

# PLAYBILL

NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## The Odd Couple



NIAGARA PROSCENIUM PLAYERS

February 6 and 8, 2025

### Welcome to the Niagara Falls High School Performing Arts Center!

*Please familiarize yourself with the following reminders as a courtesy to yourself, other patrons and the performers:*

- **Restrooms** are located in the front lobby. Please be discreet if you have to leave during the performance.
- Please **turn off all cellular phones and other electronics** as a courtesy to other patrons and the performers. Cellular frequencies will interfere with the wireless audio system used in this theatre.
- Please **remain seated through the entire act** of the performance to avoid distracting the performers and patrons.
- The use of **flash photography, video and audio recording including via mobile device is strictly prohibited**, as it is hazardous to the performers and a contract violation. Please help us by observing this rule.
- Unauthorized posting of video whether complete or partial is a direct violation of copyright laws and can result in you being fined and/or prosecuted.
- While we appreciate your enthusiasm, please be mindful of proper theatre etiquette as this is not a sporting event.
- **Thank you and enjoy the show!**



**The NIAGARA PROSCENIUM PLAYERS of NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL**  
*proudly present*

**The**  
**Odd**  
**Couple**



By:

**NEIL SIMON**

Directed By:

**DENNIS WILSON**

Costumes By:

**DANIELLE DEPALMA**

Lights and Sound By:

**NICK FAGIANI AND**  
**WES SLUSSER**

Technical Direction By:

**NICHOLAS WROBEL**

Produced By:

**TOM VITELLO**

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

# **The Odd Couple**

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(in order of appearance)*

Oscar Madison.....Evan DalPorto  
Felix Ungar ..... Eddie Beckles, Jr.  
Speed..... Tony Thomas  
Murray..... Ayden Loebel  
Roy .....Evan Garcia  
Vinnie ..... Leo Nadrowski  
Mr. Ricco Slaiman (Saturday Evening)  
Gwendolyn Pigeon .....Anelie Copelin  
Cecily Pigeon ..... Moriah DeLorenzo

## **SETTING**

An apartment on Riverside Drive, New York City.

### *ACT ONE*

A hot summer night.

### *ACT TWO*

Scene 1: Two weeks later. About 11:00 PM

Scene 2: A few days later. About 8:00 PM

### *ACT THREE*

The next evening. About 7:30 PM

*The Odd Couple* is presented in three acts.  
There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts one and two only.

# The Odd Couple

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .....Dennis Wilson  
Costumes ..... Danielle DePalma  
Producer..... Tom Vitello  
Lights and Sound .....Nick Fagiani, Wes Slusser  
Programs, Posters and Tickets ..... Tom Vitello  
Box Office .....Debbie Tramontano, Tom Vitello and Barbara Rodgers  
Concessions ..... Emily Walter, Jacob Kopera and Tom Vitello  
50/50 Tickets.....Bryan and Evelyn DalPorto

## THE CREW

Stage Manager.....Sha'niya Broadway  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Ava-Marie Ogrodowski  
Ollie McCreary  
Light Operator.....Nymphadora Krause  
House Manager.....Jy'Shaun Crayton  
Ella Perry  
Props Master ..... Ava-Marie Ogrodowski  
Stage Crew ..... Aspen Bryant  
Amarionna Caffey  
Madison Carbin  
Grace Coram  
Braeden Cota  
Emily Hanner  
Hannah Mulford  
Ushers ..... Jy'Shawn Crayton  
Kassandra Fugate  
Ni'yah Goldsmith  
Amiya Griffith  
Aiyonna Mills  
Ella Perry  
Ava Sweda

**COMING SOON!**

# **GODSPELL**



**MARCH 27, 28, 2025 - 7PM**  
**MARCH 29, 2025 - 1PM & 7PM**

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

### THE CAST

(in alphabetical order)

**EDDIE BECKLES JR. (Felix Unger)** – Eddie is an 11th grade student at Niagara Falls High school. He has been performing since a young age and has had notable performances in productions like *Grease* (Roger) and *Hello Dolly* (Barnaby). This will be his first play and he is very excited for the opportunity!

