Neil Simon

**THE ODD COUPLE**

Directed by Pam Wiener

**Key Information:**

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| **Performance Dates** | 7:30pm – Tuesday 26th November until Saturday 30th November 2024.  2:30pm matinee on Saturday 30th November 2024 |
| **Performance Venue** | Seligman Theatre, Chapter |
| **Rehearsal Dates** | From the 14th September: Tuesdays and Thursdays (7pm - 10pm). Saturdays (10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm)  Get in: Sunday 24th November 2024  Dress Rehearsal: Monday 25th November 2024 |
| **Auditions** | Everyman Clubroom, Chapter  Friday 6th September – 6pm until 10pm.  Saturday 7th September – 10am until 5pm.  Recalls (if needed) Sunday 8th September |
| **Book your audition:** | Contact Pam Wiener  Email: [pamsash@virginmedia.com](mailto:pamsash@virginmedia.com)  An audition form is provided, please send as an attachment to your email  *Please state your preferred audition date.* |
| **Preparation:** | Please include as much information as possible on the audition form and send it when **booking your audition**.  You do not need to learn anything in advance, but a selection of extracts will be made available for you to prepare before the audition. |

**The Odd Couple**

Neil Simon’s revision of his hugely successful play, The Odd Couple (you may have seen/heard of the film with Jack Lemon and Walter Matthau), sees the lead characters transformed into Olive Madison and Florence Unger.

Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive’s messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues, Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband. Fearful that the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in as her roommate.

However, Olive and Florence have VERY different personalities. Where Olive is messy, untidy, and unconcerned about the state of her apartment, Florence is obsessively clean, tidy, and obsessed with hygiene. Olive’s easy-going outlook on life soon clashes with Florence’s highly-strung neurotic tendencies, testing their friendship to the limit.

When Olive organizes a double-date with the Costazuela brothers, their differences come to a head and sparks fly.

**Director’s Notes**

Above all this play is a comedy, while also putting the spotlight on female friendships. Set in the late 20th century, the gender politics may feel a little different to today, but the relationship issues and humour arising from it are absolutely timeless! While a sense of comic timing is evidently required, there is depth to these characters that I would also like to bring out in performance.

The heavy lifting is the focus on Olive and Florence, but their wider friendship group provides a wonderful supportive ensemble, so I’ll be looking to create an on-stage chemistry between the 6 of them. Then the spark for the fireworks is that double-date with Manolo and Jesus Costazuela, who live in the same apartment building as Olive.

Actors cast as Olive and Florence would be required at most, if not all rehearsals, while the remainder of the cast would be required less when blocking but obviously more when we begin running the play. I will take unavailability into account when putting the rehearsal schedule together, but please take this into account. To ensure the comic timing works, I would be looking to be running sections of the play from the earliest opportunity.

**Character Breakdown**

Ages will be varied among the friends. Manolo and Jesus’ ages relative to each other.

American accents, unless otherwise indicated.

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| **Olive Madison** | A successful television producer. She is intelligent and easy-going, but an absolute slob and doesn’t see mess, even when surrounded by it! Divorced, but can’t stop giving her ex-husband money. Aged 35-50. |
| **Florence Unger** | Attractive, very well-groomed and obsessively neat. She’s also a hypochondriac. She has left her husband and is fully aware of being neurotic and hard to live with, but she can’t help it and refuses to make any concessions. Made comical by her exaggerated behaviour. Aged 35-50. |
| **Mickey** | A police officer in the NYPD, down to earth and kind. A strong woman who knows her mind. One of the group of friends who meet weekly to play Trivial Pursuit. Aged 30-50 |
| **Sylvie** | Another of the group of friends. Funny and witty, she is also irritable and pregnant (probably the two are related!) Aged 20-30 |
| **Renee** | Sylvie’s best friend, she can be very blunt and plain-spoken. She is single and dating. Aged 20-40 |
| **Vera** | Very sweet and very kind, but rather slow on the uptake, so tends to be the target of some of the friendly banter in the group. Married. Aged 30-60. |
| **Manolo Costazuela** | Spanish. The older of the 2 brothers. Very handsome and well-groomed in that Latin-lover manner. Spanish accent required. |
| **Jesus Costazuela** | Spanish. The younger of the brothers. Boyish charm and romantic. Spanish accent required. |