



The Rep



NOISES OFF

by Michael Frayn



Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory Theatre

78th Season - Programme 50p

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Good Evening....

....and welcome to the Repertory Theatre, we hope that you will enjoy your evening with us.

Here is a little information about our new theatre which as first time visitors you may find helpful

Car Parking

The car park will be open from 6.30pm on performance nights until the closure of the theatre bar. Overspill parking is available on the Staffordshire University Car Park, adjacent to the theatre car park. Neither the Stoke Repertory Theatre nor the Staffordshire University can be held responsible for damage to or loss of vehicles.

Theatre Bar

The bar is open from 7.00pm on performance evenings until normal local closing time. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance. Alcoholic drinks are not permitted to be removed from the bar.

Coffee Bar

Coffee is available at the buffet bar in the foyer from 7.00pm on performance evenings and may be ordered for the interval before the performance.

Confectionery

A full range is available and on sale in the foyer before the performance. Patrons are respectfully asked not to rustle confectionery wrappings as it can mar the enjoyment of others.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

Photography

Photography and/or tape (including video tape) recordings in the auditorium during a public performance are prohibited.

The Rep

The Rep is a member of The Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, and is affiliated to the British Theatre Association and International Amateur Theatre Association.



We look forward to seeing you at our next production



A Message from the Chairman

The choice of "Noises Off" as the opening production for the new theatre was strongly influenced by the success of the earlier production, which broke box-office records at Beresford Street and the fact that many patrons and supporters thought that this masterly farce would be the ideal choice to inaugurate the new era in our history.

Director Alan Hulme and his cast, many of whom were in our original production, hope that you will revel in the on-stage and backstage confusion and infighting which Michael Frayn exploits with such hilarious relish.

There is, indeed, "no business like show business" - where team-work, internal relationships and artistic standards tend to buckle in the heat of rehearsal, the pressures of performance and rampant personality clashes!

I hope that you will have a thoroughly enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing you throughout the season.

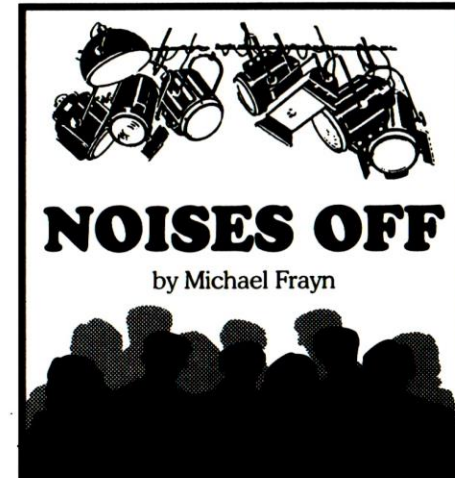
Peter Dutton

Chairman, Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory Players.



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

Presents



18th to 22nd and 25th to 29th November 1997

Directed by - **Alan Hulme** Designed by - **Tina Campbell**
Scenic Artist - **Colin Chesterton** Stage Director - **Tina Campbell**

Acknowledgements

Dave Bryan for assisting with the manufacturing of the set.
Vision Express for Brian Hadley's glasses.
Underwear courtesy of Taylor Made Castings of Cobridge Road.
Stafford Equipment Company Limited.



We are indebted to the St. John Ambulance Brigade,
whose members voluntarily attend all our performances.



NOISES OFF

by Michael Frayn

Cast

Dotty Otley	Joan Bennett
Lloyd Dallas	Brian Hadley
Garry Lejeune	John Wicks
Brooke Ashton	Michaela Warrilow
Poppy Norton-Taylor	Debbie Rowley
Frederick Fellowes	John Walley
Belinda Blair	Alison Wicks
Tim Allgood	John Collier
Selsdon Mowbray	Eric Ball
Directed by	Alan Hulme

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

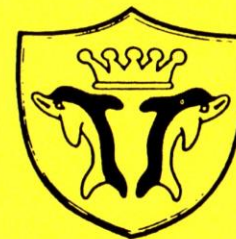
(II) Act One The living-room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.
(Theatre Royal, Goole, Wednesday matinee, 13th February)

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



The cast of 'Noises Off' are performing a play called 'Nothing On' the programme for which is given to you with this 'Noises Off' programme.

