

Marathon Community Theatre presents



The Odd Couple

By Neil Simon

Starring:

Lee Lawson | Steve Miller

Directed by: Linda Schaefer & Karen Shotwell

"The Odd Couple" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2025-2026 MCT season! Become a member today and enjoy discounts on tickets for all of our main stage shows that feature a diverse selection of entertainment to showcase the gifts of our local talents. We are a volunteer organization and welcome all who want to become involved on stage, behind the scenes, or in the front of the house – so many opportunities!

Here is a look at our main stage plays:

Little Shop of Horrors: February 26-March 21, 2026

Wait Until Dark: April 16-May 2, 2026

We have added two matinees to each show!

Our website, www.marathontheater.org, has all the latest information about upcoming events. A summer musical program for school-aged children is organized in June. Check us out on Instagram and Facebook as well!

Another benefit of MCT membership is access to free dance classes for all levels of experience including tap, ballet, jazz, belly dance and more. Dancers are highlighted in our summer Tah-Dance showcase.

Our historic building houses both Marathon Community Theatre and Marathon Community Cinema, and we are working diligently to pay off the loan for our new roof. Please consider a donation to help us continue to provide access to the arts here in our hometown. As the current president of the MCT board, I take great pride in our connection to our local community and businesses. On behalf of the board, I thank you very much for your patronage and encourage you to become a member to enjoy all of the experiences we have to offer.

Sincerely,

Linda Schaefer, President



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MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATRE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE ODD COUPLE

WRITTEN BY: NEIL SIMON

STARRING

Steve Miller
as Oscar

Lee Lawson
as Felix

Dion Watson
as Speed

Nando Bonilla
as Murray

Gerrit Hale
as Vinnie

Bob Mizell
as Roy

Nancy Myers
as Cecily

Grace Hubbard
as Gwen

Director:
Linda Schaefer

Co-Director / Stage Manager:
Karen Shotwell

Producer:
Karen Witte

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production is strictly
prohibited.*

“The Odd Couple” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

NEIL SIMON

American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon (1927-2018) is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific and performed playwrights in theatre history. In addition to *Lost In Yonkers*, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *London Suite*, *Proposals*, *Hotel Suite*, *The Dinner Party*, *45 Seconds from Broadway*, *Oscar and Felix*, and *Rose's Dilemma*.



In addition to the film adaptations he wrote of many of his plays, his screenplay credits include *After the Fox*, *The Out-Of-Towners*, *The Heartbreak Kid* (original 1973 version), *Murder by Death*, *The Cheap Detective*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Only When I Laugh*, *Max Dugan Returns*, *The Slugger's Wife*, *The Marrying Man* and *The Odd Couple II*. Other motion pictures based on stage plays include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Sweet Charity* and *The Star-Spangled Girl*. For television, Mr. Simon wrote series, teleplays and motion pictures, including *The Tallulah Bankhead Show*, *The Sid Caesar Show*, *The Phil Silvers Arrow Show*, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *The Garry Moore Show*, *The Trouble with People*, *ABC's Broadway Bound* and *Jake's Women*.

Books by Neil Simon include *Rewrites*, *A Memoir*, *The Play Goes On*, four omnibus collections of Neil Simon's plays (*The Comedy Of Neil Simon*, *The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon*, Vol. II, *The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon*, Vol. 3, *The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon*, Vol. 4) and *Lost In Yonkers* (screenplay).

Mr. Simon received more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer. Awards he received include the Pulitzer Prize for *Lost In Yonkers*, Emmy Awards for *The Sid Caesar Show* and *The Phil Silvers Show*, Tony Awards for *The Odd Couple*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Lost In Yonkers* and a special Tony Award For Overall Contribution To The Theatre. His nominations include Tony Award Nominations for *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*, *Lost in Yonkers* and *The Goodbye Girl* (musical). Other nominations include a Writers Guild Screen Award for *The Odd Couple* and *The Out-Of-Towners*, a Writers Guild Laurel Award, an American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement and a Writers Guild Screen Award Nomination for *Barefoot in the Park*, as well as an Oscar Nomination for *The Odd Couple*, an Evening Standard Award, a Sam S. Shubert Foundation Award, Kennedy Center Honors, a UCLA Medal, a Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award and a William Inge Theater Festival Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater.

SYNOPSIS

This classic comedy opens on a friendly card game in the untidy apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. And if the mess is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Ungar, who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed, and none too tense, Felix seems suicidal, but as the action unfolds, Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together. The action unfolds with hilarious results as *The Odd Couple* is born.

Setting: An apartment on Riverside Drive, New York City.

Time: Mid 1970s

Act I

A hot summer night.

