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Please use the form on the next page to send your check today. Thank you for supporting the arts in Brookfield!

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

Spring 2008

Greetings and welcome to **The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts!** Over these past winter months, the TBTA stage has been dark, and we are very pleased to re-open the playhouse and kick-off our 2008 season with *The Odd Couple*. The cast and crew are to be commended for their hard work on this production. Thanks to their dedication and efforts, we are all in for a wonderful evening of entertainment and we send heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved!

TBTA has reached a milestone that few community theatres ever achieve: In 2008 we will embark on our 51st year as one of our community's premier theatres. As a valued patron of the arts, you are here tonight to support and recognize how valuable the arts are within our community. As the new leadership within TBTA, we ask that each of you think of your first experience with theatre and the memories that resulted. TBTA has become a second family for us and the friendships that we have made will last a lifetime. Community theatre has become a meaningful part of our lives, as we imagine it is as meaningful a part in yours.

Over the last several years, it has become increasingly more difficult for community theatres to produce quality performances. The fact is that things simply cost more money today than they used to. Heating the building, production costs, and the general bottom-line expenses can no longer be covered by ticket sales alone, so we must then rely on the support of patrons like you. Please give generously, and when you are completing that membership form or writing that donation check, think very hard about everything that TBTA and the theatre have given to you, your family, and your community over the past 50 years!

The arts are invaluable and an important part of every community, and would not be so without the support of its patrons. On behalf of the Board of Directors and of all those whose lives have been enriched and enhanced by their involvement at TBTA, we beseech your support. By becoming a member, subscriber, or generous donor, you directly influence our ability to make the financial decisions that then perpetuate TBTA's presence in our community. A commitment like this not only expresses your fondness and support of the arts in your community, but also demonstrates that you believe in our mission and want to insure TBTA's future.

We thank you for your support and wish you a wonderful evening of theatre! Here's to 2008 and all of the good things to come!

All the best,

Stephanie Skrok
President, TBTA

Lori Mele
Vice-President, TBTA

For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the use of flash photography is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off all phones, pagers, computer games, and other distractions. Please unwrap candies before the show begins and respect each other. This is live theatre.

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

From The Director

April 2008

The Odd Couple was a hit 1965 Broadway play by Neil Simon, followed by a successful film and television series, as well as other derivative works and spinoffs, many featuring one or more of the same actors. The plot concerns two mismatched room-mates, one uptight and the other slovenly.

Sources vary as to the origins of the play. Most sources claim that Simon was inspired to write the play when he saw his brother Danny Simon and theatrical agent Roy Gerber living together after recent divorces. However, in the Mel Brooks biography *It's Good to Be the King*, author James Robert Parish claims that the play came about after Simon observed Brooks, in a separation from his first wife, living with writer Speed Vogel for three months. Vogel later wrote that Brooks had insomnia, "a brushstroke of paranoia," and "a blood-sugar problem that kept us a scintilla away from insanity."

Danny Simon, also a writer, took the first crack at the play, but later handed over the idea to Neil. The show, directed by Mike Nichols, ran for 966 performances and won several Tony Awards, including Best Play.

Felix Ungar, a neurotic, neat freak newswriter, is thrown out by his wife, and moves in with Oscar Madison, a slovenly sportswriter. Ungar was played by Art Carney and Madison by Walter Matthau. Matthau was later replaced by Jack Klugman in the TV sitcom, which also starred Tony Randall. The movie version starred Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon.

I would like to thank TBTA for the opportunity to direct this show as I have always been a fan of the plays by Neil Simon; the first show I directed here for TBTA was "Prisoner Of Second Avenue." I would also like to add a special thanks to Diane and Gary Millar for their unending support and to my most excellent cast and crew!

—Suzanne Kinnear, DIRECTOR

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the EXIT sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. Should an emergency arise, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

TBTA Scholarship Fund

We are proud to award a scholarship annually to a graduating high school senior that has been part of the TBTA community.

Past recipients include:

Billy Shields 2007

Travis Moore 2006

Rob Sniffin 2005

Andrew Wheelock 2004

If you would like to be part of this giving tradition, please send your donation to **TBTA—Scholarship Fund**, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804.

ANNOUNCING OUR 2008 SEASON:
BUY A SUBSCRIPTION NOW & SAVE!
Please visit the box office for more information.

The Odd Couple

April 25–May 10

Peter Pan, the Musical

July 4–19

Spoon River Anthology

September 5–20

The World Goes 'Round

An evening of Kander and Ebb

November 7–22

*Also in 2008, watch for our Children's Musical Theatre Workshop
Dates to be announced.*

Please Note: All schedule information is subject to change.

