



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 3

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 2008

Frolic 573*: Odd

by Player Chris Monley

November was odd. Was the Players' event a Frolic, was it an Invitational, or was it a combination thereof--a Frinventionolic, if you will? Can we call it a Frolic if women are in attendance? It matters. How will the sketched shows be numbered? Do we skip this Invitational month and continue the Frolic number sequence with December? Was the all-Invitational month a good idea? Let's discuss:

1.) Women were invited to each of the three performances. Con: Women! At Players! On a Frolic night! Are we aghast? Pro: They pretty-up the place, and they sure do smell nice (Relax, Roy, you're cologne is great; it's just not the same).

2.) Members are getting one less all-male month per season. Con: Hey, doesn't *anybody* care about tradition? Pro: See #1, regarding women. *And*, revenues generated with guest fees increase Players' viability. *Also*, members get to choose which of the three nights to attend as part of their membership, at no extra cost. Any one of those nights could be called their "Frolic." *Too*, each night (including the usually ill-attended traditional first Saturday's Players-and-male-guests-only performance) is more likely to be represented by a respectable number of members.

I'm going to make an executive decision here. Okay, technically I'm just a *former* executive, but I'm charged with labeling the sketches by number (or not). You know, rather than using numbers I *could* name them like hurricanes ("Frolic Beavis... *now* that was a night to remember..."). But I won't. There will be no change in the sketches' numbered sequence.

Something called a Frolic did, in fact, take place in November. So sayeth I.

On the first Saturday of November **Player President Craig White** gave the pre-curtain announcements. It appeared that he actually *likes* the spotlight, the audience his captive. **Player Roy Jendrzewski** sang the Players' Song just a little bit better than usual. Each note sharper, held a little bit longer, with a tad more vibrato. Guests of Players, including Roy's brother Ray, were visibly moved.

November of this quadrennial year makes us think of odd couples: Bill and Hillary, Sarah and Todd, Joe the Plumber and Joe the Biden. But none of them are as entertaining or likeable as our own Henry and Greg playing Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, Felix and Oscar.

We are introduced to Oscar Madison (**Player Greg Thom**), a recently divorced, disorderly, disheveled, sportswriter playing poker with his friends. His slovenly manner and minimal hosting talents can be summed up by the following exchange: Oscar: *Anybody want a sandwich? I've got green or brown.* Vinnie: *What are the green sandwiches?* Oscar: *They're either very new cheese or very old meat.* Vinnie: *I'll have a brown.* Greg seemed more than comfortable playing a gruff slob with an *Animal House* attitude.

Poker night is the tie that binds the scenes of the show. Poker regulars Murray the cop (**Player Allan Dick**), Roy the accountant (**Player Craig White**), Vinnie the henpecked (**Player Tom Starynchak**), and Speed the sarcastic (**Player Geno**

Pirrami) support and advise Oscar as their mutual friend Felix Unger (**Player Henry Nelson**) arrives having recently been kicked out of his home by his wife.

The guys agree that Felix should move in with Oscar until he gets back on his feet. But Felix is a persnickety hypochondriac. Abrasion and hilarity ensue. Poker night isn't the same *without* the dirty ashtrays, and *with* the disinfected playing cards.

Henry was right at home in this role that allowed him to display his ability to run the gamut of emotional disability. He is at various times sad, desperate, angry, suicidal, and pathetic. Henry seems to have channeled a combination of Art Carney, Jack Lemmon and Tony Randall, other well-known portrayals of Felix. He and Greg owned the stage as opposite personalities not like oil and water, but as oil and vinegar. They just worked well together. They acted without looking like they were acting, projected without obvious projection.

Indeed credit must be given to co-directors **Players Bill Robinson** and **Peter Dawson** for getting their crew to behave like real people, making the show not simply enjoyable, but delightful. Nay, compelling.

