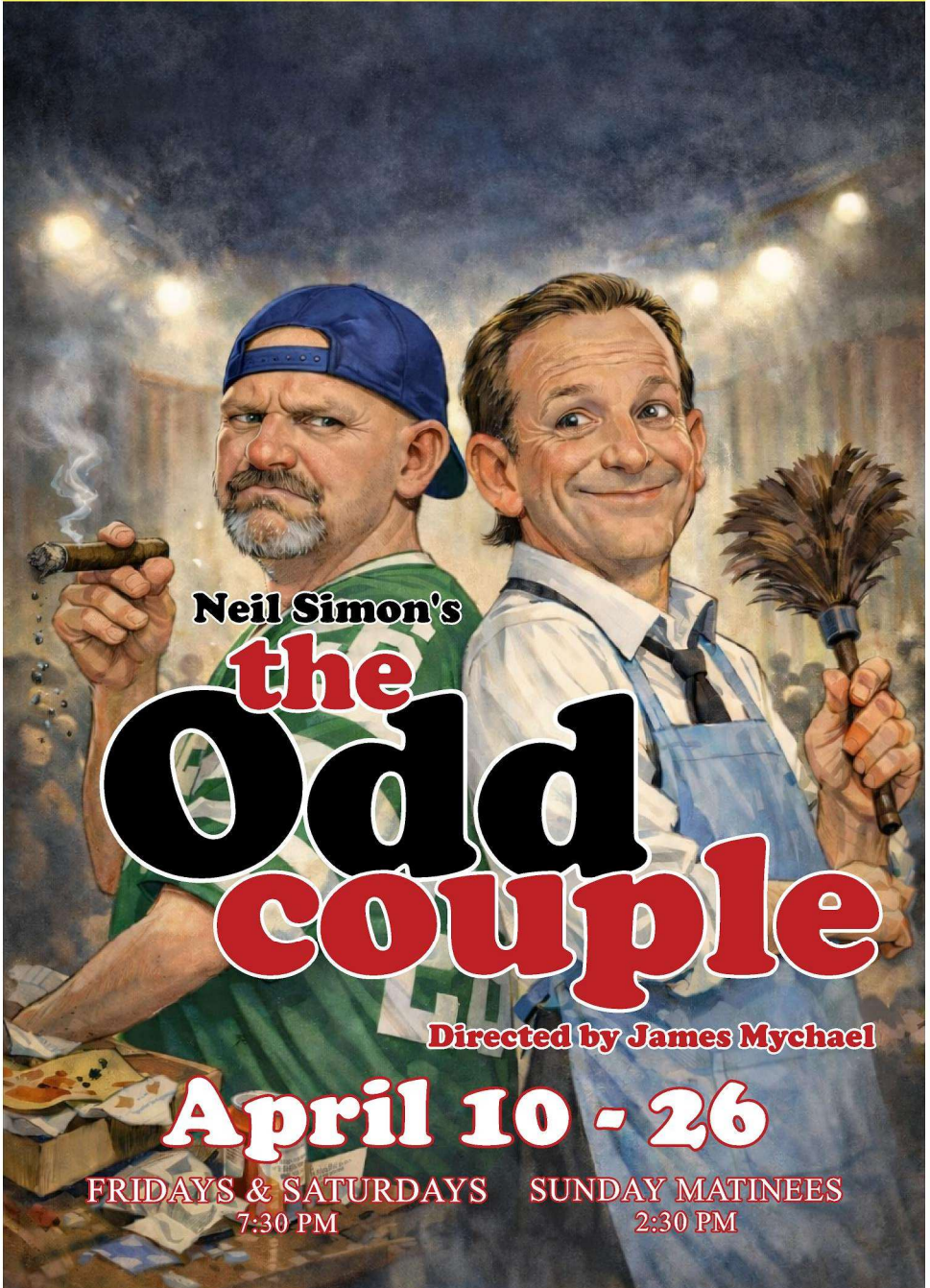


# CURTAIN CALL

MESQUITE ARTS THEATRE



Neil Simon's

# the **Odd couple**

Directed by James Mychael

**April 10 - 26**

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

7:30 PM

SUNDAY MATINEES

2:30 PM

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### James Mychael - Director



Directing *The Odd Couple* has been a joyful exploration of friendship, conflict, and the humor found in our differences. While Neil Simon's comedy is famous for its sharp wit and unforgettable characters, at its heart is a very human story about connection, compromise, and learning how to live with one another—messy habits and all.

