



# LITTLE THEATRE

A  
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB  
PRODUCTION

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# Noises Off

*By Michael Frayn,  
directed by Margaret Mann*

**28th April -  
6th May 2006  
at 7.45pm**

  
**LITTLE THEATRE**  
SOUTHPORT  
HOME OF  
THE SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

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# Director's Notes



Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* is reputed to be the funniest play ever written. Tonight you can decide for yourself!

It has certainly been a wonderful challenge and great fun for those of us involved with the production, both on and off stage. We have had to rehearse a play, which takes place on three levels on a revolving set, in a rehearsal space which has neither. We have tried, at the same time, to match actions off stage to what is being said and is happening on stage - and all at the furious pace which playing farce demands.

Confused? We definitely have been at times, yet rehearsals have been great fun because good teamwork is of the essence; it has proved to be an interesting way to lose weight, too!

I do hope you will enjoy our production of a farce within a farce and appreciate Michael Frayn's witty, brilliant, perceptive and ingenious creation.

My thanks to the excellent, dedicated cast and production team and to you, our faithful patrons, who have supported us, not only this evening, but throughout the season.

Have fun!

Margaret Mann  
Director

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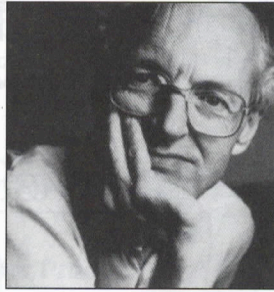
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# Michael Frayn



Playwright, novelist and translator Michael Frayn was born in London on 8 September 1933. After two years National Service, during which he learned Russian, he read Philosophy at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He then worked as a reporter and columnist for *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, publishing several novels including *The Tin Men* (1965), winner of a Somerset Maugham Award, *The Russian Interpreter* (1966), which won the Hawthornden Prize, and *Towards the End of the Morning* (1967). More recent novels include *A Landing on the Sun* (1991), which won the Sunday Express Book of the Year and *Headlong* (1999), the story of the discovery of a lost painting by Bruegel, shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction. His latest novel, *Spies* (2002), a story of childhood set in England during the Second World War, won the 2002 Whitbread Novel Award and the 2003 Commonwealth Writers Prize and was short listed for the Whitbread Book of the Year. Michael Frayn is also the recipient of the 2002 Heywood Hill Literary Prize.

His plays include *Alphabetical Order* (1975), *Clouds* (1976), *Donkeys' Years* (1977), *Make or Break* (1980), *Noises Off* (1982) and *Benefactors* (1984). *Copenhagen* (1998), about the 1941 meeting between German physicist Werner Heisenberg and his Danish counterpart Niels Bohr, first staged at the Royal National Theatre in London, won the 1998 Evening Standard Award for Best Play of the Year and the 2000 Tony Award for Best Play (USA). His latest play is *Democracy* (2003), set in 1960s Berlin.

He has also translated a number of works from Russian, including plays by Chekhov and Tolstoy. His films for television include *First and Last* (1989), for which he won an Emmy, and an adaptation of his 1991 novel *A Landing on the Sun*. He also wrote the screenplay for the film *Clockwise* (1986), a comedy starring John Cleese.



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**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**

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# **NOTHING ON**

by **ROBIN HOUSEMONGER**

Cast in order of appearance:

Mrs Clackett

Roger Tramplemain

Vicki

Philip Brent

Flavia Brent

Burglar

Sheikh

**DOTTY OTLEY**

**GARRY LEJEUNE**

**BROOKE ASHTON**

**FREDERICK FELLOWES**

**BELINDA BLAIR**

**SELSDON MOWBRAY**

**FREDERICK FELLOWES**

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

for **OTSTAR PRODUCTIONS LTD**

Company and Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager

**TIM ALLGOOD**  
**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.

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

# Noises Off

by Michael Frayn,  
directed by Margaret Mann

## Cast

Dotty Otley..... KATHY FELTON-AKSOY  
Lloyd Dallas..... STEPHEN HUGHES-ALTY  
Garry Lejeune..... RONNIE ORR  
Brooke Ashton..... HELEN PICKAVANCE  
Poppy Norton-Taylor..... JAN HALE  
Fredrick Fellowes..... MICHAEL YATES  
Belinda Blair..... SANDRA UNSWORTH  
Tim Allgood..... BRENDAN GILLOW  
Selsdon Mowbray..... RAY MANN

**Act i** The living-room of the Brents' country home,  
on a Wednesday afternoon.  
(Grand Theatre, Weston-Super-Mare Monday 14th January).

**Act ii** The living-room of the Brents' country home,  
on a Wednesday afternoon.  
(Theatre Royal, Goole Wednesday Matinee 20th February).

**Act iii** The living-room of the Brents' country home,  
on a Wednesday afternoon.  
(Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees Saturday 6th April).

