

By Michael ()

Directed by Ken Johnson

Friday, November 5 - 7:30 PM Saturday, November 6 - 7:30 PM Sunday, November 7 - 2:00 PM

Wicomico High School Auditorium

85th Year

Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.

Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

Director Ken Johnson

Wicomico High School

November 5 - 7:30 PM November 6 - 7:30 PM November 7 - 2:00 PM

Presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. 235 Park Avenue South Fifth Floor New York, NY 10003

This production was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, awarded by the Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Community Players' President's Message

Welcome to *Noises Off*, the opening production of our 85th season. Thank you for supporting community theater.

The mission of Community Players is to encourage interest, education and participation in live theater, and to provide quality theatrical productions for local audiences. I am positive that with this production will succeed in our mission with excellence. The cast and crew have been working diligently to bring this production to life. We hope you have as much fun watching as we did producing this show.

Don't miss our upcoming regular season productions of 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee in January/ February, Senior Follies in April and Jesus Christ Superstar in June. We also have many special performances planned throughout the special season.

But for now, sit back and enjoy the show.

Melíssa Dasher

Community Players Officers

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Director's Message

Welcome back! Welcome to our 85th season!

Welcome to *Noises Off*! I am so delighted to be directing this comedic tour-de-force. *Noises Off* has been part of my life since I portrayed Garry Lejeune in our 1994 production. All of us that were involved in that production still, after all these years, quote lines from the show

(in English accents of course). It is a play that stays with you.

What you will be watching today is a play within a play. Actors are in dress rehearsal for the farce *Nothing On*. You will have a front row seat to see everything that can go wrong during the rehearsal phase.

Act II takes you behind the scenes of what happens back stage after the company has been on the road performing *Nothing On* for some time.

Act III is something to behold as the wheels fall of the entire production. Tempers, personalities, and circumstances will have you laughing to tears.

Of course, none of this production would be possible without a cast and crew of extremely talented and dedicated people. Everyone has worked to make my job as director as stress free as possible. What we have found along the way is that it is amazing what can be achieved when a group comes together to bring laughter and fun to you our wonderful audience. Thanks for spending a few hours with us.

Ken Johnson

<u>Disclaimer</u>: No sardines were harmed during the rehearsals or performances of this production.

Video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Dotty Otley	Judy Hearn
Lloyd Dallas	Mike Murphy
Garry Lejeune	Matt Hatfield
Brooke Ashton	Shelbie Thompson
Poppy Norton-Taylor	Devin Bradley
Frederick Fellowes	Pete Evans
Belinda Blair	Heather Oland
Tim Allgood	Jerrell Corbin
Selsdon Mowbray	Matt Bogdan

Production Staff

Director	Ken Johnson
Producer	Sharon Benchoff
	Kate Adkins
Stage Crew D	avid Allen, Sam Barnes, Kyle Hayes,
	Zachery Werner
Lighting	David Allen
•	kins, Jodi Marie Drehmer, Britni Ilczuk
	Ken Johnson
	Judy Hearn
Costumes	Lynne Bratten, Jenny Bratten Tusing
	Kim Cuesta
Sound Crew	Joe Benamati, Tom Robinson
-	Kel Nagel
-	
•	be Benamati, Sharon Benchoff, David
	oway, Pete Cuesta, Kyle Hayes, Judy
	ohnson, Jean King, Jim King, Debbie
•	pson, Zachery Werner, Bill Zlakowski
PublicityF	Pete Cuesta, Matt Hatfield, Kel Nagel,
	Shelbie Thompson
Program Advertising/Layout	Tom Robinson
Poster Design	Shelbie Thompson

Synopsis

It is only hours before the opening of a British adult farce, *Nothing On,* and the touring company is hurriedly running through a final dress rehearsal in the Grand Theatre, Weston-SuperMare, before the first audience arrives.

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.

Act 2, however, dashes all our hopes. 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 scenery 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.

Act 3 is even more frenetic. It is a month later again, 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.

<u>Act 1</u>

On stage during dress rehearsal.

15 minute Intermission

Refreshments are available for sale in the lobby

<u>Act 2</u>

Backstage during a matinee performance.