**ANELIE COPELIN (Gwendolyn Pigeon)** – Anelie is a sophomore at NFHS and is very happy to perform in the production of *The Odd Couple*. She has recently performed in *Hello, Dolly!* (ensemble), *Freaky Friday* (Ellie), *The Little Mermaid*, *Willy Wonka* and *Annie* as ensemble. When not in school, Anelie likes being outside, horseback riding and hanging out with her friends. She would like to thank her parents and siblings for always supporting her endeavors.

**EVAN DALPORTO (Oscar Madison)** – Evan is a senior at Niagara Falls High School. Evan's high school credits include *Clue* (Colonel Mustard), *An Evening of Stephen Sondheim* (Narrator), *On Golden Pond* (Billy Ray), *Crimes of The Heart* (Doc Porter), *Grease* (Danny Zuko), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank), *Hello, Dolly!* (Cornelius Hackl), and *12 Angry Jurors* (Juror #9). Evan's film credits include *Nothing Will Ever Be The Same*, *Manente Orthodontists*, and *Misfit* coming out on Christmas in 2025. Evan recently finished the production of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Luke) at the Kenan center in Lockport and is very excited to be Jesus in the forthcoming Niagara Proscenium Players production of *Godspell*. When offstage, Evan plays sports such as golf and hockey. After high school, Evan wants to pursue his career in the entertainment industry. Evan would also like to thank his family and friends for everything and hopes you enjoy the show. Evan is proudly represented by Aqua Talent. Romans 8:18 @evan\_dalporto

**MORIAH DELORENZO (Cicely Pigeon)** - Moriah is Junior at Niagara Falls High School, she looking forward to performing in *The Odd Couple* as Cicely Pidgin. Moriah previously played the role as The Mom in *Freaky Friday* (8th Grade) and Mrs. Rose in *Hello, Dolly!* (10th Grade). She'd like to thank her friends and family and hopes you enjoy tonight's show.

**EVAN GARCIA (Roy)** - Evan is a junior here at Niagara Falls High School. He is heavily involved in the school's media program, where he is currently directing a documentary on the 25th anniversary of NFHS. This is his second show with NFHS, he previously acted as Mr. Dussel in last year's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

**AYDEN LOEBEL (Murray)** - Ayden is a senior at Niagara Falls High School. He has been seen in the Niagara Proscenium Players productions of *Clue* (The Motorist), *Crimes of the Heart* (Barnett),

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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*The Diary of Anne Frank* (Peter) and *Hello, Dolly!* (Ambrose). When not onstage performing, Ayden participates in our shows as a member of the stage crew. I would like to thank my best friends Kaelyn Walter and Leah Scrivano for their on-going support.

**LEO NADROWSKI (Vinnie)** - Leo is a junior at Niagara Falls high School. Leo has been in shows such as *The 3 Little Kittens* (Kitten), *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (Santa), *The Little Mermaid* (Sailor/Chef), *Once On This Island, Jr.* (Daniel). Leo was also going to be the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* but unfortunately it was canceled due to COVID. He has also acted in *Grease* (Vince Fontaine), *Hello Dolly* (Waiter), and *Beautiful* (Music Engineer). Leo enjoys playing hockey for the 18u Niagara Junior Purple Eagles and for the LNF WoLions. Artists such as Steve Whitmire, Ace Frehley, and Cobie Smulders inspire Leo to do performing arts. Leo would like to thank his family and friends for always being there for him and supporting him.

**TONY THOMAS (Speed)** - While having worked backstage on stage crew for a few productions, this is Tony's first on-stage role with the Niagara Proscenium Players.

## THE PRODUCTION STAFF

(in alphabetical order)

**SHA'NIYA BROADWAY (Stage Manager)** - Sha'niya is a junior at Niagara Falls High School. While she hasn't performed in any of the musicals or plays, she has always helped behind the scenes. From working spotlights for shows like *Hello, Dolly!*, to being stage manager on shows like *The Odd Couple*, it's clear that even though she's not on stage performing, her passion for theatre is still there.

