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Summary

Business systems consultant appears in *The Odd Couple* from August 13 to 21 at the Roundhouse Performance Centre.

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ITS News for July 28, 2008

Jonathan Lee on Stage and on Screen

By *Elayna Breakey*

Jonathan Lee has not one, but two alter egos. By day, he is a mild-mannered business systems consultant at Central Park Place, dedicatedly supporting BC Hydro's enterprise data warehouse. But when the work day is over, Jonathan becomes Murray the New York cop, poker buddy of Oscar and Felix in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, and Jono Lee, actor.



"I started taking acting classes at night four years ago," Jonathan says. "As a child, I had a passion for performing. I loved entertaining people. Friends finally convinced me to give it a go, and I'm glad I did."

Jonathan's role in the Mandarin-subtitled Broadway play is just one in a string of parts for which he has successfully auditioned. He played a car sales agent in a Mitsubishi commercial that appeared on television across Canada at frequent intervals. "I was very lucky with that," Jonathan says modestly. "It gave me a lot of exposure."

He also appeared in *Night at the Museum* as a miniature railroad worker, with some lines in Cantonese. "That film was shot at Mammoth Studios in Burquitlam," Jonathan relates. "They had three stages built for the movie. One was a replica of the Natural History Museum lobby, one was the Egyptian exhibition hall, and the third was the outdoor snow scene in which the stage coach chase scene takes place. All the scenes for the miniatures were filmed in front of a green screen."

Jonathan claims that many of the skills that serve him well at his day job also cross over to his acting work. "I'm very detail oriented, and very well organized. That really helps me as an actor when I'm reviewing a contract with my agent, developing a character, or just being on time for an audition." Working in IT even helped him get a gig once. "The director was casting the role of a business analyst for a provincial government-sponsored commercial," Jonathan recalls. "I walked in and said, 'This is what I do every day!'"

The Odd Couple, set in 1965 New York, is the story of a slob and a neatnik who move in together after their marriages have run into trouble. "What I've enjoyed most about this production is working with other talented actors and learning from their processes," Jonathan says. "Everyone has their own way of learning lines, developing a character, and preparing for a performance. I learn a lot every time I work with a different cast."

The play, a Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre production, will be appearing at the Roundhouse Performance Centre at Pacific and Davie from August 13 to 21.

[Tickets and more information about *The Odd Couple*](#)