

51st Season



191st Production

Neuse Little Theatre
proudly presents

The Odd Couple

by Neil Simon



May 29 – June 7, 2026

**Johnston
County**
VISITORS BUREAU



North
Carolina
Arts
Council

Johnston
County
Arts
Council



Proud supporters of the arts. One thunderous ovation at a time.

As the largest audiology practice in Johnston and Wayne Counties, we're proud to support local theater — where every voice, line, and ovation deserves to be heard.

Break a leg!



If "All the world's a stage", hearing loss is a villain.
We are the trusted guide you meet on your quest to
beat the bad guy.

Be the hero of your hearing loss story.

Smithfield
919-300-5438

Goldsboro
919-751-6053

Clayton
919-585-5856

info@coateshearing.com • CoatesHearing.com

Most major insurance plans accepted.

The Odd Couple

Comedy by Neil Simon

Directed by Kathi Nixon

The Cast

Matt Gore as Oscar Madison

D.H. Johnson as Felix Unger

Noah Denton as Speed

Daniel E.D. Brown as Murray

Rich Nixon as Roy

Darren Nix as Vinnie

Jeri Keith Liles as Gwendolyn Pigeon

Nancy Gibbs as Cecily Pigeon

Setting:

An apartment on Riverside Drive, New York City

Time:

Act I: A hot summer night.

~ Intermission-15 minutes ~

Act II, Scene 1: Two weeks later. About 11pm

Act II, Scene 2: A few days later. About 8pm

Act III: The next evening. About 7:30pm

The Crew

Director	Kathi Nixon
Assistant Director	Theresa Rose
Stage Manager	Tabitha Vaughn
Production Assistant	Mollie Brantley
Lighting/Sound Technician	Izzy Moose
Running Crew Chief	Stephen Roberts
Backstage Crew	Stephanie Chard, Zen Kelly, Zoey Pridgen, Abby White
Set Construction	Stephen Roberts, Stephanie Chard, Zen Kelly, Abby White, Zoey Pridgen, Natalie Zuk, Jorge Sepulveda, David Sepulveda, Ali Sepulveda, Mya Sepulveda, Kathi Nixon, Stephanie Veren
Scenic Painters	Anita Liverman, Susan Knop
Props	Mollie Brantley, Tabitha Vaughn, Meta Toole
Publicity	Theresa Rose, Cast
Box Office	Theresa Rose, Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan, Stephanie Veren, Sammy Smith, Patsy Castellano, Meta Toole
Ushers & Sales	Tamara Baltazar, Abbie Claire Donaldson, Christie Donaldson, Luke Donaldson, Jessica Gore, Justin Gore, Brenda Hartley, Martha Heyward, Cindy Johnson, Florence Kreacic, Susan Knop, Jeffery Plate, Kelly Plate, Nancy Stevens, Stephanie Veren, Kristi Wooldard, Walker Wooldard
Cast Photo Board	Rich Nixon, Meta Toole
Poster & Program Design	Noah Denton
Poster Distribution	Cast & Crew

REECE & REECE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SMITHFIELD, NC
919-300-1249



Who's Who in the Cast



Daniel E.D. Brown (Murray) 26, was born and raised in Baltimore, MD and moved to Johnston County in the summer of 2020. Acting has been his passion since he was a young boy and he credits his initial involvement in theatre to his mother. Daniel enjoys pizza, the gym, nerdy stuff, and he loves to spend time with his family and girlfriend. This is Mr. Brown's fifth production with Neuse Little Theatre, and he's grateful to be back on the Doris Cannon Stage.



