



THE GATE THEATER

CHIANG MAI

SYNOPSIS Neil Simon's box office hit, *The Odd Couple*, traces the lives of the infamously mismatched roommates: Felix Ungar, a neurotic fusspot news writer, and Oscar Madison, a slovenly sports journalist. At his wife's insistence, Felix is evicted from his home and abandoned on the doorstep of his childhood friend Oscar. As fate would have it Oscar has likewise has been given the boot, living the life of a not-so-swingin' single. Can two new *re-bachelors* share an apartment without driving each other insane?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR **Marvin Neil Simon**, born in the Bronx on July 4, 1927, began his writing career working for the Army camp newspaper in the United States Army. After serving, Simon and his brother began writing comedy revues and eventually found their way into radio and television alongside the likes of Woody Allen, Mel Brooks and Larry Gelbart. In 1973, following the death of his wife, Simon reached a low point in his writing career, but a move to California refreshed his pen and Simon went on to write *Chapter Two* (1977), considered by many critics to be his finest play to that date. He followed up in 1991 with *Lost in Yonkers* for which he won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Simon additionally won three Tony Awards for Best Play (*The Odd Couple*, *Biloxi Blues* and *Lost in Yonkers*) and has had more plays adapted to film than any other American playwright. He received Academy Award nominations for *The Odd Couple* (1968) which first premiered on Broadway in 1965 at the Plymouth Theatre in New York City.

MEET THE DIRECTOR Originally from Chicago, **Stephan B. Turner** attended the acting conservatory at the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago and earned his BFA in acting from The Theater School at DePaul University. Stephan is the founder of The Gary Creative Workshop Theater, Stage Actors Ensemble of Chicago, former Artistic Director of The Performance Loft Theater, and now, founder and Artistic Director of The Gate Theater of Chiang Mai. Stephan's directing credits include The Pulitzer Prize-winning *No Place To Be Somebody* by Charles Gordone, *Mulatto* by Langston Hughes, *The Amen Corner*, by James Baldwin, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, based on the novel by Ken Kesey, *Native Son* by Richard Wright and *A Hatful of Rain*, by Michael Gazzo. In Chiang Mai, Stephan has directed the first full season of theater presented by an English theater group. Directing credits with the Gate Theater Chiang Mai include *The Dodo Bird*, *The Gin Game*, *Strange Snow* and *The Odd Couple*.

CAST OF “THE ODD COUPLE”

Oscar Madison.....Brian Hubbard

Felix Ungar.....Richard Childs

Murray.....Robert Young

Speed.....Jim Matchett

Roy.....Brian Brown

Vinne.....Roberto Toscano

Pigeon Sisters.....Marisa Lianggamphai, Rachel Claire Morris

CREW

DirectorStephan B. Turner

Lighting Design.....John Edwards

Asst. Director.....Joyce Matchett

Stage Design.....Stephan B. Turner

Producer.....Robert Young

Sound Control.....Jake Laskin

Production Asst......Jim Matchett

Box Office.....Wan Mongkan

Props Manager.....Ellsee

Publicity.....Lauren Whitehead

Asst. Props.....Angelica Magpantay

Scenic ArtistWan Mongkan

**Refreshments from the Queen Victoria Restaurant will be sold before
the show and during a 10 minute intermission.**



THE GATE THEATER

CHIANG MAI

BIOGRAPHIES

IRENE BARRIENTOS (*Stage Asst.*) came from a family of art lovers: “It runs in my blood.” She is an English teacher and received her Bachelor’s Degree in English at the Adventist University of the Philippines. As a leader in many university organizations, Irene included acting in all of their programs. Later, she continued her passion in acting and integrated it in her own classes as a teacher there. She became the Director of the school’s Theater Club and traveled to various places in the Philippines. Irene then moved to Chiang Mai and after a few years, received a letter of invitation from Stephan to join the Gate Theater. She served as an Assistant Director for the pioneering shows “*The Dodo Bird*” and “*The Gin Game*”. She also acted in the play “*That Takes Ovaries..*” She recently returned from touring extensively in Europe and is looking forward to helping keep the Art of Acting alive in Chiang Mai.

