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Noises Off

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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S

Mitchell Theatre

PRESENTS

Noises Off

A farce in three acts by
Michael Frayn
The Designers

**KEVIN GAWLEY - LIGHTING DESIGNER**
Kevin is returning to design his seventeenth production at Taylor. As a freelance lighting/scenic designer, Kevin's work has appeared on many Chicago stages, including Lifeline Theatre where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of *Jane Eyre*, the After Dark Award for his design of *Strong Poison*, and has been an ensemble member and resident designer since 2001. His work also appeared in numerous productions at the Bailiwick, Organic, Porchlight, OperaModa, Blindfaith, Theatre on the Lake, Metropolis, StoreFront, Loyola University Chicago, Revels Chicago, Midwest Jewish and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. Kevin is currently the Lighting and Scenic Design professor at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and has previously taught courses at Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also a resident designer at St. Scholastica Academy. Kevin holds an MFA and BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA in Finance from DePaul University. Kevin’s lighting/projection designs were featured summer 2009 at Lifeline Theatre’s productions of *Crossing California* and *Gaudy Night.*

**DAVID PHILLIPS - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND SCENIC DESIGNER**
David (class of '07) is in his ninth year at Taylor; his fifth year as technical director and scenic designer. Originally from Fort Wayne, he was forced into theatre fifteen years ago by his mother, and has been involved ever since. He was last seen as Father Flynn in last fall’s production *Doubt*. David played the role of Ben Weatherstaff in the ‘09 production of *The Secret Garden*. He was also seen in Taylor’s 100 Years of Theatre Celebration performance of *John: His Story* ('08). He wishes to thank his amazing and beautiful wife Sara and his family for the immense sacrifice they have made over the past few months. Your prayers and love have been so deeply felt. "Thank you so much for all of your love, support, patience, hard work, and forgiveness. I couldn't have done this without you."

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Setting

**Act I**
The living room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.

*(Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare. Monday, January 14.)*

**Act II**
The living room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.

*(Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne. Wednesday matinee, February 13.)*

**Act III**
The living room of the Brents' country home.
Wednesday afternoon.

*(Municipal Theatre. Stockton-on-Tees. Saturday, April 6.)*

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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’tardy ‘ol me lolly up!’) in over 320 episodes of 1V’s ON THE ZEBRAS. Her many stage roles include her critically acclaimed portrayal of Pru Sackett, the comic char in Strindberg’s SCENES FROM THE CHARNEL HOUSE. Her first appearance ever in a school production of HENRY IV Part I — as the old bag lady, Mrs. Dackett.

**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’s Ten Tapping Lasses. She subsequently danced her way round this country, Southern Africa, and the Far East in shows like ZIPPEDY-DOODAH! and HERE COMES LEO GIRLS! More recently she has been seen in such comedy hits as DON'T MR. DUCKLE!, WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED!, and TWICE TWO IS SIX. She is married to scriptwriter Terry Wough, who has contributed leads in many of 1V’s chat shows. They have two sons and three retrievers.

**Garry LeJune (Roger Tramplamen)** while still at drama school won the coveted Laetitia Dainty Medal for Violence. His television work includes POLICE!, CRIMES SQUAD, SWAT, FORENSIC, and THE NICK, but he is probably best known as ‘Cornerio’, 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, Benvolio, and Le Beaus; then Slenders, Lennoxes, Trinculos, Snouts, and Froths; and graduating to the Scroops, Polonious, and Aguesheeks. His most recent film appearance was Outraged Pensioner in GREEN WILLY’S.

**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 PATIENTS. On stage he was most recently seen in the controversial all-male version of THE PATIENTS. He is happily married, and lives near Crawley, where his wife breeds pedigreed 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’ 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, 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. NO THING 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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**Cast**

-Dotty/Mrs. Clackett.........................................................*Amy Palmer
Gary/Roger.................................................................*Ryan Maloney
Frederick/Phillip............................................................Tim Davis
Tim..................................................................................Lucas Sweitzer
Lloyd.............................................................................*Tim McDermott
Selsdon.............................................................................*Drew Crane
Belinda/Flavia....................................................................Taryn Dunton
Poppy..............................................................................Hanna Ryberg
Brooke/Vicki....................................................................Jessica Koloian

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**Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership**
National Dramatic Honor Society

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**Noises Off**

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Hanna Ryberg - Poppy Norton-Taylor
Hanna Ryberg is playing the role of Poppy in *Noises Off*. Hanna is a junior theatre major, with a minor in political science. She is from St. Joseph Michigan and has appeared in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Brigadoon*, *The Sound of Music*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Secret Garden*, *Katrina: The K Word*, *Hippolytus* and *A Christmas Carol*.

