

4-15-2005

# Noises Off: a play in three parts

Michael Frayn

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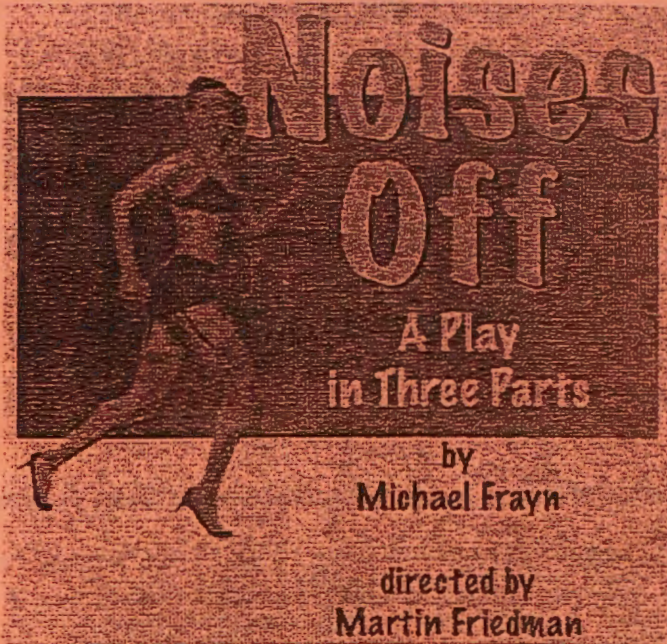
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## Recommended Citation

Frayn, Michael, "Noises Off: a play in three parts" (2005). *Theatre Productions*. 135.  
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**The John Carroll University  
Department of Communications  
Presents**



**April 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8 PM**

and

**April 24 at 2 PM**

Presented with permission from  
Samuel French Inc. New York, New York

# Noises Off Cast

Dottie Otley.....Jessica Benacquista  
Lloyd Dallas.....Mike Rempel  
Garry Lejeune.....Bill DePetro  
Brooke Ashton.....Gina Pestak  
Poppy Norton-Taylor.....Ashley Bittel  
Frederick Fellowes.....Kevin Kane  
Belinda Blair.....Amanda Heywood  
Tim.....Jared Petsy  
Selsdon Mowbray.....Michael Schneeberger

# Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

DIRECTED BY  
MARTIN FRIEDMAN

SET DESIGN BY  
KEITH NAGY

COSTUME DESIGN BY  
CRAIG TUCKER

LIGHTING DESIGN BY  
MICHAEL SIMMONS

As a courtesy to the performers and those around you:

*BEFORE THE SHOW PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES,  
WATCH ALARMS, AND PAGERS.  
PLEASE NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY.*

*NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED DURING THE PRODUCTION  
OF THIS PLAY. THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR HUMANS.*

