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Kent TN27 0J5

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Web : [www.swancharing.co.uk](http://www.swancharing.co.uk)

### Thai Restaurant and Steak Bar

Now in its sixteenth year, the Swan continues to evolve but still offers authentic Thai food in its bright and beautiful Thai Restaurant.

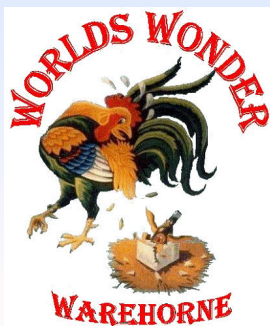
Specialising in steak but also offering fish and other European dishes, *Montana Mike's Steak Bar* offers a contrasting atmosphere with its quirky décor.

Daily 3 course Thai or European lunch menu at £13.95  
2 courses - £11.25 \*\*\*\* Main course only - £8.95

**Sunday Royal Thai Buffet - all you can eat for £17.50**  
Or mix and match with

Sunday lunch menu including roast -

3 course lunch (includes a coffee or tea) £17.50 (under 7's - £9.50)  
2 courses - £15.00 Main course only - £12.00 (under 7's - £6.95)



## WORLDS WONDER WAREHORNE

are proud to support this production of

### *The Odd Couple*

Of course Worlds Wonder productions are just as good. Our meals are honestly homemade from fresh, locally sourced, free range produce, directed to perfection, for you to come and enjoy.

Voted Best Gastro Pub in the Kent Restaurant Awards, we assure you of a performance demanding an encore.

Watch out for our famous *Homemade Pies* and *Sunday Lunch Roasts* - and our *Pudding Nights* with delicious desserts.

Come and savour our *Jazz Café Nights* with inclusive meal and live entertainment.

**Worlds Wonder - Where Meals are to Dine for**

### **10% Donation**

Bring this voucher with you and we will donate 10% of your meal spend to the Charing Guild of Players to help with future productions. Please check when making a booking as some conditions will apply.

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# Charing Guild of Players



# The Odd Couple by Neil Simon

by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Church Barn  
10-12 May 2012

£1

## CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS

Patron The Rev Richard King  
 Chairman Marian White  
 Deputy Chairman Carolyn Banham  
 Honorary Secretary Valerie Parsons  
 Honorary Treasurer John Easun  
 Committee Ian Avery, Anton Banham, Michael Cowdry  
 Ken DaSilva-Hill, Nick Hawley, Michael Headley  
 Jean Latter, Gladys Lopato, Gill Magson

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Kay Bagshaw  
 Bert Banham

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Mr N Hawley	Ms A Winograd
Mr M Headley	Mr M Woods
Ms A Howe	Mr C Woodward
Mr D Hutton	Ms K Wright

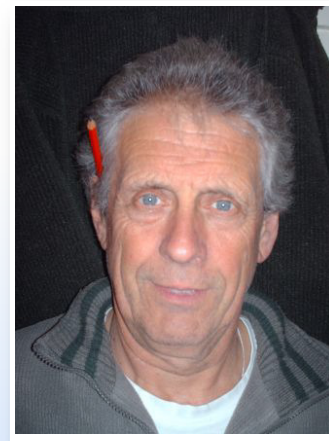
Our congratulations and best wishes go to **Kay Bagshaw** who celebrated her 100th birthday on 1 May.

Our website, [www.charingguild.com](http://www.charingguild.com), is packed with information about our shows, plus photos, news and a useful contacts and links page.

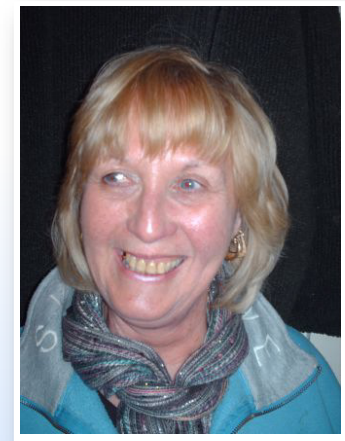
Our Webmaster is **Dave Hutton**.

