



8pm

18 November – 2 December 2006

(no performance Mondays)

2pm Matinees on Sundays (November 19 & 26)

The Rose Centre
School Road, Belmont
Bookings (09) 445 6447

tickets \$20 adults and \$15 concessions



WHY “NOISES OFF”?

I asked to direct *Noises Off* for one reason – to me it is quite simply the funniest play about theatre ever written and I love theatre! A few years ago I played ‘Lloyd’ and fell in love with the play with all its challenges.

Challenges, don’t talk to me about challenges – the cast were plagued by disease & pestilence to the extent that at one point we went 4 weeks (16 rehearsals) without a full cast – and this during rehearsals for a play that is without doubt one of the hardest to rehearse in the history of theatre! Did the cast meet their challenges? Well you will be the judge but to my mind they have absolutely excelled themselves and all I can do is to offer them my love & gratitude for the joy and talent they brought to their art!

And then there’s Phil Davis’ incredible set – what a piece of brilliant engineering Phil has created to meet the challenges that a *Noises Off* set requires. I am awestruck & humbly grateful for his massive talent!

This is the third play that I have been privileged to direct for Company Theatre following on from *Brilliant Lies* in 2002 and *Up For Grabs* in 2004. All three productions have been hugely enjoyable but in terms of the size of the achievement and the challenges we have overcome *Noises Off* has been the most rewarding. I am deeply indebted to all those names that appear in the cast and crew lists so I hope that they all enjoy the rewards of what, with a little help from me, they have created. Special thanks must go to Sue Gross, Phil Davis, Sheila Stevens, Phil Searle, Maureen Kenny, Kathy Gent, David Adkins & my wonderfully supportive cast without whom there would be no *Noises Off*.

To you, our wonderful audience, I wish an enjoyable, fun filled evening and simply remind you that “There’s no business like show business!” even when it all goes wrong!

Richard Parmée, Director

CAST

Dotty Otley/Mrs Clackett
Lloyd Dallas
Garry Lejeune/Roger Tramplemain
Brooke Ashton/Vicki
Freddie Fellowes/Philip Brent/Sheikh
Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent
Selston Mowbray/Burglar
Poppy Norton-Taylor
Tim Allgood/Sheikh

Sue Gross
David Adkins
Karl Buckley
Greta Lawson
Nial Greenstock
Bev Brocklebank
John Clarke
Cathy Rood
Darren Ludlam



Grand Theatre

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Otstar Productions Limited

presents

DOTTY OTLEY

BELINDA BLAIR

GARRY LEJEUNE

in

NOTHING ON

by
ROBIN HOUSEMONGER

with
SELSDON MOWBRAY
BROOKE ASHTON
FREDERICK FELLOWES

Directed by LLOYD DALLAS

Designed by GINA STAIRWELL

Lighting by Costumes by
CHUCK SPANNER PATSY BUTTON

WORLD PREMIERE PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR

NOTHING ON

by Robin Housemonger

Cast in order of appearance

Mrs. Clackett.....Dotty Otley
Roger Tramplemain.....Garry Lejeune
Vicki.....Brooke Ashton
Philip Brent.....Frederick Fellowes
Flavia Brent.....Belinda Blair
Burglar.....Selsdon Mowbray
Sheikh.....Frederick Fellowes

The action takes place in the living-room of the Brents' country home, on a Wednesday afternoon in 1985.

For Otstar Productions Limited

Company and Stage Manager.....Tim Allgood
Assistant Stage Manager.....Poppy Norton-Taylor

Production Credits:

Sardines by Sardine Services. Miss Ashton's lenses by Double Vision Optical Ltd. Antique silverware and cardboard boxes by Mrs. J. G.H. Norton-Taylor. Stethoscope and hospital trolley by Severn Surgical Supplies. Straitjacket by Kumfy Restraints Ltd. Coffins by G. Ashforth and Sons.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of EUROPEAN BREWERIES in sponsoring this production.