*Andrew Crane - Selsdon Mowbray
Andrew is appearing in his fifth performance at Taylor Theatre. He was most recently seen as M. Morrell in *The Count of Monte Cristo*. His other Taylor Theatre credits include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Crucible*, and *Crimes of the Heart*. Andrew has been acting from the age of 12 when he appeared in the Ascot Theatre production of *The Hobbit*. His favorite activities include running, hockey, improv, and spending time with friends.

Lucas Sweitzer - Tim Allgood
Freshman Lucas Sweitzer is happy as a lark to be playing the simply buried stage manager in *Noises Off*. A media writing student, Lucas has been previously seen on the Taylor stage as Professor Hoffman in *Incident at Vichy* and whenever he screwed up in deck crew on *A Christmas Carol*. In his spare time, Lucas does many things, most of them verbs. He would like to thank Tracy Manning for letting him be a part of this excellent cast, and would like to extend a formal apology to Tim Vest, who once bought him a polar pop he didn’t even drink.

Hanna Ryberg - Poppy Norton-Taylor
Hanna Ryberg is playing the role of Poppy in *Noises Off*. Hanna is a junior theatre major, with a minor in political science. She is from St. Joseph Michigan and has appeared in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Brigadoon*, *The Sound of Music*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Secret Garden*, *Katrina: The K Word*, *Hippolytus* and *A Christmas Carol*.

*Tim McDermott - Lloyd Dallas
This is Timothy McDermott’s final show with Taylor Theatre and he is absolutely thrilled to be finishing out his Taylor Theatre career with the funniest show ever written and one of the finest casts imaginable. Over the past four years Tim has been involved with every Taylor Theatre production. Notable shows Tim has performed in include *Incident At Vichy*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Hippolytus*, and *Taming Of The Shrew*. Tim has also been involved as a stage manager, properties master, and master electrician for several shows. Tim would like to thank his director Tracy Manning for four years of gracious direction both on stage and in life as well as helping to instill in him a life-long passion for theatre and a “gluttonous desire for excellence.” Tim hopes to pursue professional theatre after graduation. “The word theatre comes from the Greeks. It means the seeing place. It is the place people come to see the truth about life and the social situation. The theatre is a spiritual and social x-ray of its time.” –Stella Adler
Dane Soderquist - Assistant Stage Manager
Dane is a freshman film production major from Chicago, IL. He appeared in A Christmas Carol last fall. In high school he appeared in Fiddler on the Roof, Romeo and Juliet, Arsenic and Old Lace, and Annie Get Your Gun.

Karen Wydra - Assistant Stage Manager
Karen is a senior elementary education major from Aurora, IL. She has previously appeared as Betty Parris in The Crucible and has worked backstage for The Secret Garden and The Count of Monte Cristo. She has also stage managed the student-directed plays Rabbit Hole, Spinning into Butter, and Time Stands Still. Karen’s hobbies include writing, videogames, and spontaneous movie/TV quoting.

Tamara Peachy - Tour Roadie
Tamara Peachy transferred to Taylor University from the Fort Wayne campus and found her niche in the theatre department. Her professional writing major quickly gained a theatre minor. Her first year, she appeared in Crimes of the Heart, playing the part of Lenny Magrath. She is involved in the Taylor Touring Company, playing Inge Scholl in William Gebby’s original work, We Will Not Be Silent.

Zackary Crane - Tour Roadie
Hinsdale, Illinois is home to Zachary. He is a freshman accounting major. Noises Off is his first Taylor play. In high school he was a co-director of a small theatre crew his junior year and director his senior year.

Tucker Wieland - Tour Roadie
Freshman marketing major Tucker Wieland is from Fort Wayne, IN. In high school his theatre involvement included Get Smart, The Great Sebastians, and Peter Pan.

Jay Miller - Tour Roadie & Videographer
Jay is a freshman media communication-film production major from Middletown, OH. In high school he appeared in West Side Story, A Christmas Carol, The Music Man, Beauty and the Beast, The Carol Burnett Show, and Rumors.

