

PAPA/PROVINCETOWN THEATER

presents

a farce

by

Michael Frayn

Directed by

Michael Prevlusky

NOISES OFF



"Noises Off"

A Farce in Three Acts by

Michael Frayn

Directed by **Michael Prevulsky**

THE CAST

(In order of appearance)

Dotty Otley	Kevin Shenk
Lloyd Dallas	Vincent Philip
Garry Lejeune	André Z. Gere
Brooke Ashton	Sandra Hricko
Poppy Norton-Taylor	Wendy Adams
Frederick Fellowes	James Forrest
Belinda Blair	Sandy McGinn
Tim Allgood	Kevin A. Todd
Selsdon Mowbray	Anthony Jackman

THE ACTION

- Act one:** The living-room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.
(Grand Theatre, Weston-Super-Mare, Monday,
January 14)
- Act Two:** Backstage of the Theatre Royal, Goole.
Wednesday matinee, February 13.
(The living-room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.)
- Act Three:** The living-room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.
(Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on Tees, Saturday,
April 6)

PRODUCTION

Stage Manager	Glen Garbash
Set Design	Michael Prevulsky
.....	Anthony Jackman
Lighting and Sound Design	Michael Prevulsky
Costumes and Properties	Anna Duarte
Set Construction	Peter Shenk
.....	Michael Locke
.....	James Manning
Technical Assistance	Anna Duarte
.....	James Forrest
.....	André Gere
.....	Anthony Jackman
.....	Michael Prevulsky
.....	Kevin Shenk
Hair and Make-Up	Jo'Francis Johnson
Poster	James Hayden Green

This production has been made possible in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and by the generosity of the Cape Cod Arts Foundation.

Special Thanks to All Who Have Helped:

Brook and Evan Evans of The Provincetown Inn, Roz, Elden and John of Provincetown Reservations System, WOMR, Ruthie's Boutique, Scotti's Florist, Kent Isham, Barney Howard, Outer Cape Health, Wayside Studio, Step Out In Style of Dennisport, Tim Bright, Roger McCord, Susan McCartney, John Striker, Norman Allen, Jesse and Denny McGinn, Mickey, John Pokrzywinski, Helga, Henry, Cary, Diane, Natasha and Emily Zitcer, Camille Thaus, Paula and Manny Goldberg, Karen De Mauro, Jim P., Roger Beatty, Nick Viatty, Butch Francis, PTC Workshop, Barbara Dennis and John Hricko.

WHO'S WHO

Kevin Shenk (Dotty Otley: Mrs. Clackett) has "trod the boards" since the age of 6. Her credits include over 800 live TV performances of Kraft Playhouse Studio and a long running role on A Brighter Day. She made her Broadway debut in the original production of INHERIT THE WIND. After a 22 year hiatus to raise a family, the smell of grease paint once again called and she has recently appeared in a number of PTC productions including A THURBER CARNIVAL, LA RONDE, THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA, THE DINING ROOM, and THREE BY TENNESSEE. This winter, she played Schmidt in the Provincetown Theatreworks production of EXECUTION OF JUSTICE. Her theatrical contributions also include the presidency of the P.A.P.A./Provincetown Theater Company for the past two years. As she would say: "Considering the efforts that have gone into moving into our two new spaces in the Provincetown Inn, producing PTC's REAL THING, and working with Michael Prevulsky, this year has certainly been one to remember!"

Vincent Philip (Lloyd Dallas: The Director) is from New York--the city of course! He was a member of the Cocteau Repertory Co. on the Bowery, where he performed in THE RIVALS, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, OF MICE AND MEN, and as Plato in SOCRATES, THE THEATRE OF LIFE. Off Broadway, he played the part of "Dad" in THE LAST TANGO IN POMPEII. Vincent's stock performances include: THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, and the "beast" in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. He is very happy to be working with the Provincetown Theatre Company, and PTC is delighted that he is with us.

André Z. Gere (Garry Lejeune: Roger Tramplemain), an Englishman, is currently residing in New York. His training includes Mime, Commedia de l'arte, Lee Strosberg Actors' Studio, and Sandra Lee. Andre's stage credits include Bruce in BEYOND THERAPY, Jim in YOU AND WHO ELSE, Horatio in HAMLET, Darnak (the baddy) in A FAR EASTERN TOUR OF THE FANTASY, THE SUPERMEN FROM THE PLANET ORION. His TV credits include DR. WHO and the EASTERNERS. NOISES OFF is his American stage debut.

Sandra Busa Hricko (Brooke Ashton: Vicki) is a psychiatric social worker who began her career in theater to help her work with children. Through her work with the Provincetown Theater Company, her theatrical involvement has run the gamut from competent production manager to proficient actress. She is currently the hostess of Continental Cable TV's OUTER CAPE HEALTH TALK.