Act II

Scene 1: Two weeks later. About 11 p.m.

Scene 2: A few days later. About 8 p.m.

Act III

The next evening. About 7:30 p.m.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Linda Schaefer
Co-Director/Stage Manager: Karen Shotwell
Producer: Karen Witte
Play Consultant: Jackie O'Neil
Technical Director: Karen Diehl
Set Design: Linda Schaefer & Karen Diehl
Set Build: Karen Diehl, Nando Bonilla, Art Gauthier, Geoff Kane, Marcia Kane
Furniture Mover: Lee Lawson
Lighting Design: Alex Rickert
Lighting Tech: Ana Paula Claudio
Makeup: Claudia McEwen
Sound Design: John Schaefer
Sound Tech: Marianne Benvenuti
Props: Karen Foley
Costume Mistress: Riet Steinmetz
Assistant Seamstress: Robin Kuhn
Set Dresser: Karen Foley
Photography: Larry Benvenuti
Gallery Music: Jackie O'Neil

THE CAST AND CREW OF THE ODD COUPLE EXTEND AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

A special thank you to **St. Columba and their Nearly New Thrift Shop** for loaning MCT many set pieces and props, and for always providing a great place to find the treasures we seek! The Nearly New Thrift Shop funds community after-school care and camps for children.

Thank you to **Chef Carl (Flavor) Stanton and the MHS Dolphin Bistro** for preparing and serving The Odd Couple opening night food!

Thank you to **The Habitat for Humanity ReStore** for generously donating furniture and props.

Thank you to the **MCT General Manager, Lisa Campanelli**, and her staff for providing archived information and assistance in getting this play to production!

The cast and crew would like to thank our show sponsor, **Paws in Paradise LLC**, a locally-owned pet sitting company! Kyrstyn Ransom and her dedicated team of caregivers ensures a happy, healthy and safe stay while your family is away! Email at krspawsinparadise@gmail.com and follow them on Instagram at [Paws.in.Paradise.FLKeys](https://www.instagram.com/Paws.in.Paradise.FLKeys) or on Facebook at [Paws in Paradise LLC](https://www.facebook.com/Paws.in.Paradise.LLC).

CAST



STEVE MILLER (*Oscar Madison*) Early in the 1980s Steve Miller gave up a promising career as a Pizza Delivery Technician in Indianapolis. He came to the Keys to surprise a friend, who unexpectedly surprised him by having moved out of the islands weeks earlier. Since he was out of money, he decided to apply for a position as a disc jockey at U.S.1 Radio. He got the job, but at one time or another was fired on six different occasions (but hired seven). During one period of being fired, he became one of the owners of Big Pine Liquors, a business that he ran for 10 years. After returning to U.S.1 Radio again, he also worked on the sister stations 98.7 Conch Country and WAIL 99. Those jobs were fun, but he needed something to pay the bills, so he became Executive Director of the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. When the last of his three kids grew up he decided to try out for a part at the Waterfront Theater in Key West. He was cast into the play “Peter and The Starcatcher.” After that, he was cast into several other productions. Last year was his first year at the Marathon Community Theatre when he appeared in “Beer For Breakfast.” When he heard that they were doing “The Odd Couple,” he thought that loud, sloppy and obnoxious was a part that was written for him. So here’s his best Oscar Madison.



LEE LAWSON (*Felix Ungar*) After trading in the mountains of Tennessee for the waters of the Keys and after serving in the Marines and US Army, Lee made his first appearance in The Rocky Horror Show as Rocky, as well as Octavia in Scapino, Officer Trotter in The Mousetrap, and Mark in Beer for Breakfast, along with many murder mystery appearances and an appearance in the upcoming tv series (Mile Zeros) written by Amber Nolan.

CAST



DION WATSON (*Speed*) Dion loves to play cards, so this role was perfect. You may have seen her as the Narrator in *The Rocky Horror Show* in 2022, 2023 and 2025. She has also co-hosted *One Weekend Only* for the last three years with Jaimie Roberts. Dion has been in several main stage shows and murder mysteries, including *Always a Bridesmaid* and *The Mousetrap*.

Dion is grateful for the opportunity for the role in *The Odd Couple* as her most favorite thing about a show is making people laugh and this is certainly a funny play.



NANDO BONILLA (*Murray*) When he is not busy being a father of four, grandpa of three or trophy husband of one, or beautifying homes, he is on the MCT stage either helping build sets or trying to be funny, according to sources (his wife!)...please meet Nando Bonilla, playing Murray the cop in this funny classic, *The Odd Couple*.



