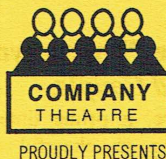
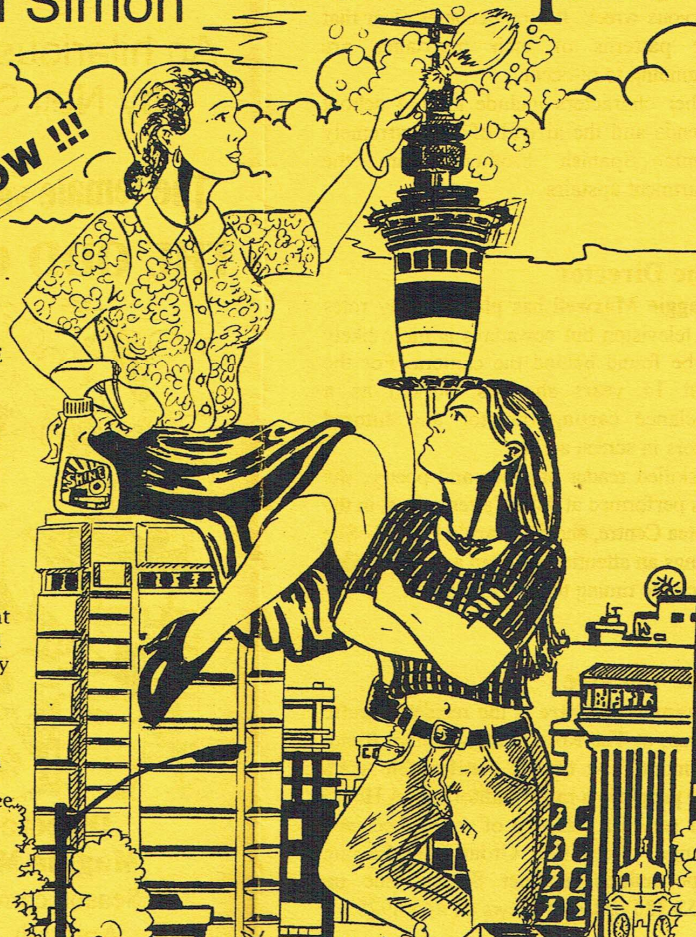


The *the female version* ODD Couple

by Neil Simon



BOOK NOW !!!



At the ROSE
CENTRE THEATRE
School Road
Belmont

For bookings
please call
486 3835 or
445 9900

Gala Opening Night
Saturday 5th April
then Wed-Saturday
9-12, 16-19 April
Starting 8 pm
Sunday Matinee
April 13th, at 2pm

Tickets \$12.50
conc \$10

Directed by Maggie Maxwell

Poster designed by Gerrard Southam

The Play : A synopsis of *The Odd Couple*.

Olive, a prime time T.V. producer, is living in cheerful chaos in her city apartment. At Olive's invitation, the newly separated Florence, moves in and is soon finding comfort in cooking, cleaning and fussing, until Olive is almost reduced to a nervous wreck. It soon becomes clear that the patterns of their marriages are beginning to re-occur.

Other characters include their 4 school friends and the arrival of two extremely comic Spanish brothers from the apartment upstairs.

The Director

Maggie Maxwell has played many roles on television but nowadays is more likely to be found behind the camera. For the past 14 years she has worked as a freelance casting director and tutored actors in screen acting.

A skilled reader of prose and poetry, she has performed at Albert's restaurant in the Aotea Centre, and St. Mary's Parnell. She brings an attention to detail and knowledge of comic timing to this production.

The Theatre

Company Theatre is the resident theatre group, at The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont. The theatre comfortable seats 100 people in a raked auditorium. A House Bar serves a selection of wines, beer and orange juice. For Group Fundraising opportunities, contact Sherry Ede on 4452.386 or Geoff Clews on 445.8928.



An hilarious comedy
by Neil Simon.

The female version of...
THE ODD COUPLE



**Directed by
Maggie Maxwell**

Season commences
April 5th, 1997.

