



WEST ALLIS PLAYERS PRESENTS

Oct 4, 5, 11, 12, 2024

**neil simon's**

7:30 pm

Oct 6, 13, 2024

2:00 pm

# THE ODD COUPLE




**DIRECTED BY  
RALPH FRATTURA**

Liberace Auditorium  
5048 W. Greenfield Ave.  
West Milwaukee



## ***Director's Notes***



Personality clashes. Friendship. Compromise. Patience.

We see these traits every day in our family, friends and neighbors. And that's what makes those universal themes in *The Odd Couple* so relatable and funny. Neil Simon knew how to mine human emotions, quirks and personality traits to create this American classic. That's why it found success as a stage play, a movie and even a TV series.

I hope you enjoy this production as much as I delighted in directing this talented cast and crew.

"In bocca al lupo."

Ralph Frattura  
Director

## ***From the Board President***



Welcome to The West Allis Players! We're thrilled to have you join us for this performance of *The Odd Couple*, which kicks off our 55th season. Our dedicated team of actors and volunteers work tirelessly to bring these productions to life, and your support is crucial in making it all possible.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of patrons like you to continue providing high-quality performances and fostering local talent. Please consider making a donation to help sustain West Allis' only community theater group. Your contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference.

We invite anyone interested in any phase of theater to join us on stage, behind the scenes or in the audience. The Park and Rec School theater programs do not end with a high school graduation.

Thank you for being part of our theater family and enjoy the show!

-Mary Beth Topf

## ***Cast***



Felix Ungar

Oscar Madison

Murray

Speed

Vinnie

Roy

Cecily Pigeon

Gwendolyn Pigeon

Jim Santelle

Lance Odom

Andrew Wetzel

Scott Kopischke

Todd Herdt

Tom Jozwik

Molly Dewane

Maureen Lavin

## ***Show Overview***



All action takes place in the 12th floor apartment of Oscar Madison's apartment in upper east side of Manhattan in 1965.

### **Act 1**

A hot summer evening

**Intermission:** 15 Minutes

### **Act II**

Scene 1: Two weeks later; 11:00 PM

Scene 2: A few days later, approximately 8:00 PM



**Jim Santelle** (*Felix Ungar*) In this his first show with The West Allis Players, Jim revels in the on-stage opportunities to dispense helpful household tips on cleanliness and order. (“Try to eat over the dish. I just vacuumed the rug.”) Among his previous non-tidy but favorite performances are Brendan Flynn in “Doubt,” Flanders Kittridge in “Six Degrees of Separation,” George in “The Language Archive,” Horace Gilmer in “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Mel in “Come Back,” Mitch in “Streetcar Named Desire,” Steve Heidebrecht in “August: Osage County,” Butch in “Next Fall,” Sherlock Holmes in “The Final Adventure,” Rob Brewster in “Playing Doctor,” John Milton in “The Narrow Gate,” and Martin Gray in “The Goat or Who is Sylvia?”

Jim conveys his profound theatrical appreciation to Ralph, Mary Beth, Sarah, Lance, Andrew, Todd, Tom, Molly, Maureen, both Scotts, and all of artistic leadership and creative professionals of the Players management. In ways big and small, seen and unseen, they inhabit and portray the best in narrative storytelling, reaffirming with every move: “You know what glasses do? Ruins the finish. Eats right through the polish!”

**Lance Odom** (*Oscar Madison*) whose love for the stage is more than just a passion—it’s a lifeline. From the moment he first stepped onto the boards, the world of theater has been his sanctuary, a place where he found purpose and connection. Lance attributes his dedication to the stage with saving his life, providing a creative outlet and a supportive community that has seen him through the best and worst of times. Now celebrating his 60th show, Lance continues to bring his boundless energy and heartfelt performances to each role. This production marks his 3rd collaboration with the West Allis Players. Playing Oscar in this iconic show is both an honor and a privilege, highlighting the transformative power of the arts and his unwavering commitment to the craft.





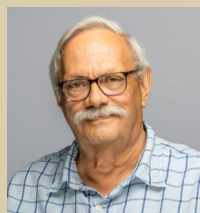
**Andrew Wetzel** (*Murray*) To my Darling Mimi, whose encouragement has returned me to the stage after almost 20 years. Also, thanks to fellow White Men with No Rhythm alumni for giving me the chance to be here. It's been loads of fun and I hope not to wait another 20 years.