GERRIT HALE (*Vinnie*) Gerrit came to the Keys from Southern California after landing in Marathon while cruising the Intracoastal Waterway. Gerrit got his start with Marathon Community Theatre as the crusty Mr. McCall in the holiday dinner murder mystery. He then went on to work as a backstage phantom in *The Rocky Horror Show* and filled in two nights as the understudy for Riff Raff. Gerrit and his wife, Nancy Myers, are perpetual volunteers at the theatre, having made the community theatre part of their new family. They look forward to many more performances in the future.

CAST



BOB MIZELL (*Roy*) Bob moved to Marathon from Maryland about seven years ago. This is his first performance with MCT. He is currently retired and enjoys fishing and island life.



NANCY MYERS (*Cecily*) In her dotage, Nancy Myers has embraced the thespian lifestyle and has forced her partner Gerrit Hale to do likewise. She debuted in December 2024 in MCT's dinner murder mystery in a role that allowed her to gleefully kill the aforementioned partner. Still somewhat new to Marathon, Nancy volunteers at the FKSPCA and can be spotted at St. Columba every Sunday singing badly in an otherwise-renowned choir.



GRACE HUBBARD (*Gwendolyn*) Grace is originally from Massachusetts and is a proud “Freshwater Conch,” making her stage debut as Gwendolyn Pigeon. She has worked at several local resorts, creating fun activities to keep guests smiling, and she also owns Amazing Grace Seaside Sitter, a babysitting business where she brings creativity, play and plenty of giggles (especially when she practices her English accent with the kids). Her dress-up box is now bigger than the one she had as a child. And for the record, she was always Mary material — even if her childhood church thought she was Shepherd #3. Not that she's still upset about it. At all. She is forever grateful to her parents and the friends of all ages in this town for tolerating her antics, laughing along the way, and, most importantly, letting her unapologetically be herself.

CREW



LINDA SCHAEFER (Director): Linda came to MCT in 2022 when helping with The Rocky Horror Show called her name. Linda directed several murder mysteries and co-directed Mousetrap and The Siegel. The Odd Couple brings back memories of 1970s TV and days when humor and wit were appreciated. The Odd Couple honors the value of true friendship, one of the greatest gifts in life.



KAREN SHOTWELL (Co-Director/Stage Manager): Karen has had quite a lot of fun onstage at MCT. She has performed a wide range of characters, from the over-the-top antics of a Phantom in The Rocky Horror Show and the eye-rolling sarcasm of Pocahontas in Disenchanted to the matronly Molly in The Mousetrap and the effervescent Ethel in Barefoot in the Park. Now, this sexagenarian diva is delighted to tackle a new role backstage as Assistant Director. A big thanks to Linda and the crew for providing the opportunity and confidence to bring this show to life. When she's not in rehearsal or scooping popcorn at Drag Queen Bingo, Karen enjoys the laid-back liveaboard retired life in the Keys with her black cat Vinnie and her husband Oscar Madison aka Gary.

CREW



KAREN WITTE (Producer): Backstage or behind the scenes is the only part of the stage you will ever see Karen! This is Karen's third time as Producer at MCT. Having retired to Marathon in 2015 with her husband Brian, Karen has taken advantage of many of the volunteer opportunities available at MCT

– Producer, Stage Manager, Dresser, Concessions, Entertainment Committee and Historical Committee to name a few – meeting so many people and having fun times! Karen is honored to work with Linda and this talented cast and crew to bring this iconic show to the MCT stage.



JACKIE O'NEIL (Play Consultant and Gallery Music):

Jackie plays keyboard in the gallery and celebrates 2026 as her 21st year “tickling the ivories” at MCT – although hers are plastic. Before retiring as a Director, she directed nine main stage shows. Now she loves seeing fabulous new directors like Linda Schaefer and Karen Shotwell take the reins. Jackie and her hubby Tom raise monarch butterflies from

eggs. Monarchs are endangered from loss of habitat, so if you have a yard, please help them by planting Milkweed. Now relax and enjoy this beautifully-directed, well-written and audaciously acted show. She knows she will!

CREW



KAREN DIEHL (Tech Director & Set Design): Karen started at MCT as Assistant Stage Manager under Bill Ross for SOUND OF MUSIC and had a small but mighty non-speaking role. She has also Stage Managed or Co-Stage Managed 9 TO 5, GREATER TUNA, TUNA CHRISTMAS, THE 39 STEPS and ESCANABA IN THE

MOONLIGHT. Karen made her appearance in her first speaking role in ESCANABA with a short one-night cameo comment. While she was sound tech for A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, she prefers to build sets and create illusions that allow the audience to use their imagination.