The *the female version*
ODD Couple
 by Neil Simon



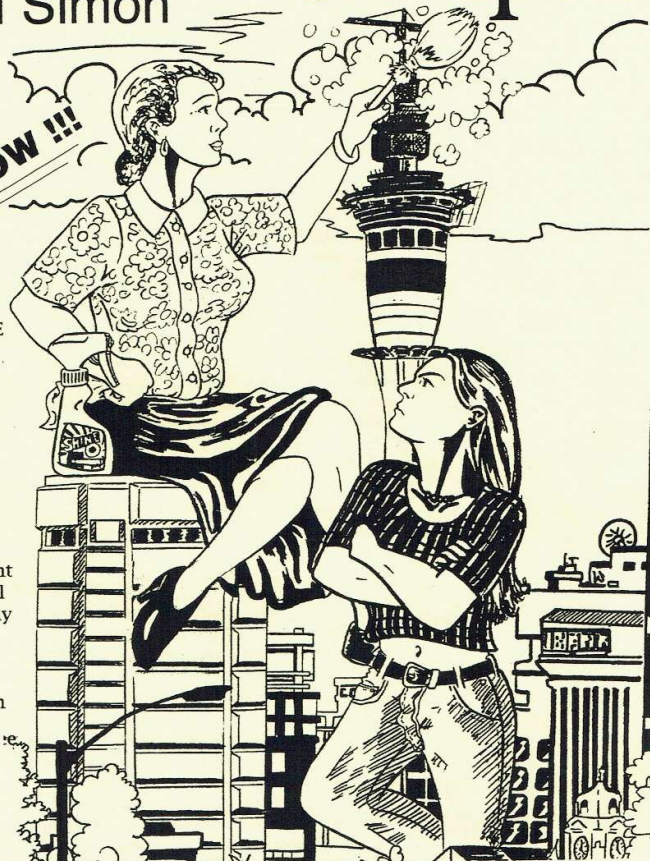
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Commencing Saturday April 5th, 1997

Cast
(in order of appearance)

Miki.....	Catherine Long
Vera.....	Lyndall Frost
Renee.....	Veena Patel
Sylvie.....	Sherry Ede
Olive.....	Brigid Tarr
Florence.....	Shirley Elliott
Manolo.....	Geoff Clews
Jesus.....	Richard Parmee

Production

Director.....	Maggie Maxwell
Director's Assistant.....	Maureen Kenny
Production Manager.....	Doug Bourke
Stage Manager.....	Moira Coote
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Annie Gandar
Wardrobe Co-Ordinator.....	Moira Coote
Properties.....	Maureen Kenny
Set Design and Dressing.....	Moira Coote
Assistance from.....	Kathy Gent
Set Construction.....	Doug Bourke, Richard Parmee
	Geoff Clews, Tony Sandy
Set Building assistance.....	John Burton, Perry Cameron
	Emmett Sutton
Lighting Design.....	Les Bryant
Lighting & Sound Operator.....	John Burton
Publicity.....	Sherry Ede, Geoff Clews
Bill Boards.....	Tom Smith
Poster Design.....	Gerrard Southam
Programme.....	Sherry Ede
Front of House Co-Ordinator.....	Doug Bourke
Bar Manager.....	Tony Sandy
Assistant Barman.....	Gary Glanville

**Synopsis
 of Scenes**

The time is the present.
 The play is set in Olive Madison's city apartment.
Act 1
 A hot summer's night.

Act II
Scene 1: Two weeks later, about 11.00pm
Scene 2: A few days later, about 8.00pm
Scene 3: The next evening, about 7.30pm

Interval

There will be ONE interval, after Act 1,
 during which refreshments will be served in the foyer.

Maggie Maxwell was for some time a member of the Mercury Theatre Company and has worked at both Theatre Corporate and Independent Theatre (but says she is not responsible for their demise!). Maggie is a skilled reader of prose and poetry and performs regularly around Auckland, and also records talking books for the Blind. She will appear in August in "Cosmic Dust", a programme of readings and music for **The Pumphouse** lunchtime series. Maggie is currently working on the guest role of Barbara Winchester in "Shortland Street". She has worked as a freelance casting director for film and television and is a teacher of screen acting. She has directed many productions from solo performances to productions in Spanish for the University of Auckland's Spanish Department. Directing is now her major focus.

