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**Neil Simon's**

**The Odd Couple**



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Welcome to our 3rd production of our mainstage season – *The Odd Couple*. This story has been a part of the American pop culture for nearly 4 decades since it first opened on Broadway in 1965. Since the play, there was the successful film adaptation with Walter Matthau (the original Oscar from the Broadway production) and Jack Lemmon and the television starring Jack Klugman and Tony Randall that ran for 5 seasons. Since then, there have been multiple Broadway revivals and even a version casting woman in the two lead roles. Most recently the story was revived for another television version starring Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon which ran for 3 seasons.

So, what is it about this story and these characters that keeps us wanting to revisit them over and over? Well, first it's the brilliant writing of Neil Simon and creation of these characters well rounded and believable characters. The story brings out the best and the worst of humanity and while it has been written in the mid 1960's at its essence of the relationships who couldn't be more different but are familiar and relatable – even with all their flaws!

So, sit back and enjoy a laugh or two and don't forget to get your tickets now for our last show of the season, *Gypsy: A Musical Fable* opening in June!

Enjoy!



Jeffrey Cass, Artistic Director



**If you would like to play a leading role in Naperville's cultural community, then we want YOU on our board!**

### BrightSide Theatre

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about BrightSide Theatre's work and are willing to dedicate their energy and resources to our organization.

For more information on joining BrightSide Theatre's board, please contact Board President,

**Melanie Greenberg** 630.447.8497 or [info@BrightSidetheatre.com](mailto:info@BrightSidetheatre.com)

**BrightSideTheatre.com**

# The Odd Couple



by

**NEIL SIMON**

with

**Jon Cunningham    Dennis Schnell**  
**Mike Mitchell    Dylan Baxter    John Zimmerman    Victor Polites**  
**Gina Phillips    Mary McGough**

Set Design  
**ERIC LUCHEN**

Costume Design  
**SHANA HALL**

Lighting Design  
**SAMUEL STEPHEN**

Properties Design  
**PEGGY JENSEN**

Sound Design  
**JEFFREY CASS**

Production Stage Manager  
**BRIDGET KEARBEY**

Directed by  
**JASON HARRINGTON**

This production is sponsored in part by



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The Odd Couple® is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# CAST

*(In Order of Appearance)*

Speed.....	<b>DYLAN BAXTER</b>
Murray.....	<b>MIKE MITCHELL</b>
Roy .....	<b>VICTOR POLITES</b>
Vinnie.....	<b>JOHN ZIMMERMAN</b>
Oscar Madison.....	<b>DENNIS SCHNELL</b>
Felix Unger.....	<b>JON CUNNINGHAM</b>
Gwendolyn Pigeon.....	<b>GINA PHILLIPS</b>
Cecily Pigeon.....	<b>MARY MCGOUGH</b>

## SETTING

An apartment on Riverside Drive, New York City

### TIME

#### ACT 1

Scene 1: A hot summer night

Scene 2: Two weeks later. About 11 p.m.

#### ACT 2

Scene 1: A few days later. About 8 p.m.

Scene 2: The next evening. About 7:30 p.m.

*THERE WILL BE ONE TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION*

## Production Staff

Director.....	<b>JASON HARRINGTON</b>
Scenic Designer.....	<b>ERIC LUCHEN</b>
Lighting Designer.....	<b>SAMUEL STEPHEN</b>
Costume Designer.....	<b>SHANA HALL</b>
Properties Designer.....	<b>PEGGY JENSEN</b>
Sound Design.....	<b>JEFFREY CASS</b>
Set Construction.....	<b>JEFF SAND</b>
Production Stage Manager.....	<b>BRIDGET KEARBEBY</b>

# BRIGHTSIDE THEATRE

**JULIE ANN KORNAK**  
Executive Director

**JEFFREY CASS**  
Artistic Director

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The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash is strictly prohibited.