Did I say something about real people? The Pigeon Sisters are the exception that proves the rule. Bickering Oscar and Felix decide that in order to save their living arrangement they need to date women. Oscar sets up a double blind date with Gwendolyn (**Player Eric Christian**) and Cecily (**Player Edward Priebe**) Pigeon. Question: What does one call comic relief in what is already a comedy? Answer: The alliterative Eric and Ed. The entrance alone of the Pigeon Sisters brought the house down. The ladies in attendance especially liked seeing seven-foot (in go-go boots) Eric, and contrasting Ed giggling their way to top of the ham hierarchy. Their Petula Clark costumes were too coo-coo cute. Great job, Ed. Did women really dress like that in 1965?

Special mention to the should be given to hard-

working set designers and builders **Players Tom Sloan, Bob O'Leary, Tim Whims, and Mark Habel** for their two-tiered carpeted creation.

The actors, directors and crew did themselves and Players proud this month. Sadly, as a first-of-its-kind Invitational-style Frolic, the evening ended sans Frolic Supper or Afterglow. I'm confident that The Board of Governors will welcome any suggestions for tweaking next year's Frolic/Invitational format.

(Editor's aside: We're still looking for reviewers for the months of March and April. Please call the Players office if you are so inclined.)

Past Presidents' Luncheon

Where:

Tom's Oyster Bar
519 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI

When:

Friday, December 12, 2008
12:00 Noon

Please call Claudine @ 313-259-3385 by Tuesday, December 9, 2008, with your reservation!

December Pre-Frolic Dinner

The Pre-Frolic dinner for December 6, 2008, will be at Andiamo at the Renaissance Center.

There is valet parking available for Andiamo at the GM Wintergarden entrance and several parking structures nearby. If you are not familiar with Ren Cen parking, call Player Tom Brandel at (313) 815-6787.

As usual, the cost is \$30.00 including tax and tip. Last year we dined at beautiful, old Detroit clubs; the theme for this year's dinners will be new downtown hotel restaurants!

Please call the Players office to inform us that you are attending. However, if you forget this little detail, show up anyway!

Frolic 573

Saturday, December 6, 2008

Curtain at 8:30 PM

Producer: Player Allen Dick



The Next Contestant

By Frank Gilroy

Directed by Player Michael Frank

Setting: Television game show

Master of Ceremonies.....	Player Chuck Steltenkamp
Walter Cartwright.....	Player Glen "Fuzz" Corey
Catherine Horton.....	Player William Volz



CHRISTMAS BREAKS

By Patrick Gabridge

Directed by Player Steven Flum

Setting:

A café, present day

Marcie.....	Player Andrew Maltese*
Peter.....	Player Andrew Turnbull
Davis.....	Player Bob Dodge*

* First time on The Player stage



An Interview

By David Mamet

Director: Wayne State Guest Jeremy Kucharek

Assistant Director: Player Eric Christian

Setting: The Gates of Hell

Attorney.....	Player Michael Goodell
Attendant.....	Wayne State Guest Jeremy Kucharek



AFTERGLOW:

A SELKIRK CHRISTMAS

PLAYER JAMES TURNBULL

You know, you can't please all the people all the time... and last night, all those people were at my show.

[Mitch Hedberg](#) (1968 - 2005)

HERE'S YOUR CUE

"WHEN MY CUE COMES, CALL ME AND I WILL ANSWER."

THE PLAYERS' PLAYHOUSE WISH LIST

We continue with the "Players' Playhouse Wish List." Started by Past President Player Chris Monley, we hope it will generate needed funds and/or items to benefit our "Beautiful Lady." Please peruse the list and see how you may fulfill the wishes of your club! To whom it matters, please be reminded that all donations, cash or useful items are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Wish	Est. Cost	Donations to Date
Improve Electrical and lighting to Code	\$1,930	
Boiler Room Vent to Code	\$2,850	
Business office remodeling	\$10,000	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10"	\$2,500	
Roof Repairs	\$10,000	
Light Seven Ages of Man and Side Murals	\$4,800	

If any Player has a suggestion for inclusion to the Wish List, please contact any Board member. 🗨️

WOW!!! WHAT A DEAL!