15 minute Intermission

Refreshments are available for sale in the lobby

<u>Act 3</u>

On stage during a delightfully ruined performance.

GRAND THEATRE Presents **DOTTY OTLEY** In



NOTHING ON

Written by: Robin Housemonger Directed by: Lloyd Dallas



Grand Theatre

TOLETY)

Anerdaliner (Stable) YARM VAR-COMMON MAC General Managers H. R. A. (MIADARAS)

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GARRY LEIRUNE

in. NOTHING ON

by ROBIN HOUSEMONGER

មេរំដំរ SELSDON MOWBRAY BROOKE ASHTON FREDERICK FELLOWES

Directed by LLOYD DALLAS Designed by GINA STAIRWELL Lighting by Costames by CHUCK SPANNER PATSY BUTTON

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ENGROUP IN NOT PERMITED IN THE ADDITION. The per of support per particular is behickles. Ten manyament senere die night brochers schebeine, das is solar aus standwahr die ean shidicean in andres mousing by these trailer eventicity simula Fores der Marsten zulen "Will, socke steht die erscheidlich der une deuten all gestimmensen" "Der fem watelen diell im Serenzen stehting michtgenbeneumen"

хотнілд ол

by Robin Housemonger

Cast in order of appearance:

MRS. CLACKETT	Dotty Otley
ROGER TRAMPLEMAIN	Garry Lejeune
VICKI	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 Brent's country home, on a Wednesday afternoon.

for Otstar Productions Inc.

Company and Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	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 trolly by Severn surgical supplies. Straitjackets by Kumfy Restraints Ltd. Coffins by G. Ashforth and Sons.

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

Nothing On - Behind The Dressing Room

DOTTY OTLEY makes a welcome return to the stage to create the role of Mrs. Clackett after playing Mrs. Hackett, the 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, 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. 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 hippodrome as one of Miss Toni Tanner's Ten Tapping Tots. She subsequently danced her way round this country in shows like ZIPPEDY-DOO-DA! and HERE COME 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 Wopugh, 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 Bniford Medal for Effort. His many successful tours have brought him to Toledo 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 Low- Budget Comedy film by readers of World News Weekly.

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 military service in the Artists' Rifles, outstanding seasons with various repertory companies across the length and breadth of the country led to his first Broadway play, KELLY'S EYE. To Stratford thence for Mercutio, King John, and the Porter in MACBETH. To Hollywood for several good supporting Roles, including Stand-in to Orsen Wells. He played King Lear and joined Playhouse 90 for two months in 1958. He set up his own touring company playing the Classics. He has been busy writing his autobiography, which he is thinking of titling HANGING ON THE WALL.

Nothing On - Behind The Dressing Room

BROOKE ASTON (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 specialty dance act of the 40's and 50's, 'The Funny Fellowes.' He taught at a prep school near Hayward's Health before bowing to family tradition and joining the Osmosis Players. There followed successful seasons in Atkinson, Topeka and Santa Fe, 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!'

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 Strasburg and Andy Warhol at a party on East 10th St.' Since then Lloyd has directed plays winning the 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) 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 SO{JP. He had got himself taken on by the company as Assistant Stage Manager before he realized 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 Fargo, 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 Brennicle.

POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR (Assistant Stage Manager) is from a family found more often on the Boards of leading companies than on the boards

Who's Who in the Cast

Devin Bradley (Poppy Norton-Taylor) is so excited to be taking the stage yet again with another group of talented performers. She has performed in *The Dining Room, Matilda,* and most recently *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Stella Kowalski. When she's not performing (or working), you can usually find her waiting hand and foot on her two cats, Sid and Nook. She would like to thank Kenny for allowing her to be a part of this show. She thanks the cast and crew for all their talents and hard work. She thanks her friends for taking the time to come and see the show (she loves you all). Lastly, she thanks Justin for all his support and dealing with always hearing "I can't. I have rehearsal."

