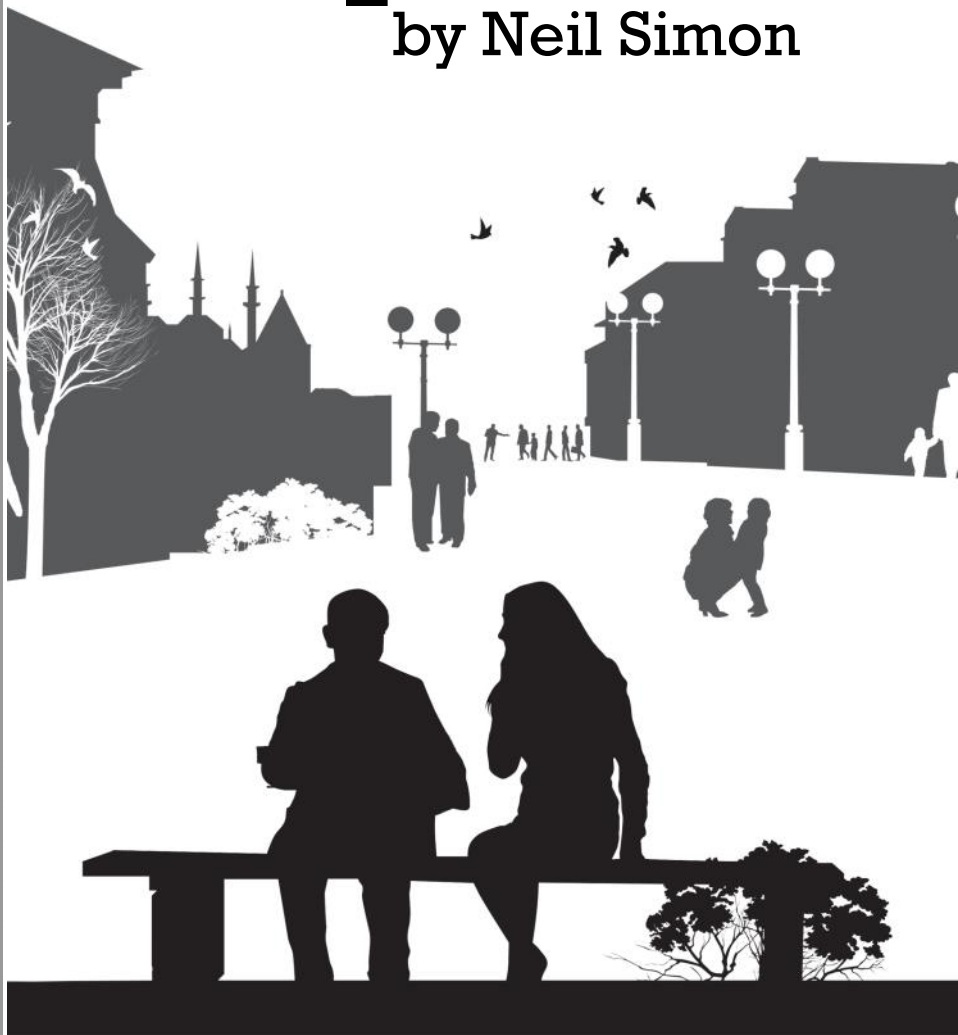


# chapter two

by Neil Simon



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# chapter two

A Comedy in Two Acts

by Neil Simon

Directed by  
Alyson Soma

## Cast of Characters

George Schneider ..... Robert Alan Barnett\*  
Leo Schneider..... Kent Phillips\*  
Jennie Malone..... Brynne Garman  
Faye Medwick..... Holly Rose



\*Robert Alan Barnett and Kent Phillips appear through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## The Scene

*There will be one 15 minute Intermission*

The action of *Chapter Two* takes place in Jennie Malone's upper East Side apartment and George Schneider's lower Central Park West apartment. The play begins on a late February afternoon and continues through to mid-spring.

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# Director's Note

*Chapter Two*, in my opinion, is one of the most personal and introspective plays Neil Simon has written. Based on the loss of his first wife, Joan, to cancer, and his subsequent “rushed” marriage to Marsha Mason, *Chapter Two* is raw, challenging and heart-felt all mixed with Simon’s usual brand of humor. Before he wrote the play, he did ask for Marsha’s approval as he felt it was too personal to go public without her consent. She gave it and so he began to write. The most interesting bit of trivia to me, is that Marsha did, indeed, give Neil a version of that genuine and powerful speech in Act II after he threatened to leave her. Although he could not, naturally, remember every word and thought of what she actually said, he was able to capture the essence of it in a very beautiful and moving monologue.

Simon writes in his memoir The Play Goes On:

“Two things happened to me at the same time. One I was grateful for; the other I was almost ashamed of. I was grateful for her bravery, her intelligence and her love. I was ashamed because I knew that what she said was so powerful, I was going to put it in the play.”