**Scott Kopischke** (*Speed*) Scott has spent the past fifty years drifting through community theaters throughout southeastern Wisconsin, from Mukwonago Players to Falls Patio Players to Elm Grove's Sunset Playhouse, and finally here to West Allis. Scott's favorite rolls include Elwood P. Dowd (*Harvey*), Rick Steadman (*The Nerd*) and Lloyd (*Guys On Ice*). When he's not acting, Scott is a prolific playwright, with over twenty titles and more on the way. Scott enjoys acting and writing, and wants to keep doing them both for as long as he can.



**Todd Herdt** (*Vinnie*) is pleased to be returning to the West Allis Players with such a talented cast and crew. Past favorite roles include Joe Farkis (*The Last Night of Ballyhoo*), Naphtali (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*) and Beadseller #2 (*Murder on the Nile*). He hopes you enjoy the show!

**Tom Jozwik** (*Roy*) Sister Bertha, who mercilessly berated him for failing to understand borrowing in third grade math, is rolling in her grave knowing Tom has become an accountant—if only for the run of “*The Odd Couple*.” Tom had more success with English, which he taught for some 30 years at MATC. His favorite stage roles include Elwood P. Dowd in “*Harvey*,” Old Man Potter in “*It's a Wonderful Life*,” Teddy Brewster in “*Arsenic and Old Lace*” and Mel Edison in “*The Prisoner of Second Avenue*” (another Neil Simon comedy). Tom and wife Marilyn have two adult children and live in Wauwatosa.





**Molly Dewane** (*Cecily Pigeon, Costume Design*) This is Molly's third appearance with West Allis Players although she has acted with many other theaters in the Milwaukee area and southern California. Favorite roles include Melissa in "Love Letters"; Emily Dickinson in "Belle of Amherst"; Queen in

"Cymbeline" and Marian in "The Music Man." Favorite costume design projects include "Salome", "The Music Man", "As You Like It", and "Dear Charlotte." Fun fact: She did the costume design for both versions of *The Odd Couple* while living in southern California.

**Maureen P. Lavin** (*Gwendolyn Pigeon*) As one of Mona's "ladies" in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Maureen helped "raise chickens." She scared the bejeepers out of you as Charwoman in *A Christmas Carol* and as the Doctor in *Murder's Bad, But Monday Can Kill You*. As Betsy, in *The Visitation*, she had her pipes cleaned,



and then the plumber somehow wound up dead. As the aerobics instructor in *Death by Chocolate*, she helped "pump you up," while keeping you away from the chocolate. As Verna, in *Old Ringers*, she switched from Marilyn Monroe to Ethel Merman to a "pole dancer." As Annelle, in *Steel Magnolias*, she had a rather...um..."late term" pregnancy. As Carol, in *Is Murder Tax Deductible?*, she nearly bled her ex-husband dry. Maureen is grateful for the opportunity to be a Pigeon Sister in this production of *The Odd Couple* and sends many thanks to the Director, the Stage Manager, her fellow cast, the crew, and to the volunteers.

## *Production Team*

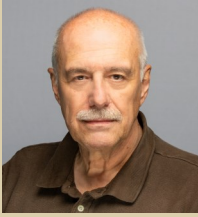


|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Director                        | Ralph Frattura    |
| Stage Manager                   | Mary Beth Topf    |
| Production Coordinator          | Ray Nazer         |
| Scenic Designer                 | Scott Fudali      |
| Master Carpenter                | Scott Fudali      |
| Lighting Designer               | Lance Odom        |
| Sound Designer                  | Scott Fudali      |
| Props Designer                  | Sarah Moglia      |
| Costume Designer                | Molly Dewane      |
| Set Construction/<br>Decoration | Cast and crew     |
| Lighting Technician             | Pat Kaiser        |
| Sound Technician                | Pat Kaiser        |
| Run Crew                        | Bill Kaiser       |
| Social Media                    | Jon Goltz         |
| Graphic Design                  | Kimberly Fudali   |
| Box Office Manager              | Michael Jablonski |

*We regret any omission due to printing deadlines.*

*The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.*

## Meet the Crew



**Ralph Frattura** (*Director*) Ralph's been treading the boards for more than 40 years. Favorite shows include "Over The River and Through the Woods", "Plaza Suite", "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure", "12 Angry Men", "The Nerd" and "The Odd Couple (Female Version)". He's directed dozens of live TV and recorded video projects. Last year he directed "Boeing Boeing" at SummerStage of Delafield.

**Mary Beth Topf** (*Stage Manager*) has directed a number of productions around the Milwaukee area, most notably with Falls Patio Players, West Allis Players and Memories Ballroom in Port Washington. Mary Beth has a Bachelors degree in Speech/Drama, a Masters degree in Theatre Arts and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Directing. Originally from Iowa, Mary Beth interned at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in Milwaukee and has directed several successful productions in the area. Some of her favorites include: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised], Farce of Nature, Rumors and Always a Bridesmaid. She is now enjoying retirement after 42 years of working as a registered nurse.