Did you know that when you sponsor a new Member, you will receive a credit on your dues in the amount of the initiation fee paid by the new member? Currently the initiation fee for senior and junior active members is \$150. There is no limit to the number of new members that you sponsor. This is a great way to save money and keep the Players a vibrant and financially sound club. If you're especially generous you can donate the credit to one of the abundant wish list items. The sky is the limit, so let's get started. 🗨️

Notes From the Office

Mark your calendar on Sunday, December 21st, for the *Players Family Christmas Party!* After many years of Player Mike Mongan arranging this holiday event, he has decided to pass the torch. Thank you Mike & Dorothy, your past commitment is truly appreciated!! Accepting the torch is Player Andrew Turnbull.

The festivities will take place in the Founder's Room from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Bring the kids to see Santa and share in some holiday treats. All we ask is that you whip up your favorite holiday recipe (hey, there's no shame in something store-bought) and bring it to share with the rest of the crowd! This is a really nice way to meet other Players' families.

Give me a call to make your reservations – we want to make sure there are enough treats for your little ones. I hope to see you there!!

Best regards,
Claudine

P 313.259.3385
☎️ 313.259.0932
✉️ office@playersdetroit.org

WHERE'S THE CALENDAR?

It's on line! On the new Players' web site! Go to www.playersdetroit.org. Still a work in progress, but reviews have been positive! Look elsewhere for the "411."

[HTTP://PLAYERSDETROIT.ORG](http://PLAYERSDETROIT.ORG)

Don't forget about the new web site! Access/update your profile; read about the latest news and events; download the latest "The Player" online; see schedules for plays and dress rehearsals; check out and upload pictures from various functions; see where pre-frolic dinners will be and get directions; download events to your outlook calendar!

As a member of The Players, you have the ability to stay in touch with the latest news and updates going on within our organization. You can see this information online, real-time, with the click of a few buttons. As a member, you can access your profile and get the latest updates right from your computer. Once you are a registered web site user, your permissions will be approved by a site administrator and these permissions will give you access and functionality to various pages within the site. Go to <http://playersdetroit.org> and see it today! 🗨️

The Frolic Before ...

By Player Craig White

Twas the Frolic near Christmas
when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The beer mugs were lined in the cabinets with care,
And all of the members soon would be there.

But this wasn't a measure of comfort or cheer,
But rather a source of significant fear.
'cause flats were not up, and the doors were not in,
In fact none of the chores in a state of begin.

And then from above there arose such a clatter,
When all of the board roared out "what's the matter?"
We have no one to work and no one for a crew,
And they looked at each other about what to do.

Then phone calls went out from each gent in a flash,
And they asked everyone for a last minute bash.
They called all the members they had on the page,
And asked everyone in to come work on the stage.

Too busy, I can't, is what everyone said,
And they looked at each other
and thought they were dead.
Then all of a sudden in a flash of good cheer,
A small group stepped up
and they all worked for beer.

Now Sloan! Now Whims! Now Habel and Burke,
Created a set with their sweat and their work.
They nailed the floor and they put up the wall,
And the set was completed in spite of it all.

But it got us all thinking just what would we do
If we Nunquam Renig'd and no one came through?
The very foundation would rattle and shake,
And the Playhouse would crack
and fall down in its wake.

Volunteers is The Players, we need every kind,
And the number is dwindling of those who don't mind.
Until we are piling on the backs of a few
All of the things in the playhouse to do.

The solution is simple and readily clear,
We need many new members in abundance appear.
We need them right now, we can't wait too long,
If we wait too much longer the club will be gone.

So get on the phone and invite all your friends,
Bring them down to a frolic of which you attend.
A night's all it takes, the club sells itself,
Then ask them to join, don't wait for an elf.

If you are wondering now if it's worth all the trouble,
Don't finally decide when the clubs left in rubble.
So please ask, it's ok, it's decidedly right,
Ask others to join or just say ... goodnight.

Reminders:

- **Make reservations for the Past Presidents Lunch.**
- **Plan on attending The December Frolic**
- **Bring your Family to the Christmas Party on December 21.**
- **Attend the Millionaires Party on January 10th.**
- **Invite a friend to join The Players.**
- **Visit the Player website at www.playersdetroit.org and update your info.**
- **Bring your guests to meet the BOG between the first and second show of the Frolic!**

THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 3,
NOVEMBER 2008

THE PLAYER ... is published monthly from September to April, with *sometimes* a combined December/January issue and *sometimes* a summer issue. The views expressed herein are those of the respective authors and editor [currently, Player Peter W. Dawson with great assistance from Player Chris Monley, although this month was "ghost" edited by Player Pulbah Craig White] and not necessarily those of the Players. Comments may be made to and back issues may be available from the office, (313) 259-3385 or send an inquiry to ThePlayer@playersdetroit.org. The Player is available on the web at www.playersdetroit.org. We welcome your contributions and comments. We do, we really do!

