting Operators	LANE CHEVRIER, MAXWELL TERPSTRA
Lighting Crew	MAXWELL TERPSTRA, LANE CHEVRIER
	DAVID BOWES, JULIA AUSSENEGG
	JAMES CARMICHAEL, KARRIE WOLFE,
	ADAM BEECH, PERRY BURTON, ODILE NELSEN,
	ROD HOGG, ALAN MACKENZIE
Sound Advisor	ALAN MACKENZIE
Sound Operators	ANDREA PITE, JAMES CARMICHAEL
Dressers	ANNE MARIE ARNESON, VINNIE CHADWICK,
	SALLY JENNINGS, ANITA WINTERS
Book	JOAN EMERY

Theatre Manager **Denise Brown** Facilities Maintenance Dick Newson Technical Director Alan MacKenzie Theatre Team Pearl Arden, Marilyn Samis FOH Managers Bar Manager Laura Clutchey Costume Manager Ned Lemley Properties Jean Topham, Carol-Anne Moore, Sally Crickman Admin/Box Office 250-384-2142 **Corinna Gilliland** Newsletter Costume Loft 250-384-2025 Fax 250-384-1293 Arts Coordinator Jeani Reynolds Mailing Address Program Coordinator Linda Billings Custodian **Pauline Quinlan** 805 Langham Court Victoria, B.C. V8V 4J3 Photographer **David Lowes** email: boxoffice.langhamcourt@shaw.ca Intro Writer Fran Patterson membership.langhamcourt@shaw.ca

# Acknowledgements

Sarah Smith, John Crickman, Susan Ferguson, John Fear, Marie Guenther

Please refrain from using perfume/cologne when attending a performance. Some of our patrons are highly allergic to certain scents. Thank you.

Programme Advertising, Design and Production

VICTORIA CIS

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#### SYLVIA RHODES

Director

During the last 7 Seasons at Langham Court, Sylvia has directed 7 plays among which were, *The Mouse Trap, School for Scandal, Shadowlands, Private Lives, Act of the Imagination* and *Picnic*. Seen often on stage during the last several years, her last acting role was as Madame Beaurever in last season's *Shot in the Dark*. After 5 years as President of the Guild, she remains on the board as Past President.

# **Production Biographies**

#### VINNIE CHADWICK

Producer

Vinnie is a recent life member, long term producer, and costume designer. Last season she produced *Picnic* and now *The Odd Couple*. Having recently moved to Fairfield she is now only 5 minutes away from Langham and 2 from the Beagle Pub on Cook Street. She would like to say that she has greatly enjoyed this production with its amusing rehearsals – and almost



hysterical team of actors and their back stage support.



#### NICK STULL

#### Stage Manager

After back-to-back experiences as a stage manager for Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Sorcerer* opening in Sidney and a short run in the McPherson as well as our own *Perfect Wedding*, some would think he'd take a break! But, Nick looks forward to supporting Sylvia and this great cast in putting on an enjoyable show. Nick began his Victoria stage journey here in 1981 as Osip

in *The Government Inspector*. He also did some singing and stuff with the Victoria Operatic Company as Buffalo Bill in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, and, most memorably, Luther Billis in *South Pacific*.

#### TONY HUBNER

Set Design

Tony's back designing for Langham Court, following his work for the Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society (*lolanthe, Patience, Pirates of Penzance*), and having done the inaugural set for Bard in the Valley's Midsummer Night's Dream in Langley where he will introduce the play as W. Shakespeare on opening night, August 14. What fun! He has written and acted in two Fringe plays *Bligh?*!



and Colette Suspended, as well as acting in various plays at Langham Court. He is delighted with the opportunity to collaborate with this outstanding cast and crew.



#### CRAIG MRACEK

Lighting Design

Craig is happy to be once again behind the lights rather than behind a desk! Thanks to Lane, Max and Adam for all their help and to the wonderful cast and crew. As always, this show is dedicated to Craig's little brother Milton.



#### ANN MARIE ARNESON

Costume Design

Since joining Langham Court in 1989, Ann Marie has worked on a wide variety of shows in the costume department: *The Winslow Boy, Shadowlands, School for Scandal* and more recently, *Sylvia*. With this production, there are some familiar faces and some new ones. "Langham has so many areas where one can participate and have so much fun with others while sharing,

learning, and growing ones own interests and talents. In so many ways, it becomes a family that is much like a growing multihued and uniquely patterned quilt, much loved and treasured as time goes by."

#### CORINNA GILLILAND

Sound Design

Once again, Corinna is extremely grateful to her favourite Technical Director, Al MacKenzie without whom the sound she put together would not and could not be heard. She has also greatly enjoyed working with an extremely talented cast and crew. And the pickle is for you, John.





