

# Spotlight

## *The Odd Couple (Female Version) Opens April 23*



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Neil Simon's original Broadway play, *The Odd Couple* opened in 1965. Twenty years later, Simon refreshed his script with a new twist: he switched the gender of the main characters. So instead of Felix Unger, the neurotic neat freak, and Oscar Madison, the messy sportswriter, Simon gives us Florence Unger and Olive Madison, who are thrown together as their respective love lives collapse in a shambles.

Sally Struthers and Rita Moreno played the lead roles in the Broadway debut of the female version.

While the female version's plot is largely true to the original themes, there are a

number of delightful changes. The poker game becomes Trivial Pursuit. The Pigeon Sisters become the Costazuela brothers, Jesus and Manolo.

The long-lasting popularity of the *Odd Couple* spawned a famous movie, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau in the lead roles, as well as several TV sitcoms. It just seems that audiences never tire of examining the accidents that bring people together and the human frailties that pull them apart.

Bob Starnes, Director of the Rogers City production offers us another reason for the play's popularity: "It's absolutely hilarious!"



### **SHOW DATES & TIMES:**

#### **Week One:**

**Fri. & Sat., April 23 & 24  
at 7:30 pm and**

**Sun. April 25 at 2:00 pm**

#### **Week Two:**

**Fri. April 30 & Sat. May 1  
at 7:30 pm and**

**Sun. May 2 at 2:00 pm**

### Did you know that:

- Since a live stage was added to the Rogers City theater in 2004, over 14,000 people have attended our local community theater productions.
- 2010 will be the fifth consecutive year of offering a free summer theater program for local youth.
- New volunteers are always welcome on stage and behind the scenes.

## Odd Couple Cast Members

Laura Winkle and Andrea Shadbolt star in the lead roles of the *Odd Couple* (female version), playing Olive Madison and Florence Unger.

This production's supporting roles bring back to the stage many local favorites: Sheela Welch Allum plays

Renee; Val Schalk plays Vera; Riconda Lamb plays Silvie; and Juliann LaBar plays Nickey.

Instead of the English Pigeon sisters, the gender reversed version features the Hispanic Costazuela brothers, played by Charlie Harp as Jesus and Dave Crull as Manolo.

Technical staffing for the show includes Val Schalk as costume designer, Mike Marx on lights and sound, Ed Perrault as Stage Manager, Riconda Lamb as Producer, and Bob Starnes as Director, with Juliann LaBar serving as Assistant Director.



## Editor's Corner by Mary Ann Heidemann My Executive Office...the Rest (room) of the Story!



Those of you with long Rogers City memories may recall that for two years, the international headquarters of Mary Ann Heidemann & Associates, Planning Consultants, was located in a small commercial storefront in the Rogers Theater building. At that time (1990-1991), the theater was still owned by Richard Vogelheim, who was my landlord.

It was a great spot. Most of the interior space was one large room. But tucked in

the back corner was a smaller, enclosed office I took as my own. It was just large enough for a desk, some files and a couple of visitor chairs.

I never would have dreamed at that time, that one day Karl and I would own the theater building. But I would never again use the old office space in the same way. What the theater needed was more toilets! (How they ever got along with 600 seats and just two "thrones," I will never un-

derstand.) As soon as he could, Karl closed off the front office entrance, cut a door in from the theater lobby, and converted the old commercial storefront into much needed modern restrooms for our theater patrons.

Several months after the restroom renovation was complete, it finally dawned on me that my old Chief Executive office was now occupied by... the men's urinal! Guys, next time you "go" into the theater, pay your respects to history.

## Youth Summer Theater Program for 2010 Will Stage "Honk Jr."



The 2010 summer season will feature a youth production of *Honk Jr.* This musical adaptation is based on the Hans Christian Anderson story of the ugly duckling who finds his inner beauty and destiny as a swan.

*Honk!* was first performed in Britain in 1993. In

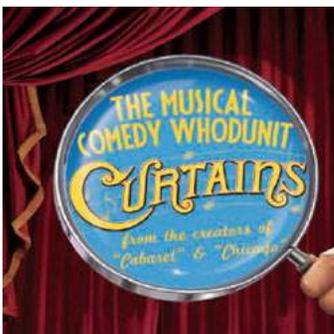
1999, the production moved to the West End, where the Royal National Theater garnered an Olivier award for best musical of 2000. The first production in the United States also occurred in 2000.