### Friends

Mr H C Air  
 Mr & Mrs A W Archibold  
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 Mrs V Bowler  
 Mr & Mrs G J Cavell  
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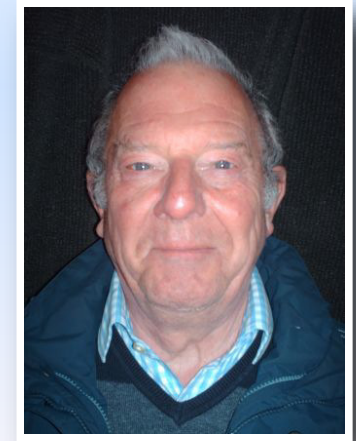
Allan Bone



Jean Latter



Brian White



Colin Burdick



Anne Winograd



Karen Wright

We are grateful to all our Members and Friends for their interest and involvement in the Guild.  
 We are always pleased to welcome new active Members and supportive Friends.

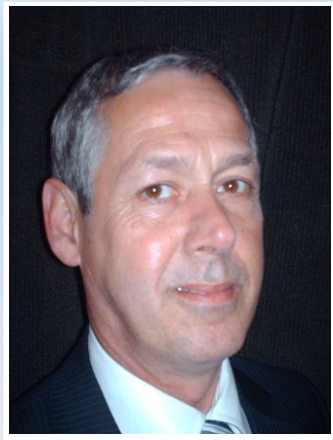
Please contact our Honorary Secretary **Valerie Parsons** for details.  
 Her address is 54A Queens Road, Ashford TN24 8HF. Tel: 01233 631559.



Nick Hawley



Rayner Missing



Mark Woods



Michael Headley



Ian Avery



John Roberts



Carolyn Banham



Heather Leslie

### ABOUT THE PLAY

Mismatch n./miss mach/ UNLIKELY OR ILL-SUITED PAIR a pairing or combination of people or things that are incompatible with or apparently ill-suited to each other.

And what an ill-suited pair Oscar and Felix turn out to be. Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple' tells the story of two men estranged from their wives who move in together to save money, and find that they have the same problems living with each other as they did with their wives. Oscar is a slovenly, carefree sportswriter who enjoys nothing more than a drink, a cigar and a weekly poker session with his friends. But his routine is thrown into disarray with the arrival of Felix: a fussy, dirt obsessed hypochondriac who can't function without a duster in his hand.

### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT'S EARLY YEARS

Neil Simon was born in the Bronx, in New York, in 1927. The Great Depression brought difficult times for the family and his father periodically disappeared leaving his mother to support him and his older brother Danny. The two boys developed a close relationship and began writing and selling material to stand-up comics and radio shows in their teens.

Between 1947 and 1956 Simon and his brother worked together writing comedy for Jackie Gleason and Phil Silvers. Simon continued writing comedy for four years after the partnership broke up and some of television's top shows of the time were showcases for his work.

After receiving several Emmy Award nominations for his television writing, he turned his energies to playwriting. His first play, 'Come Blow Your Horn', was a modest hit in 1961 and launched his playwriting career. His next comedy, 'Barefoot in the Park', was a smash and ran for four years on Broadway. His third comedy, 'The Odd Couple', introduced two characters that have since become American icons - Felix and Oscar - two mismatched individuals who come to blows as they struggle to come to terms with a life post-divorce. 'The Odd Couple' opened on Broadway in 1965, ran for two years and won Simon his first Tony Award. It was turned into a successful film in 1968.

While not entirely autobiographical, Simon has made no secret of the fact that his work is based on personal experience. 'Come Blow Your Horn' was about two brothers who moved away and shared a bachelor apartment (just as Simon and his brother did); 'Barefoot in the Park' was the story of newlyweds adjusting to married life (reminiscent of his own marriage); and 'The Odd Couple' was a story that happened to 'two guys he knew'.