HERE'S YOUR CUE (Continued)

The tradition continues ...



The Players' Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 21, 2008

2:00pm – 5:00pm

~

Bring your family to Players to celebrate the holidays!
Let the kids bring their lists to Santa. There will be crafts and singing.
All you need to bring is a dish to pass and a joyful spirit!

~

We want to make sure there are enough treats for the kids,
so please contact Claudine at 313-259-3385 or office@playersdetroit.org
if you plan to attend.

Millionaires' Party!

Saturday, January 10, 2009



Doors Open at 7:30 PM

Gaming from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am

\$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at the Door!

Contact the Office for Reservations!

(313) 259-3385 or office@playersdetroit.org

Great Music! Great Times! Make your reservation soon!

The Wanted! Page

Reviewers Wanted

I'm sure there are more than a few Players out there who in the past have eagerly awaited the latest issue of *The Player* only to find, upon reading the review of their latest play, that the reviewer didn't rave about their Tony-worthy performance the previous month. They come to the only possible conclusion: the reviewer couldn't write his way out of a wet paper bag!

Think you can do better? Then try. The staff of *The Player* is looking for a few good men who *can* write their way out of a wet paper bag. (Don't worry; we've got spell-Czech.)

The list of regular reviewers has slowly but steadily dwindled, mostly through attrition. So, if you haven't reviewed a Frolic for a while and would like to have another go at it, or if you've honed your text-messaging skills to the point where you'd like to try another medium, please call or e-mail the office. There are still several Frolic months not yet spoken for.

Nunquam Renig, *The Publications Staff*

WANTED: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MILLIONAIRES' PARTY SILENT AUCTION

We need your help! The Silent Auction generates a few thousand dollars each year at the Millionaires' Party. If you, a friend, or a vendor you know could help by providing an auction item worth \$50 or more, it would be greatly appreciated! Ideas for donations are sports tickets or memorabilia, restaurant gift certificates, hotel stays, spas, jewelry, etc. Let your imagination run wild. Donated items are tax deductible and the donor will receive a letter stating the estimated value of the donation for tax purposes. If you can help, please contact one of the following: Player's Office at 313-259-3385 or office@playersdetroit.org; Auction Chair Player Ed Priebe at playerpriebe@comcast.net or by phone at 248-990-4406 (evenings & weekends please); or Player Jim Greiner by phone at 313-386-6238 or by email at grejim@yahoo.com. Contributions can be brought to the Playhouse by January 4, 2009. More details to follow....

Thank you in advance for your support of our wonderful organization and our "Beautiful Lady"
Regards, the Friends of the Playhouse Committee

The Millionaires' Party Needs Volunteers

Have you ever wanted to deal Black Jack? Take people's money at the Wheel of Fortune? Or maybe just help serve food & beer? Contact committee chairs Player Eric Christian at echristian@nlmi.com, Player Brian Bawol at bbawol@gmail.com or Player Tim Cordes at players@timcordes.com to find out how you can help!

Wanted: People to Stop Piling Their Junk Everywhere

As you look around the playhouse you don't have to look very far to find a little pile of junk with some kind of decorative shielding. There is one in the founders room, one in the balcony, one at the back of the auditorium The thing is, a pile of junk with a pretty façade is still, well, a pile of junk. This year we aim to get rid of it all. Now don't get all excited that we are throwing out the good junk that you donated 15 years ago. This is one of several notices and we are about done with the waiting period before the cleaning begins, but be aware, if the stuff hiding behind one of the numerous curtains is something important to you or your committee, move it to a place of honor or throw it out, now.

Act soon or it may be gone.

