

# Wilmslow Guild Players

Present

# The Odd Couple

Female Version  
By Neil Simon

## Programme

### Act 1

A Hot Summer's Night

### Act 2

Two Weeks Later, About 11p.m.

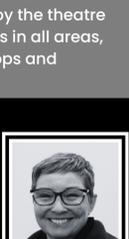
A Few Days Later, About 8p.m.

The Next Evening, About 7:30p.m.

## Cast

### Olive Madison ... Jane Hyde

I performed at university in many varied roles. Then I had a very long rest bringing up children and a full-time job teaching before joining the Wilmslow Guild Players in 2015. Since then, I have also worked with the Green Room. I love being part of the acting world.



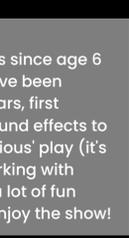
### Florence Unger ... Christine Unwin

I started with MADS around 10 years ago then went on to join the Wilmslow Green room where I acted in theatre and in Gawsworth hall's outdoor theatre. Later joining the Guild players. I thoroughly enjoy the theatre experience and have assisted productions in all areas, including acting, stage management, props and directing.



### Mickey ... Sue Lock

I recently retired from a demanding job as the CEO of a housing association. I wanted to continue to challenge myself, so I decided to join the Wilmslow Guild Players in January 2022. I am a novice player, and this will be my first performance. I have found it very challenging and fun. I hope you enjoy the show.



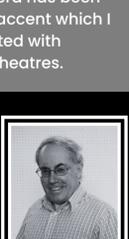
### Sylvie ... Abi Beton

I have been involved with the Guild Players since age 6 when my love of performance began. I have been taking part in the Guild pantomime for years, first acting and then doing everything from sound effects to choreography. This is my first role in a 'serious' play (it's not that serious!), and I've really loved working with such amazing actors and have also had a lot of fun creating my character, Sylvie. Hope you enjoy the show!



### Renee ... Gina Starey

I joined the Wilmslow Guild Players in 2019. I came to the annual meeting and the players were so inviting and friendly. I wanted to try something new and really challenge myself. I have made fabulous friends and I love performing with all of the players.



### Vera ... Caroline Lucas

I have been a member of the Guild Players for some considerable years and have played various roles, the latest being one half of the comedy duo in 'Hansel & Gretel' in December. This current role of Vera has been a challenge, mainly due to the American accent which I hope I have accomplished. I have also acted with Wilmslow Green Room and Heald Green Theatres.



### Manolo Costazuela ... Trevor Williams

I always find it interesting to become someone else for a while, a chance to immerse yourself in different emotions and lives. It's also very satisfying to entertain an audience for an hour or two. The laughter which a comedy or panto can produce is abso-lutely priceless!



### Jesus Costazuela ... Matthew Smith

I have been performing since I was eight years old, although my mother might say since I was born. I joined the Wilmslow Guild Players in 2018 to fill the part of Jack in Dick Whittington. Since then I have played the Panto Dame; gained a stage mother, and directed and won the best director award at the Wilmslow Festival of One-Act Plays.



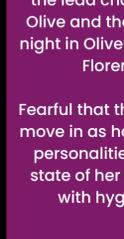
### Director ... Jonathan Coupe

Coming out of the pandemic, I wanted people to come and see a play that will bring joy and laughter. I think we all deserve a bit of that. I saw this wonderful comedy on stage at Lane Theatre in Newquay and knew this was the play to perform. This will be the sixth play I have directed over a 53-year period involved in amateur dramatics.



### Assistant Director ... Anja Schiebeck

I have been part of theatre since I was eleven and appeared in many productions in Theatre and Musical Theatre in Germany before moving to the UK. We have had a lot of fun throughout this process with many funny things happening especially when we were practicing some of the stunts.



## Stage Crew

Karl Douglas ... Stage Manager

Grace Reed ... Wardrobe

Marion Dean ... Wardrobe

Janet Douglas ... Props

Bill Beton ... Sound and Lighting

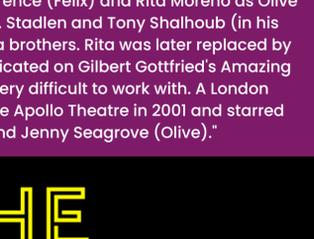
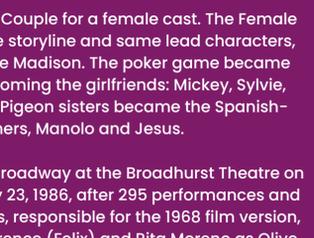
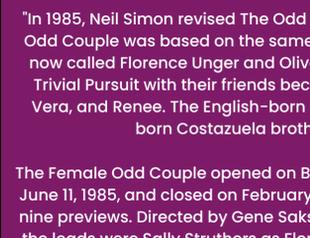
Tobias Schiebeck ... Sound and Lighting

## The Plot

Neil Simon's revision of his hugely successful play, The Odd Couple, sees the lead characters thrust together into Olive Madison and Florence Unger. Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive's messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues, Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband.