Behind the Dressing Room doors!

DOTTY OTLEY makes a welcome return to the stage to create the role of Mrs Clackett after playing Mrs Hackett, Britain's most famous lollipop lady ("Ooh, I can't 'ardly 'old me lolly up!") in over 320 episodes of TV's *ON THE ZEBRAS*. She was born in Malta, the only daughter of Lt Cdr Clive Otley, RN DSM and trained at the Estelle Birkwood School of Drama and Allied Arts, winning the Bronze Medal, and going on to the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage, where she gained invaluable experience as ASM in successful productions like *AS YOU DESIRE* and *STARCHED APRONS*. Understudying Bee Duffell in *HADDOCK'S EYES* at the New Lindsey Theatre, Notting Hill Gate, and Margaret Lockwood in *PETER PAN* at the Scala, was followed by The King's Theatre, Peebles for a season, and then the Duke's Players at Lyme Regis for the better part of two seasons, and this in turn led to a prolonged stay in Australia, where she enjoyed some of the biggest successes of her career. When she gets the time she intends writing her memoirs, she says.

BELINDA BLAIR (Flavia Brent) has been on the stage since the age of four, when she made her debut in *SINBAD THE SAILOR* at the old Croydon Hippodrome as one of Miss Toni Tanner's Ten Tapping Tots. She subsequently danced her way round this country, Southern Africa, and the Far East in shows like *ZIPPEDEY-DOO-DA!* And *HERE COME LES GIRLS!* A damaged tendon led to her first straight parts in *GOOD TIME GIRL*, *LADIES OF THE NIGHT* and *RING TWICE FOR RITA*. More recently she has been seen in such comedy hits as *DON'T MR DUDDLE!*, *WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED?* And *TWICE TWO IS SEX*. She is married to scriptwriter Terry Wough, who has contributed lead-in material to most of TV's chat shows. They have two sons and three retrievers.

GARRY LEJEUNE (Roger Tramplemain) was twice winner of the Rose Bruford Medal for Effort. His many successful tours have brought him to Weston-super-Mare only once before, when he was starring in *THE ADVENTURES OF A WINDOW DRESSER*. He has made innumerable television appearances, but is perhaps best-known as 'Cornello', the ice-cream salesman who stirs the hearts of all the lollipop ladies in *ON THE ZEBRAS*. Recently made his "big screen" debut in *UP THE VIRGIN SOLDIERS*, for which he was nominated as Best Male Newcomer under Forty in any British Low-Budget Comedy Film, by readers of the *SUN* newspaper.

SELDSON MOWBRAY (Burglar) first "trod the boards" in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* with the Ben Greet Players, with whom he toured for three years, playing, among other roles, Moth, Mustardseed, and Nerissa (!). After war service in the Artists' Rifles, outstanding seasons with various repertory companies across the length and breadth of Great Britain led to his first West End play, *KELLY'S EYE*. To Stratford thence for *Mercutio*, *King John*, and the Porter in *MACBETH*. To Hollywood for several good supporting roles, including Stand-in to Robert Newton. Back home he played *King Lear* in Portsmouth, and joined the BBC Rep for two months in 1938. Great War number two saw him back in Khaki. Invalided out in 1940 he continued to serve by joining Ensa and performing all over the world in many different "Theatres of War". To Dublin in 1946, where he set up his own touring company playing the Classics, and rivalling the great Agnew Macmaster. Returned to England in 1952 and set up his own tour – a revival of *MR CINDERS*. His most recent film appearance was as an outraged pensioner in *GREEN WILLIES*.

BROOKE ASHTON (Vicki) is probably best known as the girl wearing nothing but 'good, honest, natural froth' in the Hauptbahnhofbrau lager commercial. But she has enjoyed a flourishing stage career, extending from a widely acclaimed Dandini in Hull to six months in the Lebanon with *PIXIE PEARLS*. Her television appearances range from *Girl at Infants' School* in *ON THE ZEBRAS* to *Girl in Strip Joint* in *ON PROBATION*. Cinemagoers saw her in *THE GIRL IN ROOM 14*, where she played the *Girl in Room 312*.