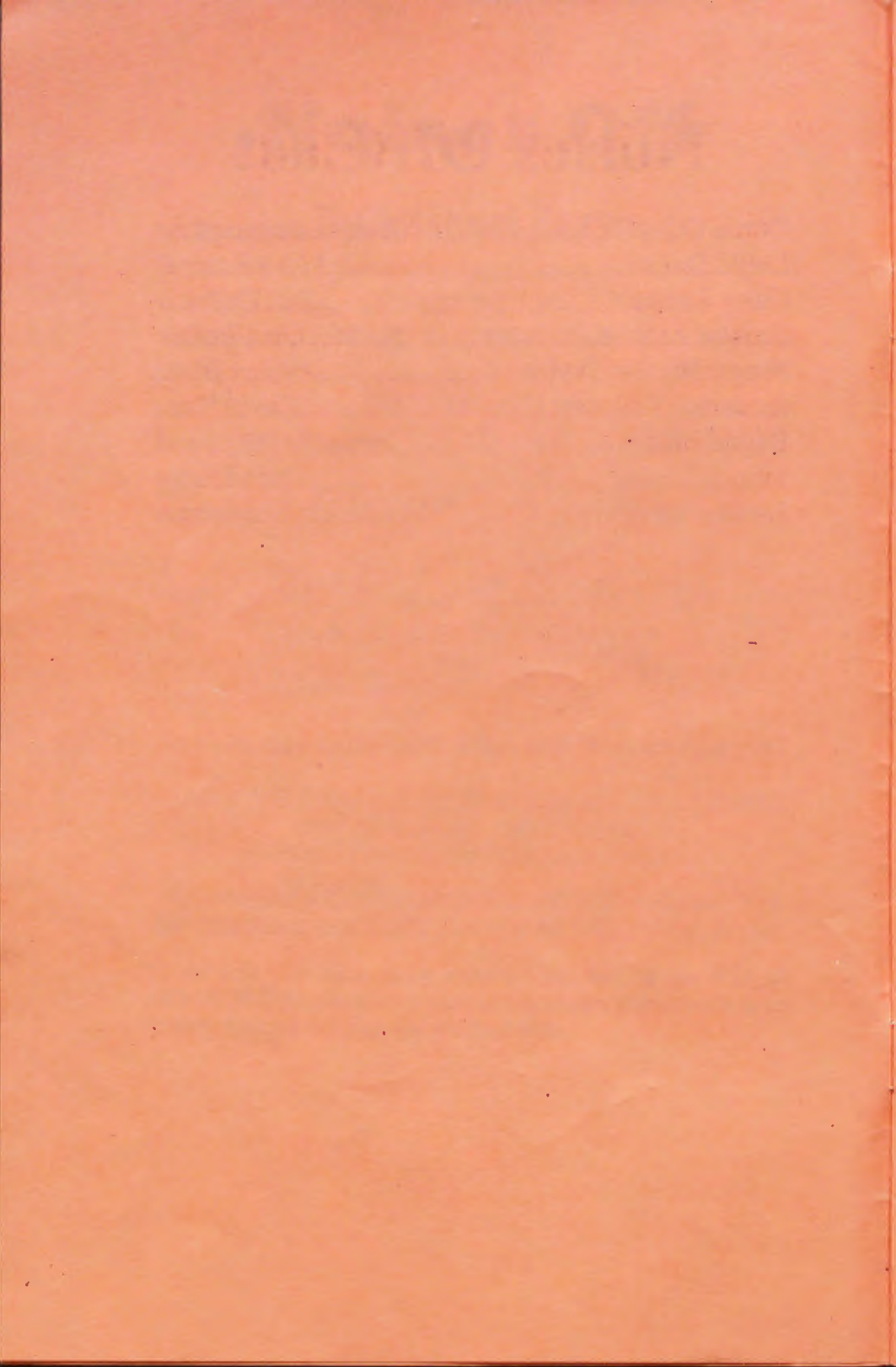
Please note that emergency exits are marked in the KULAS AUDITORIUM. Should an emergency occur, please walk in an orderly fashion through the marked exits.

## Production Staff

Director.....	Martin Friedman
Assistant Directors.....	Lauren Calevich
Set Design.....	Keith Nagy
Light Board Operators.....	Tamara Means Nick Caley
Sound Board Operator.....	Eric Simna
Costume Design.....	Craig Tucker
Technical Director.....	Tony Kovacic
Production Stage Manager.....	LeAnn Baechle
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Jackie LoPresti
Lighting Designer.....	Michael Simmons
PR Manager.....	Justin Blanche
PR Crew.....	Lindsay Smith
Box Office.....	Gwen Morgan, Bethany Hall, Hallie Peck
Running Crew.....	John Polk, Elizabeth Bargaría, Dominick Giampetro, Meghan Seeberg, Mike Hancak, Palmer DiPetro, Alisa LaPlanter, Cara Pizzuro, Gabel Wen, and Christian Barilla

### Special Thanks to:

Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, Dr. Karen Gygli, Beth Wood,  
and Lakeland Community College



## Scenes:

Act One: The living room of the Brent's  
country home – Wednesday afternoon.

(Grand Theatre, Erie Pa. Thursday,  
January 14<sup>th</sup>)

...Intermission (10 minutes)...  
Concessions available in the lobby

Act One: The living room of the Brent's  
country home – Wednesday afternoon.

(The Schubert Theatre, Syracuse N.Y.  
Wednesday matinee, February 13)

...Brief Interval...

Act One: The living room of the Brent's  
country home – Wednesday afternoon.

