

Cast



Jennifer Vitale
as Dotty Otley
as Mrs. Clackett



Shauna Hunter
as Belinda Blair
as Flavia Brent



Andrew Mitakides
as Garry LeJune
as Roger Tramplemain



Alex Mayberry
as Selsdon Mowbray
as Burglar



Cathy Onorati
as Brooke Ashton
as Vicki



Evan Nasteff
as Frederick Fellows
as Philip Brent & Sheikh



James Jordan
as Lloyd Dallas,
the Director



Amanda Eanes
as Poppy,
the Stage Manager



Scott McGuire
as Tim, Asst. Stage Manager
and Understudy

Production Staff



Shirley Kagan
Director



Matthew Dubroff
Technical Director



Brad Stoller
Technical



Sam Gibbs
Assistant Director



Trevor Rose
Assistant Director



Alex Reczkowski
Stage Manager



Josh Jarrett
Assistant Stage Manager

Technical Construction: Thomas Athey Adams, David Stephen Brown,
Steven Michael D'Antonio, James Jordan, and Ned Savage

Director's Note

Award winning playwright Michael Frayn is well known for such heady pieces as *Copenhagen* and *Democracy* but he is best loved for this play, *Noises Off*, which, since its premiere at London's Savoy Theatre in 1982, has had countless productions and revivals around the globe. *Noises Off* has become a modern-day classic, not surprising, perhaps, since its main theme is the time tested and honored one of human perseverance in the face of insurmountable odds, which even in failure produces a triumph of sorts.

Noises Off also presents us with one of the theatre's most amusing and thought-provoking spectacles, the play-within-a-play; in this case it is the fictional playwright Robin Housemonger's *Nothing On*, for which you will find a program within this program. Whether "to catch the conscience of the king" as *Hamlet* hopes to do with the group of wandering actors or simply to entertain and delight in the manner of *A Midsummer Night's Dream's* Athenian players, the device of the play-within-a-play ideally provokes a meta-reality awareness on the part of the audience who become, in effect, an audience of an audience.

So why produce *Noises Off* now? I could think of no play more appropriate with which to celebrate the ten year anniversary of Fine Arts as a major at Hampden-Sydney as well as the completed renovation of Johns Auditorium. The desire to produce art despite the odds is at the heart of our own endeavor as it is at the heart of the hapless cast of *Nothing On*.

And while I hope our own attempts are more successful than those of our fictional counterparts, for me the process wraps up, as it always does, with a wry, loving feeling and Beckett ringing in my ears: "Fail again. Fail better."

The Play

Noises Off

A Play in Three Acts

By Michael Frayn

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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

Act I : The living-room of the Brents' country home, on a Wednesday afternoon. (Grant Theatre, Weston-super-Mare. Monday, 14 January)

Act I : The living-room of the Brents' country home, on a Wednesday afternoon. (Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne. Wednesday matinee, 13 February)

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

There is an interval between Act I and Act I.

There is no interval between Act I and Act I.

Cast

Jennifer Vitale.....	Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett
Shaunna Hunter.....	Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent
Andrew Mitakides.....	Garry LeJune/Roger Tramplemain
Alex Mayberry.....	Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar
Cathy Onorati.....	Brooke Ashton/Vicki
Evan Nasteff.....	Frederick Fellows/Philip Brent
James Jordan.....	Lloyd Dallas/Director
Amanda Eanes.....	Poppy/Stage Manager
Scott McGuire.....	Tim/Understudy & Assistant Stage Manager

Production Staff

Shirley Kagan.....	Director
Matthew Dubroff.....	Technical Director
Brad Stoller.....	Technical
Sam Gibbs.....	Assistant Director
Trevor Rose.....	Assistant Director
Josh Jarret.....	Assistant Stage Manager
Timmy Adams, Stephen Brown, Steven D'Antonio, James Jordan, Ned Savage.....	Technical Construction

Cast Bios

Amanda Eanes (*Poppy Norton-Taylor/Assistant Stage Manager*) is a sophomore theatre education major concentrating on secondary education at Longwood University. She recently performed in Longwood's production of *Banana in My Cereal* written by Alex Odom. Previous work includes wardrobe crew for Longwood's productions of *The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder and *Stop Kiss* by Diana Son.

Shaunna Hunter (*Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent*) makes her third appearance in a Hampden-Sydney College theater production with *Noises Off*. Before *Noises Off*, she portrayed one of the witches in the fall 2004 production of *Macbeth* and played Tamara Tomorrow in the spring 2005 student-directed production of *Music from a Sparkling Planet*. When not on the stage, Shaunna can be found in Eggleston Library, where she works as the College's Public Services Librarian.