**DANIELLE DEPALMA (Costumer)** - Danielle spent her early years as a Cecchetti Ballerina, where she danced for and later owned The Center for Ballet and Dance arts. She performed for many years in the Nutcracker as well as many other Ballet performances. Danielle embraced her artistic side and found a passion creating wearable art fashion, where her designs were highlighted in New York City during NY Fashion Week and throughout Western NY. Danielle has spent many years in Niagara Falls helping to create activities for the community while on multiple boards and committees such as LIVENE, Pints for Progress and Dance of Fireflies. Danielle is an Art Educator at Niagara Falls High School and has her Master Degree in New and Immersive Technology. She has been working the NFHS Theatre Department as the costumer since her arrival in the district. Danielle also has a special niche in SEL where she is a part of committees and helps lead student

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 8)

run endeavors such as the NFHS Champion Team who seek to instill Trauma Informed Care to their classmates and community.

**TOM VITELLO (Producer)** – Tom is currently a Spanish teacher at Niagara Falls High School. Tom graduated from the SUNY College at Buffalo in 1998 with a B.S. in Spanish Education and a M.S. in Education in 2000. Tom is also a 1995 graduate of NCCC where he earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts/Humanities - Social Science. Tom's has over 100 theatre credits to his name including: *Anything Goes!*, *The Pajama Game*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Forum*, *The Music Man*, *Grease*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Company*, *Pippin*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Evita*, *Children of Eden*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Annie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Barry Manilow's Copacabana*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Ragtime*, *Willy Wonka*, *The Addams Family*, *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia!*, *On Golden Pond*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *West Side Story* and *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*. Other music credits include: *Handel's Messiah*, *Berlioz' Messe Solennelle*, *Mahler's Symphony 8 – Symphony for a Thousand*, *Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture*, and other selected works all performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Holy Trinity Lutheran Concert Choir. Tom was as the Music Director, Arranger and Studio Musician for two CD recordings, *My Father's Hymns* and *Broadway and Beyond*, by local artist Lee Stevens. In 2008, Tom performed in concert with Grammy Award Winning Singer/Songwriter Kenny Loggins at Artpark. Tom has worked with the theatre departments of Lewiston-Porter, Starpoint, City Honors School and Niagara Falls High School and has been on the production staff for several productions at NCCC. Tom served as the Drama Club Advisor/Director for Niagara Catholic from 2000 to 2006. For the Fall 2005 semester, Tom was an Adjunct/Musical Director for the theatre department of NCCC. Tom proudly is co-founder of the Niagara Falls City School District Theatre Hall of Fame. In 2021, Tom was the Executive Producer of the web series *Dennis Wilson's The Therapist*, for which he composed and recorded all the underscoring and theme song, *Journey*. In Fall of 2022, Tom composed and recorded the instrumental music for the Niagara Proscenium Alumni Players production of *On Golden Pond*. In January of 2023, Tom performed Off-Broadway at 54 Below in New York City as a pianist for a special engagement of the Stage Door Medium with Jimmy Moses, accompanying Broadway stars Jenny DiNoia and Hayley Podschun. Tom would like to thank his husband Jacob for being so patient and supportive during theatre season and always.

**DENNIS WILSON (Director)** – Dennis was born and raised in Niagara Falls, NY. He attended Niagara University where he earned a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts and a M.Ed in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University. Upon graduation from Niagara University,