Noah Denton (Speed) is ecstatic to return for his fifth production with Neuse Little Theatre. His most recent appearance at The Hut was in *One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall* as Todd and Robin. Other credits with NLT include Lieutenant Rooney in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Constable Booker in *Angel Street*, and Prince John in *The Lion in Winter*. Outside of NLT, Noah has worked onstage and off with companies such as Spiritual Twist Productions, Solace Theatre, and Theatre in the Park. One of Noah's favorite things about NLT is the tight-knit group of people that truly put the "community" in community theatre. When he is not volunteering in the theatre, Noah works as a Registered Behavior Technician for JoyBridge Kids in Garner and is pursuing a Masters degree in Applied Behavior Analysis. You may also spot him haunting the grounds of the Clayton Fear Farm, where he also serves as Assistant Creative Director. Noah would like to thank his friends and family for their never-ending support of his theatrical endeavors, and would like to send an extra special thanks to the audience for supporting their local community theatre.

Ken & Jane Allen
111 N. 3rd Street
Smithfield, NC 27577



Printing - Packing - Crating - Notary Service - Fax Service - Mail Forwarding
Shipping - Custom Boxes - Private Mailbox Rental - Textbook Buyback

Mon-Fri 9:00-6:00 Sat 9:00-1:00

Phone: (919) 989-4070
Fax: (919) 989-4071

office@weshipit.net
www.weshipit.net

Who's Who in the Cast



Nancy Gibbs (Cecily Pigeon) has been a part of NLT since the '90's. She's acted, produced, directed, secured props and worked the box office. Some of her favorite roles have included *Wizard of Oz* (Glinda), *Damn Yankees* (Lola) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Aunt Abby). Big thanks to Kathi for her casting genius, especially the uncanny "Pigeon sister Gwen". It's very difficult to tell Nancy and Jeri Keith apart—Nancy's a little taller. They've had fun together!

Nancy serves as a member of the board of directors at NLT as Secretary. In real life she is married to her #1 fan, Otis. They live in Smithfield.



Want to keep up with Neuse Little Theatre?

Consider signing up to receive our newsletter via email. Scan the QR code with your phone and add your name to our email list.



PIRATE'S

PEST & TERMITE CONTROL, LLC

Residential • Commercial • Government



**WE MAKE PESTS
WALK THE PLANK**



Karen E. Atkins, Owner
Robert G. Davis III, Manager / Licensee

919-351-0047 • PiratesPest.com

Who's Who in the Cast



Matt Gore (Oscar Madison) is grateful to return to NLT with this wonderful cast and crew for his eighteenth appearance on their stage. No stranger to comedy he has appeared in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Max), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon) *Something's Afoot* (the butler) *The Amorous Ambassador* (again, the butler) *The Curious Savage* (Titus Savage) *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Algernon, CST) and most recently appeared in *Arsenic and Old Lace* as Teddy and Vice Principal Panch in Benson Little Theatre's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Matt would like to thank Tamara, his mother, his brother and his brother's wife for their support. He would also like to thank Kathi, DH, Nancy and the rest of cast for their trust and support on finding this iconic character. Finally, he would especially like to thank the audience that come support live theater!

WR

WILLOWRUN

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Who's Who in the Cast



D.H. Johnson (Felix Unger) is a native of Benson. He has served three terms as chairman of the Benson Foundation for the Arts. He has directed *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Gypsy*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *The Foreigner*, *The Sound of Music*, *A Night on Broadway*, and *Southern Fried Funeral*. As an actor he has appeared in plays from Sacramento to NYC. Locally he has appeared in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Annie*, *Guys & Dolls* and *The Odd Couple* (as Oscar) at Benson Little Theater and more recently *Moonlight and Magnolias* at Raleigh Little Theater. D.H. is happy to FINALLY appear on the NLT stage!



Jeri Keith Liles (Gwendolyn Pigeon) has been working in the entertainment industry for over 30 years as a performer, director and instructor. Jeri came home to her Raleigh NC roots after traveling the country and settling in NYC for many years. She is pleased to be making her first appearance on the Neuse Little Theatre stage. Recent shows include *Barefoot in the Park* (Ethyl Banks), *The Foreigner* (Betty Meeks), *Southern Fried Nuptials/Southern Fried Funeral* (Dorothy Frye), *Guys and Dolls* (Miss Adelaide), *Clue* (Yvette.) Jeri will be directing *The Wizard of OZ* this fall at the Benson Little Theatre in Benson NC and hopes you will all come out for Auditions!!

