

Steinbrenner High School

Presents Auditions for

Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

UPDATED 07/17/2023

Auditions:

Thursday, August 17, 2023 @ 3:30pm

Call back if needed Friday, August 18, 2023 @ 3:30pm

Show dates:

November 16, 17 & 18, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Audition Appointment Options:

[Click here for the audition form](#)

Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

Steinbrenner High School presents Michael Frayn's "Noises Off". Called "the funniest farce ever written. Noises Off takes a fond look at the follies of theatre folk, whose susceptibility to out-of-control egos, memory loss, and passionate affairs turn every performance into a high-risk adventure.

This play-within-a-play captures a touring theatre group's production of "Nothing On" in three stages: dress rehearsal, an early performance, and a performance

Frayn gives us a window into the inner workings of theatre behind the scenes, progressing from flubbed lines and missed cues in the dress rehearsal to mounting friction between cast members in the final performance brimming with slapstick comedy, Noises Off is a delightful backstage farce, complete with slamming doors, falling trousers, and -- of course -- flying sardines!

ACT I (Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare, Monday, January 14th).

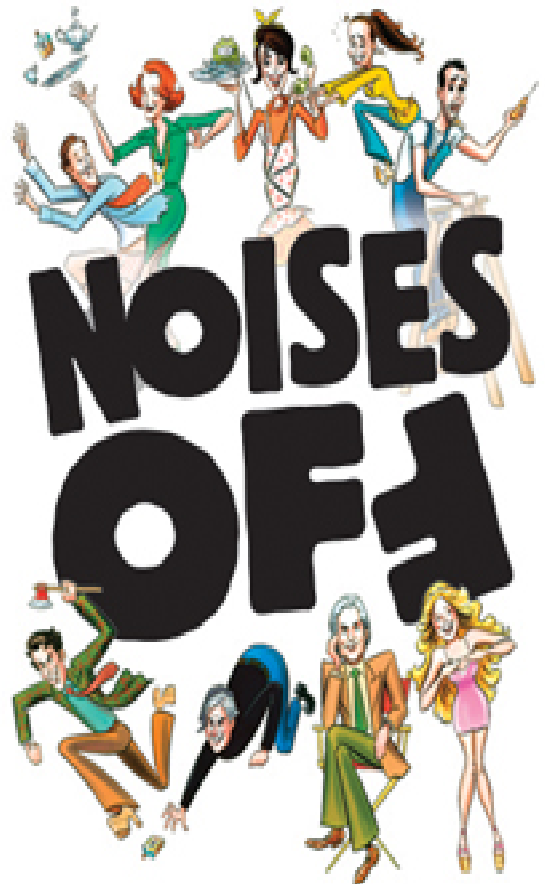
During the first act, we are an audience to this production of a play within a play. The Nothing On cast is lovable, but mainly inept; however, we cheer for them under our breath and hope that they can pull it together and get the show on the road. Trying to pull this all together into some semblance of a presentable show is the director, Lloyd Dallas, who is sitting in the darkened auditorium shouting out directions and trying to get everybody ready for opening.

ACT II (Theatre Royal, Aston-under-Lyne, Wednesday matinée, February 13th)

For this act, we, the audience, are sitting backstage; the entire set has been turned 180 degrees. We can hear the actors performing out front, but what we see is the back side of the scenic flats, the stage manager trying to keep the action flowing and everybody happy, and the various antics of the actors offstage between their exits and entrances. The play has been on the road for one month now, and relationships between cast members, as well as the quality of Nothing On, have deteriorated. Most of the company is in a continual state of agitation, and this disorder is carrying over into the play, causing missed entrances, flubbed lines, and general hilarity. Act 3 is even more frenetic.

ACT III (Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, Saturday, April 6th)

It is seven weeks later, and the tour is reaching an end. We, the audience, are out front again, watching a performance of Nothing On that has reached the point of complete and hilarious deterioration. The business of performing the show has become subordinate to the business of solving personal problems. Ultimately, however, they carry off the show – in some semblance.



