There’s an odd couple on the Round Barn stage

By JERI SEELY
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Remember the television series, “The Odd Couple?” Felix Ungar and Oscar Madison and the filming of the TV show have made their way to Amish Acre’s Round Barn Theatre and the duo is offering audiences a laugh a minute.

Felix is a neurotic neat freak, a news writer who has been tossed out by his wife and moves in with his friend. Oscar is a messy sportswriter.

Prior to the opening performance, director Jeremy Littlejohn said, “The theatre audience will feel as if it is part of a live TV studio audience watching the taping of a ’70s sitcom.” How true. They even have the camera and applause sign in place.

Littlejohn has been cast as Oscar Madison. Steven Freitas plays the part of Felix Unger.

Littlejohn turns in the performance Amish Acres audiences have come to expect. He’s great. As Oscar, he’s a slob, sometimes making intentional messes just to upset Felix. He’s funny. He’s angry. He’s Oscar.

Likewise, Freitas makes the perfect Felix. He’s the neat freak. He’s sad. He’s happy. He’s always cleaning or cooking.

John Detty is Roy, Evan Jackson is Speed, Timothy Leonard is Vinnie and Rory Dunn is Murray, Oscar’s gambling buddies. Jennifer Myor and Erin Whitcomb are the Pigeon sisters who also live in the apartment building. All six add to the show in their own way.

The production begins on a hot summer night. The card game is in progress but Felix is missing. Oscar is providing stale food and warm drinks and the place is a mess. Oscar is $800 behind in his alimony but he’s not
too worried about that. He is, however, worried about Felix. Where could he be? A call reveals Felix and his wife are breaking up and Felix threatened to kill himself. Now, all of the card players are worried.

At last, Felix arrives on the scene. Felix is sorry he’s late but he wants to be left alone. When the divorce plans are revealed Oscar asks Felix to move in with him and the fun begins!

Scene two takes place two weeks later. The weekly card game is again in progress. This time, however, it’s different. Felix has cleaned the house and is offering ice in the drinks and delicious food. Things just aren’t the same.

The second act takes place a few days later at about 8 p.m. with Cecily and Gwendolyn Pigeon invited to dinner at Oscar’s. He wanted to take the girls out on a double date. Felix decided he could cook London Broil and save money.

More problems develop. Oscar was to be home from work at 7 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. It’s 8 p.m. Oscar has just arrived home and the women are expected at any time. Felix, however, is worried about an over cooked dinner.

When Oscar goes to get pre-dinner drinks, Felix is left with the two women. All end up in tears. Oscar declares Felix is a walking soap opera.

The final scene takes place the next evening. Because of events that took place the previous night the duo isn’t talking. Oscar wants Felix to leave and orders him out.

The audience is in stitches most of the night and dutifully applaud each time the sign comes on. It’s a show “The Odd Couple” fans won’t want to miss.

The production opened Oct. 26 and will run through Nov. 13. For information and tickets call (800) 800-4942 or on the Web at www.amishacres.com.