



# NEIL SIMON'S RUMORS

FRI	SAT	SAT	SUN	FRI	SAT	SAT	SUN
3/24	3/25	3/25	3/26	3/31	4/01	4/01	4/02
7PM	2PM	7PM	2PM	7PM	2PM	7PM	2PM

In Neil Simon's murderous, door-slamming farce, four couples arrive at the townhome of New York's Deputy Mayor and his wife for their 10th-anniversary party. The first couple to arrive finds the mayor wounded and the wife and servants missing. As more guests arrive, there are cover-ups, deceptions, and rumors, as the evening spins off into comic mayhem.



TOWER THEATER  
120 S. KANSAS AVE  
WESLACO, TX 78596

**Buy Tickets Online**

**GENERAL ADMISSION \$15**

**RESERVED \$20**



**WWW.WESLACOTOWER.ORG**

#@\*!

**Warning: This play contains some profanity and adult language. If you choose to come anyways, feel free to cover your ears. (PG-13)**

**Director:** I am humbled to work with some of the most creative, passionate individuals in the Rio Grande Valley. It is truly amazing to see a collection of individuals from different backgrounds, working toward the same creative goal, bringing words and ideas from page to stage. Live theatre is truly a magical experience that cannot be replicated in today's virtual world.

I want to thank our core volunteers who have put hundreds of hours into the show.

Thank you, Mayor David Suarez, City Manager Martin Garza, Parks Director Omar Rodriguez, and the City of Weslaco for keeping The Tower Theater going for over fifty-three years.

There is nothing like The Tower Theater in the great State of Texas or even the world. This repurposed concrete water tank has been a place where youth and adults come to grow artistically. Special thanks to Rise Morris and her mother Shirley Atkins for keeping the Tower going for decades.

**-Steve Urbina**



## **Neil Simon**

Neil Simon is America's best-known living playwright and possibly the most financially successful dramatist of all time. Beginning with *Come Blow Your Horn* in 1961, Simon has written a long succession of Broadway hit comedies which have earned him huge audiences and numerous prizes, including four Tony Awards, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Pulitzer Prize. In 1966, Simon had four plays running simultaneously on Broadway, the only author in modern times to accomplish such a feat. See more about Neil Simon [here](#).

*Rumors*, Simon's 23rd play, which has been called "the first no-holds-barred farce of his career," opened in New York in 1988 and ran for 531 performances, closing in 1990.

# THANK YOU



## Setting

The play takes place in the home of Charley and Myra Brock on the evening of their tenth wedding anniversary. The Brocks live in Sneden's Landing, a wealthy suburb of New York located in Rockland County on the west bank of the Hudson River, "about forty minutes from the city." Theirs is a "large, tastefully renovated, Victorian house...Despite its age and gingerbread exterior, the interior is modern, monochromatic and sparkling clean. A nice combination." Among the furnishings are a "mirror with an ornate frame," "a gorgeous cabinet," and "a well-stocked bar"—an array of luxurious objects denoting wealth and comfort.

Since at least the time of Moliere, such handsome, well-appointed, upper middle-class environments have provided the settings for farce: places like the nouveau-riche manor of *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, the swank Paris hotels of Feydeau, the classy London flats and townhouses of Noel Coward, or the luxury liner on which the Marx Brothers wreak havoc. Why such handsome digs for such nonsensical goings on? The answer would seem to lie in the logic of contradiction. People create impressive surroundings to convince themselves and others that they are paragons of dignity, while farce reveals that we are all monkeys under the skin. And as everyone knows, it's more fun to watch monkeys tearing up a deluxe Victorian mansion than a cage at the city zoo.

Thus, in *Rumors*, Neil Simon places us square in the lap of American luxury, among rich lawyers, doctors, accountants, and politicians—people gathered to celebrate ten years of marriage, with all that such a milestone represents in the way of maturity, virtue, and respectability. Which, of course, provides the perfect opportunity for farce to do its work—to demonstrate that lurking within this comfortable world are the comic demons of irresponsibility, petty vice, and shamelessness.

### - **The Public Theatre and Professor Martin Andrucki**

## Cast



### **Chris Gorman –**

**Kara J. Urbina** enjoys taking on challenges. She enjoys being outdoors, running, camping, hiking, biking, kayaking and anywhere she can find adventure with her three boys. She started acting at the Tower Theatre as a teen (10 years ago 😊).