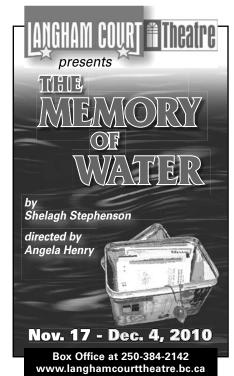
#### SALLY CRICKMAN

Properties/Set Decor

When asked to do the dressing and properties for *The Odd Couple*, Sally was delighted. This is such a funny play and the stellar cast more than do it justice. Thanks to the cast and crew for all their hard work and to Jean de Cartier and Bill Adams, and a very special thank you to Susan Ferguson. Enjoy this very, very funny production!

The Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents at 8pm 1. Jecember 5 at 2pm **Fairfield New Horizons** 380 Cook Street, Victoria Tickets available at Fairfield New Horizons,

Tickets available at Fairfield New Horizons, P: 250-384-6542 or thru Linda Troke, P: 250-592-9268



# About the Playwright



**Neil Simon** was born in 1927 in the Bronx, New York. At the age of 15 he teamed with his brother to write comedy sketches and his success convinced him to be a comedy writer. His work for TV comedians, Sid Caesar, Red Buttons, Phil Silver and Jerry Lewis earned him 2 Emmy awards in 1957 and 1959. He then took 3 years to write his 1st play, *Come Blow your Horn*. Its success on Broadway in 1961 launched his playwriting career.

His 2nd comedy, *Barefoot In the Park*, with a young Robert Redford in the lead, based on his life with his first wife while living in a Greenwich Village apartment was even more successful. He then became so prolific that in the late 60s and early 70s he sometimes had as many as 4 shows running simultaneously on Broadway. After his first wife died he married Martha Mason, who starred in several productions of his work. Many of his subsequent plays were autobiographical and took on more serious shadings. His play, *The Odd Couple* is his most famous after being made into a movie starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon.





Cast and Crew of The Odd Couple - Female Version





#### **BRIAN ADAMS**

Jesus

Brian is pleased to be in this Langham Court production for many reasons, but especially because this play features the word 'capon'. It is one of his favorite words. *The Noble Spaniard*, Brian's last play here, also featured the word. Brian is now contemplating the idea of performing only in plays that feature the word--or perhaps doing a live performance with capons. A capon song and dance number perhaps...

# Cast Biographies

#### **JO BARNES**

Renee

Last seen in *An Act of the Imagination*, Jo is delighted to return to Langham. Neil Simon, trivial pursuit and a chance to eat on stage again – can't miss with that combination! Jo has performed with Four Seasons, VSS, Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan, St. Luke's Players and Mountain Dream. Favourite roles incl. Farmer Brown in *Three Little Pigs* with Four Seasons and Truvy in *Steel* 



Magnolias with Peninsula Players. Special thanks to Mitch for his love & support.



#### **CHRISTINE KARPIAK**

Florence

Christine is delighted to be part of this wonderful production. Christine was last seen on stage at the 2009 Victoria Fringe Festival in locally written *Good Night Uncle Joe*. Her most recent appearances at Langham Court include *A Party to Murder* and *An Act of the Imagination*. Other favourites include *Steel Magnolias*, *Private Lives*, and *Guys and Dolls*, which netted her an Aurora

Award. Christine also appears in occasional film and television work.

#### KATHY MACOVICHUK

Sylvie "God may not play dice but he enjoys a good round of Trivial Pursuit every now and again" – Federico Fellini. Enjoying her third Langham Court production, Kathy's previous experience includes Silver Dagger and Picnic, as well as a couple of turns at Langham Readers Theatre. Earlier Calgary productions include Stepping Out and Caught on the Hop (Workshop Theatre); Lend Me a Tenor and Pirates of Penzance



(Morpheus Theatre); Rope and It's a Wonderful Life (Echo37).



#### FRAN PATTERSON

Vera

Fran is very happy to once again perform at Langham. Her most recent appearance was in *Sylvia*, and favorite at Langham has probably been *Moon Over Buffalo* because it was just plain nuts (in a good way!). She has also performed with Victoria Shakespeare Society, Theatre Inconnu and Toba Dinner Theatre, and in Vancouver, Nelson, Trail, Inuvik and

other exotic locations. She hopes you enjoy the show, and the brand new seats and theatre decor.



#### COLLEEN SULLIVAN MARES Mickey

Colleen has previously performed on the Langham stage as Belinda/Flavia in *Noises Off*, Claire

Gantz in *Rumours*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, as well as numerous productions for the Victoria Operatic Society, most recently as Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. Colleen is very happy to be back at Langham doing what she loves best, a Neil Simon comedy! "Thanks so much to my husband Mark and my little boy Casey for their love and support."

