

Life in LAMORINDA

The Odd Couple: Female Version Opens March 26th at THT

By Andrea A. Firth



Town Hall Theater Artistic Director, Clive Worsley, surrounded by the leading ladies for the adult and teen versions of *The Odd Couple: Female Version* (from L to R) Sally Clawson (Olive), Louise Fisher (Teen Olive), Eleanor Mason Reinholdt (Florence) Rachel Cook (Teen Florence). Photo by Karen Dunn

Town Hall Theater's (THT) Artistic Director Clive Worsley has had little time to bask in the tremendous reviews the company received for their recent production of *Rabbit Hole*. He is deep into rehearsals for Town Hall's next production, *The Odd Couple: Female Version*, for which he is directing both adult and teen cast versions. Despite his hectic two-play schedule, Worsley

reflected briefly on his time at THT so far. "I feel like the community is receiving me very well. I'm very happy with the comments in the lobby on show nights," he says.

For *The Odd Couple: Female Version*, Neil Simon's progesterone-driven update to the contemporary classic, Worsley has cast eight adult actors to perform in the mainstage production and

eight teen actors who will shadow their adult-actor counterparts through rehearsals and serve as understudies. Worsley, who has a long resume of theater education credentials to match his directing experience, has been looking for ways to bridge THT's teen acting program with the mainstage and saw this collaboration as a way to create that link.

The two casts rehearse to-

gether. The teens watch as Worsley gives direction to the adults, and the adults observe the teens at work as well. "The dialogue between the counterparts is tremendous," states Worsley. "I have observed a teen actor deliver a line a certain way that has led me to alter my direction to the adult actor," he explains. "Both casts are gaining something from each other."

In lieu of Oscar Madison's poker games from the original play, the *Female Version*, set in the 1980's, starts with friends gathered for a game of *Trivial Pursuit* at the messy apartment of Olive Madison. "We spent an entire rehearsal playing *Trivial Pursuit*," states Worsley. "The teens did not know how to play the game. They were not even born when the play was written," he adds with a laugh. The play progresses with the late arrival of the recently divorced Florence Unger. Despite their contrary personalities, Olive, the slob, and Florence, the

fussbudget, decide to live together leading to hilarious results.

The Odd Couple: Female Version will open on the mainstage at Town Hall Theater on March 26th and run through April 25th.

Teen cast performances will be on Wednesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 18th at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online (www.thtc.org/tickets) or by calling 283-1557.

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Lamorinda Teen Center Makes Progress

Submitted by Beth Eliason

A meeting was held at the Orinda Community Center on a recent Tuesday night to update the community on the proposed Lamorinda Teen Center. Teens and adults on the Planning and Implementing Committees spoke to the attendees on a number of subjects starting with the announcement that the Center's non-profit status has been completed and 501(c)3 status is in progress.

The site originally proposed for the Center, the basement under Europa Restaurant, is still under negotiation with the building's owner. Concerns have been raised regarding parking and the loading dock behind the building. The Committee has proposed a front entrance. They are also looking into alternative sites for the center and would like to keep the center in downtown Orinda because of its central location, access to Bart and to bus routes.

The site decision will be finalized by April and may require al-

terations to the plans for the renovation. Residents who have suggestions for a site are encouraged to contact Steve Controulis at scontroulis@triu.com.

Once the site is finalized, fundraising will begin in earnest. The Committee would like to raise enough money for the renovation and for the first one to two years of operation, approximately \$500,000. The first fundraiser will be a Battle of the Bands being planned by teen volunteers on the Event Planning Committee. The tentative date for this event is May 30th.

For more information on the Teen Center or to donate raffle prizes to the fundraiser, please go to www.lamorindateencenter.org.

The next community meeting will be held May 12th at 7:00 PM at the Orinda Community Center. The fundraising committee's next meeting is March 24th at 7:00 PM in a private home. Please contact Beth Eliason at eliason4@pacbell.net if you are interested in attending.

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