### **Ken Gorman –**

**Neil Shuford** has been doing theatre for over 30 years. His first big break was the role of a munchkin in a local production of "The Wizard of Oz" when he was 4. Ever since that fateful performance, Neil has immersed himself in anything theatrical that he can weasel his way into. Aside from theatre, his favorite hobby is loving his amazing and supportive fiancée Erica who is incredible at lowering his blood pressure when it's the highest.

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## Claire Ganz –

**Karen White Hayden** This is Karen's third show with Tower Theatre. She is grateful to have yet another opportunity to perform with this talented group. Karen has had over 40 years (Yikes!) theatre experience including TV commercials; professional and community theatre performing in over 100 shows. She lives in Victoria Palms with her husband, Peter, and two spoiled

pups, Baxter and Daisy who will be soooo happy not to have to hear her rehearse her lines at home anymore!



## Lenny Ganz –

**Vicente Reyna** has an alter ego created by two people that fell in love and created a love trophy named, Vicente Reyna.\* Vince, as most of his friends (and all his enemies) call him, doesn't remember being born. But remembers his first time. It happened at a Pentecostal church during a starry beautiful climactic night, his

1st acting gig at 6yrs old. And the rest is history. Shout out to his handler and CEO-his love, Jessica Cruz Reyna!

**\*2006 Pants Off Dance Off Olympics Champion**

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## Cookie Cusak –



**Adina Flores** has been honing her performance skills since the age of 9. Whether acting or dancing, she often spent more time on stage than off of it, until 2010 when she received her Bachelor's degree in Dance. Since then, believing that her acting days were long gone, she wandered into the Tower Theatre one night for an audition. She is now thrilled to bring life to the role of "Cookie" in the play Rumors and is having a

blast doing it.



## Ernie Cusak –

**Julez** is a technology student by day and amateur thespian by night. Julez began his theater career after various escapades with the local improv troupe. Known as the "Coffee Machine" and as "Grandpa" in two of the Tower Theaters' previous productions, Julez had a lot of freedom with those characters.

Now he has had to step up his game when it comes to memorizing his script and playing a bigger role. He went so far as to even get a professional headshot.

# THANK YOU



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## **Cassie Cooper -**

**Brittany Gruhot** is a relative newcomer to the Tower Theatre, but she's been having a splendid time so far! She's been in love with acting for the past 5 years and spends perhaps a little too much time in the theatre. Starring previously in roles such as "Daughter" in the Trail to Oregon, Brittany can't wait to bring "Cassie" to life in the Tower's latest production!

## **Glen Cooper –**



**John Mendoza** always had a love for theater and performing, which is what drove him to join The Tower. Aside from acting, his hobbies include playing board games with his son, going to the gym, and telling terrible dad jokes (The louder the groan, the wider his grin). "Rumors" will be John's third production, as he was also a part of Tower's "A Trail to Oregon" and "Border zone."

# THANK YOU



## Officer Welch –



**Myra (May-ra) Trevino's** love for theatre ignited WAY back when she was an elementary student and played the part of Gretel in "Hansel and Gretel." After a few dry spells called teenage life, college life, and young adult life, her interest in acting was reignited in 2017 when she (hold your laughter) played a nun in "Drinking Habits" with ITheatre. Since then, she's also been a cast member of "Playing

Doctor" and "Romeo & Juliet". Myra has one beautiful daughter and currently teaches middle schoolers in Weslaco ISD's gifted and talented program. She hopes you enjoy the show!



## Officer Putney – Belinda Martinez

A current resident of the McAllen area. The Business Office Manager @ TX Oncology, one of the leading practices for cancer care in the RGV. An over-the-moon amazing single mom of 2 cheeky little ladies, whom, one day woke up and realized she had no social life outside of work and kids. She is a former

contestant from RGV Got Talent 2022 and made her acting debut at the Tower Theatre portraying "The Lechuza" in the 2022 production of Border Zone. A wholehearted thanks to the Tower community for welcoming and allowing her to slowly dust off her theatre chops and introduce her children to this eccentric art form.





ESTD

1970

**TOWER THEATER**  
OF WESLACO

**Stage Manager** – Therese Cadotte  
**Light Director** - Ambrose Balderas  
**Set Carpenter** - Esteban “Chief” Urbina Jr.

**Special thanks to Sue Brown, Linda Stainer, & the Two Marys.**



*Will'n in Weslaco*

The South Texas Annual Shakespeare Festival  
15 - 29 April 2023 - *Macbeth*

Coming soon, Will'n in Weslaco Shakespeare Festival April 15 – 29<sup>th</sup>.

The festival ends with our Shakes-Beer craft beer competition on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