BRIAN BROWN (*Roy*) after a career as an Army Officer and later a Local Govt. Chief Officer, Brian turned professional actor at the age of 55 after wide experience in amateur stage in the North of England, after-dinner speaking, and stand-up comedy in the Northern Clubs. Professional theatre credits include Dr. Zero in ‘Swine’; Gandalf in ‘Lord of the Rings’; Dr. Bartolo in ‘The marriage of Figaro’; Seldon Mowbray in ‘Noises Off’; Henry Hornett in ‘Sailor Beware’; Semyon in ‘House by the Sea’ and Malachi Stack in ‘The Matchmaker’. TV Credits were ‘Bert Russell in ‘Coronation Street’; Ernie Duggins in ‘Hetty Wainthropp Investigates’; Mr. Powers in ‘Emmerdale’; Anti-coagulant patient in ‘Cardiac Arrest’ and 3 major roles in the ‘999’ series. Brian was active in Equity, the Actor’s Union, branch secretary for S. Yorkshire, and sat on national committees of Variety; Small Scale Touring Theatre, and Co-op Agency committee. This is his 2nd appearance for the Gate Theater having played ‘Dasher’ in the *3 Reindeer Monologues*.

RICHARD CHILDS (*Felix Ungar*) As a professional actor in the UK, Richard has been involved in various kinds of entertainment from theatre, television and film to music hall, historical re-enactments and mediaeval banquets. He has a love of classics and was a member of the touring company ‘A Taste of Shakespeare’. He has compèred open-air classical music concerts with the London Mozart Players and the BT Scottish Ensemble and undertaken corporate work with companies such as American Airlines, Nissan, and Land



THE GATE THEATER

CHIANG MAI

Rover. For a number of years Richard was also Master of Ceremonies for weddings at the prestigious Coombe Abbey hotel in Warwickshire.

JOHN EDWARDS (*Lighting Design*) started working with the Festival Ballet in London at the age of fifteen where he won a scholarship to The Legate School of Russian Ballet. He danced professionally until the age of 27. After retiring from dance, John became interested in Stage Lighting Design and worked as a lighting technician for six years in Norway. Later John trained in lighting design with the Theatre Project in London and went on to work at the Glynedbourne Theatre, later becoming head of the lighting department at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art where he also taught classes in lighting design. This is John's third stint with the Gate Theater after designing lighting for the *GIN GAME* in 2008 and *Strange Snow* in 2009.

ELLSEE (*Props*) Ellsee has spent many years of life and cleaning up after people.

BRIAN HUBBARD (*Oscar Madison*) With a BA in Psychology and Sociology from Sunderland University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Humanistic Psychology from the Institute for the Development of Human Potential, London, Brian is a qualified psychotherapist which he says has been invaluable in helping him understand the depth of his character, Oscar Madison. During the past 20 years in Chiang Mai, Brian has worked as an English Language teacher, the English Language Consultant in the International Relations Division of the Office of the President, Chiang Mai University, and for the past 8 years as the Convenor for the Informal Northern Thai Group. Aside from parts in school plays, his debut as an actor came last year as Donner in the *The Eight Reindeer Monologues*. *The Odd Couple* is his first experience of acting in dialogue in a full length production.

JAKE S. LASKIN (*Sound Op.*) is a twelve year old student of Chiang Mai International School where he studies drama with Mr. Stephan Turner. Jake is very interested in sound, lighting, and stage design. Each Halloween Jake builds a tunnel and fills it with fright. He is also a very handy carpenter. If Jake is not working on a project he's outdoors because he is adventurous and loves to explore, especially hiking and camping.

MARISA LIANGGAMPHAI (*Pigeon Sister*) is Thai-American and originally from Berkeley, California. In the States, she was a member of the Icarus Theatre



THE GATE THEATER

CHIANG MAI

Ensemble and also acted in several productions at the Firehouse Theatre in Ithaca, New York. Here in Chiang Mai, her most recent performance was in "Voices From Beyond the Dark" by Ariel Dorfman, last March. After four years of living in Thailand, she will be returning to the San Francisco Bay Area soon to find work.

ANGELICA MAGPANTAY (*Asst. Props*) Originally from the Philippines, "Lyka" settled in Chiang Mai a year ago. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in office administration from Divine Word College in Calapan, Philippines where she was active in college theater specializing in local productions. Her credits include "House," choreographer for a speech concert; "The Cargo," and a stage monologue titled "Noli Me Tangere" (Touch Me Not). She has also performed musically in a Filipino choral group called "Seventh String". *Strange Snow* is her first venture into community theater. "I love the group", she said recently. "I'm looking forward to more projects with the Gate Theater.

JIM MATCHETT (*Production Assistant, Speed*) was born in Belfast, N. Ireland. After a 26 year career as Disc Jockey, Singer and Band Leader in London, this is Jim's first foray into Acting. At the Gate Theater, he has served in various capacities including show announcer, Box Office attendant, and most notably scenic artist for *The Gin Game*.

