

**Ankeny  
Community  
Theatre**

**Presents**

**Neil Simon's**

*the*  
**cooler**  
†  
**rate**  
*(female version)*

**February 6 – 21, 2004**

## 2003 – 2004 CONTRIBUTORS

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Meredith Corporation

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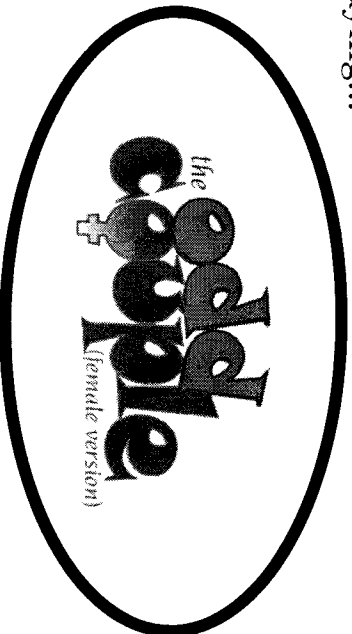
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Jim & Carolyn Bauer  
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**MANY THANKS TO THESE DONORS  
WHO HELP SUPPORT THE FUTURE  
OF ACT!**

**Welcome to  
ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE!  
We are glad you're here!**

Now playing...



Coming soon...

*The Hobbit*

March 19 - April 3, 2004

and...

*Funny Money*

April 30 - May 15, 2004

## Director's notes

Some milestones...

Comedy had its origins 2500 years ago in the writings of Aristophanes, the Greek. His comedies were a radical departure from the Greek tragedies where the gods figured prominently in the lives of people. In Greek comedy, the Pantheon of Gods was depicted as irrelevant, meddlesome and foolish. Aristophanes was not afraid to tackle social issues in his work. *Lysistrata* is an anti-war protest play in which the women of the city-states call a sex strike until their men and the leaders give up the weapons of war and stay home; quite a milestone.

Fifteen hundred years later, Shakespeare took a swipe at Renaissance comedy. The stock trick in Shakespearean comedy was the disguise, the characters were common folks, and the subject matter was love... love lost, love found. By definition, Renaissance comedy meant a play with a happy ending; unlike the tragedies where the dead bodies of kings, princes, generals, and traitors were strewn about the stage. The milestones continue.

A century later, what we appreciate as "modern comedy" found its origins in two places—the writings of the Frenchman Moliere and the Italian *Commedia del Arte*. More than any writer, Moliere focused on our human foibles, faults, and shortcomings. The *Commedia* gave the comic stage true "slapstick", named for the paddle commonly applied to the back side of pedantic old characters in the plays as well as buckets above doors, pies in the face and a host of other humorous devices...yet more milestones.

By every measure, Neil Simon has brought American comedy "of age", and *The Odd Couple* has set the benchmark by which contemporary comedies are measured. This evening, ACT proudly offers its milestone in the rich history of comedy.

On a very personal note, I owe a full measure of thanks to a dedicated, professional, and totally delightful cast—some experienced ACT folks, some new to our stage. Their work ethic in every aspect of this production has inspired all of us over the past two months. Special thanks to my co-director Randy Dunwoody who has done all the dirty work and kept me focused on deadlines when my tendency was to put it off until tomorrow.

Sit back, relax, laugh, and let all the challenges, frustrations, and setbacks of daily life melt away...and enjoy.

Art Holcomb, Director

# SPECIAL THANKS

The cast and crew of *The Odd Couple* would like to thank the following :

**Dick Wilson**

For the many, many hours of labor to create our awesome set

**O'Callaghan's**

For loaning us the air conditioner

**Menards**

For having the supplies that we needed for our set

**Sheri Kutsch & Sherri Stufflebeam**

For loaning set, prop, and costume pieces

**Ron Gilbert's Computer**

For playbill layout and formatting

**Our Families and Friends**

For supporting us through the rehearsal process

# THE ODD COUPLE

By Neil Simon

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Mickey ..... **Juli Hale**  
Renee ..... **Colleen Nelson**  
Vera ..... **Jenny Neighbour**  
Sylvie ..... **Becky Scholtec**  
Olive ..... **Monica Green**  
Florence ..... **Debi Garner**  
Manolo ..... **Paul Ruby**  
Jesus ..... **Al Price**

*Time:* the present

*Place:* Olive Madison's Riverside Drive apartment,  
New York City

*Act I* – A hot summer's night

*Act II Scene 1* – Two weeks later, about 11 p.m.

*Fifteen minute intermission*

*Act II Scene 2* – A few days later, about 8 p.m.

*Act II Scene 3* – The next evening, about 7:30 p.m.

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during this production. Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, or other audible electronic devices.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....	Art Holcomb
Co-Director .....	Randy Dunwoody
Consultant Producer .....	Rebecca Hansen
Lighting Designer .....	Ron Gilbert
Light Board Operators .....	Jim Bisbey
	Ben Kautza
	Nate Sayre
Stage Manager .....	Karen Swift
Stage Assistants .....	Juli Hale
	Jenny Neighbour
	Colleen Nelson
	Becky Scholtec
Personal Assistants .....	Kathryn Bisbey
	Kaylene Ruby
Set Construction .....	Dick Wilson
Painters .....	Pete Panada
	Paul Ruby
House Managers .....	Jeff & Kelly Bakke
	Roy & Rebecca Hansen
Program Design .....	Becky Scholtec
Photography .....	Al Price
Marketing/Publicity .....	Lynn Arterburn
	Debi Garner
	Angela Luttenegger
	Jenny Neighbour
	Barb Valline

### *BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY*

Words and Music by Rob Crewe and Bob Gaudio

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*The Odd Couple* is produced by special arrangement with  
Samuel French, Inc.