Matt Bogdan (Selsdon Mowbray) has been involved with Community Players for 40 years, and though he wishes he could say that his first show was playing an infant, he can't. Seen most recently as Chief Bromden in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Matt played Thenardier in Les Miserables, Harry in Tom, Dick, and Harry, Jud in Oklahoma!, Thomas Jefferson in 1776, George in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Buffalo Bill in Annie Get Your Gun, the Tina Man in The Wizard of Oz, and Lloyd in Noises Off. He directed South Pacific, Lend Me a Tenor, The Music Man, Twelve Angry Men, The Odd Couple, and Death of a Salesman, as well as the recent production of Edgar Allan Poe: The Dark Side. A former English teacher and current realtor with Century 21, Matt dedicates this performance to his wife Bonnie and the members of the cast and crew of the Players' 1994 production of Noises Off.

Jerrell Corbin (Tim Allgood) has been active with Players since he was a teenager, making his debut in *All Shook Up*. He has recently been seen on stage in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Jerrell is enjoying this departure, acting in this crazy comedy.

Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

Pete Evans (Frederick Fellowes) is thrilled to be back performing in front of audiences with Community Players. An 8-year veteran of CPOS, his credits include roles in *The Addams Family, Moon Over Buffalo, Blithe Spirit,* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He counts himself lucky to have participated in productions over the pandemic, including *Almost, Maine, Love Letters,* and *Para-Cles.* He has been eager to return to farce and feels *Noises Off* may well qualify as "*The* Farce."

Matt Hatfield (Garry Lejeune) is thrilled to be in another Players' production. He has been on stage in a number of other Players' productions, including *Les Misérables, Addams Family* (Lucas Beineke), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Eugene), *The Foreigner* (Ellard) and most recently *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Mitch). Matt has directed *The Last Five Years* and co-directed *Almost Maine* with Ken Johnson. In his free time Matt enjoys watching movies, hanging out with friends, and plotting world domination. He would like to thank the hilarious cast and crew for everything they have done in this wonderful show. He would most particularly like to thank Kenny for trusting him with the role he played when Community Players first produced *Noises Off* in 1994.

Judy Hearn (Dotty Otley) is enjoying her 11th season with Players, both onstage and backstage. When not acting, she's most likely to be found climbing ladders and creating sets or murals. In addition to theatre, she has also done television, film, and radio. Previous appearances with Players include *Para-cles, Almost Maine, Poe: the Dark Side, Love Letters, Love Loss and What I Wore, Calendar Girls, Death of a Salesman, On Golden Pond, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Steel Magnolias, Arsenic and Old Lace, Blithe Spirit, The Odd Couple, The Hollow, The Mousetrap,* and *Tom Dick and Harry.* Thank you all for your continuous and enthusiastic support of local theatre!

Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

Mike Murphy (Lloyd Dallas) began acting with Community Players in 2017, after a long hiatus from the theater. He has been in a number of shows here, including *South Pacific, Almost Maine, The Dining Room, Calendar Girls* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.* He is happy to be back on stage after a pandemic forced shut down and hopes everyone enjoys their return to the theater half as much as he has. He is, as always, indebted to his partners for allowing him time to participate in theater.

Heather Oland (Belinda Blair) is appearing in her second show with the Community Players, following her Salisbury debut in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Eunice). Heather has also appeared onstage in On Golden Pond (Chelsea), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), and *A Delicate Balance* (Julia). Her favorite past roles include a previous turn in *Noises Off* (Brooke), *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* (Mona), and *Desire Under the Elms* (Abbie). Heather is a certified Spanish to English translator and lives in Salisbury with her husband, Kevin, and their dog, Harley.

Shelbie Thompson (Brooke Ashton) is delighted to be performing again with Community Players of Salisbury in this hilarious show. Since her start with Players in 2012, Shelbie has had a variety of roles, both onstage and off, most recently playing Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Other favorite roles include Miss Honey in *Matilda*, Janet van de Graaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Celia in *Calendar Girls*. Shelbie is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and gives a special thanks to Kenny and Sharon for...everything! Thank YOU for supporting live and local theater. For B and for Steve, my biggest fan.

Please turn all cell phones off or to vibrate.

The use of devices with lighted screens, including texting, is prohibited.