(The Metropolitan Theatre, Cincinnati, Ohio,  
Saturday Evening April 6)





### Keith Nagy (Set Designer)

Mr. Nagy is an assistant professor for communications at John Carroll University and previously served as Director of Production at Cleveland Opera for 16 years. He was also the resident designer for the Cleveland Opera and has designed sets and lights for such favorites as *The Turk in Italy*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, and *Carmen*. Mr. Nagy has designed the sets and light for a number of John Carroll University Productions including *Twelfth Night*, *Twilight: Los Angeles, Sunday in the Park with George*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Buried Child*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Marvin's Room*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *Blithe Spirit*. At Lakeland Theatre Mr. Nagy was the set designer for *Company*, *Brighton Beach Memories*, and light designer for *I Do! I Do!* He was both lighting a set designed for *Death of a Salesman*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *I Hate Hamlet*, and *A Little Night Music* and just recently *Into the Woods* and *Talley's Folly*. His design work has included ballet, film, live theatre, and industrial show. He has designed for the Seattle Opera, Opera Carolina, Lyric Opera of Kansas, Michigan Opera Theatre, Connecticut Opera, and Opera de Puerto Rico. Mr. Nagy's work in the theatre has been seen at Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Dobama, The Halle Theatre, Karamu, Porthouse Theatre Berea Summer Theatre. Mr. Nagy, who is a member of the United Scenic Artists Local #829, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from Carolina State Polytechnic University (Ponoma) and Master of Fine Arts degree in Production Design from Ohio University. Mr. Nagy's most recent credits include lights and settings for the Halle Theatre's production of *Rags* and *Cabaret*, and lighting design for Dobama's critically acclaimed production of *Wit*.

### Michael J. Simons (Lighting Designer)

Originally from Wisconsin, Michael is a freelance director and designer currently making his home with the JCC Playmakers Youth Theatre. His work has been seen from California to New York and many places in between. Here at JCU, Michael has designed lights for *The Miser*, *Cabaret*, *Wait Until Dark* and others. Michael holds a B.A. in Theatre from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and earned his M.F.A. in Directing and Scene Design from Western Illinois University.

## Meet the Casts and Crew of *Noises Off*

**Dr. Martin Friedman (Director).** Dr. Friedman has been an adjunct instructor of Communications and Theatre at John Carroll University since 1990 and is also Artistic Director of Lakeland Theatre at Lakeland Community College. Dr. Friedman holds a B.S. degree in Theatre Education from Emerson College (Boston), an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and a certificate in non-profit management from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School for Non-Profit Organizations. He has taught theatre and communications at George Mason University, The University of Akron, Cuyahoga Community College, and Ursuline College. Dr. Friedman's most recent directing and producing credits (only at Lakeland) include; *Pride and Prejudice* (LT), *Cabaret* (JCU), *The Miser* (JCU), *Born Yesterday* (LT), *Putting It Together* (LT), *The Imaginary Invalid* (LT), *Black Comedy* (LT), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (JCU), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (JCU), *Long Day's Journey into Night* (LT), *Death of a Salesman* (LT), *Plaza Suite* (LT/JCU), *I Hate Hamlet* (LT), *A Little Night Music* (LT), *Company* (LT), *Sunday in the Park with George* (JCU), *She Loves Me* (LT), *All My Sons* (LT) and *Crimes of the Heart* (JCU). As a communications consultant, Dr. Friedman has worked with law firms and business on how to improve communications between employees and the public. Most recently, Dr. Friedman has worked on diversity training through his own scenario-based training for the Anti-Defamation League, Perry High School, the Cleveland Public Schools and Ford Motor Company and the United Auto Workers. In July Dr. Friedman will direct J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up* (the non-musical) at Lakeland Theatre with a professional cast.

### **Lauren Calevich (Assistant Director)**

Lauren is a sophomore communications major here at JCU. She is thrilled to have gotten to work with such a great cast here on the set of *Nothing On*. Previously she has stage managed the Marinello One Acts and *The Foreigner*. She also worked on *Cabaret* and *A Piece of My Heart*. She would just like to say to the cast, "Just keep going. Bang! Bang! Bang!" She hopes that all of you who are reading this at the moment, really enjoy the show!

