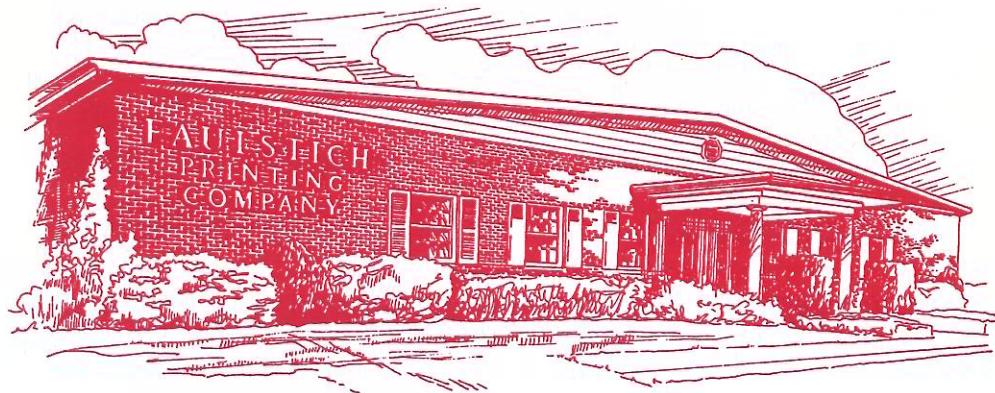


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A PLAY

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THE ODD COUPLE

By Neil Simon

CAST

(In order of Their Appearance)

Oscar Madison	David Laker
Felix Unger	Bryan Schroeder
Murray	Vern Bergkoetter
Speed	Chad Edwards
Vinnie	Chuck Pundt
Roy	Gordon Thoennes
Gwendolyn Pigeon	Mary Ann Laker
Cecily Pigeon	Lorraine Morgan

SCENE

An apartment on Riverside Drive.
New York City

Act 1

A hot summer night.

Act 2

Scene 1: Two weeks later. About 11 P.M.

Scene 2: A few days later. About 8 P.M.

Act 3

The next evening. About 7:30 P.M.

Produced by Special Arrangements with Samuel French, Inc.

There will be smoking on stage.

There will be a fifteen and ten-minute intermission between Acts respectively.

No smoking in any area of the building please.



Standing: Chuck Pundt, Gordon Thoennes, Vern Bergkoetter & Chad Edwards
Seated: Lorraine Morgan, Brian Schroeder, David E. Laker & Mary Ann Laker



Red Mask Players



From the President

Welcome to Red Mask Players 62nd year of bringing quality theater to the Danville area. I think our founding fathers and mothers would be proud, if not impressed, with what their fledgling community theater group has evolved into in sixty plus seasons. My personal experience with Red Mask goes back fifteen years. In this time period I have been involved with the most dedicated and talented group of individuals it has ever been my pleasure to meet. They work so hard and so long on every production, and their only rewards are the satisfaction of knowing a job well done, and the applause on an appreciative audience. We all put many hours of work into rehearsals, set construction, costuming and the technical side of the business, not just to satisfy egos as some may think. Our main goal is to make the overall production the very best it can be, not for ourselves, but for you our membership and audience patrons. It all goes back to "roots", our very beginnings. It has to do with tradition and respect, and the love for the craft that we can continue to keep these hopes and dreams of our founders alive, and that we are able to carry on the traditions that have helped make this organization what it is today. Community theater at its best!

-Dave

THE ODD COUPLE

From the Director

What more needs to be said! Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple", and do we have an odd couple for you! Months ago when the Red Mask board voted to produce this, the best Neil Simon (in my opinion), I was so excited about not only directing this play, but just the fact that we were actually bringing it to you, our patrons. Little did I know many weeks ago, that this show would evolve into the wonderful experience that this has become. My cast has been just fabulous since the very read-through, and whatever success this production has can be directed at their efforts and their willingness to go along with my wild and sometimes offbeat sense of humor. **THANK YOU GUYS!** I also want to thank the best production crew I have ever been involved with. Wendy and Marty are my two right arms, and we couldn't have been successful without you. Kenny and Gail, mere thanks are not enough, but none the less, the beers on me. Sue Harden, I love you. I have worked with many stage managers, but you, lady, are the heart and soul of this production. Claire, you're the greatest. So sit back, loosen your belt, and get ready for an evening of the best, of the greatest comedy writer of modern American Theater.