PARRISH



Residential/Commercial
"A Reputation of Service"
Since 1975



(919) 934-5898
(919) 934-5824 Fax

Frank Parrish

SERVICES

PO Box 1023
614 Powell Street
Smithfield, NC 27577

www.parrishclean.com
service@parrishclean.com

Who's Who in the Cast



Darren Nix (Vinnie) is no stranger to the stage at Neuse Little Theatre and is thrilled to be part of this production. His Neuse credits include Sam in *Mamma Mia*, which earned him Best Actor honors, as well as Nick in *Baby, the Musical*, and a Best Actor nomination for his portrayal of the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*. He earned Best Actor for his role as Mr. MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*. And appeared as Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* at Center Stage Theatre in Goldsboro. Darren has also been featured in multiple comedy sketches at local play festivals. Darren is grateful for the opportunity to work under the direction of Kathi Nixon and alongside such a talented cast. Outside of the theater, he is a Sales Manager for a global security integration company. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Clayton, where they enjoy spending time with their four children and two grandchildren, Harper and Carter.



Rich Nixon (Roy) is a retired U.S. History teacher. After a 42-year teaching career, during which he taught at Athens Drive High School, South Johnston High School, Clayton High School and Corinth Holders High School, he graded his last essay in 2021 and has been living a life of leisure since then. He is excited that his wife is soon to join the ranks of the retired. Rich is no stranger to the NLT stage. Some of the roles he has played are Sir Wilfred Robarts in *Witness For The Prosecution*, Marshall Johnson in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence*, and Finner in *Walking Across Egypt*, a role for which he won a Cannon Award. Rich would like thank all of his castmates for making this production so much fun. He would also like to thank the Director for ... well, she knows. After this production Rich is looking forward to counting down the days until college football season, hanging out with his dog Daisy and spending endless hours with his newly retired wife, Kathi. He hopes you enjoy watching *The Odd Couple* as much as he has enjoyed being in it.

We welcome the audience to meet the cast and crew after the production. They will be available on the porch to talk with anyone who wishes to speak with them.

Season 51

2026-2027

a season of Storytelling & Hope



September 25 & 26, 2026—8PM
September 27, 2026—3PM
at Johnston Community College



December 4 & 5, 2026—8PM
December 6, 2026—3PM
December 11 & 12, 2026—8PM
December 13, 2026—3PM



February 12 & 13, 2027—8PM
February 14, 2027—3PM
February 19 & 20, 2027—8PM



April 2 & 3, 2027—8PM
April 4, 2027—3PM
April 9 & 10, 2027—8PM



May 21 & 22, 2027—8PM
May 23, 2027—3PM
May 28 & 29, 2027—8PM

Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Kathi Nixon (Director) is excited to be directing one of her favorite plays, Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*. This is the second play Kathi has directed at NLT, but she has directed *The Odd Couple* twice before at both Clayton High School and Corinth Holders High School. This play was also the second show that Kathi performed with the NLT when she starred as Gwendolyn Pigeon alongside Darius Rose and Reggie Parker (back in the day!) By the time you read this bio, Kathi will have about 3 days left in a 34 year career as a drama and English teacher in Johnston County, where she has directed over 50 high school plays, including her last one: *Once Upon A Mattress* at CHHS. Kathi would like to thank *The Odd Couple* cast for their hard work on tonight's show and her amazing crew (all former and present drama students!) for working so hard behind the scenes. When she is not directing, Kathi likes performing on stage. Her most recent roles have included this year's *Doubt* (Sister Aloysius - NLT), *The Wizard of Oz* (The Wicked Witch - NLT, for which she earned a Cannon award), *Clue* (Mrs Peacock - BLT), and *Boeing Boeing* (Berte - NLT, Cannon award). Kathi would especially like to thank Stephen Roberts and Meta Toole for helping her with the set and SO many props, Anita Liverman and William Strickland for the beautiful set painting, and her sweet husband, Rich, (tonight's Roy the poker player) just for being amazing. Kathi will miss being in the classroom but is looking forward to having more time to go to Wake Forest football games, work in her yard, play some bluegrass music, and spend time with Rich and their sweet dog, Daisy. Lastly, Kathi would like to dedicate tonight's performance of *The Odd Couple* to her late father, Ken Hinton, who would have loved watching Matt , D.H., the poker guys, and Pigeon sisters on stage. Enjoy the show!



Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Theresa Rose (Assistant Director) has been involved with NLT for 22 years. She would like to thank Kathi Nixon for the opportunity to experience this production from a director's point of view & for the chance to be a part of this amazing team. She resides in Smithfield with her husband Darius and "furbaby" Maggie Mae, and is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Choir, Smithfield. She also serves on the NLT Board of Directors as Vice President & as the Advertising & Publicity Coordinator. Enjoy the show, pussycat!



Stephen Roberts (Running Crew Chief) has worked with NLT for years now, usually as our stage manager (but he is happy to step aside for new talent). He has appeared on stage a few times but is much more comfortable behind the scenes. He has been on the big stage at Johnston Auditorium a couple times going all the way back to 1993 and Lil' Abner. He lives in Selma with his cat Casper, and is a member of St Ann's Catholic Church. Thank you for supporting our community theatre.



Izzy Moose (Lighting/Sound) is thrilled to be working with the Neuse Little Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support in this new technical endeavor.



919-934-0118



We love what we do... and who we serve
-Joy Michael Edwards

Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Tabitha Vaughan (Stage Manager) is excited to be working on *The Odd Couple* as her first production at the Neuse Little Theatre, alongside her cousin, Mollie, as the Stage Manager. Tabitha is a graduate of East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance (ECU), where she received a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts. There, she focused on directing, dramaturgy, stage management, and playwrighting. Her most notable roles include Dramaturg for ECU's production of *Wild Heart*, Assistant Director for ECU's production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, and Stage Manager for ECU's production of *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical*. Finally, Tabitha would like to thank her family (mom, dad, brother, and sister), best friend, the cast and crew, and her cat, Nancy, for their support during this show!

Special Thanks

Town of Smithfield

William Strickland

Jesse Shelton

Georgia Kate Shelton

Tyler Pinkowski

Randy Pinkowski

Thank you to all the businesses in Smithfield and around Johnston County who allow us to advertise in their windows. We appreciate your support of the arts throughout the year!



Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Mollie Brantley (Production Assistant) is a graduate of Appalachian State University's Theatre Education program. Through her time in high school and college she has been in and assisted with multiple shows. These include performances in *Romeo and Juliet*, *30 Reasons Not to be in a Play*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Hundred Dresses*. Additionally she has assisted with and helped to direct shows including, *Clue*, *Rumors*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Ile*, *The Moors*, and *Men on Boats*. This is her second NLT production and she is so excited to help and work with such an amazing group of people, including her wonderful cousin stage manager, Tabitha. Finally, she would like to thank her fantastic parents (and sister I guess) for giving her the ability to partake in theatre productions and their continued support.



Stephanie Chard (Backstage) is a recently graduated senior from CHHS, she plans to attend NC state in the fall. She has acted and done backstage work, most notably in the *Mousetrap*, *15 Reasons Not To Be In A Play*, and *Once Upon A Mattress*. Stephanie is really excited to be a part of *The Odd Couple*!