#### SHELLEY SUPERSTEIN

Olive Shelley Superstein is originally from Edmonton and this is Shelley's first production since moving to



Victoria. Involved in theatre most of her life, Shelley has appeared on film, television and the stage in such productions as Don't Drink the Water, Forty Carats, The Man Who Came To Dinner, Fiddler On The Roof, and The Odd Couple-female version (in Edmonton, 1991, and in Phoenix, Arizona, 2001). Shelley thanks everyone in the Langham Court family for their very warm welcome.



#### WAYNE YERCHA

Manolo Wayne has performed in a number of Langham productions over the past few years, his latest being The Long Weekend and

A Party to Murder in 2008. As one of the Spanish Costazuela brothers, he eez having a mucho wanderful time working with theez talented cast and crew. In the profound words of Manolo, "The bull does not cry until his horns touch the sky...You understand?" MUSICAL.THEATRE.SINCE 1945.



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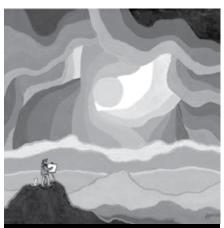
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# Art Exhibitions

#### Artist: LOUISE MONFETTE

Louise is both a painter and sculptor. Louise's love of color and texture is reflected in her recent mixed media work and sculpture. She has exhibited in galleries in Victoria and Vancouver and won juror's awards from the Federation of Canadian Artists, Sooke Fine Art Show and Look show. Louise studied at both the Victoria College of Art and the Ontario College of Art, graduating from VCA in 2003. Her art can be viewed at: www.louise-monfette.blogspot.com

#### Artist: ELIZABETH SYMONS

Elizabeth is passionate about color, texture and the relationship between language and landscape, poetry and the natural world. She works in inks, oils and water-color.

Exhibits include: Place des Art, Coquitlam, Seymour Art Gallery, North Vancouver, Klee Wyck Gallery, West Vancouver. Her work has sold across Canada as well as through Sharli Gallery in North Vancouver, the Michelle Frost Gallery, Gallery 1248 in Victoria, The Old Schoolhouse and her own studio gallery, both in Qualicum Beach.

Elizabeth is a member of the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, The League of Canadian Poets and The Writer's Federation of B.C. Her interests include gardening, swimming and environmental issues. More of her work can be found at Symonsart.com or her studio in Victoria

# About the Non-Profit

#### THE CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Diabetes Association is a non-profit, charitable, volunteer organization whose mission is to lead the fight against diabetes by helping people with diabetes live healthy lives while we work to find a cure. We are delivering on our mission by:

- Providing people with diabetes and healthcare professionals with education and services
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More than 300,000 British Columbians have diabetes, 54,000 on Vancouver Island, with more than 25,000 in Greater Victoria alone and houses program offices, a resource centre and lending library, as well as a dedicated Diabetes Supply Store.

#### Victoria based program and service examples:

- Educational Symposiums and presentations
- Diabetes displays at community events to raise awareness
- Nutritional and cooking programs such as Food Skills for Families
- Advocacy initiatives for people with diabetes
- Camp Homewood for kids with diabetes and their families

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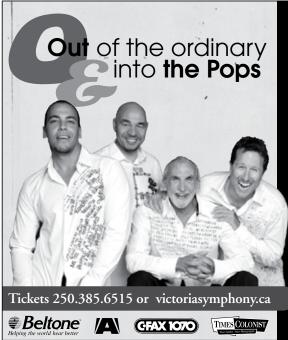
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The Victoria Theatre Guild has been offering quality community theatre for 81 years. It has not only benefitted from the time and talents of the artists but also the generosity of others. This list represents those who have financially contributed this season. If you would like to help us to continue bringing quality live theatre to the community, please feel free to contact Densie Brown, Theatre Manager, at 250-384-2142.



The Cast, crew and members of Langham Court would like to dedicate this production to **Cliff Clarke** who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on September 3rd. Cliff was one of Victoria's well known entrepreneurs, owning antique stores and many restaurants including the McPherson Theatre Restaurant. He spent many years here at Langham Court as a board member, actor and director and was recently given a Life Membership. An accident in 1998 left Cliff a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair, but that did not stop him, he became a writer, was still able to perform and a 'story-teller' in his home theatre "Toad Hall" in Mill Bay. Cliff will be sorely missed by the Arts Community.



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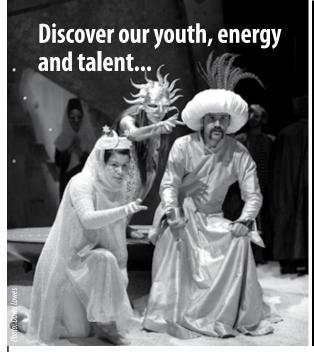
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