NOTHING ON



Grand Theatre

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Programme



Grand Theatre

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Proprietors: GRAND THEATRE (Weston-super-Mare) LIMITED
General Manager: E. E. A. GRADSHAW

The Grand Theatre
Weston-super-Mare
is a Member of the
Grand Group

commencing Tuesday 15th January for One Week Only

Otstar Productions Ltd
present

Evenings at 7.45

DOTTY OTLEY

Matinee: Wednesday
at 2.30

BELINDA BLAIR

Saturday at 5.00
and 8.30

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
CHUCK SPANNER

Costumes by
PATSY BUTTON

WORLD PREMIERE PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR!

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

The use of cameras and tape recorders is forbidden.

The management reserve the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

From the Theatre rules "All exits shall be available for use during all performances"

"The fire curtain shall be lowered during each performance"

THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE
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Weston-super-Mare's leading
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Behind The Dressing Room Doors

DOTTY OTLEY (Mrs Clackett) 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 ZIPPEY-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 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 'Cornetto', 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!

SELSDON 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. 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 for Robert Newton. Back home he played King Lear in Portsmouth, and joined the BBC Rep for two months in 1938. Great War No 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. 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.

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.

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

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.

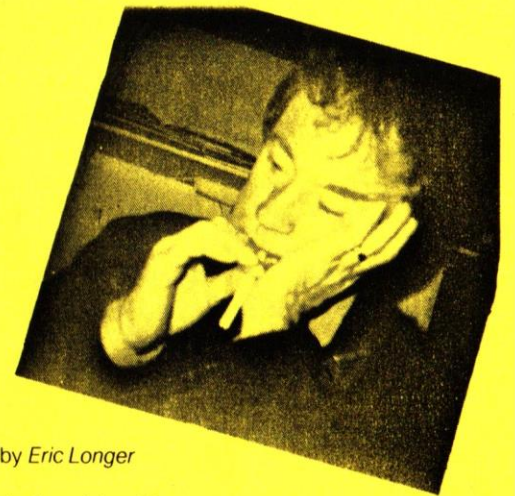
FREDERICK FELLOWES (Philip Brent) comes from a theatrical family — his parents were a popular speciality dance act of the thirties and forties, 'The Funny Fellowes'. He taught at a prep school near Hayward's Heath before bowing to family tradition and joining the Osmosis Players. There followed successful 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 1969. 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 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.



OUR AUTHOR

— an appreciation of Robin Housemonger by *Eric Longer*
— theatre critic of *The Reporter*

I first came across Robin Housemonger at the first night of *Socks Before Marriage* which made such an impact on the London Stage. I must say it made quite an impact on me too but that might just have been because I was unfortunate enough to be in the line of fire of the rogue pyrotechnics. Robin himself helped me with the difficult business of bandaging my jaw during the interval and even offered to take me to the hospital. However I could not possibly leave before the end of the show — so, even though it was an unspeakably painful experience, I sat it out right to the bitter end. The audience howled and groaned all the way through the second act, and by the final curtain the atmosphere was well nigh hysterical.

After discussing my review at the first night party Robin offered me a job as his press agent, and so my first impressions of his work were never in fact published. In Robin's employ I found myself touring the world trying every way I could think of to promote his shows. As we all now know this third play *Top Banana*, broke all box office records at the brand new Eros Theatre in Perth, Western Australia. Oddly enough, when we returned there some months later with *Quivering Quilts*, attendances were not quite so good and sadly the show closed after only a couple of performances.

Robin was commissioned by the Teatr Doggo, Llanelli, to write a special production to celebrate Saint David's day 1972, and the result was his controversial work *I Could do with a Leek* which ran for several weeks. Back at last in his favourite West End. Robin's next work *Private Parts* was produced by the Ruislip Stage Company and was nominated for a major award. Regrettably there was some sort of administrative error and the award actually went to the Royal Shakespeare Company for its production of *Privates on Parade*. Frankly many theatregoers were understandably put out about this faux's pas.

On Broadway Robin has had two major successes — with *Come Again* and *Nice Out Isn't It?*. One of these was later to transfer from Wimbledon to America where it appeared, under the new title of *Keep it Up* in New York at the Schmaltz Theatre (Bronx). American critics found the language a little difficult and were perhaps rather unkind in their reviews which were mostly along the line of *Keep it Up? I wish he could!* and *Flaccid . . . limp comedy*.

Nothing On marks Robin's return to England after a number of years in Central Asia and South America where he worked on numerous English Language plays for non-english audiences. His work has been highly acclaimed abroad as easily accessible unintellectual.

