



STAGE TWO
DOWNHAM



The **Odd Couple**

by Neil Simon

- At Downham Village Hall -

- Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th April 2025 -

Programme by donation

NODA
For every stage

Notes from our Director

Welcome to Downham Village Hall for Stage Two Downham's production of *The Odd Couple*.



This classic comedy was written by Neil Simon in 1965 but its humour is timeless. I have long wanted to produce this show and I am so pleased with the cast which I have assembled. We have had so many laughs in rehearsals and I really hope that you will find laughter to raise the spirits as Spring is upon us!

As with all productions, it is a team effort and I am so grateful for all the support I have received. I hope that the togetherness and commitment of our group will come across and that you will have a really enjoyable evening.

Thank you so much for supporting Stage Two and in the words of Oscar Madison "Let's get the game started!"

Kim Croydon



This is Kim's fifth time directing for Stage Two Downham. After twenty-five years of acting in pantomime and plays at Trinity in Clitheroe, and in Downham, in 2014 he decided to give directing a go with *Confusions*. He quickly followed that up in 2015 with *Barefoot In The Park*, another Neil Simon classic. He loves the idea of having a vision for a play which is then brought to life by the talented and supportive team at Stage Two.

Kim continues to tread the boards for Stage Two Downham. He helped bring us out of lockdown with Arthur in 2022's *The Winslow Boy*, and most recently played "Sir" in *The Dresser*.

*The action takes place in the apartment of Oscar Madison,
on Riverside Drive in Manhattan, New York City, in 1965.*

Scene 1

A hot summer night

Scene 2

Two weeks later. About 11 pm

Interval

20 minutes, during which refreshments will be available

Scene 3

A few days later. About 8 pm

Scene 4

The next evening. About 7:30 pm

<i>Directed by</i>	Kim Croydon
<i>Production Manager</i>	Jacqui Shepherd
<i>Set design and build</i>	Roger Astin & Warren Seddon
<i>Props</i>	Martha Bowers, Fran Osborne, & Jacqui Shepherd
<i>Stage Management</i>	Mel Crook & Darren Moss
<i>Lighting & Sound</i>	Paddy Keane & John Bradshaw
<i>Continuity</i>	Julie Laing
<i>Front Of House</i>	Cynthia Croydon & team
<i>Poster Design</i>	Richard Hubbard

Our thanks also go to the following;

Pendle Hippodrome; Townsend Records, Clitheroe;

Fran Osborne;

Chris Bowers

Felix Ungar

Chris is celebrating his 12th year with Stage Two having trodden his first board with the



society in 2013's *The Ghost Train*. Jack Lemmon is one of Chris' favourite actors, so he's looking forward with excitement and a little trepidation to stepping into the shoes of such a talented performer to play the fastidious Felix Ungar.

When not acting in Stage Two, Chris enjoys singing bass in the Ribble Valley's premier barbershop group Wrong Direction, and has been known to join the chorus of the odd musical here and there.

Kella Bowers

Gwendolyn

Kella has been a member of Stage Two Downham since 2012, with her husband Chris.



Their son Lucas and daughter Martha, also perform with the group. Kella is thrilled to be performing again in a comedy, but also pleased that she doesn't have to do an American accent!

Richard Hubbard

Oscar Madison

Richard's first show with Stage Two was 2014's *Confusions*. He has appeared in several



since then, including *Educating Rita*, and most recently *We Are Three Sisters*. He has also co-directed plays, including *God Of Carnage* with Chris.

As well as Stage Two, Richard has appeared on stage for Blackburn Musical Theatre Company, and Blackburn Drama Club, where he has had the privilege of bringing to life some iconic roles, such as Tevye in *Fiddler On The Roof*, and Perks in *The Railway Children*.

Jennifer Spurrett

Cecily

Jennifer has appeared in several Stage Two productions, including leading roles in *The Winslow Boy* and, more recently, *God of Carnage*.