James Jordan (*Lloyd Dallas/Director*), a senior philosophy major, is enjoying his seventh appearance on the Hampden-Sydney stage. James has been seen in every main stage production since his freshman year: *A Comedy of Errors* (Duke Solinus); *Six Degrees of Separation* (Paul Poitier); *Volpone* (judge); *Waiting for Godot* (Estragon); *Macbeth* (Banquo); and *Rashomon* (Tajomaru the bandit). This past summer, James also performed in Richmond-based Encore! Theatre's summer Shakespeare festival production of *A Comedy of Errors*. Each year James has noticed more and more people attending theatre at Hampden-Sydney College and would like to thank the audiences past and future for making theatre at Hampden-Sydney so much fun. Enjoy the show!

Alex Mayberry (*Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar*) is entering his second year of involvement in Hampden-Sydney College theatre, having participated last year in *Macbeth*, *Music from a Sparkling Planet*, and the one-act plays *Arabian Nights* and *The Hardy Boys and the Mystery of Where Babies Come From*. Alex's interests, not dissimilar to those of his character in *Noises Off*, include pretending to be deaf, laughing at the despair of others, and toast.

Scott McGuire (*Tim Allgood/Company and Stage Manager*) was bitten by the acting bug at a young age, but it wasn't until his sophomore year that he decided to take the plunge into acting here at Hampden-Sydney College. Scott admits that doing theatre has been one of the most exciting aspects of his college career. Scott was seen in two productions last semester—*Music from a Sparkling Planet* and *While Shakespeare Slept*. Scott would like to thank Keir and Todd for getting him hooked on theatre, and his friends and family for coming out and supporting the arts. "Without me, you'd never be here (strike that, reverse it), and the amazing cast and crew of *Noises Off*. God bless all of you."

Andrew Mitakides (*Garry LeJeune/Roger Tramplemain*) appears in his third production at Hampden-Sydney College. He was previously in *Macbeth* and *Rashomon*. He is completing majors in theater and biology. His dreams are still to hit the big screen in Hollywood some day.

Evan Nasteff (*Frederick Fellowes/Philip Brent*) comes from Richmond. He likes piano, skiing, *The Family Guy*, and pretty much anything else that is totally awesome. He's been acting since his grade school days and just LOVES IT. In real life, he's just like Frederick—pretty much confused all the time. He, therefore, would like to thank his family, friends, girlfriend, and everyone involved in *Noises off!* For helping him keep up and (sigh) taking it all in stride. Cheers, and laugh heartily, or Evan will be paying you an unpleasant visit.

Cathy Onorati (*Brooke Ashton/Vicki*) hails from the nearby small town of Amelia. Her passion for theatre has only heightened since her Hampden-Sydney College debut as Lady Macduff in the *Scottish Play*. Many have not forgotten or rather not allowed her to forget her most recent performance as Nurse Ratched during the student directed night of one-acts. Cathy is excited to be a part of this arousing production and has enjoyed every step of the way! She would like to thank the Hampden-Sydney College gang for fueling her passion by allowing her in yet another production.

Jennifer Vitale (*Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett*) is an assistant professor of psychology at Hampden-Sydney College. *Noises Off* marks her second turn on the Hampden-Sydney stage, following her performance as one of *Macbeth's* three witches last fall. She wishes to thank the faculty and students of Hampden-Sydney theater for allowing her this wonderful opportunity.

NON-ACTORS:

Shirley Kagan (*Director*) is excited about her ninth year and 14th production at Hampden-Sydney. She wishes to thank her ever-supportive colleagues and students for making the process such a pleasure. Kagan received her Bachelor of Arts from Williams College and her Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is an associate artist of the Richmond Shakespeare Festival.

Matthew R. Dubroff (*Technical Director, Set Design, Light Design*) is a professor of theatre at Hampden-Sydney College where he has been involved with theatre since 1997. He is excited about the return of the theatre program to the newly renovated Johns Auditorium and this “premiere” production. Dubroff's training has taken him from Massachusetts to Japan to Hawaii where he earned his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Asian Theatre. Last year at Hampden-Sydney College, Dubroff directed *Rashomon* in Winston Hall. Dubroff is a founding member of

Theatre Nohgaku, a company dedicated to performing Noh-inspired works in English. This past summer, Dubroff rehearsed *Pine Barrens*, a new Noh play about the New Jersey Devil. A rehearsal production was performed and a national tour is being planned for the fall of 2006. He is also a teacher of Wu style Tai Ji and the Alexander Technique. He would like to thank all of the helpful colleagues, students and community members who make this wonderful process come to life.

Brad Stoller (*Master Carpenter, Master Electrician*) is returning to Hampden-Sydney College after designing and building the sets for *Volpone* and *Waiting For Godot* in the 2003-04 academic year when he also taught playwriting and theatre 101 at Hampden-Sydney College. He teaches Theatre 101 at Longwood and is an Alexander Technique teacher and Aikido instructor.