JOYCE MATCHETT (*Stage Manager*) is a painter in oils; her subjects include indigenous peoples in the world, family portraits and Japanese postcards. She is also a writer of published poetry and unpublished children's stories. Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Joyce has spent most of her years traveling and living around the world. She has lived in Thailand for six years. Apart from being a dancer and singer in Minneapolis during her 20's, her role opposite Stephan Turner in *The Gin Game* was Joyce's debut in live theatre.

WAN MONGKAN (*Scenic Artist, Box Office*) is originally from Kalasin in the North of Thailand and has been living in Chiang Mai for five years. Though she is new to English language theater, she enjoys being part of the company and is a founding member of The Gate Theater Group. A skilled painter and carpentry assistant, Wan has helped to create sets for *The Bodo Bird*, *The Gin Game*, *Strange Snow* and *The Odd Couple*, all while making sure things run smoothly at the Box Office.



THE GATE THEATER

CHIANG MAI

DR. RACHEL MORRIS (*Pigeon Sister*) is a citizen of the UK and Canada. As her father was a BBC cameraman, her first media appearance was in a TV special at the age of eight, sitting on Val Doonican's knee and trying unsuccessfully to play the mouth harp. Other gigs have included singing on Yorkshire Television's 'Stars on Sunday' with Saint Winifred's School Choir, and telling off the UK's Lord Chancellor Jack Straw on the radio for being a racist. Rachel first appeared in theatre at age twelve in 'The Chalk Garden', in Calgary, Canada. A teacher, writer, lawyer, artist, activist, and photographer, she has a rather confused but exhilarating lifestyle and enjoys rainy days, Maltesers, and surviving cycling around Chiang Mai's moat. You can see some of her work via <http://silvertoes.net>

ROBERTO TOSCANO (*Vinne*) was born in Italy a few years ago. He's been involved in the show business since the day he was born. Acting for him is a daily routine; the entire world is a huge stage. He has performed in short films by the United Nations and in RGB, a trilogy among Brazil, Croatia, and Thailand. As an extra, he danced and drank in the movie Dream Hotel. Additionally, he has written Italian theatrical scripts which he believes cannot be translated as they would lose their cultural humor. Just under a month ago, he joined the Gate Theater and, so far, he is having a lot of fun. That's all for now, but he hopes the audience has a lot of laughs.

LAUREN WHITEHEAD (*Publicity*) is a graduate of Princeton University with an AB degree in Spanish & Portuguese Languages and Cultures and certificates in Near Eastern Studies, Latin American Studies, and Theater & Dance from Princeton's Lewis Center for the Arts. She has a knack for language and a thirst for new cultures which have led her to Chiang Mai for the year as a teacher at Payap University. In the past, she has worked extensively on, under, and behind the theater as a playwright, actress, dancer, director, stage manager, and the occasional stint as a techie. She looks forward to an exploratory year behind the scenes at the Gate Theater.

ROBERT YOUNG (*Producer, Murray*) has been involved with The Gate Theater since its creation 3 years ago. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 2001 and subsequently moved to Chiang Mai. He was active in community theater while in the Navy, stationed in Japan and also was a member of the Navy's Blue Jacket's Choir from 1977 – 1989. His stage credits include "South Pacific", "Jesus Christ", "Super Star", "Godspell" and "Strange Snow". This performance marks the first time he has grown any hair on his head in 15 years.



THE GATE THEATER CHIANG MAI

ABOUT THE GATE THEATER The Gate Theater of Chiang Mai seeks to establish a non-profit English language theater group within the old city of Chiang Mai where residents can become involved in the performing arts, while seeking to entertain, inform, and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of the Chiang Mai area in general and the English speaking residents of the community in particular. Additionally, the group aims to enhance development of youth in the theater arts through cooperative ventures with local schools via workshops and sharing resources and to bring an enjoyable theatrical experience to the community of Chiang Mai.

SPONSORSHIP The Gate Theater warmly and graciously extends thanks to current sponsors and contributors to the efforts of our group and annual season as follows:

Platinum Sponsorship 20,000 baht

Gold Sponsorship 10,000 baht

Silver Sponsorship 5,000 baht Frank Wheby and Anonymous

Patron 2,500 baht

Should you wish to sponsor The Gate Theater in name or anonymously, in large or in small part, please feel free to contact the group directly via email or make your contribution through our website. Likewise, any kindness or generosity is warmly welcomed and may be directed to the Box Office!

CONTACT

If you like what you see and would like to get involved behind the scenes or on the stage, please do not hesitate to contact us at gatetheater@gmail.com or visit our website at www.gate-theater.com.