

# Repertoire

AUGUST 2016

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



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## Oscar and Felix get a modern update in oddly familiar comedy from The Rep

A 20th century comedy masterpiece gets rebooted for the new millennium with **OSCAR AND FELIX: A NEW LOOK AT THE ODD COUPLE**, a modern take on Neil Simon's 1965 classic, opening at Adelaide's Arts Theatre on September 1st 2016.

Those who love the original "Odd Couple" will laugh all over again at the classic characters in an all-new setting, re-written by Simon in 2002.

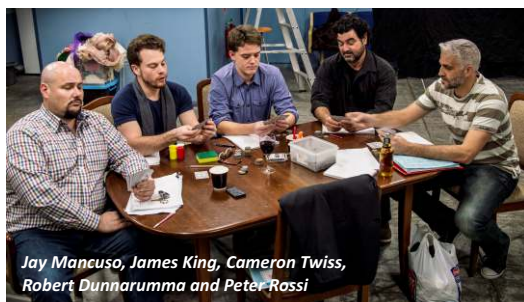
New York buddies Oscar Madison (Peter Rossi) and Felix Unger (Patrick Gibson) find themselves sharing an apartment. They're young, single or almost single, free to have their mates over for poker nights whenever they want - plus two sexy Spanish sisters have moved into the apartment upstairs.

It should be domestic bliss, but there's just one problem: Oscar is a loudmouth slob, and Felix a fussy neat-freak.

Slovenly Oscar prefers a laid back life while neurotic Felix - "the only man in the world with clenched hair" - is happiest with a vacuum cleaner in hand. It soon becomes clear Felix is the housemate from hell, can their friendship survive, or will his finicky ways finally irritate Oscar to death?

Director **Brian Knott** says fans of the original play and movie will find many new things to love in this modern version.

*"Even if you're new to the show, you'll have sore cheeks from laughing. This play is straight out, wall-to-wall laughs, with sarcasm laid on with a trowel!"* he says.



Jay Mancuso, James King, Cameron Twiss,  
Robert Dunnarumma and Peter Rossi



Above: Patrick Gibson and Peter Rossi.  
Left: Patrick Gibson as Felix, Carol Lawton one of the Costazuela sisters and Peter Rossi as Oscar.

*"There is no deep message here, no moral, no pesky 'make you think' moments. This is just a night of pure, solid comedy."*

Starring **Peter Rossi** and **Patrick Gibson** in the title roles, **Jamie King**, **Rob Donnarumma**, **Cameron Twist** and **Jay Mancuso** as their roustabout poker-playing mates, and **Megan Langford** and **Carole Lawton** as the Costazuela sisters.

Bursting with snappy one-liners, wry observations on life, love and friendship and lots of physical humour, **OSCAR AND FELIX** is a new comedy classic from one of the masters of the genre.

International praise for  
**OSCAR AND FELIX:**  
*"It's still a classic!"* - Variety  
*"A sumptuous comic feast!"*  
- Backstage  
*"This play is bulletproof  
funny!"* - LA News

Adelaide Repertory Theatre  
by arrangement with ORIGIN Theatrical Ltd  
presents

### **Oscar and Felix: A New Look at the Odd Couple**

by Neil Simon

**September 1 to 10, 2016**  
The Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide  
Sept 1-3 and 7-10 at 8pm,  
matinee Saturday Sept 10 at 2pm.

Tickets: **\$22** adult, **\$17** concession,  
plus special discounts for groups of 10+

Book at [adelaiderep.com](http://adelaiderep.com) or call 8212 5777

Directed by: Brian Knott



## A word from the Chair

**Penni Hamilton-Smith**

**Dear subscribers, members, volunteers, audiences and friends of the Rep.**

As I began to compose this report, I realized how quickly this year is passing. These first 6 months have held many rewarding moments, as well as some

challenges. In our first two productions, *"The Elephant Man"* and *"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"* the Rep. continued its track record of consistent performance. Thanks to directors Megan Dansie and Barry Hill and their wonderfully talented casts.

We were delighted this month receive nominations at the Adelaide Theatre Guide Curtain Call Awards for Best Show, Comedy, *"The Cripple of Inishmaan"* directed by Kerrin White and Best Male Performance, Matt Houston, and for *"The Elephant Man"* directed by Megan Dansie, Best Female Performance, Georgia Stockham and Best Male Performance, Robert Bell. Congratulations to all of these talented and dedicated young people.

