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By Neil Simon

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"I suspect I shall keep on writing in a vain search for the perfect play. I hope I will keep my equilibrium and sense of humor when I'm told I haven't achieved it. At any rate, the trip has been wonderful. As George and Ira Gershwin said, "they can't take that away from me." —From Neil Simon's Introduction

And they can't take away the pleasure that Neil Simon's plays have given literally millions of theatergoers in the past quarter of a century. They and the critics agree that a trip to see any one of this master of comedy's stage triumphs ranks among the most wonderful experiences that the American theater offers. The eight plays in this, the second volume of **The Collected Plays of Neil Simon**, bear eloquent witness to the unique genius of this master playwright who so magnificently blends the joy of laughter and the love of life.

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Editorial Review

Review

"If Broadway ever erects a monument to a patron saint of laughter, Neil Simon will have to be it."

—*Time Magazine*

About the Author

Since 1960, a Broadway season without a Neil Simon comedy or musical has been a rare one. His first play was **Come Blow Your Horn**, followed by the musical **Little Me**. During the 1966-67 season, **Barefoot in the Park**, **The Odd Couple**, **Sweet Charity**, and **The Star-Spangled Girl** were all running simultaneously; in the 1970-71 season, Broadway theatergoers had their choice of **Plaza Suite**, **Last of the Red Hot Lovers**, and **Promises, Promises**. Next came **The Gingerbread Lady**, **The Prisoner of Second Avenue**, **The Sunshine Boys**, **The Good Doctor**, **God's Favorite**, **California Suite**, **Chapter Two**, the musical **They're Playing Our Song**, **I Ought to Be in Pictures**, **Brighton Beach Memoirs** (which won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play of 1983), **Biloxi Blues** (which won the Tony Award for Best Play of 1985), and the female version of **The Odd Couple**.

Mr. Simon began his writing career in television, writing **The Phil Silvers Show** and Sid Caesar's **Your Show of Shows**. He has also written the screen adaptations of **Barefoot in the Park**, **The Odd Couple**, **Plaza Suite**, **The Prisoner of Second Avenue**, **The Sunshine Boys**, **California Suite**, **Chapter Two**, and **I Ought to Be in Pictures**. His original screenplays include **The Out-of-Towners**, **The Heartbreak Kid**, **Murder by Death**, **The Goodbye Girl**, **The Cheap Detective**, **Seems Like Old Times**, **Only When I Laugh**, **Max Dugan Returns**, and **The Slugger's Wife**. He received the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1991 for **Lost in Yonkers**.

The author lives in California and New York. He is married to Diane Lander and has three daughters, Ellen, Nancy, and Bryn.

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