-Dave

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Congratulations
to Red Mask for
Another Successful Season.





PRODUCTION TEAM

Director-Dave Downing

The Odd Couple marks Dave's third opportunity at directing for Red Mask. His first endeavor was Ravenscroft, followed by another Neil Simon comedy, Rumors. Several seasons later Dave also directed Once Upon a Mattress for DLO in the spring of 1997. His onstage credits include playing Oscar in Greg Duckett's production of The Odd Couple, Joe(God) in Red Mask's Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille, Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls and his Katy winning performance in last season's hit, Daddy's Dying', Who's Got the Will? Dave is currently president of the Red Mask board of directors, and recently noted his 30th anniversary with AMERITECH where he is a systems tech. He is very happily married to Marty (his Co-Producer) and is the father of five and grandfather of five.

Co-Producers-Marty Downing and Wendy Barnes

Marty has worked backstage for several productions for Red Mask and DLO. She has also been seen on stage in minor roles in Wait Until Dark, Wake Me No Wake, and Going Home. Marty is a teacher at Northeast School and has 5 children and 5 grandchildren. She is happily married to the director and set designer. She must be busy.

Wendy has had various backstage experiences from high school to present. She was also the infamous voice locked in the basement in Rumors. She is pleased to be with theater friends-some who seem like family- on this production. Since her three children are young adults, there is time to teach at DHS, counsel for the Center for Children Services and join in this experience.

Stage Manager-Sue Harden

Sue was last seen in the summer production of Bleacher Bums. She would like to extend a big thank-you to the Director, as he was the first to cast her as Claire in Rumors, Having worked with Her director, she feels privileged to work with him this time. In her spare time Sue is a legal secretary for (shameless plug) Dukes, Martin, Ryan and Meyer Ltd. She would also like to acknowledge those on the homefront.



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ON STAGE

Vern Bergkoetter-Murray

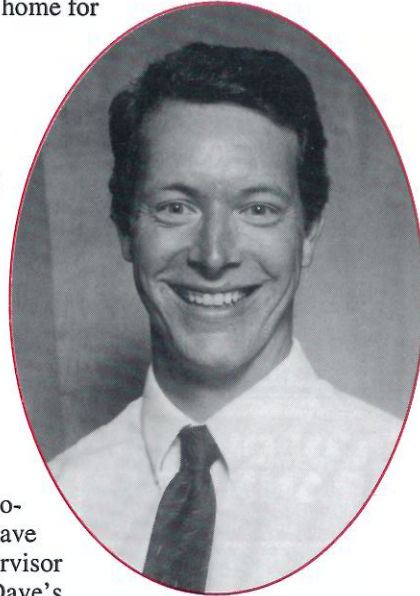
This is Vern's first Red Mask production, and containing his excitement has been a nearly impossible task. He loved to perform as a youth, but did not get back on stage until his appearance in the production of **Godspell** at Community Church of God here in Danville in 1996. Vern is a School Psychologist and enjoys working with youth. He is thankful for the late Lorraine Weber, who was his director, encourager, and spiritual mentor through most of his life. Vern also wished to thank Sonny Downing for encouraging him to join Red Mask, and his wife, Milia and five teenagers at home for saying "just do it".

Chad Edwards-Speed

Chad made his Red Mask debut in last spring's **Rainmaker** as the not so bright, but loveable, Jimmy. This summer he appeared in TFO's production of **5th of July** as Weston. He also played the part of the announcer in **Bleacher Bums**. He's looking forward to getting back on stage and working with a new cast and crew. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

David Laker-Oscar Madison

The current 2nd Vice President of the Red Mask Board has been active (on and off) with Red Mask since 1974. David was last on the Red Mask stage in the TFO/Red Mask production of **Bleacher Bums** and last season's production of **My Three Angels**. When not at Red Mask, Dave works at the Danville Correctional Center as a food supervisor and part time at Danville Book World. Thank goodness Dave's lovely wife, Mary Ann, was also cast in this show or he would never see



her. Dave would also like to thank his family, friends, and work for their constant support.