CHARACTERS (4 F) (5 M) (ALL ROLES ARE OPEN)

Almost all actors play two parts; the “actor” and the “character” they play. We are going to attempt to have English accents.

A NOTE TO ALL ACTORS. SINCE EVERYONE IN THE SHOW MUST MAINTAIN AN ENGLISH ACCENT FOR THE 2 HOURS OF PERFORMANCE, WE ARE ASKING THAT FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE AT AUDITIONS YOU SHOULD BE SPEAKING IN YOUR BEST BRITISH. FROM REGISTRATION TO YOUR FINAL GOODBYE WE WANT TO HEAR HER MAJESTIES TONGUE.

FEMALE CHARACTERS

Dotty Otley / Mrs. Clackett: (50 - 70) (Accent: Standard British and Cockney)

Dotty is a once “Much Loved” English actress who is now in her twilight years and is having trouble remembering lines and stage direction. She has used her life savings to help finance the play to help with her retirement. She is Playing **Mrs. Clackett** a Cockney Housekeeper in the Brent’s home with a penchant for putting up her feet and have some sardines.

Brooke Ashton / Vicki: (20 – late 30’s) (Accent: Standard British)

Brooke is a young, popular but inexperienced, British actress known for playing the sexy Ingenue with very little costume. She learns her part by rote and will say the lines as written no matter what is going on around her. (NOTE:) Brooke IS NOT stupid, vain or a Diva, she spends a lot of time thinking her own thoughts and doesn’t always connect with the world or her costars around her. She plays **Vicki**, a young office worker for Inland Revenue (English IRS).

Director’s Note: *Brooke spends the majority of the show in her undergarments. You must be comfortable performing in little more than a bra and underwear.*

Belinda Blair / Flavia Brent: (30’s – late 40’s) (Accent: Standard British)

Belinda Is the self-assigned mother of the group. Cheerful and sensible, she dislikes conflict and likes to make things run smoothly. She plays **Philip Brent's wife**. She is dependable and forward thinking, though not one for household duties.

Poppy Norton-Taylor: (20 - 30) (Accent: Standard British)

Poppy is the Assistant Stage Manager of Nothing On. She is emotional and over-sensitive and doesn’t have a lot of experience as a stage manager.

MALE CHARACTERS

Lloyd Dallas: (30 - 50) (*Accent: Standard British*)

Lloyd is the director of the play, Nothing On. He is self-absorbed, temperamental, and has an eye for the ladies.

Garry Lejeune / Roger Tramplemain: (20 - 40) (*Accent: Standard British*)

Garry is an actor who is easily fired up and always has a lot to say but never finishes a sentence. "you know..." He plays **Roger** an English Real Estate Agent who is attempting to rent Flavia's and Philip's home, but uses it for his own personal benefit.

Frederick Fellowes / Philip Brent / Sheikh: (20 - 40) (*Accent: Standard British*)

Frederick is a character actor with a serious fear of violence who gets nosebleeds at the sight of blood. He is self-deprecating when things go wrong and often questions the meaning of his lines and blocking. He plays **Philip Brent**, a successful playwright who lives outside of the country with his wife Flavia to avoid paying taxes. He is constantly worried about being caught by Inland Revenue and losing most of the year's income. He also plays the Sheikh, a Middle-Easterner, interested in renting Flavia's and Philip's home and is the spitting image of Philip.

Selsdon Mowbray / Burglar: (60 +) (*Accent: Standard British and Cockney*)

Selsdon is a long time stage actor who is best known for his short lived but popular TV series on the BBC. He is an actor of the old school with greasepaint in his veins and a bottle of scotch always at the ready. Slightly befuddled, never really sober and very hard of hearing, Selsdon is an old friend of Dotty who is giving him another shot with this show. He plays **the Burglar**, an old Cockney roustabout who longs for the good old days when stealing stuff meant something.

