

THEATRE CANADORE PRESENTS

NEIL SIMON'S LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR



A COMEDY

INSPIRED BY THE PLAYWRIGHT'S YOUTHFUL EXPERIENCE AS A STAFF WRITER ON SID CAESAR'S
YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS
IN 1933

 **THEATRE**
CANADORE


Gathering
Place
The Power of Good Food

 **CANADORE**
college.ca

THEATRE CANADORE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This play is based on television history.

Although it conflates the writing staffs of two Sid Caesar television programs – *Your Show of Shows*, which ran from 1950-1954, and its successor, *Caesar's Hour*, which ran from 1954-1957 – ***Laughter on the 23rd Floor*** otherwise hews closely to the history of *Your Show of Shows*. The play is based on Neil Simon's days as a young writer for that show. It takes place in 1953, when *Your Show of Shows* was widely considered by audiences and critics alike to be the best, most sophisticated comedy on TV. It shaped the way America thought of TV comedy – sitcoms and variety shows alike – for generations to come, and most of the writers who passed through its doors continued to wield an outsized influence through the 1980s and beyond.



The show was performed live, without cue cards, and nobody ad-libbed. It was tightly scripted, scrupulously rehearsed and highly professional, with high-quality costumes and sets. The plot arc of ***Laughter on the 23rd Floor*** mirrors the trajectory of *Your Show of Shows* itself. The show was originally 90 minutes long and had a large writing staff that was the highest paid in the business. However successful it was, the lavish budget was a constant thorn in NBC's side, and Caesar battled with the network continually over cuts.

By 1953, the show's ratings had embarked on a two-year slide as audience tastes began trending toward the less sophisticated, and, in 1954, the network won the battle. The show was cut to an hour that year, and then cancelled altogether as NBC wanted its two main stars, Caesar and Imogene Coca, each to have their own show. Caesar's next incarnation was the aforementioned *Caesar's Hour*, which ran for three years; *The Imogene Coca Show* lasted one season. Apart from this play, *Your Show of Shows* was the inspiration for *The Dick Van Dyke Show* (its creator, Carl Reiner, was a regular both in front of, and behind, the camera on *Your Show of Shows*) as well as the 1982 Peter O'Toole film *My Favorite Year* (produced by Mel Brooks).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Carley'.

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR

Written by Neil Simon
Directed by Rod Carley

CAST

(in order of appearance)

LUCAS BRICKMAN	Cody Parkes
MILT FIELDS	Ryan Webster
VAL SKOLSKY	Dylan Fortier
BRIAN DOYLE	Brenyn-Lee Marcoux
KENNY FRANKS	Daymon Wrightly
CAROL WYMAN	Carmen Colby
MAX PRINCE	Adam McElmon
HELEN	Mariah Boehk*
IRA STONE	Ethan Toner

Intended for mature audiences

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR: SCENES



SETTING: The offices of The Max Prince Show on the 23rd floor of a building on 57th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, New York City

TIME: 1953

ACT ONE

A few minutes before 10 a.m. on a crisp Monday morning in March.

FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT ONE

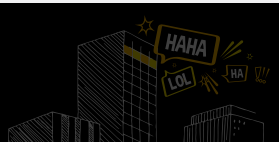
Seven months later. Early fall. A little before 10 a.m.

Produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

*Guest Artist (2022 Acting for Stage and Screen alumna)

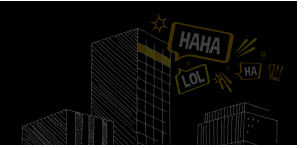
IN MEMORY OF LEXIE MITCHELL

PRODUCTION TEAM



PLAYWRIGHT	Neil Simon
DIRECTOR/SET DESIGNER	Rod Carley
VOCAL DIRECTOR	Tracey Halsey-Berti
STAGE MANAGER/SOUND TECHNICIAN	Matt Lishman
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/LIGHTING DESIGNER/ LIGHTING TECHNICIAN	Dilip Patel
SCREEN DESIGN/FIGHT DIRECTOR/ SCREEN TECHNICIAN	Joshua Bainbridge
COSTUME + PROP CONSTRUCTION	Stephanie Kast
SET CONSTRUCTION	Kevin Lachance
SCENIC PAINTING	Michelle St. Onge
FIGHT CAPTAIN	Matt Lishman

NEIL SIMON



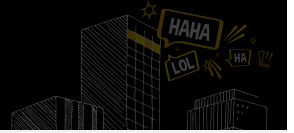
American playwright and screenwriter **Neil Simon** (1927-2018) is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific and performed playwrights in theatre history. In addition to ***Lost In Yonkers***, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include ***Come Blow Your Horn***, ***Little Me***, ***Barefoot in the Park***, ***The Odd Couple***, ***Sweet Charity***, ***The Star-Spangled Girl***, ***Plaza Suite***, ***Promises, Promises***, ***Last of the Red Hot Lovers***, ***The Gingerbread Lady***, ***The Prisoner of Second Avenue***, ***The Sunshine Boys***, ***The Good Doctor***, ***God's Favorite***, ***California Suite***, ***Chapter Two***, ***They're Playing Our Song***, ***I Ought to be in Pictures***, ***Fools***, ***Brighton Beach Memoirs***, ***Biloxi Blues***, ***The Odd Couple*** (female version), ***Broadway Bound***, ***Rumors***, ***Jake's Women***, ***The Goodbye Girl***, ***Laughter on the 23rd Floor***, ***London Suite***, ***Proposals***, ***Hotel Suite***, ***The Dinner Party***, ***45 Seconds from Broadway***, ***Oscar and Felix***, and ***Rose's Dilemma***.