Maggie Maxwell
Director

"If Broadway ever erects a monument to the patron saint of laughter, Neil Simon would have to be it" wrote Time magazine. The movies and television might consider America's most prolific and popular playwright a patron saint as well. He has written 28 plays and holds the record for the greatest number of hits in the American theatre. He has had more plays adapted to film than any other playwright, and additionally has written nearly a dozen original film comedies. He helped define television comedy during the medium's legendary early days (He helped make Phil Silvers, Jackie Gleason and Garry Moore, sound funny.) In the theatre, at the movies, and at home, he has kept America and the world, laughing for more than 40 years and has been rewarded with four Tony Awards, two Emmys, a Screen Writer's guild Award and a Pulitzer Prize. *What is his secret?* Perhaps the secret to his success is his ability to show us, - between, in and around the funny lines - the pain, aspiration, and sheer panic behind all of his unforgettable characters.

Neil Simon
Playwright

Silk flower arrangements, and throw-over from Abigail's Country Store, Devonport.
Air purifier, from the Auckland Asthma Society.
Original artwork by Geoff Clews - not available for sale.
Electronic Solutions, Hauraki Corner.

Acknowledgements

Company Theatre welcomes new members who are interested in any aspect of theatre from on-stage to back-stage to technical support to Front of House helping, every now and again. Please contact **Annie Gandar on 445.8181** or **Moira Coote on 445.8223**.

Membership of Company Theatre

Biographies of Cast and Crew

- Catherine Long** Catherine has enjoyed a long association with theatre, playing mainly strong character roles. Now as policewoman Miki, she can let loose with her baton and take control! Last seen as "Mum" in *Thermal Underwear*, July '96 and before that in *Steel Magnolias*, September '95.
- Lyndall Frost** Lyndall delights in the unusual and dotty character roles she has played over the last few years. *Susan* in *Split Ends*; *Connie* in *Habeas Corpus*; *Miss Hatchett* in *A Cut in the Rates*; and *Fatty* in *A Jolly Sinister Jape* for ArthroB Theatre.
- Veena Patel** This is Veena's first time in a stage production and she is thoroughly enjoying the experience. She has completed several acting courses and is hoping to be able to give something back to the Indian community who support her in Auckland.
- Sherry Ede** Sherry can't keep away from the theatre. If she is not on stage, she is reading plays, thinking of plays or seeing plays. Her family suggests a Theatre Anonymous Association (T.A.) for self confessed theatre addicts.
- Brigid Tarr** Brigid comes from a musical stage background. She has sung and danced her way through *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph*, *Grease* and *Stop the World I Want to Get Off*. Although this is not a musical, Brigid still manages to fit a song in at the end.
- Shirley Elliott** Shirley's main theatrework to date has been with the Fortune Theatre Company, Dunedin. Main roles include *Belinda* in *Noises Off*, *Meg* in *Man For All Seasons*, *Olivia* in *Twelfth Night*, *Childie* in *Sister George*, *Lady Capulet* in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Belinda* in Ayckbourn's *Seasons Greetings*, *Margie* in Roger Hall's *Multiple Choice*. T.V. has included roles in *Shark in the Park*, *Marlin Bay*, and *Crimewatch*. She welcomes this opportunity to work with Maggie and *Company*.
- Geoff Clews** Geoff is President of *Company Theatre* and is enjoying an opportunity to ham it up again (*in the show that is.*) He likes wearing real clothes on stage, as this saves him changing, after work.
- Richard Parmee** Richard says its great to be playing a challenging role, complete with Argentinian accent! His third time on stage for Company but he also helps backstage on all shows. "I'm never going to stop" he says. (*A definite candidate for T.A. See above*)
- John Burton** John wanted to be one of the sexy Argentinian brothers so he's doing the lights.
- Moira Coote** Moira enjoys a challenge and this production *has given it to her!* Originally volunteering for Stage Manager, she has at times been prompt, prop collector, set dresser, clothing co-ordinator, furniture assembler, sewing tutor & adviser.
- Annie Gandar** Annie helps *Company* behind the scenes in stage management and administration. She maintains she never wants to be on stage herself, and the money being offered for her stage debut increases monthly.
- Maureen Kenny** This is Maureen's fourth production for Company - all in a row! An amazingly efficient and cheerful organiser, who has been the Director's Assistant as well as props co-ordinator. A big ask.
- Doug Bourke** Doug is involved with many shows and organisations around the Shore. He organises the building of sets, he takes bookings, he does Front Of House and generally gets in everyone's way, but we definitely couldn't do without him.
- Tony Sandy** Tony has helped build Company Theatre sets for many years. He's hammered thumbs and fallen off ladders regularly and then poured us all a wine at the bar.
- Les Bryant** Les, at the moment, is *the Lighting Man for Company Theatre*. and he would like support. If you have an interest in lights, please contact the theatre.