Production Staff
Scenic Designer/Technical Director..................................................*David Phillips
Light Designer......................................................................................Kevin Gawley
Stage Manager....................................................................................Karyn Roe
Assistant Stage Managers .................................................................Dane Soderquist
Karen Wydra
Deck Crew............................................................................................Tucker Wieland
Zach Crane
Tamara Peachy
Jay Miller
Assistant to the Director........................................................................*Tim Vest
Master Carpenter..................................................................................Jon McCourt
Stephen Chou
Joe Casper
Matthew Hamilton
Nick Maloney
*Sara Phillips
Charge Scenic Artist.............................................................................Esther Neel
*Braden Spear
Josh Houston
Luke Secaur
David Neel
*Sara Phillips
*Ryan Maloney
Tammy Neel
Poster Design.......................................................................................*Ryan Maloney and Kelly Werner
Stunt Choreographer..........................................................................*Justin Chisham
Photographers......................................................................................Kelly Johnson
Jonathan Wormgoor
Master Electrician................................................................................Daniel Kasper
Luke Secaur
Sound Technician..................................................................................Kenna Howat
Kacey Heinlein
Properties Master................................................................................*Justin Chisham
Kacey Heinlein
Makeup/Hair.........................................................................................Callie Haven
Emily Schock
Sara Kicinski
*Justin Chisham
Jessica Koloian
Lauren Sparks
Paige Lanham
Costume Shop Supervisor ..................................................................Kathryn Irwin
Taryn Dunton
House Manager.....................................................................................Joshua Key
Rachel Kulaga
Abi Barber
Ashley Hughes
Ben Byler
Chelsea Molin
Nathan Sturgis
Robbie Maakestad
Ruthie Burrell
Michael Josten
Kyndra Roberson
Kelsey Jones
Karyn Roe
Kenny Williams
Linda Kasen
Michael Wurster
Kara Balch
Nathan Sturgis
Robbie Maakestad
Ruthie Burrell
Michael Josten
Kyndra Roberson
Kelsey Jones
Karyn Roe
Kenny Williams
Linda Kasen
Michael Wurster
Kara Balch
Nathan Sturgis
Robbie Maakestad
Ruthie Burrell
Michael Josten
Kyndra Roberson
*Tim Davis*
Tim is a senior Biblical Literature major and is absolutely thrilled to be a part of Taylor’s production of *Noises Off*. Other Taylor productions include: *Proof, All My Sons, A Christmas Carol, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Count of Monte Cristo, We Will Not Be Silent, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), A Christmas Carol, and the student directed productions of Rabbit Hole, Incident at Vichy, and All My Sons.

*Ryan Maloney*
Ryan is a senior 3D Art major from Upland, Indiana. In addition to serving as Charge Scenic Artist for a number of shows, he has also appeared as an actor in multiple productions, including *A Streetcar Named Desire, The Count of Monte Cristo, We Will Not Be Silent, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), A Christmas Carol, and the student directed productions of Rabbit Hole, Incident at Vichy, and All My Sons.]*

Jessica Koloian
Jessica, junior Theatre major, comes to Taylor from Plymouth, Michigan. In High School, she appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof Jr., Daddy’s Girl, and as the titular role in Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr. While at Taylor, she played Eugenie in *The Count of Monte Cristo* and Sally in *A Christmas Carol*. Most recently, she appeared as Mandy in the student directed production of *Time Stands Still.*

*Amy Palmer*
Amy is a senior International Studies major from Cleveland, Ohio. While at Taylor she appeared in *The Crucible, The Secret Garden, Crimes of the Heart, and A Christmas Carol*, plus worked backstage on almost all the other plays at Taylor. Amy would like to offer thanks to Taylor Theatre, in particular Tracy Manning and David Phillips, for a wonderful four years as part of their theatre family; she is forever grateful for their mentorship and friendship, and will miss them dearly.

*Taryn Dunton*
Taryn is a sophomore from San Diego, California studying Theatre Arts and Spanish. She plays Sophie Scholl in Taylor’s Touring Company show and was most recently seen as Maria Callas in *Master Class*. While rehearsal and script often mirrored one another, she is grateful for the sardine-infused production that has resulted and thanks Tracy as well as her fellow cast and crew members for their endless work. Taryn would like to dedicate this performance to Joshua Larkin, who lived and laughed well. May we continue to do the same.

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**CAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Clackett</td>
<td>Dotty Otley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Tramplemain</td>
<td>Garry Lejeune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki</td>
<td>Brooke Ashton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Brent</td>
<td>Frederick Fellowes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavia Brent</td>
<td>Belinda Blair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglar</td>
<td>Selsdon Mowbray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheikh</td>
<td>Frederick Fellowes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Company and Stage Manager .......... Tim Allgood
Assistant Stage Manager .......... Poppy Norton-Taylor

**PRODUCTION CREDITS**


We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of EUROPEAN BREWERIES in sponsoring this production.
From the opening monologue to the closing phrase, Noises Off is a story of confusion. What door opens? Which plate of sardines is on stage? Where is Selsdon? With such complicated scenarios occurring concurrently for two hours, the work and concentration required during the rehearsal process for this show was tremendous. Actors rigorously climbed stairs, ran in circles, and worked hard to learn the art of farce, comedic timing, and organized chaos. It has been a privilege for me to be a part of this process and to observe the hard work that went into this show. The chaotic state of the world is well portrayed in the drama and confusion of Nothing On, and many times our lives can feel crazy and out of control. However, we know that God is in control of every moment, even those moments that seem completely ridiculous to us. The comparison of the actors creating this chaos and the characters in the play experiencing the chaotic moments is a wonderful picture of how our confusion is in God’s hands. I hope that you enjoy this performance of Noises Off and, as you smile at the farcical lives of the characters, you will be reminded of God’s omnipotent hand and His sense of humor. To doors and sardines!