In addition to the film adaptations of his plays, his screenplay credits include ***After the Fox***, ***The Out-Of-Towners***, ***The Heartbreak Kid*** (original 1973 version), ***Murder by Death***, ***The Cheap Detective***, ***Seems Like Old Times***, ***Only When I Laugh***, ***Max Dugan Returns***, ***The Slugger's Wife***, ***The Marrying Man***, and ***The Odd Couple II***. Other motion pictures based on his stage plays include ***Come Blow Your Horn***, ***Sweet Charity*** and ***The Star-Spangled Girl***. For television, Mr. Simon wrote series, teleplays, and motion pictures including ***The Tallulah Bankhead Show***, ***The Sid Caesar Show***, ***The Phil Silvers Arrow Show***, ***The Phil Silvers Show***, ***The Garry Moore Show***, ***The Trouble with People***, ***ABC's Broadway Bound***, and ***Jake's Women***.

Books by Neil Simon include ***Rewrites***, ***A Memoir***, ***The Play Goes On***, and four omnibus collections of Neil Simon's plays (***The Comedy Of Neil Simon***, ***The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon, Vol. II***, ***The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon, Vol. 3***, ***The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon, Vol. 4***) and ***Lost In Yonkers*** (screenplay).

Mr. Simon has received more Academy and Tony award nominations than any other writer. Awards he received include the Pulitzer Prize for ***Lost In Yonkers***, Emmy Awards for ***The Sid Caesar Show*** and ***The Phil Silvers Show***, Tony Awards for ***The Odd Couple***, ***Biloxi Blues***, ***Lost In Yonkers*** and a special Tony Award For Overall Contribution To The Theatre. His nominations include Tony Award nominations for ***Little Me***, ***Barefoot in the Park***, ***Plaza Suite***, ***Promises, Promises***, ***The Last of the Red Hot Lovers***, ***Brighton Beach Memoirs***, ***Broadway Bound***, ***Lost in Yonkers***, and ***The Goodbye Girl*** (musical). Other nominations include a Writers Guild Screen Award for ***The Odd Couple*** and ***The Out-Of-Towners***, a Writers Guild Laurel Award, an American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement, and a Writers Guild Screen Award nomination for ***Barefoot in the Park***, as well as an Oscar nomination for ***The Odd Couple***, an Evening Standard Award, a Sam S. Shubert Foundation Award, Kennedy Center Honors, a UCLA Medal, a Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, and a William Inge Theater Festival Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Morgan Bedard

Anne Boulton

Pat Deegan

Michelle Jackett

Samantha McKinley

Mike Miscio

Peter Nicholl

Michelle St. Onge

Carrie Richmond

Tristen Watts

Colin Williams

Joshua Willard

Special thanks to Jill, Robert, Connor, and Guy for use of the
Carpentry Shop at the Commerce Court Campus.

Canadore College resides on the traditional territory of the
Anishinaabeg and within lands protected by the Robinson
Huron Treaty of 1850. This land is occupied by the people of
Nipissing First Nation, Treaty #10 in the Robinson Huron Treaty
of 1850 since time immemorial.



Canadore College's Acting for Stage and Screen Program

Canadore College's Acting for Stage and Screen program offers career-oriented actors the fundamental tools, skills, and professionalism for success in the highly competitive world of theatre, film and television. The program combines theory and practice to give students a solid foundation of essential skills and techniques necessary to work effectively as a performer in all aspects of today's entertainment industry.

This three-year program includes acting techniques, voice and singing, movement, speech, stage combat, film and television performance, and theatre history. Actor training culminates at the end of the third-year term with Rep 21, the mainstage production series showcasing the talents of each graduating class.

The instructors at Canadore are experienced professionals and guest artists who bring special expertise in a range of areas.

Contact Michelle Jackett, Program Coordinator, at 705.474.7600 ext. 5630.



The Power of Good Food

The Gathering Place has approximately 250 volunteers and has served over 250,000 meals since opening in 2003. The Gathering Place serves breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday, and has recently added 3 evening meals. To meet increasing demand, The Gathering Place operates a community garden, and has established a food rescue program. As a not-for-profit organization and registered charity, The Gathering Place receives no operational funding from any level of government and relies entirely on donations for its operational budget. Canadore is thrilled to be partnering again this year with The Gathering Place through its summer theatre company Rep 21, which is collecting financial donations for this important community charity in lieu of admission. To find out more information about The Gathering Place please visit www.thegatheringplacenorthbay.ca.



canadorecollege.ca/theatrecanadore