TBTA Members 2008

Robert & Jane Brown, Maureen & Mike Burnett,
Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell
Brian Casella, Susan Chapin,
Stephen Cihanek, Alicia & Billy Dempster,
Rebecca Dobson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dubois,
Peg & Norm Ellis, Richard B. Fischer, DDS,
Lori Franzese, Susan & Bill Gabrielle,
Claire Haney, Carol & Steve Hoose,
Kristin Hoose, Jean & Victor Jackson,
Meg Jones, Sheridan Jones, Barbara Kessler,
Suzanne & Larry Kinnear, Judi Martinez,
Paul Mayer, Catherine McCollian, Lee Mele,
Lori Mele, Peter & Barbara Mele,
Diane & Gary Millar, Ed O'Lena, Emma Okell,
Sammy Panzarino, James Ryan,
Stephanie Skrok, Alexis M. Vournazos,
Joan & Fred Weisman, Evelyn Williams, Steve Wright

TBTA Lifetime Members

Bart Geissinger, Gloria Laposka, Barbara Locke,
Wendell MacNeal, Imelda O'Gara Roth,
Bill Possidento, Larry Stewart



The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

proudly presents

The ODD Couple

By **Neil Simon**

Directed by
Suzanne Kinnear

Produced by
Diane & Gary Millar

THE CAST

Brian DeToma

Lori Franzese

Steve Hoose

Meg Jones

Joe Koproski

Gary Millar

Jim Ryan

Alexis M. Vournazos

PERFORMANCE DATES

April 25, 26, May 2, 3, 4,* 9, 10

Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

*May 4 — Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

All performances at the Playhouse, Rte. 25 behind the Brookfield Library.

ALL SEATS General Admission **\$20⁰⁰**

RESERVATIONS: **203-775-0023**

Please visit our website: **www.brookfieldplayhouse.org**

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York, NY.

Biographies

Alicia Dempster (COSTUME DESIGNER) is delighted to be a part of one of Neil Simon's classics alongside such a talented cast and crew. Alicia's lifelong involvement with theatre has given her the opportunity to take on many roles, onstage, backstage and offstage. Most recent credits include *The Diviners* (Director), *Richter Rising Stars* (Director), *Assassins* (Emma Goldman/Ensemble), and *Damn Yankees* (Stage Manager). She is excited to be working with old friends while, at the same time, making new ones. Alicia is a proud member of the TBTA Board of Directors and a Contributing Editor to CTCallboard.com.

Brian DeToma (ROY) is very happy to be making his TBTA debut with *The Odd Couple*. No stranger to community theatre, Brian has worked at the Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Community Theatres. He recently performed in the Pawling Theatre Company's *Anatomy of a Murder* (Alphonse Pacquette), and *Deathtrap* (Sydney Bruhl). Brian is also a director and choreographer and will be directing PTC's fall production of the musical *She Loves Me*. Brian would like to thank Suzanne, Gary and Diane for giving him the chance to work with such a great cast and theatre company!

Lori Franzese (CECILY PIGEON) is pleased to be back on the TBTA stage after having last portrayed seven different parts in the 2006 production of *As Bees In Honey Drown*—talk about a challenge! Some favorite past roles include *Moon Over Buffalo* (Charlotte), *Wonder Of The World* (Lois), *Rumors* (Claire), *Bus Stop* (Grace), *Dial "M" For Murder* (Margot), and *Dearly Departed* (Suzanne). FILM: *The Paper* with Michael Keaton, *The Power of Sports Can't Make You Fly*, and *The Stick-up Kid*. TV: *Creepy Canada* and *Rescue Me* with Dennis Leary. RADIO: The voice of Gold's Gym.

Terri Gatten (STAGE MANAGER) is thrilled to work with such a talented cast and crew in *The Odd Couple*. She has been involved with children's productions for over ten years; has directed, attended acting and improvisation workshops, and written skits and plays for children. She enjoys being on the stage as well as being behind the scenes. She would like to thank her husband, Eric, for his love and encouragement, and BJ, Jesse and Alex for their support. She would like to give a special thanks to Gary and Diane for the opportunity to be a part of this production at TBTA.

A Brief History of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

The building that houses The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts was originally a gymnasium for The Curtis School for Boys.

First established in 1875 in Bethlehem, Connecticut by Frederick S. Curtis, the school was moved to Long Meadow Hill in 1883 and then to the present site that was the former Goodsell Estate in 1886.

In 1906 the price for one school year was six hundred dollars. This included "tuition, board, a seat in church, lighting and worming, the care and mending of clothing, and the use of school books."

In the 1920s, girls were allowed to enroll as day students.

This is the second gymnasium for the Curtis School. The first was destroyed by fire in 1906. The present stone building was built in 1907.

The Curtis School closed its doors in 1943.

The gymnasium was purchased by the Brookfield Country Players in 1959 and, since then, has been used as a theatre/playhouse for year-round plays and musicals.

Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2008 Season Subscribers

Maureen & Mike Burnett, Susan Chapin,

Alicia & Billy Dempster,

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dubois,

Kathi Fitzherbert, Duane Langenwalter,

Judi Martinez, Paul Mayer,

John Milne, Maureen Trotto, Steve Wright

Biographies, cont'd.

