



# english theater torino Newsletter

April 2011

## THE ODD COUPLE

### Countdown to Curtain Up

We're counting the days now to our first night on **May 14th**. The last props are being sourced, final wardrobe adjustments made, lines muttered over and over again, families abandoned as cast and crew rehearse twice a week in two different locations.

Tickets – a mere €10 – are available by reservation. If you haven't reserved yours yet (and if not, why not?) go to

[www.englishtheatertorino.com](http://www.englishtheatertorino.com)

or email us:

[englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com](mailto:englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com)

*Please collect your reserved tickets half an hour before curtain up. Uncollected tickets, together with any unreserved tickets, will be sold at the door before each performance.*



Cast and Crew in a whirl of activity

### Teatro Baretto, Via Baretto 4

**Saturday May 14th at 6.00 pm and Sunday May 15th at 2.30 pm**

The bar opens half an hour before curtain – aperitivi on Saturday, spumante and juices on Sunday. Teatro Baretto is in a zona blu for parking and there is also a big car park in Piazza Madama Cristina. The nearest metro stop is Marconi.

#### About the play

**"The Odd Couple"** (female version) is Neil Simon's hilarious adaptation of his hugely successful 1965 Broadway hit. After a film version, two long-running TV sitcoms and even a cartoon version (starring a dog and a cat) he wrote this one in 1985.

The play tells the story of two friends, Olive Madison and Florence Unger, who find themselves sharing Olive's apartment in Manhattan. Despite their close and long-standing friendship, it's not an easy situation as they have very different characters. Observing the stresses and strains of proximity are Florence and Olive's card-playing buddies: Sylvie, Vera, Lucia and Renee. The final denouement is provoked by the Costazuela brothers who live upstairs and whose command of the English language is a trifle rocky.

It is a truly funny and touching play that has enjoyed success in both America and England, in the professional and the amateur theatre. Don't miss it!

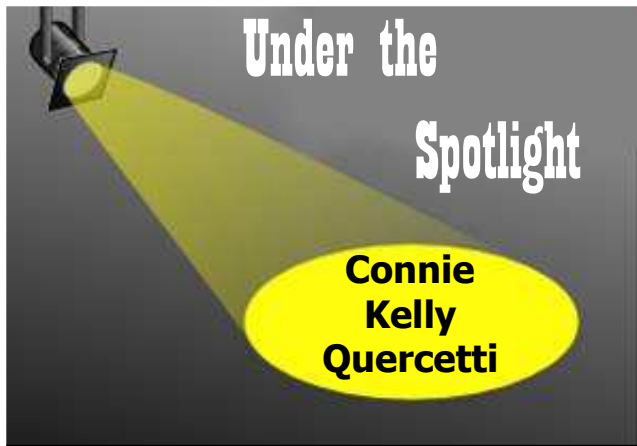
#### Send us your review

*Naturally we have seats reserved for "The Stage" and the "New York Times" but what really counts for us is what **you** think. We'd love to publish your thoughts in our next newsletter so if you enjoy the play (or even if you don't!) please send your review to [englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com](mailto:englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com)*

#### Meet the Director

This is the second play **Connie Kelly Quercetti** has directed for **ett**. Find out about her and her life in the theatre in "Under the Spotlight" on the next page.

... and finally, everyone at **ett** would like to wish all our readers a very happy and sunshiney Easter



In rehearsal with "The Odd Couple's" leading ladies

**"What I really love about the theatre is going from nothing to something".**

Connie has been creating theatrical events from the age of eight when she wrote, produced and directed her first play. A playhouse her grandfather built for her became her very first theatre and her even younger cousins, wearing mops as wigs, her first cast. And the theatre has been a dominating thread in her life ever since.

Connie's childhood took her from her first years with her grandparents in rural Maryland "with plenty of time on my own, which probably stimulated my imagination and bent for the stage" to Los Angeles "lots of company, parties every weekend, cousins and horse riding" to Philadelphia where in 4th grade she appeared in her first "proper play" as India, the daughter of a colonial family in "All Hands on Deck".

In high school there was "the proverbial acting teacher who makes that difference"; Frank Livoy, who's still acting, was the first person to teach her the elements of stagecraft and technique and Connie appeared in every annual school play until she enrolled at Penn State University to study theatre, eventually graduating from Temple University.

The early 1980's found Connie in Manhattan, coincidentally (or perhaps not) the setting for "The Odd Couple". She worked in admin at the National Video and Recording Studio for two years before returning (despite her boss's protestations) to Philadelphia and another production company specialising in video, film and moving image shows - this time as Production Manager .... and then she met Andrea, who was on holiday in America, married him and moved to Turin.

A new country, a new life and Connie believed her dream of working in the theatre was over. But fate stepped in in the form of a contact in the then American Women's Club of Turin who put her in touch with the casting director at the Teatro Regio. He was looking for an English-speaking actor for a role in "Candide" and Connie was back in the theatre and on the road to forming **ett**.

.... continued

## Under the spotlight: Connie Kelly Quercetti

**ett** actually evolved from a children's theatre workshop, started by Jean Rossi, Connie and the late Fay Prendergast, through a series of adult monologue workshops to the company it is today. Connie has appeared in, produced or directed every production right from the beginning, sometimes combining several roles. "When I was acting and directing I used to video the rehearsals, then rush back home to watch with a director's eye". "The Odd Couple" is the second play Connie has directed for ett without appearing in it as well.



As Eleanor in "Deckchairs – Doggies"

And which does she prefer, acting or directing?  
"Maybe directing. I love seeing people doing things they couldn't do before and I enjoy every aspect of the process, the getting there as much as the arriving". And that is Connie's life philosophy: "I'm a great believer in the pursuit of happiness. I think if you're lucky enough to find something you like doing, you should do it".

In what she calls her "real life" Connie directs a husband, home, two children five dogs and a cat, and coaches public speaking in English. She is an enthusiastic member of the International Women's Club of Torino and finds her pleasures in TV (especially period dramas), books, cinema, art and shopping. She enjoys travelling too; though in this non-metaphorical sense she prefers the destination to the process of getting there.



As Lenny in "Crimes of the Heart"

### Quick fire question round We asked Connie:

*How do you relax?*

I read

*What is your favourite book?*

Gone with the wind

*In a "pretend" world which famous actor or person would you like to see join ett?*

Meryl Streep

*What is your favourite smell?*

Lily of the Valley

*What is the worst job you've ever done?*

Typing

*What is your greatest fear?*

Falling and breaking something – I've done it a lot

*What is your guiltiest pleasure?*

Chocolate

*What is your earliest memory?*

The smell of unfiltered Camel cigarettes in my grandfather's breast pocket and the rumble of his voice in his chest when he held me