KAREN FOLEY (Set Dressing & Prop Mistress): This is Karen's fifth season volunteering at MCT. Karen volunteers in front of the house but really enjoys working behind the scenes. To date, she has helped as a stage hand, dresser, set decorator, producer and prop mistress. Finding and making props are definitely her

favorite! Karen lives with husband Peter (a fine set builder /carpenter and fisherman), two spoiled rotten pups, and works part time at Fishermen's Hospital. She encourages anyone interested in the theater to give volunteering at MCT a try!



RIET STEINMETZ (Costume Mistress): Outside of other stage production-related roles such as producer, prop person, set dresser, etc., Riet has enjoyed helping out with costumes for many years, which at times can be as entertaining as the show itself. She is looking forward to another fun, creative season with lots of camaraderie and laughs.

And she hopes that many theater friends in the audience decide to join the fun and get involved in volunteering in one way or another. Just talk to a member or call the theater. Applause, applause!

CREW



MARIANNE BENVENUTI (Sound Tech): So why would an actor volunteer to be in the light/sound booth? Simple. Marianne wanted to pay it forward to those who made her look and sound good when she was on stage. The Odd Couple is the 52nd production that Marianne has been involved in since 1996 – mostly on stage, but this is the 10th time as Sound Tech. Though officially retired, in addition to volunteering at MCT, Marianne keeps busy working part-time, making jewelry, taking walks with her husband Larry in Crane Point Hammock, caring for tortoises Rocco and Charlie and being “Mom” to (kitty) Summer. She thanks her husband Larry for his love and support and Linda for trusting her dream.



ALEX RICKERT (Light Design): While dolphin training brought him to the Florida Keys, he made the perfectly normal career switch to become the editor of the Marathon Weekly in September 2021. He enjoys punishing himself with ungodly long road races, heated disagreements with sharks, convincing himself he’s a mechanic, and a good old Pokémon card collection.



ANA PAULA CLAUDIO (Light Tech): Ana has some theater experience from previous amateur plays in Brazil. She played Adela in a Garcia Lorca play The House of Bernarda Alba and also a fortune teller at Moliere’s play The Forced Marriage. This is her first show at MCT.

ODD COUPLE TRIVIA AND FUN FACTS!

#1- What does it mean when Cecily says “We have tons of Horn and Hardarts?”

#2- What is “Schrafft’s” that is referred to in the play?

#3- On what date did The Odd Couple premiere on Broadway?

#4- Which two actors starred in the original Broadway production as Oscar Madison and Felix Unger?

#5- How many performances (including previews) did the original Broadway run log before closing?

#6- In the 2005 Broadway revival, which two high-profile actors played Oscar and Felix?

#7- One of the character’s names (the English “Pigeon” sisters) in the story was inspired by names from a classic play by which author?

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ANSWERS:

#1- Prepared food! In their hey-day, Horn & Hardart automats were popular, busy eateries. They featured prepared foods displayed behind small coin- and token-operated glass-doored windows, beginning with buns, beans, fish cakes, and coffee. In the 1950s one could enjoy a large, somewhat plain, meal for under \$1.00.

#2- Schrafft's was founded as a candy company by William F. Schrafft in Boston, in 1861. The company expanded into the restaurant business, and by 1915, they had nine stores in Manhattan, one in Brooklyn, and one in Syracuse, NY, as well as the facility in Boston. Schrafft's sponsored the 1959 CBS telecast of *The Wizard of Oz*.

In 1968, in an attempt to broaden their customer base, Schrafft's commissioned a 60-second television commercial from pop artist Andy Warhol.

In 1981, Gulf and Western announced it would shut down its Schrafft Candy subsidiary after it had continued to be unprofitable. In 1984, it was announced that Schrafft's last candy factory would be closed. The former candy factory was renovated and turned into a commercial office space. Located at 529 Main Street, Charlestown, Massachusetts, it is known as The Schrafft Center.

#3- March 10, 1965

#4- Walter Matthau as Oscar and Art Carney as Felix

#5- 964 performances (plus two previews)

#6- Nathan Lane (Oscar) and Matthew Broderick (Felix)

#7- The names Cecily and Gwendolyn are taken from *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.

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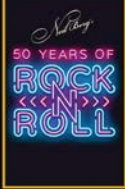
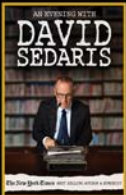
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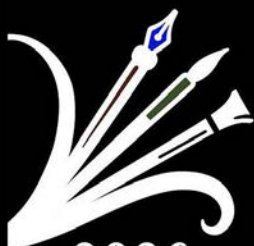
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CONTACT

- BOX OFFICE 305.743.0994
- info@marathontheater.org
- 5101 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050
- www.marathontheater.org

PLEASE DONATE TODAY



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Marathon Community Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that is operated by a fully volunteer Board of Directors with a small paid staff.

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