Who's Who Behind the Scenes

Ken Johnson (Director) is currently teaching Drama and Musical Theatre for Wicomico County and can't think of a better way to spend his days than with the multi-talented students in his classes. He has also directed the All-County Musical since its beginning in 2017. He began his "career" with Players over 40 years ago, running a follow spot for "Don't Drink The Water" and we haven't been able to get rid of him since! He has held several different positions for Players, including President, and is currently serving on the Board of Directors. Ken directed several productions for Players, most recently Matilda, Addams Family, and Into The Woods. He has appeared on stage often, most recently as Mrs. Trunchbull in Matilda, Bert in Mary Poppins, and Lumiere in Beauty and the Beast. Ken is also very active backstage, having designed and built the sets and/or the lighting for over 50 Players' productions. He'd like to thank Yoshi and his friends in Players for allowing him to continue this "hobby" and especially Dr. Jeff Baer (his "older" brother) for hiring him to do what he loves to do all day long (and get paid for it!).

Sharon Benchoff (Producer):. Sharon has worked with Community Players for 40 years painting, building, running props and producing. She has designed lighting for numerous productions, including *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Chicago*, *The Wizard of Oz* and recently *Into the Woods* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Directing credits include *Wait Until Dark*, *Laughing Stock*, *Tom*, *Dick & Harry*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Calendar Girls*, *Les Misérables and* most recently *Para-Cles* at the Renaissance Faire at Furnace Town. Sharon is delighted to be working as Ken's producer on *Noises Off* (the first show she directed). Theatre is such a happy place when working with Kenny.

Kate Adkins (Stage Manager): Kate is glad for another chance to work backstage with Community Players. Kate first worked as a stagehand on *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2008). *Noises Off* is the third production she has been stage manager. She enjoys it all, from building sets to carving new props out of foam. She has also been a part of ESBT's tech team for many years. She would like to thank the crew and cast for all their hard work. Thanks to Ken and Sharon for guidance and trust. Thanks also to her family, her friends and her theatre people for their continuing support. "You see it in another light, When once you've been behind the scenes" exc. *Behind the Scenes* by Banjo Paterson.

Who's Who Behind the Scenes (Continued)

Lynne Bratten (Costumes): Lynne has created and coordinated costumes for Players since 1984. Recent productions include A *Streetcar* Named Desire, Matilda, South Pacific, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Drowsy Chaperone, Into the Woods, Calendar Girls, Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins, Moon over Buffalo, Addams Family, Fiddler on the Roof, Blithe Spirit, and The Man Who Came to Dinners. She is thrilled to manage the ever-expanding costume collection for Community Players and to be able to work with her daughter, costume designer Jenny Tusing.

David Allen (Lighting) has been a member of Community Players since the fall of 1993, when he helped with lighting in *Oklahoma!*. Over the years he has been involved as board member, vice president, president, stage manager, as well as helping with set building, lighting, sound, special effects, ticket sales, and the man in a boat during the tornado in *The Wizard of Oz* (Players). David finds himself coming full circle. When Players did *Noises Off* in the Spring of 1994, David did the lights for the show. You guessed it... 28 years later he's back (Best seat in the house by the way) in the lighting booth doing the lights again. David also has devoted time to local community arts productions and events with the Magi Fund, Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre, local schools and various other community groups over the years.

Kim Cuesta (Sound Director) has been seen both at the sound board at The Salisbury School and at Community Players' productions. She recently began acting for Players after extensive urging from her family and friends at Players. Kim made her on-stage debut as Annie in *Calendar Girls* in 2018. She also portrayed the infamous Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's' Nest* just before the pandemic hit. She is happy to once again be working with her friends on this extremely funny comedy. Kim wants to thank her "squad" and especially her very talented and much-loved family for their support.

Jodi Drehmer (Props) has worked with Community Players as props manager on several shows, including *Wizard of Oz, Adams Family, Matilda,* and *The Dining Room.* She has worked as the props manager for the Eastern Shore Ballet Theater for 21 years. Jodi would like to thank Kenny Johnson for the opportunity to work on *Noises Off* and wishes the cast and crew a great show.

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Carol Alex 1937-2021

Carol was born in Queens, New York and danced professionally at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City and as a Roxy Girl at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Carol was very active in Community Players, producing several plays and musicals, as well as helping back stage and with costumes.



Community Players 2022 Shows







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We also want to thank those individuals who also contributed to this production, but we have inadvertently omitted them.





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