*Honk Jr.* is a musical play format specially designed for young performers. The

publishers offer the scores and scripts at a substantial discount from normal musical prices, just to encourage and support youth participation in the performing arts.

Audition information will be published in the *Advance* this summer. All area youth are encouraged to try out.

## How'd They Do That? Sidney and his Hang Up



Dana LaBar played the bad guy, Sidney, in the Rogers City Theatre production of *Curtains*. Sidney meets his demise tangled up in the curtain ropes. The whole theater audience gets to see him dangling up there. How'd They Do That?

Sidney's death scene

was shown in silhouette, behind the movie theater screen, as the curtains opened and closed. The screen is not actually solid; it is a fine mesh. When objects behind the screen are well lit, they become visible to the audience through the mesh. So by shining a light on Sidney, he could be seen through the

screen. But he was not actually dangling from ropes. He was laying stomach down on a wheeled table, being pulled back and forth by stage hands. Because the table was covered with black cloth it was not visible, so Sidney seemed to be suspended by the (well lit) curtain ropes.



# Community Characters: Mike Marx

When asked what got him started in the Rogers City Community Theatre, Mike Marks responded immediately. "I'm a disciple of Brian Mills. He was the Pied Piper, and when he played his magic flute, I followed along. It was also just one of those things a parent does to support their kids," said Mike. Both of the Marx children were involved in the High School Drama program started by Brian Mills. But when daughter Megan took her turn as Director, the parents took a turn on stage. That's how Mike ended up playing Sonny in the Rogers City High production of *Grease*, which incidentally was the first live show performed on the new Rogers City Theater stage built in 2004.

Of course, that wasn't really Mike's first role. Who could forget his earlier featured performance as the "Tidy Bowl Man," in the Rogers City version of the *Wizard of Oz*? Since then Mike has performed in numerous shows. Playing Jud in *Oklahoma* was, according to Mike, his most artistically challenging part. In contrast, playing the knife-throwing Hines in *Pajama Game* was just plain fun. Learning the unusual harmonies contained in the songs for *Urinetown* was another growth experience.

Mike's first chance to play a lead role came in "Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," when he starred as Pseudolus, a slave trying to win his freedom in a wild and wacky world.



Mike Marx hamming it up in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

"We are so fortunate, in a town of our small size, to have a community theater," said Marx. "And the talent of our people is just amazing. They step up to the plate, and then they hit it out of the park!"

For those of us in the audience, we can say the same of our friend, Mike Marx.

# Buy Your Theater Tickets with a Six Pack

## Ticket and Sponsorship Order Form

Yes, I support live and local theater in Rogers City, as ordered below :

Number:	Amount:
_____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>Odd Couple</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Odd Couple</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Odd Couple</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ List me as a footlight sponsor in all 2010 programs @ \$25 this season	_____
_____ List me as a spotlight sponsor in all 2010 programs @ \$50 this season	_____

Sponsor name and/or ticket mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theatre  
 Mail completed form to: 257 North Third Street  
 Rogers City, MI 49779



**Theater tickets are also available for direct purchase at:**

- ▶ Advance Office
- ▶ Rogers City Chamber
- ▶ Theater Office

**Note: Season tickets are good for any show performance date.**



**Yes, you can buy tickets to all our shows at the door, on a space available basis.**

## Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ROGERS CITY, MI 49779  
PERMIT NO. 115



**To:**



### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theater Office Phone: (989) 734-7368  
Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



*See you at the show!*

### About Our Theater

The Rogers Theater was constructed in 1937 as a classic, single screen small town movie palace in the Art Deco style. After a fire in 1947, the theater was re-built and expanded. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theater was purchased in 2003 by Karl W. Heidemann. The new owner added a stage, theatrical lighting and utility improvements. In 2004, live productions began alternating with first run movies, in a revitalized auditorium. In the summer of 2009, exterior restoration brought back the black and orange tile work of the original theater façade.

Once the stage was available, an informal group of local theater fanatics emerged that now constitutes the Rogers City Community Theatre (RCCT). In 2006, a youth summer theater program began as well. Community cast members have ranged in age from 6 to 94. New theater volunteers are always welcome, both on stage and behind the scenes. Come join the fun!

In 2009, the RCCT incorporated as a Michigan non-profit organization and received IRS approval for federal non-profit status. Contributions are appreciated, and are now tax deductible.