FREDERICK FELLOWES (Philip Brent) comes from a theatrical family – his parents were a popular speciality dance act of the thirties and forties, 'the Funny Fellowes'. He taught at a prep school near Hayward's Heath before bowing to family tradition and joining the *Osmosis Players*. There followed successful seasons in Nairobi, Ventnor, and Southwold, and he was most recently seen in the controversial all-male version of *THE TROJAN WOMEN*. He is happily married, and lives near Crawley, where his wife breeds pedigree dogs. 'If she ever leaves me' he says, 'it will probably be for an Irish wolfhound'.

ROBIN HOUSEMONGER (Author) was born in Worcester Park, Surrey, into a family 'unremarkable in every way except for an aunt with red hair who used to sing all the high twiddly bits from *THE MERRY WIDOW* over the tea table.' He claims to have been the world's most unsuccessful gents hosiery wholesaler, and began writing 'to fill the long hours between one hosiery order and the next'. He turned this experience into his very first play, *SOCKS BEFORE MARRIAGE*, which ran in the West End for nine years. Several subsequent plays have been produced, and at least one of them broke box office records in Perth, Western Australia. *NOTHING ON* is his seventeenth play.

LLOYD DALLAS (Director) 'read English at Cambridge, and stagecraft at the Salisbury. A Commonwealth Scholarship took him to Princeton, where he spent his time 'commuting to New York to see Miller and musicals on Broadway, and Lee Strasberg and Tallulah Bankhead at a party on East 10th St'. Since then Lloyd has directed plays 'in most parts of Britain' winning the South of Scotland Critics' Circle Special Award in 1968. In 1972 he directed a highly successful season for the National Theatre of Sri Lanka. In recent years Lloyd has probably become best known for his brilliant series of 'Shakespeare in Summer' productions in the parks of the inner London boroughs.

TIM ALLGOOD (Company Stage Manager) trained for a career in market Research, and became interested in the theatre only through a chance holiday visit to a local production of *THERE'S A GIRL IN MY SOUP*. He had got himself taken on by the company as Assistant Stage Manager before he realised that the girl in question was not only in the soup, but also married, with two growing children! During a production of *HAMLET* at the Lyceum, Portsmouth, he took over the part of Polonius at short notice, but subsequently found himself more in demand on the technical side. His most recent job was with *BETROTHED*, a thriller by Sam Brennicke both on the tour prior to its West End opening in December 1980, and again on the tour which followed the conclusion of its successful West End run in January 1981.

POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR (Assistant Stage Manager) is from family more often found on the Boards of leading companies than on the boards with a touring theatre company. She came into "the performing arts" when answering an advertisement for "Girls Wanted" and has never looked back! Her dream is to play Lady MacBeth as a drag queen!

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
 Production Manager/PA/Prompt
 Stage Managers
 Stage Hands

Prompt
 Set Design

Set Construction

Set Dressing
 Set Painting

Lighting Design/Operation
 Sound Design
 Sound Operation
 Properties
 Costumes
 Publicity
 Poster Design
 Photos & Billboards
 Programme Production
 Front of House Managers
 Bar Manager
 Box Office, Front of House & Bar Staff

*Richard Parmee
 Ngaire Jones
 Sheila Stevens, Ngaire Jones
 Mark Higgins, Bob Stevens, Phil
 Davis, Mark Betty, Cathy Betty,
 Tracey Andrews
 Molly Clarke
 Richard Parmee, Phil Davis &
 Anne Rimmer
 Phil Davis with Richard Parmee,
 Tony Sandy, Alastair Fletcher,
 Ernie Caley, Bob Stevens, Steve
 Moss, Jeremy Dooner, Jim
 Murphy
 Anne Rimmer
 Nadine Gibson, Maureen Kenny,
 Sue Gross, Caroline Parker,
 Angie Holmes, Sheila Stevens
 Phil Searle
 David Adkins
 Rob Holland
 Maureen Kenny
 Sue Gross
 Kathy Gent
 Outerspace Design
 Sherry Ede
 Richard Parmee
 Penny Skyrme, Lynne Davis
 Alastair Fletcher
 Members of Company Theatre*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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 (Orewa), Smoove & League of Gentlemen (High St, City)