6 Shore Weekender, Thursday 27 March 1997

Girls can be odd couples too

The newer female version of Neil Simon's well-known script and film *The Odd Couple* is coming to the Rose Centre Theatre from 5 April.

This modern adaptation deals with separation and a woman finding a new life after her husband leaves her.

The Company Theatre has given *The Odd Couple* a facelift with a topical and hilarious outcome.

The production starts with six women enjoying a game of Trivial Pursuit.

"How many times a year does a penguin have sex?" asks one character. "That's not science and nature – that's gossip", says another.

One of the central characters in the show, Olive, is played by Brigid Tarr of Devonport.

Olive, a prime-time TV producer, is living in cheerful chaos in her city apartment.

At Olive's invitation the newly-separated Florence moves in and is so into cooking, cleaning and fussing that Olive is almost reduced to a nervous wreck.

It soon becomes clear the patterns of their marriages are beginning to re-occur.

Brigid Tarr has recently resigned from her position as public relations manager for a large hotel and is taking classes in television acting, singing and dance between rehearsals.

"I am really excited about the role of Olive as she is on stage for almost the entire evening and it is very challenging," says Brigid.

"Olive is a career woman who produces her own TV show. She comes from a professional background similar to myself but is still striving to find herself. "She is a woman who knows what she wants in life but at the same time there is a vulnerability because everything has its price. I understand that emotion."

Shirley Eliot plays Florence, the other half of the

odd couple.

Shirley was a professional actor for many years in Dunedin appearing at the Fortune Theatre and on several television series.

She has been in Auckland for five years waiting for an opportunity to break into the Auckland theatrical circuit.

"I am at that stage in my life now, with my children both at university, that I am ready again for the challenge that an acting career can bring," she says.

The other characters in the play include their four school friends and two extremely comic Spanish brothers from the apartment upstairs, whose advances Florence is not quite ready for.

Brigid on the other hand is more than ready.

All eight actors rehearse under the watchful eye of Maggie Maxwell, who brings considerable stage and screen experience to this production.

"An hour's rehearsal with Maggie is like a three-hour intensive workout," says Brigid Tarr.

"Maggie focuses on each line of text to bring out every possible intonation.

"In one evening rehearsal we spent the entire night on just two pages. But in the end it is very rewarding as you feel you have been inside that character."

Maggie Maxwell has worked as a freelance casting director for television and film, is a teacher of screen acting, and will soon appear on Shortland Street in the guest role of Barbara Winchester.

The play starts on Saturday 5 April. Performances are then Wednesday to Saturday, 9-12 and 16-19 April at 8pm. There is also a Sunday matinee on 13 April at 2pm.

Tickets are \$12.50 for adults or \$10 concession.

Phone 486 3835 or 445 9900 for further information and bookings.



A modern-day odd couple – Devonport's Brigid Tarr (front) and Shirley Eliot



Richard Parmee, Geoff Clews

Maggie Maxwell, directing Neil Simons *The Odd Couple* for Company Theatre has taken the adventurous step of moving the play into an Auckland Apartment in 1997.

"New Zealanders are only just becoming aware of the positives and pitfalls of apartment dwelling," she said. "In other world cities, apartments have formed the major part of housing stock for generations. Translating a play set in a New York apartment for Aucklanders might have proved impossible ten years ago, but the apartment boom here has meant it can now be credibly undertaken."

The play's lead characters, Olive Madison and Florence Unger are two unlikely friends thrown together in an accident of circumstances. They represent opposite poles in the house pride scale. Florence descends upon



Maggie Maxwell

her friend Olive and begins to exercise on Olive's apartment and life, all the obsession for order and tidiness which has contributed to her recent separation from husband, Sidney. *The Odd Couple* opens next Saturday April 5 at the Belmont Rose Centre.