# PRODUCTION HISTORY

2011-2012 The Inaugural Season	2012-2013 Modern Masterpieces	2013-2014 Love, Life & Laughter
Run For Your Wife	Company	Moonlight and Magnolias
The Dinner Party	God of Carnage	Bleacher Burns
My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra	Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.	Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.
	Rent	Cabaret
2014-2015 Friends & Family	2015-2016 Season of Farce	2016-2017 Classic Broadway
It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play	Noises Off	Disney's Beauty & the Beast
Rumors	Not Now, Darling	Moon Over Buffalo
Disney's Aladdin Jr.	Legally Blonde Jr	Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr.
The Sound of Music	Spamalot	Guys & Dolls
2017-2018 Cinema to Stage	2018-2019 Dreamers & Schemers	2019-2020 Guilty Pleasures
Bridges of Madison County	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	A Christmas Carol, The Musical
The 39 Steps	Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike	Nine, The Musical
High School Musical Jr	Fame Jr.	Steel Magnolias
Hairspray	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels	Disney's Frozen Jr.
2020-2021 Summer in the Parks	2021-2022 BrightSide is Back!	2022-2023 Season #1-10 Again!
The Music of Rodgers & Hammerstein	Miracle on 34 Street - A Live Musical Radio Play	She Loves Me
	Promises, Promises	City of Angels
	Don't Dress for Dinner	The Odd Couple
	Disney's Descendants The Musical	Sister Act Jr.
	Mamma Mia!	Gypsy
	Summer in the Parks: Celebrating the Golden Age of Broadway	

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**BrightSideTheatre.com**

# THE CAST



JON CUNNINGHAM



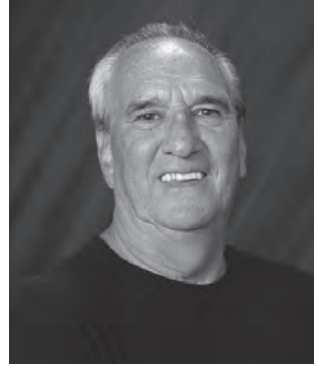
DENNIS SCHNELL



MIKE MITCHELL



DYLAN BAXTER



JOHN ZIMMERMAN



VICTOR POLITES



GINA PHILLIPS



MARY MCGOUGH

**BrightSideTheatre.com**



## PROFILES

**JON CUNNINGHAM** (*Felix Unger*) recently graced the BrightSide stage as Georg Nowack in *She Loves Me* and Stone in *City of Angels in Concert*. You may also remember him as Lawrence (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*) or Chuck Baxter (*Promises, Promises in Concert*) or one of the *Summer in the Parks Concerts*. With over 20 years of experience, Jon has performed at Drury Lane, Marriott Lincolnshire, Theatre at the Center, Big Noise, and Apple Tree. Favorite roles include Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Jesus (*JCS*), John (*John and Jen*) and Charlie (*Merrily We Roll Along*).

**DENNIS SCHNELL** (*Oscar Madison*) is excited to be back at BrightSide after playing Sam in *Mamma Mia!* last summer. Past BST productions include *Promises, Promises in Concert* (Sheldrake), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Freddy), *Guys & Dolls* (Nathan), *Noises Off* (Lloyd), and *Rumors* (Ken). Favorite roles include Brian in *Avenue Q* and Colonel in *Something's Afoot* (MadKap/Skokie), Jake in *Jake's Women* and Barney in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Oil Lamp). Thanks to BrightSide & his incredibly supportive wife, Christyn.  
[www.dennis-schnell.com](http://www.dennis-schnell.com)

**MIKE MITCHELL** (*Murray*) is a 28-year veteran high school teacher of English and drama who has directed over 70 plays and musicals. On stage, he appeared as Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, Pish-Tush in *The Mikado*, and recently at The Bit Comedy Club in Aurora. Married for 27 years, this father of three daughters enjoys playing guitar, walking his dogs, reading Shakespeare, and grilling for family and friends.

**DYLAN BAXTER** (*Speed*) is a Chicago based actor and happy to be making his BrightSide Theatre debut. He recently appeared in the cast of *The Winter's Tale* at Oak Park Festival Theatre in the comedic role of the Shepherdess' son. Dylan completed the three-year conservatory program at Stella Adler Studio of Acting in NYC and returned to the Midwest last year where he lives with his wife, Emma, and their dog, Charlie.

