



**WINTER QUARTERLY  
2008-2009  
Special Holiday Edition**



**"DEJA NEW"**

Let us step into a time machine. A time machine provided by the Stone Arch Players, and set to return us to the comedic highs and laugh-a-minute thrills of 1996's THE ODD COUPLE. Who can forget Phyllis Johnson's winning production of this Neil Simon classic, only thirteen years ago, and starring the

most beloved veteran comedy team of the Stone Arch Players, Mike Crone and Jim Shannon? Crone and Shannon starred in the roles that cemented their reputation as the biggest box office draws in the local area, defined their own unique brand of comedic timing, and earned Crone his added nom d'acteur of "Master of the Ad Lib." Step into this Stone Arch time machine for an evening this winter, and prepare to laugh so hard you'll hurt!

Then we're there. The lights are dimming and suddenly on stage in their legendary roles are Crone and Shannon. Might there be another gray hair, an extra pound? Perhaps. But the crackling energy, snapping wit, and whiplike repartee are faster, hipper, and edgier than they ever were in 1996! Hey, these guys even crack wise about Al Gore!

The time machine departs from the stage of the Theatre In The Park this February, through the authorly magic of Neil Simon's comedic retread OSCAR AND FELIX, an updated version of THE ODD COUPLE. Directors Phyllis Johnson and Nate Smith confirm that the title roles will again be played by favorites Mike Crone and Jim Shannon as the quintessential slob and neatnik, Oscar Madison and Felix Unger. The supporting cast is filled with other top notch players. The roommate duo's card playing buddies will be portrayed by Ron Patterson, Charlie Wilson, Brad Williams, and Eric Kress. Patterson and Kress were both last seen here in LAURA. Charlie Wilson starred in last winter's MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM, and Brad Williams most recently portrayed the ne'er do well son in GOD'S FAVORITE. The sexy sisters upstairs have been transformed into Spanish señoritas in this new version of the play. Colette Hartzler and Melissa Alfonsi will fill the roles. Hartzler directed last spring's GOD'S FAVORITE, and Alfonsi's latest performance with us was in fall's LAURA.

Phyllis Johnson, who directed our 1996 version of this hilarious offering, is co-directing with talented young director, Nate Smith. They are assisted by stage manager Barb Stahl. The show opens February 27 and runs through March 15. Choose your date, to go back in time to the most belly-rocking, knee-slapping laugh fest you've experienced in thirteen years! Join us for Mike Crone and Jim Shannon as the 'Odd Couple' for a new millennium, in OSCAR AND FELIX!

**THE WOMEN**



Melissa Alfonsi appeared on November 17 in a reading of THE WOMEN by Clare Boothe Luce as part of the Salon free play reading series. Tempest Studios sponsored the evening which was held in Webster's Bookstore Cafe in downtown State College. The talented Alfonsi played a myriad of different roles. Information about further free play readings can be found at [www.tempeststudios.org](http://www.tempeststudios.org). Congratulations on another great performance, Melissa!

Alfonsi will next appear in OSCAR AND FELIX.

**AUDITIONS SET FOR THIRD  
SHOW OF SEASON**

Director Alan Peoples has announced that auditions for THE KITCHEN WITCHES, a comedy by Caroline Smith will be held Friday, February sixth at 7:00 pm and Saturday, February seventh at 1:00 pm at the Theatre In The Park. There are roles for four people: two women, age 50+, and two men, one 20s, and one any age. Questions may be directed to Peoples at 717-994-4204. The play runs from May eighth to the twenty-fourth.

**OUR Forty-Second Anniversary Season!  
1967-2009  
at the  
Theatre In The Park**

**OSCAR AND FELIX**

by Neil Simon

Comedy, Directed by Phyllis Johnson and Nate Smith

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
February 27 and 28, March 6, 7, 13 and 14  
2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 8 and 15

**THE KITCHEN WITCHES**

by Caroline Smith

Comedy, Directed by Alan Peoples

Auditions: February 6 at 7:00 p.m. and  
February 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Theatre.

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
May 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23  
2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17 and 24

All Friday & Saturday performances at 8:00 p.m.

All Sunday performances at 2:00 p.m.

