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PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Broadway Playwright Neil Simon's Collection of NYC Apartments up for Sale

The late 'Odd Couple' writer's wife is listing three apartments he owned in a Manhattan building that was one of the city's first residential skyscrapers

By Katherine Clarke

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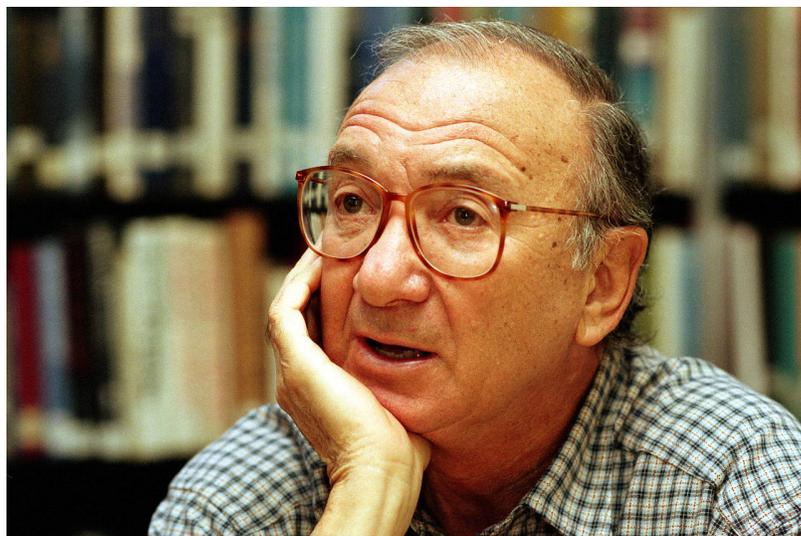


PHOTO: GARY STUART/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In New York's Midtown, a collection of apartments that belonged to the late playwright Neil Simon are coming on the market following his death last year.

Mr. Simon's original three-bedroom apartment is on the 14th floor of the Ritz Tower. Asking \$2.595 million, the unit has dark herringbone wood floors in the entryway and is decorated with dark wood,

according to listing agent Janice Silver of Stribling & Associates.

Mr. Simon, known for his plays such as "The Odd Couple" and "Barefoot in the Park," had



Mr. Simon's original three-bedroom apartment is on the 14th floor of the Ritz Tower and is asking \$2.595 million. PHOTO: DAVID PALER PHOTOGRAPHY

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owned the unit since the 1980s, the agent said.

The other two units were purchased more recently. A second two-bedroom unit, down the hall from Mr. Simon's home, was used for visiting friends and family, Ms. Silver said. It is asking \$1.495 million. The third unit, a penthouse with sprawling views of the city, was used as Mr. Simon's office for writing, and still contains some of his belongings. A framed copy of his 1986 Time magazine cover hangs on the wall, and some of the couple's art collection is also on display. The art isn't included in the sale. That unit is asking \$2.8 million.

"He lived to write. He probably didn't care where he was," Ms. Silver said, but his wife Elaine wanted to separate the space where they lived from where they worked. Mr. Simon split his time between New York and Los Angeles, where he also had a home. Ms. Simon declined to be interviewed.

Originally operated by the Ritz-Carlton Company, the Ritz Tower on Park Avenue was built in the late 1920s, and was one of the city's first residential skyscrapers. The building offers hotel-



The third unit, a penthouse, was used as Mr. Simon's office for writing, and still contains some of his belongings. It is asking \$2.8 million. PHOTO: DAVID PALER PHOTOGRAPHY

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Simon, his fourth wife whom he married in 1999, according to the listing agent. Ms. Silver said Ms. Simon is selling because she is spending a lot of time in California, and doesn't require as much space in New York. Ms. Silver said she expects the apartments to be sold to different buyers.

Mr. Simon died in August at age 91 from complications of pneumonia.

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style amenities, such as housekeeping services, newspaper delivery and a fitness center.

The properties are being sold by Ms.