

# Transcription of Podcast Episode 404: Performing Arts Club

## SPEAKERS

Bob Firing, Judith Bennoch, Bill Hardwick, Laurie De Gonzalez

**Note:** This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

### **Bob Firing** 00:00

Good morning Shadow Hills. Well, we're recording this in the middle of February in a gorgeous day here in the Coachella Valley. Snow's up on the mountains right where we want it, and everything's fine down here. So spring is coming, which means that the Performing Arts Club is coming out with their spring performance. This year, the performance is going to be The Odd Couple Female Version. And here to tell us about it is the director Bill Hardwick. Bill, welcome to the podcast.

### **Bill Hardwick** 00:33

Thank you, Bob. It's a pleasure to be here.

### **Bob Firing** 00:36

Great. Well, I'll tell us a bit about the story. Not everything, but just enough to teased the audience.

### **Bill Hardwick** 00:43

Well, this is kind of the second version of the play written by Neil Simon, The Odd Couple. The first version can you know it was basically about two men who both divorce and who kind of move in together. And you know, one of them is very neat, and the other one is very sloppy, and their characteristics tend to go along those very different lines. And the first, the male version opened in Broadway in 1965 as the Eugene O'Neill theatre, and the original players were Walter Matthau and art Carney. Well, in 1985, Neil Simon wrote the female version, which opened on Broadway in the Broadhurst Theatre starring Rita Moreno and Sally Struthers. So basically, the story is about these two women, Olive Madison and Florence Unger, both of whom are divorced, and they move in together in this very high, you know, this apartment building in overlooking Riverside Park in New York City. And they are the odd couple because again, Florence is the neatnik, who, you know, we keep referring to her and in the play as the Martha Stewart. And, and Olive is very sloppy and tends to be, you know, very different from they're very different from each other.

### **Bob Firing** 02:33

And we're fortunate enough to have both actresses in the room today.

### **Bill Hardwick** 02:37

We absolutely do. So Laurie de Gonzalez is playing Florence. And Judith Bennoch is playing Olive.

### **Bob Firing** 02:47

Okay, well, what to tell us a bit about your role.

**Laurie De Gonzalez 02:51**

My character, Florence, is a compulsive, and has a wide variety of emotions. She is desperate for a place to be in life after she gets kicked out of her home by her husband and globs on to her friend, Olive, who also has her feelings of, of loneliness.

**Bob Firing 03:25**

And, how about Olive, Judith?

**Judith Bennoch 03:27**

Sure. I play Olive Madison and all of is the counterpoint to Florence, pretty much in all facets. Olive is very confident in her ability, at least you portrays that initially. But we do find out through the play that not quite so confident or eager to be alone. She's divorced as well. And it's her apartment that she invites Florence into because she thinks that's going to work for both of them. But of course, you know, that doesn't necessarily happen in real life and I don't want to give anything away.

**Bob Firing 03:59**

So only two performers on the set, but how many people are involved in their performance?

**Bill Hardwick 04:08**

Well, actually, there's a cast of eight, there are the two leads of Olive and Florence. But there are also four other women who gather weekly for a game of trivial pursuits. And each of the women have their own backstory and their own personalities. And, and at least, you know, a good portion of the play is about the interplay between all six women. There are also two men in the play who are neighbors in this apartment building. They are both from Spain. And I won't give too much away other than to say that they are both very funny characters.

**Bob Firing 04:54**

Yeah, well, but in addition to that, that I was there, I know you're always looking for new people that join the club. And there's a lot of need in roles that are not necessarily performance roles. So all in all with including building the stage and all the other stuff, what do you have 50 people involved in this more or less?

**Bill Hardwick 05:14**

Yeah, that's about right. Yeah.

**Bob Firing 05:17**

And there's always room for more.

**Bill Hardwick 05:19**

Oh, absolutely. We're particularly looking for, for people who may be new to theatre, and who don't feel that they can be a great actor. But as you mentioned, Bob, there are so many different roles in putting on any production. There are other ones backstage, there's the publicity, there sound, there's lighting, there's all kinds of things that people can do.

**Bob Firing** 05:49

So if you miss a performance in high school, and would like to get back into it in retirement, this is the perfect opportunity.

**Bill Hardwick** 05:56

Absolutely. Yes.

**Bob Firing** 05:58

And so the performance dates are March 21, second, third and fourth. Did I say that right when it 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Thursday and Friday at 7pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm. And tickets are on sale now. Right?

**Judith Bennoch** 06:17

Today, they just went on sale today.

**Bill Hardwick** 06:19

Yes.

**Bob Firing** 06:20

And do you have to go to the desk to buy tickets? Or can you buy them online? Tell us about that.

**Bill Hardwick** 06:28

Absolutely. This is the second production now that we have been using Eventbrite so that you don't have to go anywhere you can buy your tickets from the comfort of your own home. Just go on to Eventbrite. And look up Sun City Shadow Hills, and you'll find you'll find tickets for this production.

**Bob Firing** 06:51

Great.

**Judith Bennoch** 06:51

And just to add a bit that actually you can just go right on the Sun City website, and there's a link to it under all of the Lifestyle events. And if you have any difficulty with that, you can always go to the Lifestyle desk, and they will help you facilitate doing that.

**Bob Firing** 07:06

Okay, great. Well, thank you for coming in and promoting it. If it's written by Neil Simon, you know, it's got good structure, and we'll see on March 21, thanks for coming in.

**Bill Hardwick** 07:19

Thank you Bob.

**Bob Firing** 07:20

And for the audience, until next time, bye-bye.