Timothy Allgood: (20 - 30) (*Accent: Standard British*)

Tim is the Company and Stage Manager and a jack of all trades. He has a fatal flaw - he can't say no. If you want the set rebuilt overnight, need him to go without sleep, do your taxes or to understudy all your male actors at a moment's notice, he is there. Passed out on the floor, but there.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE AUDITION

1. You can now use our online audition form, go to <https://form.jotform.com/221907480612150>. If you cannot access the website or if you have any problems signing up, you can email me at brad.brady@hcps.net.
2. Since all roles require a British accent and actors must hold it for the entire 2 hours of the performance we are asking that from the moment you arrive at auditions you should be speaking your best British. From registration to your final goodbye we want to hear her Majesties tongue. If we don't get enough actors who can do a British accent or we don't get enough people who can accurately pull off the accent, we will not use accents at all.
3. All actors are required to audition with a monologue. You must use the monologues provided. Please prepare all of the monologues for the character which you are auditioning. You may be asked to read additional monologues or to read scenes with other actors.
4. Memorize and prepare your monologue!!! You will be expected to be IN CHARACTER while auditioning.
5. Expect to audition for more than one character. Even if you "want" to play X character, be prepared to be asked to perform for ANY character. It is NOT a good idea to only prepare for one character.
6. After monologues you'll also be asked to read with other actors in scenes from the show. Be ready.
7. Make sure you have looked at the calendar!!!
8. The read-through is tentatively set for Monday, August 21st.
9. All cast members are required to assist with set building. Not necessarily every build day, but you are expected to help build.

AUDITION MONOLOGUES:

Please prepare all monologues for the Character which you are auditioning.

Mrs. Clackett (*flustered*). It's no good you going on. I can't open sardines and answer the phone. I've only got one pair of feet. Hello.... Yes, but there's no one here, love.... No, Mr. Brent's not here...He lives here, yes, but he don't live here now because he lives in Spain... Mr. Philip Brent, that's right.... The one who writes the plays, that's him, only now he writes them in Spain... No, she's in Spain, too, they're all in Spain, there's no one here... Am I in Spain? No, I'm not in Spain, dear. I look after the house for him, but I go home at one o'clock on Wednesday, only I've got a nice plate of sardines to put my feet up with, because it's the royal what's-it's called on the telly -- the royal you know -- where's the paper, then? And if it's to do with letting the house then you'll have to ring the house-agents, because they're the agents for the house.... Squire, Squire, Hackham and who's the other one...? No, they're not in Spain, they're next to the phone in the study. Squire, Squire, Hackham, and hold on, I'll go and look. Always the same, isn't it. Soon as you take the weight off your feet, down it all comes on your head.

Lloyd Dallas 01 (*unhappy*). Let me tell you something about my life. I have the Duke of Buckingham on the phone to me for an hour after rehearsal every evening complaining that the Duke of Gloucester is sucking boiled sweets through his speeches. The Duke of Clarence is off for the entire week doing a commercial for Madeira. Richard himself -- would you believe? Richard III? Has now gone down with a back problem. I keep getting messages from Brooke about how unhappy she is here, and now she's got herself a doctor's certificate for nervous exhaustion -- she's going to walk! I have no time to find or rehearse another Vicki. I have just one afternoon, while Richard is fitted for a surgical corset, to cure Brooke of nervous exhaustion, with no medical aids except a little whisky -- you've got the whisky? -- a few flowers -- you've got the money for the flowers? -- and a certain faded charm. So I haven't come to the theatre to hear about other people's problems. I've come to be taken out of myself, and preferably not put back again.