Sam Gibbs (*Assistant Director*) was born in June of 1987 in Jackson, Ohio. After attending school in Columbus, he moved with his family to Richmond, Virginia. For four years, Sam was a student at Maggie Walker Governor's School and developed a strong interest in film. After attending Hampden-Sydney, he plans to go to graduate school for filmmaking. Sam is one of the assistant directors of *Noises Off*, and this is the first time he has been involved in a theater production.

Trevor Rose (*Assistant Director*) is a fine arts major from Baltimore, Maryland. This is Trevor's first involvement with theatre at Hampden-Sydney. He would like to thank his family, friends, fraternity brothers, and Shirley and Matt for their support.

Alex Reczkowski (*Stage Manager*) is assistant in acquisitions and cataloguing at Eggleston Library. He is glad to be stage managing again, particularly with such a great cast and crew. Besides filling various roles in Hampden-Sydney productions—acting and otherwise—Alex has worked in theater administration with Millbrook Playhouse in Pennsylvania, Playhouse Merced in California, and Encore! Theatre Company in Richmond, Virginia. He would like to thank all of those unnoticed folk that make the magic happen.

Joshua Jarrett (*Assistant Stage Manager*), in his freshman year at Hampden-Sydney College, joins *Noises Off* for his first technical position. Previous roles include Daddy Warbucks (*Annie Junior*) and the deranged actor, Trevor, in the comedy *Devine Stella Devine*. His role in this production has given him a great deal of insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of a production and has served as an enjoyable break in his acting tradition. "After all the hard work everyone has put in to make this production successful, there is no doubt in my mind that it will be a great hit. Enjoy!"

WORLD PREMIERE PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR!



by Robin Housemonger

STARRING

DOTTY OTLEY

BELINDA BLAIR AND GARRY LEJUNE

WITH

SELSDON MOWBRAY, BROOKE ASHTON AND FREDERICK FELLOWS

DIRECTED BY LLOYD DALLAS

LIGHTING BY ROD WRAY

DESIGNED BY GINA BOXHALL

COSTUMES BY DATSY HEMMING

Company and Stage Manager, Tim Allgood

Assistant Stage Manager, Poppy Norton-Taylor

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Mrs. Clackett	-----	Dotty Otley
Roger Tramplemain	-----	Garry LeJune
Vicky	-----	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.

**SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
THE USE OF CAMERAS AND TAPE RECORDER IS FORBIDDEN**

The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes. All exits shall be available for use during all performances. The fire curtain shall be lowered during each performance.

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. Her many stage appearances include her critically acclaimed portrayal of Fru Säckett, the comic char in Strindberg's SCENES FROM THE CHARNELHOUSE. Her first appearance ever? in a school production of HENRY IV PART I — as the old bag lady, Mrs. Duckett.

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 ZIPPEDY-DOODAH! and HERE COME LES GIRLS! 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 playwright Terry Wough, who has contributed lead-in material to most of TV's chat shows. They have two sons and three retrievers.

Garry LeJune (*Roger Tramplemain*) while still at drama school won the coveted Laetitia Daintyman Medal for Violence. His television work includes POLICE!, CRIMES SQUAD, SWAT, FORENSIC, and THE NICK, but he is probably best known as 'Cornetto', the ice-cream salesman who stirs the hearts of all the lollipop ladies in ON THE ZEBRAS.

Selsdon Mowbray (*Burglar*) first 'trod the boards' at the age of 12 — playing Lucius in a touring production of JULIUS CAESAR, with his father, the great Chelmsford Mowbray, in the lead. Since then he has served in various local reps, and claims to have appeared with every company to have toured Shakespeare in the past half-century, working his way up through the Mustardseeds and the various Boys and sons of, to the Balthazars, Benvolios, and Le Beaus; then Slenders, Lennoxes, Trinculos, Snouts, and Froths; and graduating to the Scoops, Poloniuses, and Aguecheeks. His most recent film appearance was 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. Her television appearances range from Girl at Infants' School in ON THE ZEBRAS to Girl in Massage Parlour in ON PROBATION. Cinemagoers saw her in THE GIRL IN ROOM 14, where she played the Girl in Room 312.

Frederick Fellowes (*Philip Brent*) has appeared in many popular television series, including CALLING CASUALTY, CARDIAC ARREST, OUT-PATIENTS, and IN-PATIENTS. On stage 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 ever she leaves me,' he says, 'it will 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 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. Two of his subsequent plays, BRIEFS ENCOUNTER and HANKY PANKY, 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 local benefits office'. He 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 he has probably become best known for his brilliant series of 'Shakespeare in Summer' productions in the parks of the inner London boroughs.

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