**Scott Fudali** (*Scenic & Sound Designer*) Scott Fudali has been working on the technical side of theater for over 15 years designing lights, sound, and sets for different organizations including SummerStage of Delafield, Carroll University, Waukesha Civic Theatre and The West Allis Players. Some of his favorite designs have included 33 Variations, Music Man and 42nd Street at WCT; Rumors and Jesus Christ Superstar with the West Allis Players; and Boeing Boeing at SummerStage of Delafield. He hopes you enjoy the show and would like to thank his wife and parents for their continued support in all his theatre endeavors.





**Sarah Moglia** (*Props*) has returned to Wisconsin and the theater after 15 years away from both. When she isn't collecting and creating props, Sarah enjoys playing volleyball, reading and writing, spinning yarn, and experiencing the full spectrum of human emotions caused by listening to *The Mountain Goats*. She thanks her

family as well as her two cats (Gandalf and Doug) and rabbit (Alejandro) for their support. You can find her on Instagram as @Phaesphoria.

**Pat Breed Kaiser** (*Lighting and Sound Technician*) is happy to once again be working with the West Allis Players after running the lights and sound for WAP's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Revised)" in April 2023 and for "The Nerd" in October 2023. She always enjoys working on a show when she gets a chance to work with her husband Bill who is on the running crew.



**Bill Kaiser** (*Run Crew*) started acting at the age of 12 when his first role was "Nels" in West Allis Players production of "I Remember Mama" and he has been performing and directing in the Milwaukee area ever since. Bill was last seen in WAP's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Revised)" in April 2023

and "The Nerd" as Warnock Waldgrave in October 2023. He is happy to once again be working on another show with his wife Pat who is running the lights and sound.

### ***West Allis Players Angels***

Katie Bivens

Steve & Katherine Beeson

Please consider becoming an Angel of the West Allis Players with your tax-deductible gift to our non-profit organization. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## ***Board of Directors***



|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| President          | Mary Beth Topf    |
| Vice President     | Katherine Beeson  |
| Secretary          | Michael Jablonski |
| Treasurer          | Mary Beth Topf    |
| Members at Large   | Dorie Templin     |
|                    | Scott Fudali      |
| President Emeritus | Ray Nazer         |

## ***Special Thanks***

Carroll University Theatre  
Carroll University Reser-  
vation and Events

Village Playhouse  
West Milwaukee Intermediate  
custodial staff

## ***The West Allis Players***

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Website     | <a href="http://www.westallisplayers.org">www.westallisplayers.org</a>   |
| Information | <a href="mailto:info@westallisplayers.org">info@westallisplayers.org</a> |
| Address     | 2450 South 68th Street<br>West Allis, WI 53219                           |
| Phone       | 414.604.4900   |

*Next Up for The West Allis Players*

WEST ALLIS PLAYERS PRESENTS

A Fox on the  
Spring 2025

By  
Ken Ludwig

Fairway

Liberace Auditorium  
5048 W. Greenfield Ave.  
West Milwaukee



*Check our website for audition information,  
show location, and all the details*

neil simon's



**THE  
ODD  
COUPLE**



**OCTOBER  
2024**

**Join  
us for  
our**

**exciting  
55th  
season!**

**A Fox on the  
Fairway**  
By  
Ken Ludwig

**Spring 2025**

**SHAWSHANK  
REDEMPTION**



**SUMMER 2025**

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## *Other Local Theater*



If you love theater, why not show your support by checking out one of these other upcoming local community theater mainstage shows?

### *Mars Lost*

Waukesha Civic Theatre  
October 4 thru October 13  
[www.waukeshacivictheatre.org](http://www.waukeshacivictheatre.org)

### *The Revlon Girl*

The Haylofters Community Theatre  
October 11 thru October 20  
[www.thehaylofters.com](http://www.thehaylofters.com)

### *9 to 5 the Musical*

Sunset Playhouse  
October 17 thru November 3  
[www.sunsetplayhouse.com](http://www.sunsetplayhouse.com)

### *Annie Jr.*

Lake Country Playhouse  
October 17 thru October 27  
[www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org](http://www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org)

### *Anything Goes*

Carroll University  
November 22 thru November 23  
[www.carrollu.edu](http://www.carrollu.edu)

***This Page?  
Yup...  
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***Well, except  
for this text of course.***

***Use it to collect actors  
signatures in the lobby  
after the show maybe?***

***Or do a doodle during  
intermission.***