

PSA:

The Thin Air Theatre Company will produce Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* at the Butte Theater, directed by Mickey Burdick. *The Odd Couple* will show February 29 through March 22: Thursdays 7 p.m., Fridays 7 p.m., Saturdays 1 and 7 p.m., and Sundays 1 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$14.75 Adult; \$12.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children 12 & under; \$11.75 groups of 20 or more. For information or to purchase tickets visit butteoperahouse.com or call 719-235-8944.

For immediate release Jan. 24, 2008

The Broadway hit Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* will debut at the Butte Theater Feb. 29 as part of the Thin Air Theatre Company's 2008 season.

The Odd Couple was a hit 1965 Broadway play by Simon, followed by a successful film and television series, as well as other derivative works and spin-offs, many featuring one or more of the same actors. The plot is about two mismatched roommates, one uptight and the other slovenly.

Sources vary as to the origins of the play. Most sources claim that Simon was inspired to write the play when he saw his brother Danny Simon and theatrical agent Roy Gerber living together after recent divorces. However, in the Mel Brooks biography *It's Good to Be the King*, author James Robert Parish claims that the play came about after Simon observed Brooks, in a separation from his first wife, living with writer Speed Vogel for three months. Vogel later wrote that Brooks had insomnia, "a brushstroke of paranoia," and "a blood-sugar problem that kept us a scintilla away from insanity."

In 1968 *The Odd Couple* was made into a highly successful film starring Jack Lemmon as Felix and Walter Matthau as Oscar. The film was also written by Simon (who was nominated for an Academy Award) and was directed by Gene Saks.

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