*There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts i and ii.*

# Staging

Stage Manager .....	Chris Ratcliffe
Assistant Stage Manager (Book) .....	Fran Percival
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Laura Neal
Props .....	Julie Whelan, James Hughes-Alty
Wardrobe .....	SDC and Cast
Lighting Design .....	Tony Berry
Lighting Operator .....	Andrew Connard
Sound .....	Brian Hodge
Crew .....	Phil Hutchinson, Lindsay Haywood, ..... Andrew Connard, Eric Armstrong
Set Design .....	Syd Coley
Set Constructed by .....	SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist .....	Bob Jessamine
Photography by .....	Neil Hickson

## Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:

The Salvation Army, and Ashley Kitchen & Bathroom Design Centre Ltd. for Gold taps

### **Music for the evening's performances are:**

*Another Opening, Another Show* from *Kiss Me Kate*.

*Popular Song* from *Façade* by Walton.

*Mrs Worthington* by Noel Coward.

*There's No Business Like Show Business* from *Annie Get Your Gun*.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the auditorium after curtain up until a suitable opportunity occurs. First aid facilities are provided at this theatre by St John Ambulance Brigade, whose members give their services voluntarily.

***Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?***

A new induction loop has been installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons. Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

***Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off***

At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open. In an emergency, this theatre can be emptied in three minutes or less if everyone leaves in an orderly manner.

Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

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# Noises Off

## Cast

### **Dotty Otley** Mrs Clackett

Dotty 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 pl!) in over 320 episodes of TV's *On the Zebras*. She was born in Malta, the only daughter of Lt. Cdr. Clive Otley, R.N., D.S.M., 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 playing 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.



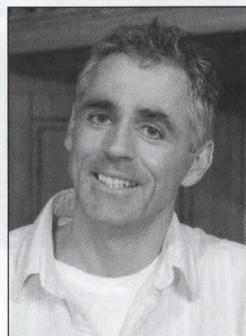
### **Belinda Blair** Flavia Brent

Belinda 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 *Zippedy-Doo-Da!* and *Here Comes 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 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

Garry 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 'Cornetto', the ice-cream salesman who stirs the hearts of all lollipop ladies in *On The Zebras*. Recently made his 'big screen' debut in *Up The Virgin Soliders*, for which he was nominated as Best Male Newcomer under Forty in any British Low-Budget Comedy Film by readers of the Sun newspaper.



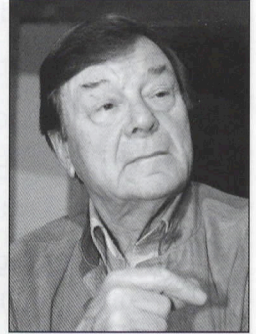


# Noises Off

## Cast

### **Selsdon Mowbray** Burglar

Selsdon 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! Outstanding seasons with various repertory companies across the length and breadth of Great Britain led to his first West End play, *Kelly's Eye*. Then 'alfresco' in Regent's Park for several seasons, playing leads. 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. He set up his own touring company playing the Classics, and rivalling the great Agnew Macmaster. Since then, apart from an occasional excursion to 'tread the green', he has been busy writing his autobiography, which he is thinking of titling *Hanging On The Wall*.



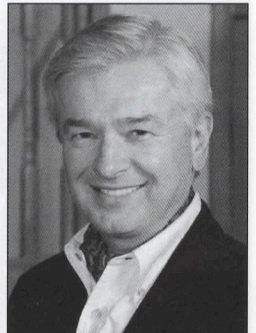
### **Brooke Ashton** Vicki

Brooke 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 Zebra*s 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

Frederick comes from a theatrical family - his parents were a popular speciality dance act of the thirties and forties, 'The Funny Fellowes'. He taught at 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!'





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# Noises Off

## Cast

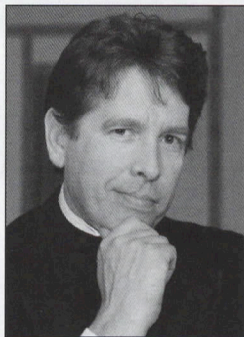
### **Lloyd Dallas** Director

'Lloyd 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 1988. In 1992 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

Tim 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 2000, and again on the tour which followed the conclusion of its successful West End run in January 2001.



### **Poppy Norton-Taylor** Assistant Stage Manager

Poppy is from a family found more often on the Boards of leading companies than on the boards with touring companies. Her father is chairman of European Breweries, but has been 'terribly sweet about it all – so far!' After schools in Cheltenham and Montreux she found life far too full to leave time for work. So this is her first job and she is enjoying the challenge enormously. Her hobbies include riding, ski-ing, tennis, reading good books, and loving anything small and furry.





**LITTLE THEATRE**  
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DRAMATIC CLUB

**Dates for your Diary**

13th - 20th May 2006  
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**THE GINGERBREAD LADY**

By Neil Simon, directed by David Charters  
An SDC Bar Production



31st May - 3rd June 2006  
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# LITTLE THEATRE

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PRESENTATION

*Theatre in-the-round in our air-conditioned bar/studio*



## THE

# GINGERBREAD LADY

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**directed by David Charters**

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**at 7.45pm**

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Thurs-Sat: £6.75

Box Office opens: 15th May 2006

  
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