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first read 'The Odd Couple' I laughed. In fact, I laughed a lot and I laughed out loud. I knew immediately that I wanted to direct this play and try and bring it to life on the Charing stage. 'The Odd Couple' is a wonderfully written comedy; it is full of witty one-liners and acute observations and, importantly for a director, it tells a story that allows time for the main protagonists to develop and grow into characters that the audience care about. But this play is not just about Oscar and Felix – the other six supporting roles are integral to the plot and provide much of the flavour to the piece. Without strong performances from the actors in these roles and excellent ensemble acting and timing, the play would not work.

The play has not been without its challenges for us all. The cast has had to contend with perfecting a difficult 'Noo Yoick' accent, learning lots of lines and trying to deliver those lines at a breakneck speed; and I have had to relearn how to do something that I haven't done since I was at school. The enjoyment of the process for me has never been in doubt nor has the commitment of the actors to putting on a show worthy of the Guild. I have greatly enjoyed my first 'grown-up' foray into directing and am grateful to all those involved in this production, both behind the scenes and on the stage, for all their help and support in creating what I hope will be a fantastic show.

# The Odd Couple by Neil Simon

## Cast

*in order of appearance*

**Speed** Mark Woods

"Aggressive? Controlling? What are you talking about? You can do what you like in this town. Just make sure you run it past me first."

**Murray** Michael Headley

"A cup half empty kind of guy? Me? I think I was born to be a pessimist – my blood type is B negative".

**Roy** Ian Avery

"Listen to me. Take some advice from an accountant. You want money then borrow it from a pessimist – they never expect it back. Hey Murray, lend me 20 dollars. What do you mean you can't count? Neither can I!"

**Vinnie** John Roberts

"Hen-pecked? Me? Of course I'm not hen-pecked. It's me who wears the trousers in my house. It's just my wife Bebe who tells me when to wear them!"

**Oscar Madison** Nick Hawley

"Lazy? Come off it pussycat. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now. Call me irresponsible if you like, I'm funny that way".

**Felix Ungar** Rayner Missing

"A hypochondriac? Me? I told my doctor about the neck spasms, dust allergies, throat strain and bursitis and he said the trouble with me was that I was a hypochondriac. Gee, I didn't realise I had that as well!"

**Gwendolyn Pigeon** Carolyn Banham

"I once placed an ad in the paper 'husband wanted'. The next day I received hundreds of letters. They all said the same thing 'take mine'. Lucky me!"

**Cecily Pigeon** Heather Leslie

"George was living proof that a wife can take a joke. Thank goodness for solicitors. Snip, cut and I was free!"

The action takes place in an apartment on Riverside Drive, New York City

## Act I

A hot summer night

15 minute interval

## Act II

**Scene 1:** Two weeks later. About 11pm.

**Scene 2:** A few days later. About 8pm.

## Act III

The next evening. About 7.30pm.

**Director:** Karen Wright

**Stage Manager:** Gill Magson

**Assisted by:** Carolyn Banham, Heather Leslie

**Lighting:** Anton Banham

**Sound:** Allan Bone, Michael Headley

**Continuity:** Valerie Parsons

**Set Design:** Allan Bone, Karen Wright

**Set Construction:** Allan Bone, Jean Latter, Brian White, Colin Burdick, Anne Winograd, Ann Blandford

**Wardrobe:** Valerie Parsons and Cast

**Properties:** Cast and Crew

**Front of House:** Michael Cowdry, Jean Latter

**Box Office:** Michael Cowdry, Wood You Like, [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)

**Publicity:** Gill Magson, Karen Wright

**Programme and Poster:** Michael Headley

## Acknowledgements:

The Tenterden Operatic and Dramatic Society, the Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society, Jan Campailla, Cherie Hamlet-Smith, Alison Howe, Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Wood You Like, [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk), Guild members and friends and anyone else we have forgotten to mention.

**Thank you all!**