Lloyd Dallas 02 (*mad*). Poppy! Bring the book! Is that the line, Poppy? "I don't understand why the Sheikh looks like Philip?" Can we consult the author's text, and make absolutely sure? (*Finds the line.*) "What's that, Dad?" Right. That's the line, Brooke, love. We all know you've worked in very classy places up in London where they let you make the play up as you go along, but we don't want that kind of thing here, do we. Not when the author has provided us with such a considered and polished line of his own. Not at one o'clock in the morning. Not two lines away from the end of Act One. Not when we're just about to get a tea break before we all drop dead of exhaustion. We merely want to hear the line. (*Suddenly puts his mouth next to her ear and shouts*) "What's that, Dad?" (*All patience and politeness again.*) That's all. Nothing else. I'm not being unreasonable, am I? (*Vicki runs off stage*) Exit? Does it say "exit"? Oh dear, now she's going to wash her lenses away.

Garry Lejeune (*Announcing to cast*) Don't worry, everyone it's only the technical. (*is corrected by the director*) What, it's the dress rehearsal? So when was the technical? Well, I say... we're all thinking of it as the technical. (*to other actors*) Aren't we. And we have all those words, I mean..... Right! Here we are worrying about the words, and they are all coming up like oranges and lemons. Now listen Lloyd... I am not knocking the words, the words are fine, they're better than fine. They're, they're, do you know what I mean? Right? I mean, OK, fine. No, but here we are, we're all thinking, my God, we open tomorrow, we've only had a fortnight to rehearse, we don't know where we are, but my God, here we are! But you know what I mean, we've got to play Weston-super-Mare all the rest of this week, then Yeovil, then God knows where, then God knows where else, and so on for God knows how long, and we're all of us feeling pretty much, you know ... Sorry, Lloyd. But sometimes you just have to come right out with it. You know? Lloyd, let me just say one thing. Since we've stopped. I've worked with a lot of directors, Lloyd. Some of them were geniuses. Some of them were bastards. But I've never met one who was so totally and absolutely ... I don't know ...

Frederick Fellowes (*Confused and carrying a box*). Sorry Lloyd, you know how stupid I am about moves. Sorry, Garry Sorry, Brooke It's just my usual dimness. (*To LLOYD.*) But why do I take the things off into the study? Wouldn't it be more natural if I left them on? I mean I thought it might be somehow more logical. Lloyd, I know it's a bit late in the day to go into all this ... but. Thank you, Lloyd. As long as we're not too pushed. But I've never understood why he carries an overnight bag and a box of groceries into the study to look at his mail. I know it has to be out of the way for the next scene, I see that, and Selsdon needs them in the study for his scene, I see that all right, I see all that. I just don't know why I take them. (*Gets a thought*) Maybe if you could just give me a reason I could keep in my mind...Thank you Lloyd.

Belinda Blair 01 (*Trying to cheer everyone up during rehearsal*).

Oh, I love technicals! Everyone's always so nice to everyone. Freddie, my precious, don't you like a nice all-night technical? It's lovely to see you cheering up and making jokes. This is such a lovely company to work with. It's such a happy company. (*after an incident*) Oh, look at Freddie, the poor love! He's just got a little nosebleed, my sweet. He's got a thing about violence. It always makes his nose bleed. Freddie? He's feeling a little faint, my love. He's got this thing about... (*she tries to demonstrate bleeding*). Well, I won't say the word. We all understand, my dear.

Belinda Blair 02 (*desperately trying to salvage the show*). I'll tell you what's happening. He's not in there, my precious - he's... in here, look, and so am I. Look, I know this is a great surprise for everyone. I mean, it's quite a shock for us, finding a man lying at the bottom of the stairs! (*To PHILIP.*) Isn't it, darling? But, but now we've all met we'll just have to ... Well, we'll just have to introduce ourselves! Won't we, darling? This is my husband. I'm afraid surprises go straight to his nose! (*put a handkerchief on Philip's nose and tilts his head back. Another actor enters*) Oh, how delightful - another unexpected guest. So why don't you ... why don't you ... see what you can see in the garden? (*She pushes VICKI out of the front door*). And darling, you go off and get that bottle marked poison in the downstairs loo. That eats through anything. (*pushes Phillip off stage*) Yes, never mind, it's all right. We'll think of something. (*The director comes on stage dressed as a burglar*) Oh no...Hold on! We know this man! He's not a burglar! (*pulling him center stage*) He's our social worker! He's that nice man who comes in and tells us what to do! That's right, what to do! So what do you say.....He's saying, he's saying - just get through it. Get through it for doors and sardines! Yes? He's saying 'All we want now is for this to end... I mean for a nice happy ending!'