**JOHN ZIMMERMAN** (*Vinnie*) has retired from two careers – special education teacher and newspaper writer. He now spends his free time writing plays, some of which have been produced by theaters across the country, including Chicago. John, who lives in Carol Stream, has also acted in several plays in Chicago and the suburbs. He is returning to the stage after a 10-year hiatus, and thanks BrightSide Theatre for casting him as Vinnie.

**VICTOR POLITES** (*Roy*) has been appearing on stage in Chicago and Western Michigan for almost 20 years and is thrilled to be working with BrightSide again. Recent productions include *Hauptmann* (Wheaton Drama), *Holmes and Watson* (Buffalo Theatre), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Oil Lamp Theatre), *And Then There Were None*, *Lend Me A Tenor* (North Riverside), *Bleacher Bums* (BrightSide), *Romeo & Juliet - 10 Years Later* (Bravo Theatre), and *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel* (Holland Community).

**GINA PHILLIPS** (*Gwendolyn Pigeon*) returns to the BrightSide stage for the third time after playing her most beloved role to date, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, and was also in *Not Now Darling*. She has also appeared at Oil Lamp Theater, Factory Theater, Pride Arts Center, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, and most recently at Theater Wit in *Creating Arthur* and BrightSide Theatre's *The Odd Couple*. An alum of DePaul/Goodman School of Drama, Gina currently trains at The Players Workshop at Apollo Theater.

**MARY MCGOUGH** (*Cecily Pigeon*) is delighted to be making her Chicagoland debut at BrightSide Theatre. She is a recent graduate of the Dobbins Conservatory at SEMO with her B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Favorite credits include Kylar in *Bring It On!* (HCAM Summer Festival), Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (Dobbins Conservatory), and Mary in the world premiere of *Unlimited: The Music and Lyrics of Stephen Schwartz* (Dobbins Conservatory). She thanks her family and friends for their support.



**NEIL SIMON** (Playwright) has been represented on Broadway by *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 Good Doctor*; *God's Favorite*; *California Suite*; *Chapter Two*; *They're Playing Our Song*; *I Out to Be in Pictures*; *Fools*; *Brighton Beach Memoirs*; *Biloxi Blues* (1985 Tony Award); *Jake's Women*; *The Goodbye Girl*; *Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*; *Proposals*; *The Dinner Party*; and *45 Seconds from Broadway*. Off-Broadway: *London Suite*. Films include *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Out-of-Towners*, *Plaza Suite*, *The Heartbreak Kid*; *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Murder by Death*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *The Cheap Detective*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Only When I Laugh*, *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, *Max Dugan Returns*, *Briton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues* and *Lost in Yonkers*.

**JASON HARRINGTON** (*Director*) is thrilled to be directing his first show with BrightSide. He is a proud board member of Up and Coming Theatre where his directing credits include: *Sweet Charity*, Lippa's *The Wild Party*, *Hair*, *Footloose*, and *Heathers: the Musical* (Broadway World Award, best direction of a musical, non-equity). Other directing credits include productions with: The Second City, Glenview Theatre Guild, The Bailiwick, and the Library Theatre at Feltre. All his love goes to Erica and Wren.

**ERIC LUCHEN** (*Scenic Designer*) is thrilled to return to BrightSide where he last designed *Mamma Mia!*. He has designed all over the Chicagoland area and regionally, and in 2018 he received the Joseph Jefferson award for Best Scenic Design for *Foxfinder*, produced by Interrobang Theatre. Upcoming productions include: *It Runs In the Family*, *Airness* (Citadel Theatre), *Gypsy* (BrightSide), You can see more of his work at [www.ericluchen.com](http://www.ericluchen.com) or on Instagram @ericluchen.

