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For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

Latest VACT comedy asks: Can two polar-opposite Asian guys live together?

**THE ODD COUPLE July • 17-27 & August 13-21, 2008*

VANCOUVER, BC (June 16, 2008) – This summer, **Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre** (VACT) is bringing a fresh and unique twist to the classic Neil Simon play, **THE ODD COUPLE**. In this hilarious version, the cast will be predominantly **actors of Asian-heritage** – and for the first time for the theatre company, all performances will include **Chinese subtitles**. Also, the show will run in **two locations** – in both Richmond and Vancouver. Through **July 17 to 27**, the play will be at the **Richmond Cultural Centre** and through **August 13 to 21**, the production moves to Vancouver's **Roundhouse Performance Centre**. Tickets are available in advance online at **www.vact.ca** and at the door.

VACT, now in its ninth season continues its run as Western Canada's only theatre group devoted solely to staging cultural stories focusing on the modern Asian experience in North America. With its new production of Neil Simon's 1965 smash hit, **THE ODD COUPLE**, VACT is hoping to bring several segments of the community together. *"We really have an opportunity here to grow our audience base in a big way,"* says producer and VACT president **Joyce Lam**. *"This production appeals to our core audience of first generation and "Generation 2.0" young acculturated Asian Canadians, but we think we'll also attract recent immigrant Chinese especially those living in Richmond, plus older Asian Canadians and parents especially those who are familiar with the works of Neil Simon, and then finally every one else who aren't Asian Canadian but are looking for a unique and entertaining cross-cultural experience."*

THE ODD COUPLE, first performed in 1965, is about two men – one divorced and one estranged and neither quite sure why their marriages fell apart – move in together to save money for alimony and suddenly discover they're having the same conflicts and fights they had in their marriages. **Oscar** is a messy, slovenly sportswriter who takes in **Felix**, a neurotic neat freak news writer. They skip the honeymoon phase of their new arrangement and go straight into the hilarious bickering.

THE ODD COUPLE is directed by actor/director **Raugi Yu**. Most audiences will recognize him as the hilarious gangster Kam Fong from the CBC Television series, jPod. Oscar is played by actor/journalist **Ron Yamauchi** and **Jimmy Yi** plays Felix. In the supporting roles as the poker buddies are **Sean Cummings** (Speed) and past Sex In Vancouver members **Jono Lee** (Murray), **Tom Chin** (Vinnie) and **Ed Fong** (Roy). And rounding out the cast as the sexy Pidgeon sisters are **Carmine Bernhardt** (Gwen) and **Lissa Neptuno** (Cecily).

Event Details

The Odd Couple

by Neil Simon

Venue #1

Richmond Cultural Centre

7700 Minoru, Richmond

July 17 through 27

All evening performances at **8:00 PM**, matinees at **2:00 PM**

Thursdays to Saturdays (evenings) + **Sundays** (matinees)

Venue #2

Roundhouse Performance Centre

Pacific Blvd & Davie (Yaletown), Vancouver

August 13 through 21

All evening performances at **8:00 PM**, matinees at **2:00 PM**

Tuesdays to Saturdays (evenings) + **Sundays** (matinees)

Ticket prices

\$23 in advance (www.VACT.ca)

\$25 by reservation (cash only, pickup at the door) (Phone 778-885-1973)

\$25 at the door (cash only)

Service charges are included

Please call for Group Rates

For more ticket information please visit <http://vact.ca>.

For media access please contact Joyce Lam at the e-mail address or phone number listed below, no later than July 10, 2008.

VACT (Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre) aims to produce quality plays in which Asian-Canadians take on culturally or artistically significant roles. VACT works to dispel Asian stereotypes by producing leading and/or supporting roles where Asian-Canadians are depicted realistically in the performing arts.

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For photos, interviews with cast and crew, and media access, please contact:

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