Zen Kelly (Backstage) is a recently graduated student of Corinth Holders High School and she's very happy to be working with her Theatre teacher, Mrs. Nixon, again after taking her class every year at Corinth and being in so many productions directed by her! This is Zen's first time being a part of the crew for a show, but she's appeared on stage at the Neuse Little Theatre before in productions like *The Mousetrap* and *15 Reasons Not To Be In A Play*. Zen looks forward to more opportunities to perform in the future and thanks Mrs. Nixon for inviting her and her friends to be stagehands for *The Odd Couple*!

Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Zoey Aryn Pridgen (Backstage) is a rising Senior at Corinth Holders High School and this is her first time working crew in an official stage production. She has loved theatre in both off and on stage. Zoey Aryn has mainly participated in theatre productions on stage with roles including Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon A Mattress* (CHHS), Diana Barry in *Anne Of Green Gables* (NLT) and Aquata in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (NLT). Zoey Aryn is the President of the Choral Student Leadership Council at Corinth Holders High School and is currently the Worship Intern at her church. She plans to attend Liberty University and pursue a career as a worship leader.



Abby White (Backstage) is freshly graduated from CHHS and has been in other productions such as *Once Upon A Mattress* this past spring at CHHS and *The Mousetrap* here at NLT. Abby is so excited to work with her past director and theater teacher, Mrs. Nixon, and her friends backstage.

Reservations

To purchase tickets visit nlt.booktix.com and print your ticket at home (skip the box office). Or call (919) 934-1873 and leave a message on the voice mail to reserve. We will return your call to get you payment information. If you wish to pay at the door, you will pay the "at door" price.

Remember, if you only reserved (without advance payment) and are not at the theatre by 10 minutes before curtain we reserve the right to sell your seat to those on standby.

Hope you enjoy the show!!



Teresa Shearin
Hair Specialist

Shear Designs



Thank you Johnston County for 40 wonderful years!

Lifetime Members

Tony Onisko
Doris Cannon
Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan
Jean Marlow
Jim Abbott
Darius Rose
Mary George Narron
Don Johnston
Anita Liverman
Vivian Worrell
John Kolcum
Fred Toole
Richard Roberts
Scott Bolejack
Meta Toole
Bill Jordan
Reggie Parker
Sammy Smith
Ruth Mills
Stephen Roberts



Donors

Lance & Linda Armstrong
Marty & Rose Jenkins
Karen & Robert Kendall
Betty & Bob Lotter
Rich & Kathi Nixon
Jay Vinson
Mike & Sherrill Weathers



Sponsors

Nikki Duprey
Otis & Nancy Gibbs
Joseph & Susan Hartmann
Judith Lavista
Cheryl Oliver
Reggie & Dianne Parker
Bobby Pilkington
Carl & Vickie Simmons
Billy & Clara Wellons



We are always looking for local businesses to collaborate with, so if your company would like to sponsor us for a show, please reach out and let us know!



Even with season tickets, you must call ahead or redeem online

to reserve your seat for the night you wish to attend. See you at the show!

We are excited to announce...

You can now buy your show tickets online. No phone call necessary! Skip the line at the box office and print your tickets at home!

You can even purchase season tickets and flex ticket online options. If you purchase your season tickets online and redeem them yourself via the online portal, you have first choice of tickets before they open for public sale.

Visit nlt.booktix.com to check it out!