On a personal level, this show and these actors are very special to me. Bob, Kent and Brynne have gone on a tremendous journey together with Curt and me through the years, performing this show many times. And this go-around we are pleased to have Holly Rose and the TLT crew join our family. My first professional directing gig was here in Tacoma at the Spirit Theatre directing *Chapter Two* with my now dear friend Brynne as Faye. Being back in Tacoma, it seems the two of us have gone full circle.

No matter how many times we do this show, we discover something new in the script, in the characters, but, mostly, in ourselves. Life changes us, loss changes us, love changes us. What doesn’t seem to change is the faith, trust and friendship we have in each other and I think, honestly, that’s what life is about.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Chris for welcoming us to TLT and making our time here so fabulous, along with a heartfelt thank you to my stage manager and long-time collaborator, Curt.

Lastly, to our friend Jane - we are so proud of you and your grace and courage. We are thankful to be your friends and we can’t wait to have you back on stage with us again soon.

-Alyson

# Artistic Staff

Director .....	Alyson Soma
Stage Manager.....	Curt Hetherington
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Emma Deloye
Resident Costume Designer.....	Michele Graves
Set Design.....	Curt Hetherington & Bill Huls
Master Carpenter.....	Blake R. York
Lighting Design .....	Curt Hetherington
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# Cast Biographies



## **Robert Alan Barnett (George Schneider)**

Bob is delighted to be performing *Chapter Two* again! Favorite shows include *Boeing Boeing* (Robert), *The Foreigner* (Charlie Baker), *And Then There Were None* (Judge Wargrave), *Arsenic & Old Lace* (Jonathan Brewster), *The Mousetrap* (Major Metcalf), *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* (Scrooge) and *Godspell* (Judas) all at Renton Civic Theatre. He recently completed work on the Reese Witherspoon film, “Wild” (due out Summer 2014) and has appeared on “Grimm” and “Leverage”. He has performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Cleveland Play House and the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival among many others. But he is most proud of his wife of 28 years, Laurie, his two daughters, Sheena and Halley, and his grandson, Jayden.



## **Brynne Garman (Jennie Malone)**

Brynne is pleased to return to Tacoma Little Theatre after previously performing as Dotty in *Noises Off*. More recent performances include Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at Lakewood, Myrtle in *Kingdom of Earth* at Stone Soup, and Hermia in *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Burien Actor's Theatre. Her theatre background includes about 65 local credits, traveling as far south as Harlequin in Olympia, and as far north as Driftwood in Edmonds. Fans are invited to support her next gig: playing Sylvia in the comedy *End Days* at Burien Actors Theatre in May 2014. Many thanks to Alyson, Curt and our entire cast – I will never forget the memories of love and loss we have shared over the last five years. Here's to new beginnings!



## **Kent Phillips (Leo Schneider)**

Kent is a familiar face and voice in the Seattle-Tacoma area. He is the co-host of the long running Kent and Alan show on STAR101.5, hosts the BUZZ on KOMO-TV and is the voice of a number of TV and Radio commercials including Bartell Drugs, Sylvan Learning Centers and Sleep Country. He has directed and acted in over 100 plays throughout the Puget Sound region. His last appearance in Tacoma was as the Narrator in *The Good Doctor* at Tacoma Actors Guild a few seasons ago, where he also directed *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Kent has appeared at Bellevue Civic (where he was Founding Director), Renton Civic, ACT, TAG, and numerous other stages in the area. Favorite roles include Leo in *Chapter Two*, Mortimer in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Corbin in *Catch Me If You Can* and Paul in *Barefoot in the Park* where he acted opposite his wife Kelley. TV credits include everything from “Knots Landing” to the host of Northwest Afternoon for 15 years which garnered him an Emmy Award. He is thrilled to be working with the cast, Alyson, Curt,

# Cast Biographies

Bill and reprising the role of Leo which he performed eight years ago at Bellevue Civic and a few seasons ago at Kirkland Rep. Love to Kelley, and the kids. It's a joy to be on the stage for the first time at Tacoma Little Theater. What a nice group of people!



## Holly Rose (Faye Medwick)

Holly is thrilled to be on the lovely TLT stage with this stellar cast! Some of her performing credits include: *A Narrow Bed* (Wings Theatre, NYC), dancing alongside Smashmouth (Radio City Music Hall, NYC), playing "Benten" in the World Premiere of *The Kyogen Rope* (O'Malley Theatre, Chicago), and playing Cassie in BCT's production of *Rumors* – twice! Holly is involved in the local film scene here in the Northwest and is the founder and artistic director of Rosebud Children's & Community Theatre in Federal Way. ([www.rosebudctc.org](http://www.rosebudctc.org)) Much love to her husband, Jason, and their daughters, Hannah and Harper.