The Board members at the Rep. recognize that with our leadership comes a responsibility; one we all consider a privilege. I'm pleased with how we are meeting that responsibility and look forward to our next 2 productions *"Oscar and Felix"* and *"Don't Dress For Dinner."* After two thoughtful and provoking dramas we thought it was time to have a laugh in this second half of 2016 and laughs there will be a plenty in these two productions.

Personally, I am truly humbled to be chair of the Rep. Board and to have the opportunity of working with the incredibly talented and dedicated people who volunteer their time and effort on the Board, on the boards and behind the scenes both in front and behind the stage.

With so many challenges all of us in the world today face it is a great relief to be able to come along to the theatre and enjoy an evening watching skilled performers at work. Because of ever increasing production costs it is my belief that providing high-quality theatre experiences to audiences around Adelaide in a sustainable manner is our greatest challenge.

We need a constant flow of new ideas and different approaches to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future and we welcome your input. We present our work as a gift for you so if there is something you would like to see or for us to present then please let us know,

I'm very proud of the progress we have made toward our purpose of providing good quality theatre to our audiences and look forward to seeing you soon on a seat in our theatre.

And to you, our valued friends, who have placed your confidence and trust in us, thank you for your support. Please continue to buy tickets for our productions. Working together we can continue to serve the Adelaide community.

Sincerely,

*Penni*

Chair Rep. Board July 2016

## And now for something completely different .....

The Rep's 2016 season commenced with the critically acclaimed look at the life of a severely deformed *"Elephant Man"*, and followed that with Tennessee Williams scorching examination of a seriously dysfunctional Southern family, in *"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"*.

As our President comments in her 'Word from the Chair' we felt audiences might be ready for a bit of light relief after all that angst, and so Neil Simon's *"Oscar and Felix; A new look at The Odd Couple"* is the third production for 2016.

There is a serious lack of serious message in Oscar and Felix.

Perhaps the nearest thing to a message is that humour is a good way of coping with life's little difficulties.

*"The Odd Couple"* is definitely one of Neil Simon's most successful and enduring comedies. Opening on Broadway in 1965, it won 4 of its 5 nominated Tony Awards, and played for 964 performances. There was a film version in 1968 with another in 1998. *"The Odd Couple"* TV series ran from 1970 to 1975, became a cartoon with a cat and dog named Spiffy and Fleabag, starred 2 black actors in 1982's *"The New Odd Couple"* series, and in 1985 prompted the *"The Female Odd Couple"*. In 2015 Matthew Perry directed and starred in yet another TV version of *"The Odd Couple"*. Simon's original idea was amazingly fruitful with successful Japanese, Venezuelan and Polish productions.

Neil Simon has written more than thirty plays and nearly the same number of movie screenplays, mostly adaptations of his plays. He has received more combined Oscar and Tony nominations than any other writer.

*"Oscar and Felix: A New Look at the Odd Couple"* is Simon's updated version. Written in 2002, Simon's characters have undergone some transformation whilst retaining Simon's signature dialogue with its rare blend of realism, humor and seriousness. There are 2 slightly more realistic friends amongst the group of card players who gather for Oscar's poker games and Oscar's upstairs neighbors have transformed from the twittering English female tourists into a newly arrived Spanish widow and her recently divorced friend.

In case you missed the TV series or the films, the plot concerns two mismatched roommates: the neat and neurotic Felix Unger and slovenly, easygoing Oscar Madison. When Felix is thrown out by his wife he moves in with his friend Oscar.

Simon's examination of American male-bonding, with affection covered with a blanket of semi- aggressive humour, gives Simon the basis for this hilarious look at friendship.

## The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

**Patron:** His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO  
Governor of South Australia

**Vice Patron:** The Right Honourable  
the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Martin Haese


**Home Venue:** ARTS Theatre, 53 Angas St, Adelaide 5000

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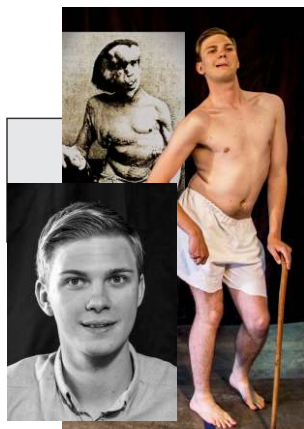
AUGUST 2016

## Announcing the 2015/2016 "Curtain Call" Award Nominees!

The Rep's productions of "The Cripple of Inishmaan" directed by Kerrin White and "The Elephant Man" directed by Megan Dansie, received four nominations in Adelaide Theatre Guide Curtain Call Awards.