**Debi Garner – Florence**

Debi Garner has been active in ACT for about four years now (it just seems like longer to her family). Her most recent show was *Steel Magnolias* at ACT and then again at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, playing two different characters. Other ACT credits include *Ramors*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *Harvey*. Debi wishes to thank her husband, John, and her mom, Marian, for helping with lines and for their support. Debi also thanks her new best friend Monica Green, both in real life and Odd Couple life, who has been her rock to stand by.



**Monica Green – Olive**

Monica has been involved with ACT since 1992 when her then-12-year-old son was cast in *The Wizard of Oz*. Her onstage credits include Mama in *I Remember Mama* and Karen in *Plaza Suite*, among others. She says Olive is her most challenging role to date-she's just not naturally a slob-but that's the fun of acting. She is in her second stint as a board member of ACT and leading the capital building campaign to build a new theater in Ankeny. When not working in or for ACT, Monica heads up corporate marketing and communications for Marsh in West Des Moines. And whenever she can find the time, she's off to France parlaying francais. She thanks her mom for helping her practice her lines and is thankful for her Boston Terrier Bijou who constantly makes her laugh.



**Juli Hale – Micky**

Juli is a graduate of New England Culinary Institute and works for Meredith Corporation as a home economist in the Better Homes and Gardens Test Kitchen (yes, that really is as fun as it sounds). She studied theater at Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. This past year she has gotten involved in theater again after a long absence. She stage-managed *Charlotte's Web* and was assistant stage-manager for *Smoky Joe's Cafe* and *Buddy* at The Des Moines Playhouse. She also ran lights for *Proof* at the Playhouse and for *The Boys Next Door* at ACT. She is very pleased to return to acting in this, her first acting role in 14 years. Juli also enjoys performing choral music and hanging out with her cats, Figgy and Lucy.



**Jenny Neighbour – Vera**

A "new kid" to the theatre, Jenny is enjoying acting and assisting with the marketing efforts for ACT. Jenny made her debut to the stage last year as Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl* and loved every minute of it. She couldn't wait to get back to the stage...especially in a comedy such as *The Odd Couple*. Jenny was born and raised in Ankeny. She is married to Mike, also an Ankeny native, and they have two beautiful daughters, Abbi (10) and Katie (7), who attend Northwest Elementary and definitely keep mom and dad busy all the time. Jenny works part-time at Ankeny Physical and Sports Therapy and spends the rest of her time volunteering for church and school events. Jenny looks forward to being a part of ACT for many years to come!





**Colleen Nelson – Renee**

Colleen is new to the ACT stage, but not to theater. She was a member of The River Valley Players, a very active community theater group based in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She had lead roles as Karen Nash in *Plaza Suite* and Kate in *Never Too Late*. Other favorites include Rosebud, a maid with a drinking problem in *Natalie Needs a Nightie* and biblical bad girl Mrs. Potiphar in the musical production *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She is truly enjoying acting again after a seven year hiatus, and hopes that this won't be her last ACT experience. Colleen credits her "stage presence" to growing up the oldest of nine children – each one a character. One really had to "perform" to get any attention! Thanks RVP for lighting my fire.

**Al Price – Jesus**



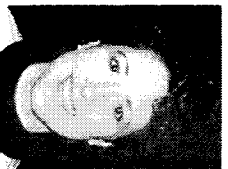
Al has been a part of ACT since 1983. When they were younger, and in better shape, he and Paul Ruby played Will Parker and Curly McLain, respectively, in the musical *Oklahoma*. Since then, Al has been in several productions, directed, and served on the board of directors. Some of his favorite shows were *Gyps and Dolls*, *Our Town*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Greeter Tina*, and *Runners*. He's currently involved in an original production that is scheduled for next season. Al would like to thank his wife Jan and their children, who have all been a part of ACT, for their support...next will be the grandchildren's turn!

**Paul Ruby – Manolo**



Paul has appeared in numerous ACT shows (just take a look at the playbills on the wall). Most recently he delighted ACT audiences as Norman in *The Boys Next Door* and has also appeared as Marryin' Sam in *Lil' Abner* and in ACT's 2002 production of Neil Simon's *Runners*. A Des Moines native, Paul teaches at Hoover High School. He and wife Kaylene have grown children and three grandchildren. Paul enjoys Corvette rallies and collecting Horatio Alger books.

**Becky Scholtec – Sylvie**



Becky first appeared onstage at the age of 8 as one of the children in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, and her involvement with theatre continued through high school and college. In Des Moines, she has been seen onstage at the Des Moines Playhouse in *Anne of Green Gables* and *Charlotte's Web*, among others, and has worked backstage as everything from a dresser (*The Who's Tommy*) to light board operator (*Peter Pan*) to assistant director (*Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*) and more. She was the assistant director for ACT's 2002 production of *Runners* and the 2003 production of *The Boys Next Door*, and is happy to be on the ACT stage this time in *The Odd Couple*. In real life, Becky is a deposit operations specialist for Principal Bank, and mom to Emily (9) and Aaron (6).

Ankeny Community Theatre can always use volunteers. We need actors, directors, producers, and stage crew. We also need help with set building, lights, sound, make-up, costumes, refreshments, and clean-up. We love having new people involved! Time commitment depends on the individual, and we appreciate any time that you can give us. If you'd like to become a member of our family, just call the theatre!

### **Ankeny Community Theatre Board of Directors**

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### **WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU:**

Leave voice mail: (515) 964-5007

E-mail: [act@ankenycommunitytheatre.com](mailto:act@ankenycommunitytheatre.com)

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Visit our website:  
[www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com)

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