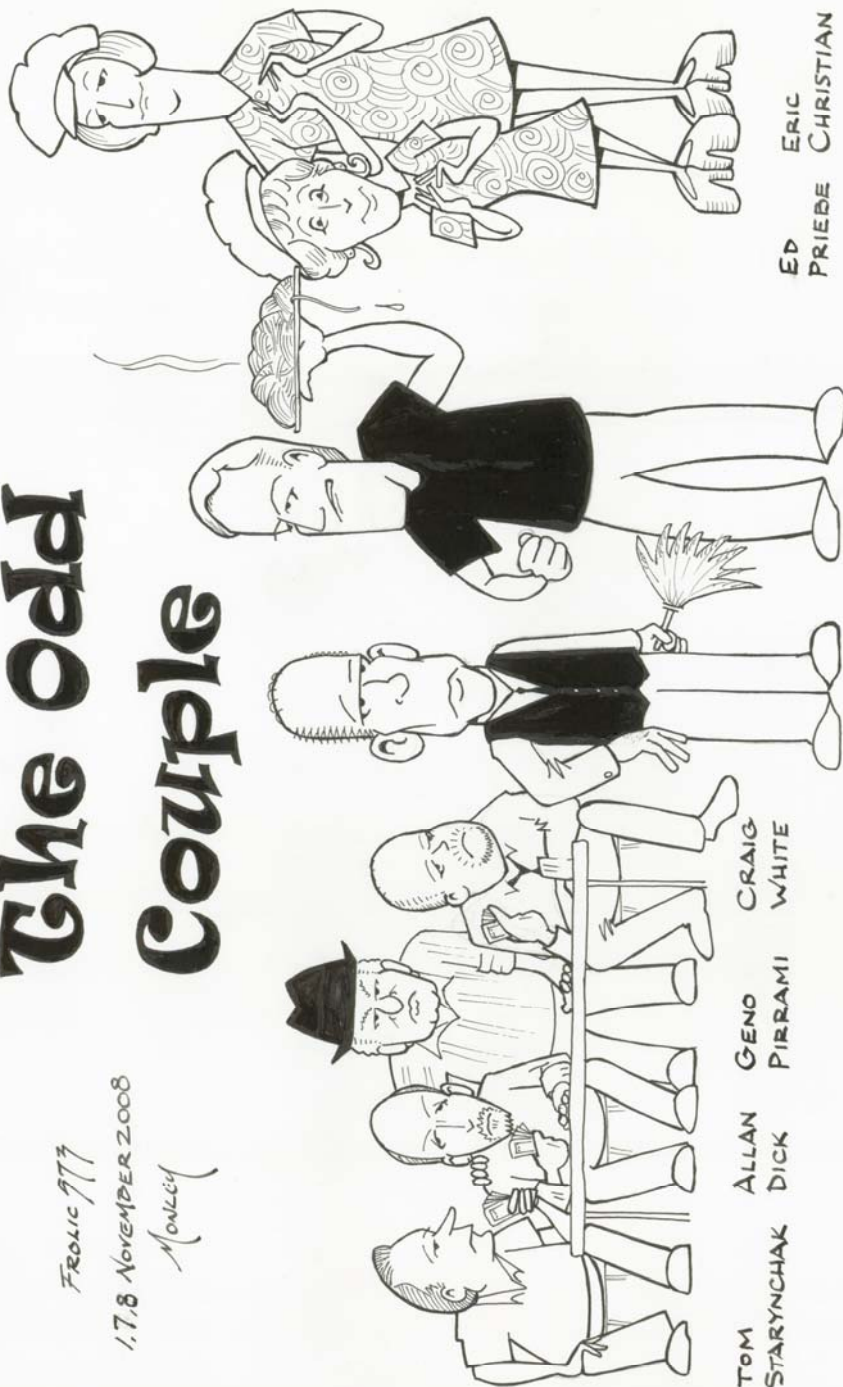
Neil Simon's

The Odd Couple

FROLIC 1977

1, 7, 8 NOVEMBER 2008

Monday



TOM STARYNCHAK
ALLAN DICK
GENO PIRRAMI
CRAIG WHITE

ED PRIEBE
ERIC CHRISTIAN

HENRY NELSON · GREG THOM