



This Weekend at The Hangar, A4

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The *Odd Couple* at the Hangar this weekend

The Rivertime Players are proud to present The Odd Couple this weekend at the Hangar Performing Arts Center, 253 West 9th Street, in Parsons. This classic Neil Simon comedy finds two good friends down on their luck, one on his way to divorce, and the other already there.

Slobby Oscar Madison is living alone in a big 8 room apartment, and neatnik Felix Ungar needs a place to stay. They move in together as a matter of convenience, but this new arrangement proves to be a hilarious clash of lifestyles. The Odd Couple is one of Neil Simon's greatest works. It spawned a movie, starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemon, as well as a TV series with Jack Klugman and Tony Randall.

Shane Bridges plays Oscar Madison, and Mark Tubbs stars as Felix Ungar. Some have suggested that these two are very much like the characters they portray in this play. "We are definitely typecast," laughs Bridges. "I am totally an Oscar, and Mark is completely a Felix. You have no idea."

David Taylor, Gale Swift, Leonard Ward and Hueston Smith play Oscar's poker playing buddies. Taylor is no stranger to anyone who has ever been to a Toby Show here in Parsons.

"We're very lucky to have him," says Bridges. "David is just naturally a funny character. But our patrons haven't seen much of Gale Swift. This guy is hilarious! Very much a 'yin' to David's 'yang!'"

Leonard Ward was in the Rivertime Players production last spring, Escanaba in the Moonlight. "He did a great job for us last year, and we were fortunate his schedule allowed him to be in this show." Hueston Smith is returning to the Hangar stage, having been in Christmas at MallMart last December. Bridges brags, "Hueston's a pretty good kid. He just spent his entire spring break working on our set for this show. Not many teenagers would do that."

Speaking of the set, Bridges says that the Rivertime Players have gone all out to make sure this show looks good. "I think you'll be impressed by what we've done. I can only think of a handful of sets I've been on in my 25 years of acting that are as good as this one."

Rounding out the cast are Deanna Rosson and Meredith Crosby. Deanna made her Rivertime Players debut last fall in the Toby Show, and Meredith made hers in MallMart. Rosson and Crosby play Oscar and

Felix's british neighbors, Gwendolyn and Cecily, who come down to Oscar's for a double date. "That's probably my favorite part of the show. Mark, Meredith, and Deanna have the most awkwardly hilarious scene!"

The Hangar, at the old airport in Parsons, was finally completed last year, thanks to the City of Parsons and to a Tourism Grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. This has allowed the Rivertime Players to expand their season to 4 shows a year.

"We get such amazing support for our Toby Show every year, and we really hope we can get some folks out here to see this show," says Bridges. "We need to get people in the habit of coming out to the Hangar. I'm sure you won't be disappointed!"

The Odd Couple runs this weekend only, March 29 and 30 at 7 pm, and March 31 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the door, and the theatre opens one half hour before each performance. Please follow the Rivertime Players on Facebook and Instagram. Call (731)847-6358 with questions.