Wendy Adams (Poppy Norton-Taylor: Assistant Stage Manager) is proud to be performing with the Provincetown Theater Company. Her recent credits include Princess of Eboli in a New York City production of DON CARLOS. She can be seen on the "big screen" in the feature film RELIGION, INC. in which she appears much larger than life--perhaps because her now six month old daughter, Rebecca, was then waiting for release.

James Forrest (Frederick Fellowes: Philip Brent/Sheikh) joined the Provincetown Theater Company this past winter as Max in its production of *THE REAL THING*. While attending college in Hong Kong, he was a member of a pantomime theatre group and has studied acting and improvisational theatre with several teachers in New York.

Sandy McGinn (Belinda Blair: Flavia Brent) has told us "What I enjoy most about being an actress, along with the actual performances is the delicate process of creating the character portrayed." Sandy has experienced a variety of these processes since being bitten by the acting bug in 1982. Along with the Provincetown Theater Company she has performed with the Outer Cape Performance Company, My Blue Heaven Production Company, and the W.H.A.T.. In the up coming PTC production of Candace Perry's original play, *KEEPERS*, Sandy will recreate her character of Darlene Colton, the housewife who aspires to be a country singer.

Kevin Andrew Todd (Tim Allgood: Company and Stage Manager) is a former principal dancer with Philadelphia Civic Ballet Company and has performed with the Mt. Laurel Regional Ballet Company, Rita Jones Dance Company, Pennsylvania Ballet, and American Ballet Theater (on tour). Kevin moved to Provincetown two years ago and has previously performed in the Provincetown Theatreworks productions of *ISN'T IT ROMANTIC* and *EXECUTION OF JUSTICE*.

Anthony Jackman (Selsdon Mowbray: Burglar) is a veteran actor who has worked in a number of PTC productions. He is often remembered as Eronius in *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM* or as Nick in *WHAT THE BUTLER SAW* or St. Michael in *JENNY ST. JOAN*. "But enough of me . . ." he has told us. "A lot of 'blood, sweat, and tears' has gone into this production. And if you enjoy our efforts and would like to be part of one of the best community theatres on the Cape, whether on stage or back stage, we can use you now. Join us and help us to maintain the caliber of theater represented by *NOISES OFF*."

Michael Prevulsky (Director) is the Production Manager of P.A.P.A./Provincetown Theatre Company as well as a member of its Board of Directors. Earlier this year, he founded the Workshop Originals Staged Reading Series with his production of *JENNY ST. JOAN* by Norman Allen and this spring, he directed the critically acclaimed production of Tom Stoppard's *THE REAL THING*. Mr. Prevulsky has worked extensively in regional theater including The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Gerald Freedman Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Ohio. His most recent Broadway credit was as Production Stage Manager and Assistant to George Abbott for the revival of *BROADWAY*. As a member of Actors Equity, he has brought a sense of professionalism to PTC while he has worked tirelessly with us.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Farce is very serious business. It is the greatest challenge an actor can take on. It requires absolute truth and clarity even though your trousers may be around your ankles. It is not about looking for laughs. It is about playing actions and facing obstacles; about being "honest" on the stage. This where the humor lies: in our sharing the characters' frustrations over not getting what they want regardless how hard they try. To quote from the play *THAT'S FARCE. THAT'S THEATRE. THAT'S LIFE.: NOISES OFF* "...is a love letter to the stage and it is our joy to share it with you." First and foremost this play is dedicated to Mary-Kevin Kelly.

British spoof about theater people

'Noises Off' held over a week

By Jarie Stedman

Good news! If you haven't seen the Provincetown Theater Company's production of "Noises Off" it's not too late.

The company has extended the run one more week, today through Sunday. Curtain time is 8 p.m. at the Provincetown Inn.

"Noises Off" is a funny British spoof about theater people. The program itself is a give-away. The insert lists the cast for the play, "Nothing On," featuring Dotty Otley who, according to the program, is making 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!')

Kevin Shenk is excellent as the befuddled Dotty Otley, who mislays her plates of sardines, in and out of character, as the loyal servant, Mrs. Clackett. In true theatrical style, she is having an affair with one of the leading men, which creates a jealous melee in Act 11.

"Dotty's" lover in "Nothing On" is played by one Garry Lejeune who was recently nominated as "Best Male Newcomer under forty in any British low-budget comedy film by readers of the Sun newspaper."

In "Nothing On," Lejeune plays Roger Tramplemain, who attempts to seduce an attractive clerk with the revenue department by posing as the owner of an aronial country home.

Andre Gere gives an almost faultless performance as the impetuous young actor, passionate and tempestuous. Perhaps the ease with which Gere assumes the role is, in part, because he

is an Englishman. "Noises Off" is his American stage debut.

Gere takes several falls, which he executes admirably. This young actor is full of energy, which is ideal for the part. In time to come, it will be interesting to see Gere work with restrained, interior characterizations.