Fearful that the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in as her roommate. However, Olive and Florence have VERY different personalities. Where Olive is messy, untidy, and unconcerned about the state of her apartment, Florence is obsessively clean, tidy, and obsessed with hygiene. Olive's easy-going outlook on life soon clashes with Florence's highly-strung neurotic tendencies, testing their friendship to the limit.

When Olive organizes a double-date with the Costazuela brothers, their differences come to a head and sparks fly.



## Wiki Moment

"In 1985, Neil Simon revised The Odd Couple for a female cast. The Female Odd Couple was based on the same storyline and same lead characters, now called Florence Unger and Olive Madison. The poker game became Trivial Pursuit with their friends becoming the girlfriends: Mickey, Sylvie, Vera, and Renee. The English-born Pigeon sisters became the Spanish-born Costazuela brothers, Manolo and Jesus.

The Female Odd Couple opened on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theatre on June 11, 1985, and closed on February 23, 1986, after 295 performances and nine previews. Directed by Gene Saks, responsible for the 1968 film version, the leads were Sally Struthers as Florence (Felix) and Rita Moreno as Olive (Oscar), respectively, with Lewis J. Stadlen and Tony Shalhoub (in his Broadway debut) as the Costazuela brothers. Rita was later replaced by Brenda Vaccaro. Sally Struthers indicated on Gilbert Gottfried's Amazing Colossal Podcast that Rita was very difficult to work with. A London production of this version ran at the Apollo Theatre in 2001 and starred Paula Wilcox (Florence) and Jenny Seagrove (Olive)."

# THE WILMSLOW FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS

"The Friendly Festival"

7th - 11th June 2022

7.30pm start each night

June sees the return of our annual competitive Festival of One Act Plays, featuring many varied one act plays from dramatics groups throughout the area.

This is a great opportunity to see some really exciting and varied drama from all over the North West. Groups are limited to a maximum of 45 minutes and each evening have several different plays on. Each evening is concluded by a verbal adjudication by our adjudicator.

Plays are entered into three categories: junior (under 14), youth (14-18) and senior. Awards are made on the Saturday night. The awards are:

- Best Production (Junior, youth and senior)
- Best Individual Performance (Junior, youth and senior)
- The Geoffrey Reed Award for Best Director
- The Adjudicator's Award
- The Syd Mence Cup for a Piece of Theatre Magic



@guildplayers

Join Us

About the Players

WARDROBE

Have you ever wanted to just enjoy the thrill of acting, bring the community together front of house, or make the magic behind the scenes? Well you can! Being part of the Wilmslow Guild Players, you can enjoy all aspects of theatre whether it be:

- Acting
- Directing
- Lighting
- Sound
- Wardrobe
- Set Design and Construction
- Front of House
- Stage Management
- Play Selection and Casting
- Publicity

Whatever you want to do, there is a place for you. If you are wanting to start out or have previous experience, we welcome everyone. Become a Member today!

The Wilmslow Guild Players were formed in 1926 when the Wilmslow Guild first opened. Ever since we have thrilled audiences with our annual season productions; spanning from comedies, classics, mysteries and our popular Christmas Pantomime.

We also present The Wilmslow Festival of One Act Plays where amateur dramatic societies from all over the North West compete and win awards for their theatrical production.

We are located on Bourne Street in the Wilmslow Guild, where we transform the Guild hall into a marvelous theatre. With great lighting and fantastic costumes from our own Wardrobe you will be entertained throughout the year.

info@wgpp.org.uk

Welcome to the Wardrobe. We have exquisite costumes for hire, for anytime, anywhere. Whether you need a costume for:

- Fancy dress
- Plays or productions
- Films

We are open on Wednesday evenings between 7.15pm and 9pm, except the week of our productions and during July, August, Easter, Whitsuntide and Christmas.

For more information, contact Grace Reed

wardrobe@wgpp.org.uk