Oscar Madison and Felix Ungar may be polar opposites, but their relationship feels instantly familiar. We've all shared space with someone who challenges our patience while still holding a special place in our lives. In this production, my goal was to honor the fast-paced comedy audiences love while grounding the story in truth and warmth.

This talented cast has embraced both the laughs and the heart of the play, bringing these characters vividly to life. I hope you leave laughing—and perhaps recognizing a little of yourself along the way.

**James Mychael** is a director, actor, and producer who enjoys working on character driven theatre. He has directed and starred in *Misery* and *Frankenstein*, and his acting credits also include *Wait Until Dark* and *The Elephant Man*. Earlier in his career, his performance as Felix Ungar in *The Odd Couple* earned him his first Best Acting Award. James values collaboration and thoughtful storytelling, whether working onstage or behind the scenes. He dedicates this show to his beloved Daisy, who awaits his belly rubs in Heaven. 🐾

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## The Bravo Bucket

The actors for tonight's performance are volunteers. They have donated their time, talent and resources to create a quality production out of their love to entertain. If you've enjoyed the performance, please feel free to show your appreciation with a contribution to the Bravo Bucket after the show. These donations are split among the cast at the close of all performances. Thank you!

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**THANK YOU FOR COMING. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU  
AT A FUTURE PRODUCTION AGAIN SOON!**

# THE ODD COUPLE

*by Neil Simon*

*(There will be two 10 minute Intermissions)*

## THE CAST

Oscar Madison ..... Phil Elin  
Felix Ungar ..... Doug Kent  
Gwendolyn Pigeon ..... Victoria Sawyer-Wells  
Cecily Pigeon ..... Jinger Jones  
Murray ..... Jonathan Nuttall  
Roy ..... Preston Wells  
Speed ..... Bobby Folsom III  
Vinnie ..... Tyler Lewis

## THE CREW

Director ..... James Mychael  
Assistant Director ..... Stephanie Lewis  
Stage Manager ..... James Mychael  
Producer ..... Stephanie Lewis  
Set Design ..... James Mychael  
Costumer/Props ..... Stephanie Lewis/ Amy Haberman  
Lights/Sound ..... Morgan Cox  
Graphic Design ..... James Mychael

## ABOUT THE CAST

**PHIL ELINS (Oscar Madison)** After 25 years in New York City, where I retired from service as a NYC Sanitation worker and police officer, I've returned home to Texas and to the theatre—a passion that feels like it belongs to both my past and my future. A former actor and director who studied at Collin College and University of North Texas, I am now in my second year teaching Technical Theatre at West Mesquite High School and am incredibly excited to be part of this production. With deep gratitude, I thank my son Peyton and my daughter Mackenzie for their constant love and support, and I dedicate this performance to the memory of my dad, Marty, my number one fan. Thank you all for supporting Theatre.

**Douglas Kent (Felix Ungar)** is excited to return to the Mesquite Arts Theatre stage, where he began his acting journey playing T.J. in ***Beer for Breakfast***. Most recently you may have seen him as Buster in ***Misery*** (Mesquite) and Max in ***Dial M for Murder*** (Rockwall). He'd like to thank Jenny for her unwavering support and love, and Neil Simon for being a comic genius. And everyone in this production for putting up with him. Please eat over your napkins – to catch any crumbs – and enjoy the show!

**VICTORIA SAWYER-WELLS (Gwendolyn Pigeon)** is so excited and thankful to be back on stage, stretching her acting wings as Gwendolyn Pigeon. This will be her fourth show at the MAT with previous works including the world premiere of ***The Fortune Cookie, Leading Ladies*** and the world premiere of ***Death By Design***. When Victoria isn't in a coma or relearning to be 'human' again, she can be found doing hair in Rockwall, starting an obscene amount of home DIY projects, or chasing after her son (fast lil fella) with her husband Preston. 'Blasney, Blasney!'

## ABOUT THE CAST

**JINGER JONES (Cecily Pigeon)** is stoked to be back at the MAT! Recent roles include Charlotte Gingrich in MAT's premier of *The Fortune Cookie*, and Jay in *Confessional: A Play About a Bathroom* (Outcry Theatre). She also loves to participate in the local musical theatre showcase, Broadway on a Tuesday. Jinger is indebted to her family, closest friends, and her incredible fiancé, Dylan, for their unwavering support.