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# Staff Biographies

## **Alyson Soma (Director)**

Alyson is delighted to finally be working at TLT. Other directing credits include: *Little Women*, *The Musical* (SecondStory Repertory); *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Chapter Two*, *Plaza Suite*, *Rumors*, *How The Other Half Loves*, *On Golden Pond* and *The Odd Couple* (Bellevue Civic Theatre); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Deathtrap*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Renton Civic Theatre); *Go Back for Murder*, *Yes, Virginia...*, *Exit the Body*, *The Snow Queen* and *No Sex, Please, We're British!* (Driftwood Players). Recent stage credits include crazy characters like: Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing* (Renton Civic); Maria in *Lend Me A Tenor* (Centerstage); Agnes Gooch in *Auntie Mame* (Driftwood Players); and Cecily in *The Odd Couple* (BCT). Alyson is also a voice-over talent with many radio and television credits, a Northwest Soundie Award winner and a NW Emmy® nominee. Her favorite cast is her nutty family. For mom, I can hear you laughing.

## **Curt Hetherington (Stage Manager & Lighting Designer)**

Since the late Sixties, Curt has been involved in many aspects of theatre. He has directed *Love Sex and the IRS* and *The Mousetrap* for Bellevue Civic Theatre, *Boeing Boeing*, *Spider's Web*, *Rehearsal For Murder* and *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol* for Renton Civic Theatre, *The Tomorrow Box*, and *Second Time Around* for Valley Community Players and *A Piece Of My Heart* and *Hay Fever* for Burien Little Theatre. Curt was last seen as Rogers in RCT's production of *And Then There Were None*, as Gregor in VCP's production of *Saving Grace* and as General Custer in Nu Black Arts West's production of *Deadwood Dick: Legend Of The West*. He has worked as Stage Manager and Lighting Designer for BCT's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Good Doctor*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*, Renton Parks *The Music Man*, and RCT's *Godspell* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He has designed and built sets for BLT's *The Lion in Winter*, VCP's *Saving Grace* and Renton Parks *The Music Man*. Curt looks forward to getting back on stage and directing at a theatre near you.

## **Blake R. York (Master Carpenter)**

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 12 years. This year Blake is the Resident Set Designer for TLT's 95th Season although he got to take this show off and just serve as Master Carpenter. Past shows designed at TLT include: *Endgame*, *Sleuth*, *Spelling Bee*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Sylvia*, *Miracle on 34th Street* and *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. He would like to thank Jen, his parents, and his friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

## **Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)**

Michele has stitched and designed costumes for Tacoma Little Theatre for over 25 years. In recent years she was costume designer for *Eleemosynary*, *Always*, *Patsy Cline*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Footloose*, *Sylvia*, and *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. This year Michele has accepted the responsibility of Resident Designer and hopes to continue her relationship with TLT as a costume designer as well as a volunteer for many years to come!

## **Jeffery Weaver (Properties Master)**

Jeffery is proud to be part of the wonderful family here at the Tacoma Little Theatre. He is pleased to be working with some amazing people he has shared the stage and tech with



# Staff Biographies

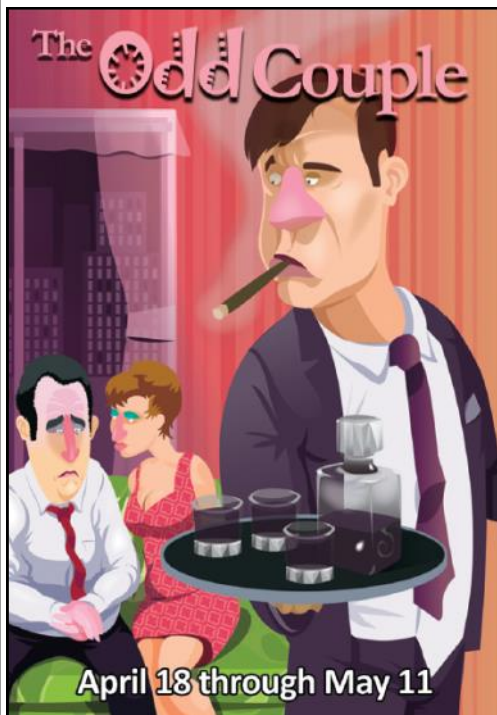
before. Jeffery's TLT technical credits include *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Laramie Project*, as well as various other projects around the theater. Jeffery believes his background in film, stage and television is what contributes to his eye for small and factual details. He would like to thank his wonderful husband Bruce and children who continue to support his work both on and off stage. He would also like to thank his special group of theater friends and his BFF Ms. Jen who believes in him and the gifts he has to share: Unconditional love and acceptance is a true gift to never be taken for granted. A quote he loves and that rings true to the heart, "I give my life to the Theatre group, because in it I'm building something for myself. And what I build, I am." Much love to you all!

## **Emma Deloye (Assistant Stage Manager)**

Emma is a Junior in High School, and has been involved in theatre since she was 7. Although she loves performing, she has found a new love in the technical side of theatre. Make sure that you catch her back on stage in the upcoming production of *Bye Bye Birdie* in May.

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