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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Dennis became heavily involved in community theatre in Buffalo, NY. He relocated to New York City in 1995 and was immediately cast in theatrical productions. The next few years Dennis engaged in a professional acting career. Dennis has performed in the National and Canadian Touring Companies of *Five Guys Named Moe* (Little). Regional credits include: *Once On This Island* (Papa Ge), *Toys in the Attic* (Gus), *Ain't Misbehavin* (Andre), *The Zoo Story* (Peter), *A Chorus Line* (Mike & Bobby), *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Girl), *West Side Story* (Luis), *Dutchman* (Clay), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas), *Hair* (Tribe Member), *Smokey Joe's Café*. Dennis is an accomplished choreographer, having staged productions of *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Ragtime*, *The Wiz*, *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In 2005, Dennis founded a theatrical production company, Dendewil Productions. Dennis also humbly adds the title of author to his credits having written and self-published three books, *My Void My Voice* (Poetry 2012), *Eros Dennis* (Poetry 2013), *Morning Coffee Thoughts* (Positive Affirmations 2016). Dennis wrote, produced and directed his first web series, *The Therapist*, which had its premiere in October 2021 on YouTube. During the summer of 2022, Dennis recorded an audio version of his poetry from his publication, *My Void My Voice*. In 2023, Dennis appeared as the Apparition in an original Regional-World Premiere of *The Magnolia Ballet* at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, NY. Last season, Dennis directed a production of *The Taming* at Niagara University and directed a staged reading workshop of a new musical, *Cataract House*. Dennis currently resides in Niagara Falls and teaches theatre at Niagara Falls High School.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Performing Arts Center at Niagara Falls High School for our winter production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*. We are very excited to bring you this timeless comedy about two friends who are suddenly sharing an apartment while one of them is going through a separation from his wife. One is the quintessential bachelor, sports writer who is divorced living life alone as a slob, playing poker with the guys and the other is newly separated from his wife and is the businessman who is very particular and neat in his daily routine. This is the story of these two gentlemen who are suddenly sharing the same apartment in New York City and their two very different ways of living colliding. It was originally produced on Broadway in 1965 starring Art Carney as Felix Unger and Walter Matthau as Oscar Madison, where Matthau went on to reprise his role in the motion picture of the same name starring opposite Jack Lemmon as Felix. In 2005, a hit Broadway revival starred *The Producers* duo of Nathan Lane as Oscar and Matthew Brodrick as Felix. Other revivals included a flip-gender 1985 Broadway production starring Rita Moreno as Olive Madison and Sally Struthers as Florence Unger.

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# **The Odd Couple**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER (continued)**

Tonight we have a cast of students bringing this timeless Neil Simon comedy to life on stage for your enjoyment. We hope that for a couple of hours we can bring you some laughter for an enjoyable evening to help cure the winter blues. Our students have worked very hard over the last month to put this show together and perfect the comedic timing that is essential for a production such as this. Mr. Wilson would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication.

We also would like to invite you to join us on March 27 28 and 29, 2025 for our Spring Musical production of *Godspell* written by *Wicked* composer Stephen Schwartz. This all new concept of the musical features notable songs such as All For the Best and Day By Day.

In conclusion, we thank you for being here and supporting the performing arts in our school and in our community. Research shows time and time again the importance of the arts in a students life not only promotes social well being, but their academic skills increase because of the discipline it takes to be a performing artist. Without your support, these students would lose those essential academic and social skills. So again, we thank you so much!

With that being said. we ask you to sit back and enjoy Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*!

Tom Vitello - Producer

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Mr. Mark Laurie, Superintendent of Schools

Members of the Niagara Falls Board of Education

Mrs. Cheryl Vilardo, Chief Education Administrator

Mr. Bryan Rotella, Administrator

Mrs. Valerie Rotella-Zafuto, Administrator

Mr. Nicholas Ruffalo, Administrator

Mr. Edward Ventry, Administrator

Mr. Bryan DalPorto, Director of District Safety

NFHS Safety Officers and the NFPD

Mr. Nick Fagiani and Mr. Wes Slusser

Mrs. Danielle DePalma

Mr. Nicholas Wrobel

Mr. Jacob Kopera

Mrs. Debbie Paonessa Tramontano

Mrs. Emily Walter

Ms. Barbara Rodgers

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan and Evelyn DalPorto

Mr. Robert Touchette

Mrs. Teresa Kurilovitch

All of the Parent, Student and Alumni Volunteers

A special thank you to Mr. Ricco Slaiman for filling in on  
Saturday evening in the role of Vinnie.

Please visit the  
NFHS Theatre Department  
Webpage for future performances,  
alumni show information, show archives  
and the NFCSD Theatre Hall of Fame.

[www.nfschools.net/Page/5140](http://www.nfschools.net/Page/5140)

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productions?



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