Stone Arch Box Office: 717-248-2224

SAP Email: [stonearchplayers@yahoo.com](mailto:stonearchplayers@yahoo.com)

Color versions of the newsletter photos

are available on our website:

[www.stonearchplayers.com](http://www.stonearchplayers.com)



**TICKET CHAIR  
RETIRES**

The Stone Arch Players wish to thank retiring ticket chairperson Lori McCardle for her many years of hard work and selfless service. Lori has been our ticket chairperson since the mid nineties. Dan Mertz acted as temporary chair during the first show of the season

and is shown with ticketeers Floyd Kurtz, Becky Havice, Pat McKnight, Phyllis Johnson, and granddaughter Lynzee. A permanent replacement has yet to be found for McCardle, so persons interested in the position are invited to speak to any board member.

Thanks again, Lori!



Christina Roman and  
Chris Brannen  
at November Clean Up.

**LOCAL STUDENT STUDIES THEATER**

Christina Roman, a local woman who is working toward her education degree at Penn State, recently took a class entitled English Writing for the Social Sciences, in which she had to do an ethnographic study of a local sub culture. The Stone Arch Players were happy to be chosen for Roman's study, and she was quickly accepted as part of the group. Throughout the fall, Roman spent time with the gang at rehearsals of LAURA, interviewed everyone concerned, and pitched in at work parties. On the final big clean up day before opening of the show she provided a sumptuous buffet which was enjoyed by all. Thanks Christina! We hope to see you back soon.



## OSCAR AND FELIX'S

...card playing buddies: Ron Patterson, Brad Williams and Charlie Wilson. Absent for photo was Eric Kress.

Colette Hartzler and Melissa Alfonsi are the upstairs Spanish señoritas in February's OSCAR AND FELIX.



Abby Hunley, Barb Stahl and Bill Daup acted as judges for the annual Lewistown Kiwanis Christmas parade on December sixth.

Andy McCardle appeared in the annual Lewistown Kiwanis Christmas parade as our favorite local plushie, the MERF dog. Here's barkin' at ya, Andy!



On January 22nd to 24th, Rhiannon McClintock, will star as Frankie in No Refund Theatre's FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE in Room 111 of the Forum Building at Penn State. Performances are at eight pm and are free.

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE

LUNE is a two character play by Terrence McNally. It focuses on two lonely, middle aged people whose first date ends with them tumbling into bed. Johnny is certain he has found his soul mate in Frankie. She, on the other hand, is far more cautious and disinclined to jump to conclusions. As the night unfolds, they slowly begin to reveal themselves to each other as they take tentative steps towards the possible start of a new relationship.

McClintock, seen heating up the Brewery this Halloween in the ROCKY HORROR SHOW, is also doing a PSU senior film, THE CYCLIST, a light-hearted comedy about an older man returning to his childhood dream of riding in a major cycling event, much to his daughter's (McClintock) dismay.

She appeared with the Stone Arch Players in last winter's MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM.



George Baumer starred as the harried and much put-upon father in the Christmas hit A CHRISTMAS STORY at the McConnellstown Playhouse in November. This favorite TV classic about a boy and his Red Ryder BB gun was so successful, an extra weekend had to be added to the show's schedule. George was terrific as always, and would like us to note that for once he was not playing a priest!

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The Theatre In The Park was beautifully decorated this December for the second annual Christmas Lights Walk in Derry Township Community Park. Thank you to the members of the Christmas Lights Walk Committee who included us in their decorating scheme. Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa and Wonderful Winter Solstice to all our patrons!

At Halloween time, Jim Shannon entertained Ms. Alison Yoder's second-grade class by reading the tale TRICK OR TREAT, SMELL MY FEET, about a boy who loses his Halloween costume and has to wear his sister's. Jimmy's tutu was provided by Phyllis Johnson.



Colette and Daryl Hartzler's family won the "Best Over All Tree" prize in a Christmas tree contest sponsored by the Sentinel and Snowflake Collectables in Burnham. The eighteen foot ceiling scratcher was the brainchild of oldest son Nathan, and the family cut it down from what was originally a forty foot tree. Nice job, Hartzlers!



## STONES FROM THE PAST

A Forty-Second Anniversary Classic Photo

... presents Jill Harbst and Valerie De Arment as the Pigeon sisters with our perennial ODD COUPLE in our 1996 version of the play.