Having left his service a few years ago I can now justly wish him the success he richly deserves.

Eric Longer.

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Take her to La Veneziana, Weston-super-Mare's only authentic Bulgarian bistro! Intimate after-the-show suppers—tandoori chicken—steak and chips a speciality, also wedding parties—disco thru' till 11.30 pm.

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— Production Team —

Stage Manager (for "Noises Off")	Tina Campbell
Lighting Designer	Nick Charles
Lighting Technician	Matthew Rushton
Sound Designer	Mike Adams
Sound Technician	Claire Williams
Assistant Stage Managers	Abi Dodd
	Bill Hancock
	John Beeston
	Eric Tipping
	Judy Adams
	Gill Franklin
	Jan Johnson
	Martin Alsop
	Yvonne Tipping
	Derek Tipton
	Melanie Hayes
	Beverley Halfpenny
	Peter Johnson
	Malcolm Rushton
	The Young Rep
Wardrobe	Alison Wicks
	Irene Dodd
Properties	Janet Clarke
	Debbie Rowley
Company Photographer	Peter Croft
Theatre Bar Manager	Keith Williams
Front of House Manager	Trevor Barlow
Box Office Managers	Stella Woolliscroft
	Brenda Swancott
Refreshment Organiser	Sandy Holland



— Art Exhibition —



Paul M. Clarke, A.R.C.A.

Paul M. Clarke, A.R.C.A. was trained at Watford and Croydon Schools of Art and in the School of Painting at the Royal College of Art where he gained his A.R.C.A., with silver medal for Special Distinction in Painting.

He was employed as a Graphic Designer in the Printing Industry for three years before serving with the Royal Horse and East African Artillery during the Second World War. He was Head of the Department of Foundation Studies in Art and Design at the Department of Fine Art, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, until his retirement.

Works have been exhibited at The Royal Academy, New English Art Club, United Society of Artists, Keele University and at numerous provincial galleries including the City of Stoke-on-Trent Gallery which has several examples of his work in their permanent collection. Paul Clarke has been a member of the Society of Staffordshire Artists for the past fifteen years.

You are able to contact Paul personally should you wish. Please telephone him on 01782 392445, or do, of course, write to 7, Blacklake Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7LJ.



— Playbill —

We shall be presenting this season....



Saturday 20th December

CHRISTMAS AT THE REP

Tuesday to Saturday
27th to 31st January
and 3rd to 7th
February 1998

RING AROUND THE MOON

by Jean Anouilh (adapted by Christopher Fry)

Described as "a charade with music", the play takes place beneath the sparkling lights of a winter garden. Here the twins, Hugo, cynical and heartless, and Frederic, gentle and unassuming, mingle with an eccentric group of characters at a glittering ball. At times farcical, at times sad, the evening does not turn out quite as Hugo had planned.

Tuesday to Saturday
24th to 28th March
and 31st March to 4th
April 1998

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

by Alan Ayckbourn

Although this play begins with a masterly insight into the relationship between a man and his wife, viewed with a comedian's eye, it turns out to be the bleakest of all of Ayckbourn's works. It ends with tragic overtones, as the husband fails to notice his wife's needs and his own shortcomings.

Tuesday to Saturday
19th to 23rd May
and 26th to 30th
May 1998

TALKING HEADS

by Alan Bennett

One of the famous series of monologues, originally written for television, exploring the problem of loneliness.

THE BROWNING VERSION

by Terence Rattigan

This famous play continues the theme of loneliness, this time of a schoolmaster forced into early retirement. As he prepares to leave, he discovers emotions within himself that he thought were long dead.



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4th, 5th, and 6th December 1997

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Tuesday to Saturday
14th to 18th April 1998

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As an amateur theatre we have room for every kind of talent: acting, scenic design, set construction and painting, sound, lighting, music, bar work, wardrobe, properties, Front of House, backstage, Box Office, kitchen and administration ... the list goes on - there's plenty to keep you busy and interested.



If you would like to take an active part in helping to run our theatre, come along to an informal meeting and we'll have a chat and show you round. Members night is Tuesday when "The Green Room" is available, from around 8.30 pm., and we'll see you in the Bar!



Alternatively, drop us a line (S.A.E., please, at least 9" x 4") to request a membership application form and we'll take it from there. (Experience not essential - but any you may have would be welcome!) Come and join us!

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presents

CHRISTMAS
at The Rep



Saturday 20th December 1997 at 7.30 pm - Tickets £6.00

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