Members

Janice Augustine	Deborah J. Keith
Debbie J Barbour	Belinda J Kiziah
Brenda Braswell	Tom & Ann Kreuzinger
Cary Seniors on the Go	Judy Brown Langston
Curtis & Cindy Brookshire	Katherine Lassiter
Jane Kate Brown	Tony Liverman
Karen Berge Brown	Lori Lowery
Beth Cannon	Didi Lucas
Billy Carter	Doris Lybrand
Patsy Castellano	Doug & Candace May
Heidi Cooper	Maxine McFadyen
Jan Cowperthwaite	Kelly McNutt
Sandy Cordray	Gregory & Jill Mills
Eve Creech	Frances P. Parrish
Dexter Curry	Jane Patterson
Patsy Daughtery	Steve & Beverly Persinger
Karen Davidson	LoraFaith Ragano
Randy & Rhonda Davis	Richardson Family
Joan Erickson	Tim & Pam Russell
Diane Every	Diana Speas
Dina Flowers	Wanda G. Stancil
Sandra Fritz	Donna Strallow
Ester Garner	Sue Stanfield
Beth Hamilton	Mary Ann Sutton
Darla Hamm	Mike Thomas
Brenda Haney	Allison Thompson
Dan & Becky Harden	Glenda & Gary Underwood
Bob Harned	Mary VanderWal
Kevin & Brenda Gail Hartley	Melinda Wagoner
Oliver & Betty Hartmann	Crystal Whitman
Martha Heyward	Buster & Marcia Williamson
Connie L. Johnson	Mavorine Willoughby
Terry & Michelle Karlson	Anita Yost

Neuse Little Theatre Board of Directors

Officers

Meta Toole
President

Theressa Rose
Vice President

Nancy Gibbs
Secretary

Nichole Braswell
Treasurer

Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan
Business Manager

Ava Wilson
Student Representative

Ruth Mills
President Emeritus

Members

Shaun Braswell
Patsy Castellano
Matt Gore
Brenda Hartley

Anita Liverman
Kathi Nixon
Sammy Smith
Stephanie Veren

The Neuse Little Theatre formed in 1974 as a community theatre group. John Wallace presided until the election of Richard Thayer as President of the Board of Directors in 1979. Those who later served as President of the Board of Directors of the Neuse Little Theatre are as follows:

Rebecca Ziady (1978-1979)
Janet Shallcross (1979-1981)
Judy Hannah (1982-1987)
Anita Liverman (1988-1990)
Donald Johnston (1990-1993)
Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan (1993-1995)

Darius Rose (1995-1997)
Susan Strickland (1996-1998)
Ken Mitchell, Jr. (1998-2000)
John Kolcum (2000-2002)
Ruth Mills (2002-2021)



Carroll Pharmacy

www.carrollpharmacy.com

Trusted by
families

SINCE 1977!

**Mon. - Sat.
9am - 6pm**

919-934-7164



Prescriptions



Free Delivery



Photos



Gifts



840 S. Brightleaf Blvd.



Please NO flash photography or video recording during performances.

Please silence all cell phones & electronic devices while in the theatre.

Neuse Little Theatre: Celebrating 52 Seasons of Storytelling

We are thrilled to unveil a dynamic lineup for Season 52 - a collection of five diverse productions designed to captivate, challenge, and delight audiences of all ages. We invite you to join us as a season member and experience a year of unforgettable theatre.

Our season opens with a breathtaking musical inspired by a true story, followed by a cherished holiday classic that brings warmth and nostalgia to the stage. Next, we explore a moving story about healing, hope, and the unexpected paths the future can take. The drama intensifies with a gripping tale set on a remote island where survival is uncertain, and we close the season with a fast-paced, hilarious whirlwind through the complete works of Shakespeare.

Few small communities have enjoyed the caliber of local theatre that has flourished on Johnston County's stages for over 50 years. Since its founding, the Neuse Little Theatre has upheld a tradition of excellence—from Neil Simon to Rodgers & Hammerstein, from *Spoon River Anthology* to *The Wizard of Oz*—always striving to inspire, entertain, and enrich audiences young and old.

After decades of performing wherever space could be found, NLT finally has a home to call its own. Affectionately known as “The Hut,” our theatre provides stability, creativity, and community - but maintaining this beloved space comes with significant responsibility. Now, more than ever, we rely on the support of patrons who believe in the power of the arts.

We invite you to become a member of the Neuse Little Theatre and help ensure that live, local theatre continues to thrive in our community. Your support keeps the lights shining, the stories unfolding, and the magic alive.

For the latest in show news, tickets, and audition information please visit:

www.neuselittletheatre.org