Tramplemain's gamin in "Nothing On" is Brooke Ashton, probably best known, according to the program, "as the girl wearing nothing but 'good, honest, natural froth' in the Hauptbahnhofbrau lager commercial."

Brooke banks on her sexy body and terrific looks. Sandra Hricko plays the part with a big painted smile, lots of frowzy blonde hair, and alluring undies. She literally stops the show when she loses a contact lens in the middle of rehearsal and backs down the stairs to look for it. Two trim little buns and legs clad in black lace stockings are all that the audience can see.

All sorts of commotion ensues in "Nothing On" when the real owners return unexpectedly and interrupt Tramplemain's tryst. According to the program, Belinda Blair has "been on the stage since of the age of four, when she made her debut in Sinbad the Sailor." Her stage partner, Frederick Fellowes, "bowed to family tradition and joined the Osmosis Players. There followed successful seasons in Nairobi, Ventnor, and Southwold."

James Forrest as Fellowes and Sandy McGinn as Blair portray the somewhat prim yet affable British upper middle class, perhaps a trifle proper for the world of theater. But earnest. They are a nice foil to Gere and Shenk, who in Act 11 and 111 leave no mischief untried.

The cast is rounded out by Vincent Philip, who "directs" "Nothing On," Wendy Adams, who plays his assistant, Poppy, Kevin Todd, the stage manager, and Anthony Jackman, soused aging actor awarded a cameo appearance.

The actors work well together, and only Jackman seems uneasy with his part, neither ancient nor loose. The character of Selsdon Mowbray is prototypically funny, the old tipping actor who falls asleep behind the set, waiting for his cue. Jackman is too tight, and doesn't quite grasp the core of man living on past glories.

Act 1, with its extensive exposition, which is necessary to the following acts, does run a bit long. But then Act II, a true slapdash-behind-the-scenes pan-

tomine, spins by in one great long hysterical breath. By Act III, the entire company is at odds with one another and due to missed cues and intentional harassments, is forced to create an extemporaneous version of "Nothing On."

The play itself, by Michael Frayn, is extremely funny, especially to anyone who has every worked in theater. The revolving stage works well, although the set decoration in Act I and III is sparse. The 10-minute delay before curtain was careless, and the break between acts could be curtailed.

Otherwise, director Michael Prevulsky has mastered a most ambitious play, which should not be missed by any avid theater goer.

P.A.P.A./PROVINCETOWN THEATRE COMPANY

SOME IMPORTANT STAGE NOTES FROM P.A.P.A./PROVINCETOWN
THEATRE COMPANY:

HELD OVER--for you:

Because it has been so well received, the Provincetown Theatre Company's production of Michael Frayn's hilarious farce, NOISES OFF has been held over Thursday through Sunday (July 20 - July 23) at 8:00 P.M. in our new theater at the Provincetown Inn. If you haven't experienced it yet, don't miss this outstanding premier production of our first summer season.

CONTINUING ON--theatrically:

As our contribution to "Tennessee Williams Remembered", the Provincetown Theatre Company will present "An Evening With Tennessee Williams" in conjunction with the exhibit of Williams' memorabilia at Reggie Cabral's home (160 Commercial Street) at 8:30 P.M. on July 22, 1989. The "Evening", under the artistic direction of Barbara Dennis and David Simpson, will feature Judith Isreal and Bill Meves doing readings from Williams' works that they have performed previously. Scenes from plays such as THE GLASS MENAGERIE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA, and A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE will be complemented by excerpts from poems written by Williams. A donation to the Fine Arts Workshop of \$10 is all that will be asked for what promises to be a special evening of theater. Don't miss it!

COMING UP--from the sea:

Our second main stage production of this summer season, Edward Albee's SEASCAPE will be running from August 3 though August 13 (no performances Monday or Tuesday) at our theater at the Provincetown Inn. This Pulitzer Prize winning play, under the very able direction of

--over--

Judith Provost features Wendy Adams, Betsy Hulick, Dick Morrill, and Vincent Phillip and promises to maintain the high calibre of theater established by our prior productions like NOISES OFF. Set design is being handled by Connie Black, head of the Artists' Recycling Project, who is using recycled materials to establish her set. Curtain is scheduled for 8:00 P.M., but those who are a bit early will be treated to Ben Kettlewell's music and special underwater visual effects. Reservations can be made by calling the theater at 487-3466 or the NTCA at 487-1847. Opening night admission is \$12.00; all other nights are \$10.00.

GETTING OUT--and becoming a part:

Be sure to support and attend our other future productions like PROVINCETOWN PREMIERES which will be directed by Barbara Dennis in late August. We can't continue to produce quality theater with out your assistance. If you can help in ANY way at ANY time in ANY capacity, please call Kevin Shenk (349-6859), Judith Provost (896-3695), Barbara Dennis (487-0493), or Butch Francis (487-9152). We need your help to make P.A.P.A./PROVINCETOWN THEATRE COMPANY a community effort. Remember: we are your theater company!

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