Karyn is a senior Theatre Arts major from Ohio, who has thoroughly enjoyed each of the 12 productions she has been a part of in Taylor Theatre. Karyn has served in various capacities in the theatre, from hair/makeup crew, to lighting board operator, to assistant to the director. Ever since volunteering backstage with The Secret Garden in 2009, her passion for theatre has continued to grow. The opportunities to stage manage at Taylor, both with Witness for the Prosecution last Spring, and now Noises Off have helped channel this passion into lifelong skills, which will carry on past graduation into the professional world of theatre. Working on Noises Off has been the ultimate ending to her Taylor Theatre experience, and she has absolutely loved working with it’s cast and crew. They have made it very special to her, and she will cherish all of the memories, lessons, and late nights collected during the production process.

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Where Are They Going?

Enough clues are provided in Michael Frayn’s script to allow us to get at least a general idea of the circuitous journey undertaken by the cast and crew of Robin Housemonger’s Nothing On as they peddle their farcical wares to the far corners of the kingdom.

Assistant to the Director - *Tim Vest

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The Stage Manager - Karen Roe

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Artistic Director - Tracy Manning

Welcome to tonight’s production of Noises Off. I trust you will leave the theatre tonight refreshed and your load a bit lighter.

Sometimes, we find it difficult to justify or defend leisure and laughter. As believers, we set our eyes on the work ahead and attempt to do it “as unto the Lord”. We trivialize frivolity and promote seriousness amongst our children and one another, which is valuable. But, so is laughter. We were made to laugh, long and heartily, we just sometimes have difficulty finding anything to laugh at. I like to think, and pardon my naiveté, that God laughs on occasion as He delights over His creation. I do not mean in any way to be sacrilegious or somehow bring God down to my level. How do we really know the many ways in which we are created in His image? I often find myself delighted in my children, which often results in laughter. I love to hear them laugh, uncontrollably, without guile... and often at the most inappropriate times. I watch them imagine themselves older, running a business, teaching school, being a mother, saving the world, and I delight and laugh at their imaginative abandonment and freedom. I giggle at their tenacity, delight in their perseverance. If I delight so in my children, how much more does my heavenly Father delight in me...and probably laugh at me on occasion as well.

My resolve has been renewed in terms of believing that laughter can heal. Life is hard, scary, uncertain, and confusing. We walk around most days burdened for ourselves and others. How exactly does God turn our mourning into dancing and our sorrow into joy? By making our circumstances better? I haven’t found that to be the usual case. He gives us Himself, the comfort of His Spirit. He gives us each other to bear one another’s burdens, encourage and edify one another. And, He gives us laughter. It’s time to take pleasure in the communal nature of delight and laughter. After many seasons of serious productions and plays with grand meaning, I felt it was time to laugh. There is no grand purpose in tonight’s performance other than to give you a good gift that eases your burden for a time, the gift of laughter. I pray you laugh long and heartily and remember, when all around is strife and uncertainty, there’s nothing like laughter to affirm that we are alive.

Historical Context of Farce

Farce, with its roots in the satyr plays in Classical Greece and the physical comedy of medieval playlets, has traditionally focused on conjugal conflict and infidelity. Over the nineteenth century it became a tool for social satire in the vaudevilles of Labiche, which caricatured the rising French upper class’s pursuit of marriage, money, and the increasingly cynical comedies of the times. This is evident in such classic pieces of literature as Tartuffe and The Imaginary Invalid. Its physical action and hectic pacing produced a picture of man as the helpless victim of circumstances, trapped by objects as much as social conventions, which were particularly suited to silent film, and reached its high point in the clowning of the Marx Brothers, Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin. Frayn’s farce gives nod to great theatre traditions such as Commedia Dell’arte, and Gilbert and Sullivan. Farce is designed to make an audience laugh through improbable situations, ridiculous characters and even more ridiculous coincidences. Enjoy.

Welcome to Taylor University Theatre. If you are a regular supporter of our program we thank you for your encouraging participation over the years. If this is your first visit, we trust that you will enjoy our work enough to return - again and again and again. We have a distinct calling as a Christian liberal arts theatre program, reflected in our philosophical statement. We welcome your participation, your comments on our work, and any suggestions you might have to help us accomplish our mission.

Come Play with us...
Noises Off
A farce in three acts by Michael Frayn