**JONATHAN NUTTALL (Murray)** is thrilled to return to the stage as Murray in *The Odd Couple*, proving that it's never too late for a second act. A veteran of high school drama (where his career peaked in the pre-smartphone era), he is delighted to dust off his acting chops and trade in everyday responsibilities for weekly poker nights with the guys. Jonathan would like to thank the wonderful community at Mesquite Arts Theatre for the warm welcome back to the stage and for reminding him how much he loves the smell of stage lights and last-minute line memorization, and thank his wife and children for the support and encouragement to perform on stage. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he's enjoying being back where he belongs, on-stage and in character.

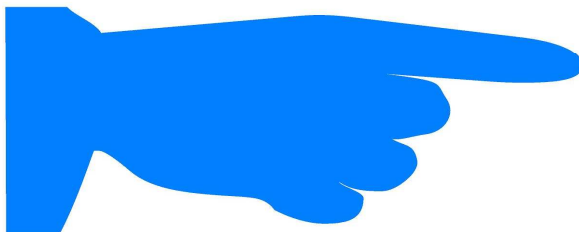
**PRESTON WELLS (Roy)** Preston is pleased to grace the stage once again at the MAT. He was previously seen in *Wait Until Dark*. Preston graduated from the University of North Texas with a BA in Theatre in 2012. He manages Lakeside Florist in Rockwall. Preston is very thankful to God for giving him this opportunity to make people laugh, as well as to share the stage with such wonderful and talented people. He is excited to get back to acting again after taking a long hiatus, and hopes you enjoy this hilarious show.

## ABOUT THE CAST

**BOBBY FOLSOM III (Speed)** is very excited to be a part of ***The Odd Couple*** Cast. Originally from Vicksburg, Mississippi he earned a Bachelor of Science from Abilene Christian, with some Graduate School from Mississippi State. He is currently the IT Manager for the City of Mesquite. This is Bobby's 2nd show with the MAT, his first being ***A Christmas Carol*** as The Ghost of Christmas Present. Bobby has been married to his beautiful wife, Pam, for 28 years and has 4 beautiful children, (Beau, Tyler, Ethan, Bella). Thanks to family and friends for all the love & support!

**JASON TYLER LEWIS (Vinnie)** is thrilled to be performing at Mesquite Arts Theatre! Jason has previously appeared in productions such as ***Grease*** and ***The Fortune Cookie***, where he bravely committed to jazz hands, dramatic pauses, and at least one questionable costume choice. When he's not on stage, Jason can be found perfecting his "casually dramatic" stare and pretending he doesn't practice his lines in the mirror (he absolutely does). He would like to thank his friends, family, and whoever invented stage lights for making him look slightly more talented than he actually is. Enjoy the show!

**look over here!**





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the most immediate way in which a human being  
can share with another the sense of what it is to be a  
human being"*

*~ Oscar Wilde*

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**Located in the beautiful Mesquite Arts Center, the Mesquite Arts Theatre has strived to provide live theatrical entertainment to the Eastern Dallas County region that is a cut above the traditional community theatre offerings for 40 years!**

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Would you consider becoming a member of the MAT to keep theatre alive in Mesquite?**

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What plays would you like to see the MAT perform in the future?

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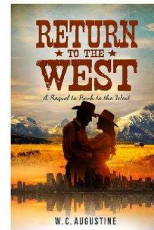
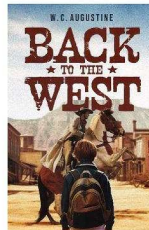
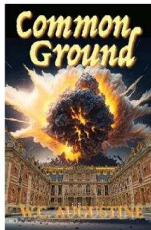
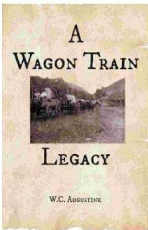
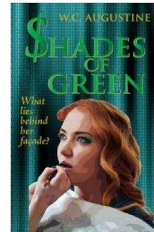
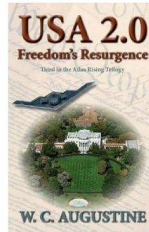
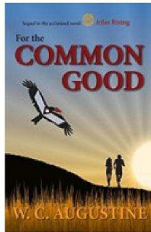
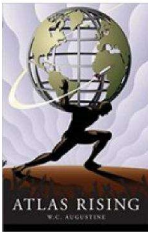
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