Mary Ann Laker-Gwendolyn Pigeon

The Odd Couple mark's Mary Ann's sixth appearance on the Red Mask stage, and her third with her wonderful husband, Dave (see **Rumors**). She was last seen this summer's **Talking With**. As always, she thanks her husband for all his love and support, and for his patience while she practices her British accent!



THE
ODD
COUPLE

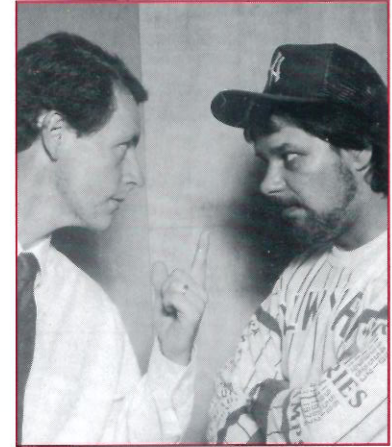
ON STAGE

Lorraine Morgan-Cecily Pigeon

Lorraine is back for her 2nd season with Red Mask after an incredible busy 1st. She was last seen at Red Mask as Lizzie in **Rainmaker** and for TFO in **Talking With**. Lorraine would like to thank Dave. D. for the opportunity to try another accent (closer to home this time) and Dave M. for his support.

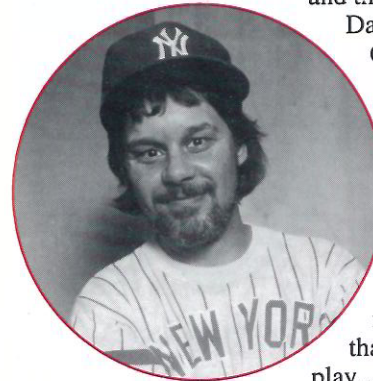
Chuck Pundt-Vinnie

Once again, Chuck is back for another season. He is especially pleased to return this season, being given a chance to perform in a true classic, **The Odd Couple**. He has been seen on stage in the past in **Rumors**, **Social Security**, **Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille**, and last season's **My three Angels**. He also wishes to thank Susan for her support in theater and life in general.



Bryan Schroeder-Felix Unger

This is Bryan's third Red Mask production having first appeared as Paul in last year's wonderful, **My Three Angels**, and then as a blind Cubs' fan (what other kind?) in this summer's **Bleacher Bums**. Bryan wishes to thank his better half, Shawn, for her support and love, and their one-year-old, Sarah Lou, who missed her Da Da Da Da Da Da during those long rehearsals. Although Bryan is a Letter Carrier in Danville, he keeps his SKS at home. Usually.



Gordon Thoennes-Roy

Gordon is not only making his first appearance on the Red Mask stage, but this is a first at acting as well. Originally from Bloomington, Il., he has resided in Danville for almost 20 years. He has been happily married to his very patient wife, Brenda, for 27 years and has two wonderful children, Nicole and Mandy. Gordon is a self-employed insurance agent representing The Heartland Insurance Agency. He would like to thank his wife and children for giving him the inspiration to do a play...with a special thanks to Pete who convinced him to read for the part.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Director	Dave Downing	Lights/Sound Technician	Chad Carpenter
Stage Manager	Sue Harden	House Manager	Robert McIntire
Co-Producers	Wendy Barnes and Marty Downing	Make-up	Dave Laker and Cast
Set Design	Dave Downing	Box Office	Gaye Garner
Set Construction	B.J. Harvey, Gail Garner, Dave Downing and Cast/Crew.	Casting	Dave Downing, Ed DeVore and Sue Harden
Property Manager	Bev Nees	Publicity	Lisa Lovelace
Props	Jamie DeVore and Sheila Bergkoetter	Photography	Ed Sant
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