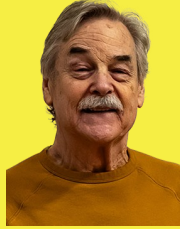


This will, however, be the first time she has played a Pidgeon!

Steve Cooke

Speed

Steve has previously acted a number of times for Stage Two Downham. He also



appears for a few other societies in the area, in a wide range of plays and character types. However, he regards Stage Two as his home, with its broad scope of talent and friendly welcome.

He counts among his successes swimming the Atlantic underwater when he decided as a teenager to become a fish.

Trevor Robins

Vinnie

I'm pleased to be taking on my first role with Stage Two Downham, back treading the



boards since retiring in 2018 and following a work enforced break. Retirement brings its bonuses. I've performed most recently with Blackburn Musical Theatre Company (alongside Richard) and Blackburn Drama Club (alongside Steve). I've been on stage previously with Blackburn Gilbert & Sullivan and Rossendale Amateur Operatic Society.

Gerry Purchase

Roy

Gerry joined Stage Two Downham in 1996, for *When Did You Last See Your Trousers?*. Since



then he has tried everything except the prompt. He has been in at least 10 plays, built sets, and had a dabble at directing. Kim has persuaded him to come out of retirement, to be a health fanatic card player, in this latest production.

Peter Lambert

Murray

Peter is set to make his second appearance with Stage Two Downham having



thrived in his debut performance in 2023's *God of Carnage*.

With strong ties to Clitheroe, Peter is now embarking on his thirteenth year of amdram and is hoping that does not prove unlucky!

About Stage Two Downham

Stage Two Downham is based right here in the beautiful village of Downham in the Ribble Valley. We stage an autumn and a spring production and as you can see from the diary dates below, we are planning to stage a further event in early summer.

Since formation in 1989, and we have produced over 60 plays, including our COVID production of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, which you can watch for free on our website. We are members of Noda, a national society for amateur theatre groups, from whom we are proud to have received seven regional awards so far.

Backstage and onstage, we will always welcome new members. If you are interested, get in touch with us! We will be really pleased to meet you!



Downham Village Hall

As well as being home to all the wonderful Stage Two performances, a personal trainer, professional artist, and regular mother and baby classes, did you know that Downham Village Hall is available to hire for weddings, parties, celebrations, childrens' events, business seminars, meetings and other functions?

The Village Hall is spacious, light and can be dressed in a number of creative ways depending on taste and budget. This includes, for example, 'tenting' the interior to really look like a wedding marquee. We can also extend the space with gazebos in the car park to put on a barbecue or hire a local food van.

The main hall seats up to 100 people. There's the stage area for speeches or music performances, and there is also a smaller room which can be used as an onsite 'creche' or quieter seating area. The kitchens are available for catering and we can provide tables and chairs and crockery/glasses if needed.

There is car parking for up to 50 cars on site, we are heated by a carbon-friendly biomass system, there is modern LED lighting in the main hall, and free Wifi throughout the building. With prices starting at £1,500 for a whole weekend booking, we're one of the most cost-effective venue hire options in the Ribble Valley.

Look out for news about all our events, including the popular annual bonfire at:
<https://www.downhamvillage.org.uk/index.php/village-hall-home>



Enquire to: downhamvhbookings@gmail.com.



WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION



You are summoned 26th – 29th November 2025

Downham Village Hall

Court is in session for our next play, a gripping story of justice, passion and betrayal by the world famous Agatha Christie, directed by GERALYN LAMBERT.

Leonard Vole stands accused of murdering a rich widow for her wealth. His wife agrees to testify – can she be trusted? The stakes are high but will Leonard survive the shocking witness testimony, the impassioned outburst from the dock and a young man's fight to escape the hangman's noose.

Can he convince the jury? Come along and decide on the verdict for yourself!

See you in court!

Agatha Christie

Dates for your 2026 diary



March	25th - 28th
June	24th - 27th
November	25th - 28th



More details will be announced later this year.
Keep an eye on our website, or ask to join the email list.