Best Show, Comedy,  
"The Cripple of Inishmaan"

Best Male Performance,  
**Matt Houston,**  
"The Cripple of Inishmaan"



Best Male Performance,  
**Robert Bell,**  
"The Elephant Man"

Best Female Performance,  
**Georgia Stockham,**  
"The Elephant Man"



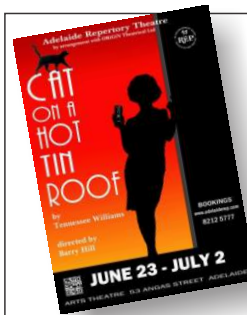
**Congratulations to all who have been nominated!**

The winners will be announced at the 2016 Gala Dinner and "Curtain Call" Awards Night on September 10.

Support the great work of ATG by attending this gala function. I can guarantee you a great night out. The Rep will be well represented at the Awards Night – at least 20 at the latest count.

Why not make up a table now? More details at:

<http://www.theatreguide.com.au/>



## Praise for "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof"

*Directed by Barry Hill.*  
**Arts Theatre 14 – 23 April 2016**

Director Barry Hill and the cast were thrilled to receive a personal note from Frank Ford AM, reproduced below with Frank's permission.

*Dear Barry, Cast and Crew*

*Thank you for a splendid production of a wonderful play from one of the great playwrights of the Twentieth Century!*

*I enjoyed every aspects of this very fine production which allowed the themes of the play to be highlighted and thoroughly explored in powerful dramatic intensity.*

*Last year I read a biography of Tennessee Williams (Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh) by the distinguished critic and author John Lahr.*

*It was a gripping tale of Tennessee's life and art.*

*Attending your production last night gave further illumination of the forces that drove the creative genius of Tennessee Williams.*

*Best Wishes*

*Frank*

If you missed Cat On A Hot Tin Roof make sure you don't miss out on the next Rep production

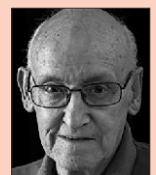


## DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

*by Marc Comoletti*

A riotous comedy to finish off the year

**Director:**  
**Norm Caddick**



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**The Adelaide Repertory Theatre**  
**53 Angas Street Adelaide SA 5000**

**Telephone: 08 8212 5777**

**Email: [enquiries@adelaiderep.com](mailto:enquiries@adelaiderep.com)**



## Thomas Henry Theodore Nave MBE

If you've ever attended a rehearsal, opening night party, Board meeting or indeed any other function organised by The Rep, chances are it was held upstairs in the Thomas Nave Room.

The room is named after life member and benefactor of the Rep, Thomas Nave MBE. His photo hangs on the wall on the left hand side as you enter the rehearsal room.

A few weeks ago, Mr Denis Nave, Thomas Nave's grandson, came to Adelaide on holiday from Brisbane and expressed a desire to visit the ARTS Theatre and see the rehearsal room dedicated to the memory of his grandfather.

With his wife, son and grandchild, Mr Denis Nave was shown around by current life member, Norm Caddick.

After a very pleasant hour viewing the photos and memorabilia, the Nave family left to continue their holiday. They subsequently sent a letter of thanks for the hospitality and enclosed a cheque for a donation to The Rep.

Thomas Nave appeared on stage for the Adelaide Theatre in 1910 in the first of many roles. In 1911 he commenced the first of three terms on the then Board of Management.

His service as a board member was continuous from 1919 until his death in 1954. He was elected a life member in 1923 and in 1948 was



*Norm took these photos of Mr Nave and family alongside the photo of his grandfather Thomas Nave.*



appointed a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Adelaide.

The theatre's lasting debt to him as administrator, director and actor is acknowledged by the naming of the Rep's rehearsal room after him.

### SAVE over \$40 on Rep Tickets

**Buy a voucher book of  
5 tickets for \$70**

**That's \$14 per ticket - a saving of \$8 on each adult ticket.**

- Buy a voucher book and you can buy more tickets at the concession rate of \$17 per ticket
- Receive invitations to the Opening Night suppers in the Thomas Nave Room
- Receive Membership of The Rep - so you can vote at the AGM

**Ticket Vouchers can be used for any show**

**– use one for each show or use them all for one show.**



### WANT TO EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?

The Wakefield Hotel is offering 50% off the 2nd meal when you produce your Rep tickets.

**76 Wakefield Street, Adelaide**



wakefield  
hotel

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**08 8223 1622**



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(add it to your favourites while you're there)

Click on the "book now" button and follow the steps.

Choose your preferred session and seats, pay online and print your tickets.

It really is that simple!

Bring your tickets with you, giving you extra time to catch up with friends in the foyer with a drink from the bar or coffee shop.

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'til midnight



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