Tim Allgood (*Over house mic*). Act one beginners, please. Your calls, Miss Otley, Miss Ashton, Mr. Lejeune, Mr. Fellowes, Miss Blair. Act one beginners, please. (*steps away from mic*) And maybe Act One beginners is what we'll get. Oh I hope, Dotty'll pull herself together now we've called Beginners. Now she knows she's got to be on stage in five minutes. Will she? Won't she? I don't know. We've only been on the road for a month! We've only got to Ashton-under-Lyne! What's it going to be like by the time we've got to Stockton-on-Tees? If only she'd speak! If only she'd unlock her dressing room door! (*has a scary thought*) But what if she won't go on? Of course, she will, won't she, I'm sure she will... but what if she doesn't. she will, she will... but if she didn't... I'd have five minutes to change. (*looks at watch*) Four Minutes! I'll have another go. Takes your mind off your own problems, anyway. (*running to dressing rooms*) Dotty!

Selsdon Mowbray (*Opening the front window*) No bars, no burglar alarms. They ought to be prosecuted for incitement. (*He climbs in.*) No, but sometimes it makes me want to sit down and weep. When I think I used to do banks! When I remember I used to do bullion vaults! What am I doing now? I'm breaking into paper bags! So what are they offering? (*He peers at the television.*) One microwave oven. (*He unplugs it and puts it on the sofa.*) What? Fifty quid? Hardly worth lifting it. (*He inspects the paintings and ornaments.*) Junk ... Junk ... If you insist. (*He pockets some small item.*) Where's his desk? No, they all say the same thing ... They all say the same thing 'It's hard to adjust to retirement.' No, I miss the violence. I miss having other human beings around to terrify ... It's nice to hear a bit of shouting and screaming around you. All this silence gets you down ... I'm going to end up talking to myself ... right, that's downstairs tidied up a bit. (*He starts upstairs.*) Just give the upstairs a quick going-over then.

Poppy Norton-Taylor (*worried and out of breath from running around the theatre*).

Selsdon is missing, I can't find him anywhere. You don't think he's been (*mimes chugging a bottle*) do you? But it's the technical, he wouldn't, would he? Not at a technical. It's my fault, he shouldn't have been out of my sight! I was told, he must never be out of sight! But he's been as good as gold all the way through rehearsals. He's not in the dressing room, the lavatories, the scenery dock, the prop room or paint stores. Then the police called, they've found an old man. He was lying unconscious in a doorway just across the street. They say he's very dirty and rather smelly, and I thought oh my God, because... because when you get close to Selsdon. What I mean is that if you stand anywhere near Selsdon you can't help noticing this very distinctive.... (*Suddenly she stops, and sniffs the air*) ... he is standing right behind me isn't he.

Brooke Ashton (*doing her lines as though someone gave her every little gesture*).

This is great. And this is all yours? It must have cost a bomb. If someone is coming at four o'clock we better hurry I've got to get those files to our Basingstoke office by four. We'll only just manage to fit it in. This place is so big, look at all these doors, so which one is.... You know. Fantastic, we won't bother to chill the champagne. We'll just take it up with us. (*opens door*) This isn't the bedroom, it's a closet with all black sheets and things. (*Moving on*) in here, it's another bathroom, you're always trying to get me into bathrooms. In there... wait, I hear voices. But there's no one here. You hear all sorts of funny things about these old houses. You don't think there's something creepy going on? I can feel goose-pimples all over I'm going to get into bed and put my head under the covers.