Steve Hoose (MURRAY) is happy to be joining this talented cast and crew and performing again at TBTA. Steve's past TBTA credits include: *Exit the Body*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Outward Bound*. Other area credits include: *London Suite*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Dining Room*, and Newtown's *Night of One Acts About Love, Marriage, Relationships, and More*. Steve would like to dedicate this show to the memory of his mother who passed away recently, though he is sure she is watching from the best seat in the house. As always, Steve is grateful to Carol, Kristin and Jeff for their inspiration and support.

Meg Jones (GWENDOLYN PIGEON) is thrilled to be in TBTA's production of *The Odd Couple!* Her daily "field of endeavor" is teaching third grade in New Milford. She is also a "mum" to Catherine (16) and Sheridan (12). Meg's past theatre credits include *Carnival* at TBTA and *The Wizard of Oz* at The Thomaston Opera House. Meg would like to thank the lovely cast and crew and also Suzanne for seeing her potential. She hopes that you enjoy the show... "Ta-Ta!"

Suzanne Kinnear (DIRECTOR) was last seen onstage in Neil Simon's *London Suite* at Town Players, Newtown, where she also directed two of the play-lets. She has been very active with community theatre over the past sixteen years in the roles of director and actor. Some of her favorite roles include: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Martha), *Barefoot in the Park* (Ethel Banks), *Chapter Two* (Jennie Malone), *Gingerbread Lady* (Evy Meara), and *Rebecca* (Mrs. Danvers). Suzanne also appeared in an Off-Broadway one-act, *Reading in the Nude*, written and directed by her husband, Larry Kinnear.

Joe Koproski (OSCAR) is happy to return to the TBTA stage for this production of *The Odd Couple*. He was previously seen at TBTA in Landsford Wilson's *The 5th of July*, under the direction of Wendell MacNeal, as well as in *The Art of Dining*, and he is happy to be "rubbing elbows" once again with Suzanne Kinnear. Most importantly, he would like to thank the cast and crew for this great experience!

Diane Millar (PRODUCER) is a member of the TBTA Board of Directors and is pleased to be co-producing with her husband Gary (a.k.a. Felix). She is honored to be working with Suzanne again, along with such a talented cast and crew. Break a leg!

Biographies, cont'd.

Gary Millar (FELIX) is thrilled to be on the TBTA stage once again and to be working with such an amazing cast and crew! He was last seen at TBTA in *The Diviners*, and also appeared at TBTA in *Outward Bound*, *Man of LaMancha*, *The Food Chain*, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *Godspell*. Gary would like to thank Suzanne for sharing her incredible talents and for the privilege of working under her direction again. Special thanks go to the four women in his life, his wife Diane, and his daughters Catherine, Lindsay, and Jennifer—Their love, support and encouragement means everything to him!

Jim Ryan (VINNIE) is honored to be working onstage at TBTA and with this wonderful cast and crew. Jim has recently been seen in *The Odd Couple*, *The Mousetrap* and *The One and Only Santa Claus* with the Castle Craig Players, and in *Dilemas With Dinner* in Meriden. Jim would like to thank his family and friends for all their love and support.

Alexis M. Vournazos (SPEED) is happy to be back on the TBTA stage where he made his debut over twenty years ago in *Barnum*. He was last seen at TBTA in *Assassins* (Leon Czolgosz). Most recently he portrayed Judas in the Immanuel Lutheran Players production of *The Last Supper*. Favorite roles include: *Dracula* (Dracula), *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan Detroit), *Noises Off* (Tim), *Man of La Mancha* (Anselmo), *As You Like It* (Sylvius), and *La Cage Aux Folles* (Hanna). He is happy to be working with old friends as well as new friends. Alexis would like to thank his family, friends, sister Marina and beautiful niece Alexandra for their support.

Now Showing In Our Lobby

Meg Jones, featured artist, began painting eight years ago after taking an adult education class. She studied twice a year with Ann DeLorian von Hoorn. Meg's choice of subject matter comes from her love of nature and the ocean. She often paints scenes from Maine, Martha's Vineyard and Candlewood Lake. She aspires to some day write and illustrate a children's book.

Production Staff

Director	Suzanne Kinnear
Producers	Diane & Gary Millar
Technical Director	Brian Cassella
Lighting Design	Steve Cihanek
Lighting Execution	Molly O'Lena
Sound Design & Execution	Ed O'Lena
Costuming	Alicia Dempster, Susan ???
Stage Manager	Terri Gatten
Asst. Stage Manager	Ann Marie Testanero
Properties Manager	Clare Haney
House Manager	Alicia Dempster, Jean Jones, Joan Wyner
SRO	Sammy Panzarino
Opening Night Party	Victoria Hooten

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Stephanie Skrok, *President*
Lori Mele, *Vice-President*
Diane Millar, *Secretary*
Peter Mele, *Treasurer*

DIRECTORS:

Michael Burnett, Alicia Dempster, Kristin Hoose,
Jean Jackson, Meg Jones, Gary Millar, Sammy Panzarino

Brian Casella, *Technical Director*
David Tuttle, *Ex-Officio*