**SAM STEPHEN** (*Lighting Designer*) is the lighting designer for BrightSide's Season 10 – Again! They have a B.A. degree in Live Entertainment Design and Technology from North Central College. They have recently designed *Cabaret* at Metropolis, *Little Shop of Horrors* at Citadel, *Dracula* at Glass Apple Theater and *Matilda* at Des Moines Playhouse. They are thrilled to be back at BrightSide after designing *Don't Dress for Dinner* and Disney's the *Descendants* in BrightSide's last season. More about their work can be found at [www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com](http://www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com)

**SHANA HALL** (*Costumer Designer*) is delighted to return to BrightSide! A Lou Award Best Costume Design winner for *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, Shana is thrilled to continue working with the wonderful BrightSide family, which she has been a part of since season one! When not designing for the stage, Shana keeps her creative hands busy making doll clothes for her Etsy shop SewShana. She would like to thank her friends & family for all their love & support!

**PEGGY JENSEN** (*Props Designer*) is happy to be back with BrightSide Theatre and working on *The Odd Couple*. She had a great time creating the "messy" world of Oscar and Felix. The last time Peggy help create this kind of mess was with BST's *Moonlight and Magnolias* almost 10 Years ago. Peggy is also very proud to have worked on almost all BrightSide Theatre Young Project productions including *Alice in Wonderland*, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.*, *Legally Blonde Jr.*, Disney's *High School Musical Jr.* and Disney's *Frozen Jr.* She would like to thank her Husband, Jeff, for his love and support and newest member of the family, her tiny dog, Maximus.

**BRIDGET KEARBERY** (*Stage Manager*) is a recent Aurora University graduate. Previous stage management credits include: Kane Repertory Theatre: *Twelfth Night*, Aurora University Mainstage: *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Fugitive Songs*, *New Sonnets for an Old Century*, and *Animal Farm*. Bridget would like to thank her friends and mentors for their continuous love and support.

**STACI HAUKE** (*Administrative Assistant*) recently relocated to her hometown of Naperville from Arizona with her husband, kids and pups. There, she was a Magazine and Newspaper writer and editor. She is also a published children's author. Staci plays the roles of theater mom to her daughter and band mom to her son, and loves a good thrift find. She is enjoying involvement in the community by freelancing for local publications and is thrilled to be working at BrightSide!



**JEFFREY CASS** (*Artistic Director/Director*) a Joseph Jefferson Award Nominee has successfully directed over 20 Productions for BrightSide Theatre, including *She Loves Me* and *City of Angels in Concert* this season along with the smash hit *Mamma Mia!*, Disney's the *Descendants* and *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*. He was seen on stage and played Edna in BST's production of *Hairspray*. He holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theater Performance from Roosevelt University. He previously served as the Producing Director for Circle Theatre where he directed 8 Productions including The Who's *Tommy* (6 Joseph Jefferson Nominations including Best Musical and Best Director).



**JULIE ANN KORNAK** (*Executive Director/Co Founder*) most recently portrayed Amalia in *She Loves Me* and Tanya in *Mamma Mia!* Other favorites are Claudia in BST's inaugural production of the Concert Series *NINE*, Francesca in *Bridges of Madison County* and Maleficent in the Disney's the *Descendants* alongside her daughter. She is Associate Music Director at Sts. Peter & Paul and sings in other area churches. Julie brings not only her love for the theatre but a background in Human Resources to BST. Many thanks to Adam and the kids and mom for their love and support!



**TIN PENAVIC** (*Co-Founder*) performed in BrightSide's productions of *Run for Your Wife*, *God of Carnage*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Bleacher Bums*, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Noises Off* and *The 39 Steps*. TV/ Film: *Mattress World*, *The Balancing Game*, *Moviestar\**, *The Mob Doctor* and *Conrad*. He co-wrote *The Cape* and *The Klan*, now published by LazyBee Scripts. Love to Mom, Leslie, Ivo, Adrien, Samantha and our father and grandfather John in heaven.

BrightSide as a non profit theatre, BrightSide Theatre relies on the generous support of patrons like you to further our mission of bringing high-quality, affordable entertainment to the western suburbs. We hope you will support us by making a charitable tax-deductible donation. Help us to continue challenging, entertaining, and inspiring both you and our community for years to come.

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