CAST PROFILES

Sue Gross - Sue (currently President of Company Theatre) is no stranger to Company Theatre (on stage, back stage, in the wings and in the audience!). Sue has waited "an age" to play Mrs Clackett, having played Flavia/Belinda with Torbay Dramatic Society back in 1993. Thank you to Company Theatre for producing such a screamingly funny farce... Thank you to Richard for directing a brilliant cast... Thank you to me for "bringing four plates of sardines on in Act 1 alone!"

David Adkins - This is David's 4th production with Company Theatre (he was last seen as John in 2004 "Caught in the Net") and he is delighted to be involved. "High farce has always been a favourite, and it doesn't get much higher than this!" David is perhaps better known for his involvement with musicals both as performer and director, though he is also involved in lighting and sound design from time to time. "Thanks Richard - it's been great as always.....and on we merrily go, yes but I could hear voices"

Karl Buckley - Karl divides his time in theatre between acting and directing. Directing highlights include "Once on Chunuk Bair", "The Pirates of Penzance" and "A Few Good Men" for which he won Best Director and Best Production at the 2005 Auckland Community Theatre Trust awards. Recent on-stage roles include Digby in "A Touch of Danger" and Gavin in "Ladies Night". Karl has enjoyed the unique challenges of "Noises Off"

Greta Lawson - This is Greta's first appearance as part of Company Theatre and what better play to feature in initially than 'Noises Off'. Getting the joke behind 'She's thinking about renting it, her interest is definitely aroused' was something in itself. Greta appreciated working with such accomplished actors around her and of course the privilege to be directed by Richard. She plans to reappear in the limelight at Company very soon.

Nial Greenstock - This is Nial's 10th production with Company Theatre, having last appeared in "Trick of the Light", "Up For Grabs" and the highly successful "Take a Chance on Me". As well as appearing in numerous commercials, Nial played a lead character in the award winning film "1 Nite" and recently appeared as Dr. David Ford in the black comedy "Karma", by Damon Papulea's. Although Nial claims to be nothing like his character "Freddie" everyone else disagrees.

Bev Brocklebank - This is the first time Bev has worked with Company Theatre. She was delighted to be cast in one of her favourite plays and has thoroughly enjoyed all the challenges. She would like to thank Richard and the rest of the team for all their support, encouragement and hard work. Bev recently appeared in NSMT's "Beauty & The Beast" as a Gargoyle & Evil Tree 5 and prior to that as Sister Berthe in The Sound of Music for Centrestage.

John Clarke - John was a comparatively late starter in his acting career, having his first role in the stage musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" in 1999 at the age of 39. Since then he has 'walked the boards' in many stage productions including several at Company Theatre. John has also had roles in many short films and feature films. He is looking forward to playing 'Selsdon' and enthusiastic about being back in front of a live audience:

Catherine Rood - As a huge fan of the play Catherine is delighted to be part of 'Noises Off' for her first outing with Company Theatre. Recent performances for Catherine include NSMT's "Beauty & The Beast" and playing Madame Thénardier in "Lés Misérables" at Kristin School. Catherine would like to thank Richard and the cast & crew for making this such an enjoyable experience

Darren Ludlam - This is Darren's first show with Company Theatre... "and what a show", says Darren. Noises Off is a show Darren has always wanted to do ever since he first saw it many, many years ago at Howick Little Theatre. Having been seen in many musical's around Auckland over the past 20 odd years this is Darren's second comedy play this year after having done "Take a Chance on Me" at Papakura Theatre Company. Darren would like to thank Richard and Company Theatre for the chance to fulfil a dream by being part of Noises Off. "Enjoy folks".....

AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS
 Auditions for THE BACH by Stephen Sinclair directed by Sian Davis
 At 5pm at The Rose Centre on Sunday 10 December 2006
 Enquiries phone Sian on 483 4245 Production Dates 17 - 31 March 2007

COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP
 For Membership of Company Theatre phone Steve on 634 6313

Office Ph 489-4189

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Nothing on but Noises Off

The actors in Michael Frayn's 'Noise's Off bump into the furniture, hurl themselves down stairs, smack into scenery, strangle on telephone wires, have fire axes hurled at them and dodge flying sardines while drinking whisky straight from the bottle. Michael Frayn's definitive stage farce is legendary for the injuries a cast may sustain!

Company Theatre's screamingly funny comedy about backstage drama is as intricate and well-engineered as a Rolls-Royce, simply one of the funniest comedies of our or anybody else's time.

The play opens in Weston-super-Mare at the Grand Theatre as we see the final rehearsal of 'Nothing On', one of those British sex farces that constantly entertained (or plagued) theatregoers not many decades ago.

The tatty production of Nothing On is being bankrolled by its star, the popular BBC sitcom



Drink problem: Selsdon (John Clarke) tries to pry the whisky from Tim (Darren Ludlam).

actor Dottie Otley (Sue Gross), and directed by the testy, world-weary Lloyd Dallas (David Adkins).

"Think of the first night as a dress rehearsal," he balefully advises the players, who have been denied that luxury. Nerves are fraying... and will fray a lot further.

Dottie Otley, the star and 'producer' of the play within the play is a bit over the hill, but she's still out there

working her heart out and wearing it, simultaneously, on the sleeve of her housedress.

Her young boyfriend is in the show and he has a jealous streak a mile long Her old leading man is in the show and his drinking problem is the company obsession. Everybody is sleeping with someone in the company (or wishes they were!) and no one is getting their work done.

There are eight doors



Not impressed: Brooke (left, Greta Lawson) and Belinda (Bev Brocklebank) are less than charmed by Freddie (Nial Greenstock).

and a window in the set; there are nine characters. Consider the possibilities for entrances, exits and missed cues. The first and third acts are on stage; the second is backstage: the intermission is a show in itself.

Noises Off brings Company Theatre's 2006 season to a riotous close and is fantastic pre-Christmas entertainment. The show runs at The Rose Centre, Belmont from Saturday November 18 to Saturday December 2; Tuesday to Saturday at 8pm; Matinees Sundays November 19 and 26, at 2pm. To book, please phone Kathy Gent on 445 6447.

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NOVEMBER 17 2006

Nothing on but Noises Off

Company Theatre's final production for 2006 is described as "quite simply the funniest play about theatre ever written" according to its director Richard Parmee.

'Noises Off' by Michael Frayn is the hilarious story of a hapless English acting troupe touring a production of a farce called 'Nothing On'.

The play opens with director Lloyd Dallas (David Adkins) drilling his cast at their final dress rehearsal, only hours away from opening night.

His cast includes the dotty Dotty (Sue Gross) who can barely remember her lines, the elderly and nearly deaf Selsdon (John Clarke), the blonde bombshell Brooke (Greta Lawson), the inarticulate Garry (Karl Buckley), the overly nervous Frederick (Nial Greenstock) and the ever-game Belinda (Bev Brocklebank).

As the play progresses, it becomes clear that their problems go beyond surface squabbling, and that just about everything that could go wrong will.

Further complications arise with the clueless backstage team of Tim (Darren Ludlam) and Poppy (Cathy Rood).

• Noises Off runs from Nov 18 to Dec 2 at The Rose Centre, Belmont. Bookings ph 445 6447

Making all the right noises... Garry, played by Karl Buckley, gets to grips with blonde bombshell Brooke (Greta Lawson) in Company Theatre's latest production