**Ashley Bittel (Poppy Norton-Taylor)**

What's up Audience Member? This is Ashley Bittel. First, I would like to say that the entire cast and crew is extremely pumped to have you at this performance of "Noises Off." So, THANKS, Anyways, Let me tell you a little bit about me. I am a junior communications major, 2nd-year RA, and what most would call a thespian. I've been involved with music and theater since I was seven years old. I did Independence Youth Theater for 7 years, I did *A Christmas Carol* in the Ohio Theater for 4 years, I was in the Cleveland Opera's production of *La Boheme*, and I did various one acts and musicals at Padua High school. At John Carroll University, I've starred in Moliere's *The Miser* as La Fleche, *Cabaret* as a *Kit Kat Girl*, *The Foreigner*, and now *Noises Off* as the stressed out assistant stage manager, Poppy. I hope you enjoy this hilarious farce and if you don't catch everything I recommend coming to the show more than once! It's a doozie! I love my family and friends with all that I am. I know that my biggest fan and most avid supporter has been sitting in the audience since I first stepped on stage and is most definitely here now. Peace Daddio!

**Billy DePetro (Garry Lejune/Roger Tramplemain)**

Billy (known to his cast mates as Billy) is a sophomore Biology major here at John Carroll University and is very pleased to be in this semester's production of... you know. His previous credits at JCU include Reverend David Lee in *The Foreigner*, Mr. Rogers in *Murder on Sesame Street... or Fowl Play* and Man in *The M Word*... you know what I mean? Billy is also a member of the JCU wrestling team where he competes at the 197 pound weight class and the men's a cappella group Rhapsody Blue. He would like to thank his parents, his roommate, and all the members of the cast and Denny JoyHopplebee's for keeping his sanity...you know, in tact. Also he would like to thank his trusty axe Samanthanor for all those wonderful nights of pillaging and...well... I've made my point. Thanks for coming to the...you know.

**LeeAnn Baechle (Stage Manager)**

This is LeeAnn's last time stage managing on the John Carroll stage. Four years and six shows later, she has gained knowledge of the theater and how everything comes together. She is very grateful for all of the opportunities that have been given to her - each and every one has been an invaluable learning experience. Despite the education, it is time for her to move on, and she will graduate in May with a degree in Communications. She wishes to express her insurmountable gratitude to her family and friends for being incredibly supportive in everything that she does. There is no way that she could have gotten through the rough patches without the hugs, love and laughter that these generous people have given her throughout the years. "Little hugs and squeezes, everyone!"

**Jackie LoPresti (Assistant Stage Manager)**

Jackie is a comm. major, she's been here for 4 years, she likes long walks on the beach, and chillin with her peers. This is not a new face, she's done 3 other plays, *Miser* and *The Foreigner*, and the musical, *Cabaret*. When she's not doin work, or giving out those cues, she's drawing and she's painting, this actually made the news. This goes out to Keith, one of the best teachers is he, thank you for everything, especially believing in me. Jackie will miss the plays, and all the people too, she wishes good luck to the cast, and also that hard working crew! LOVE YOU GUYS!!!! ☺

**Craig Tucker (Costume, Wig, and Makeup Designer)**

Mr. Tucker has studied theatre at Kent State University. His designs at Sea World of Ohio include *Clyde and Seamore Fool with Tools* and *New Orleans Nights*. Mr. Tucker's theatre productions include *Woman and Wallace*, *Dancing at Loughnasa*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Putting it Together*, *Born Yesterday*, *Piece of My Heart*, and *The Foreigner*.

**Jessica Dey Benacquista (Dottie Otley/Mrs. Clackett)**

Jessica is a sophomore biology major from Pittsburgh. She makes her debut on the John Carroll stage as Dotty in *Noises Off*. Her many previous performances include Urleen in *Footloose*, Deloris Dante in *Working*, and Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. Jessica feels that this play has "such lovely cast," crew, and production staff that are definitely worth handling the slimy sardines for.

Jared Petsy (Tim Allgood)

Jared is a sophomore communications major and *Noises Off* is the second play he's been in as a John Carroll student. When not on stage, you can catch him as DJ Upwords hosting his own hip hop radio show on 88.7 WJCU. He's also a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Jared sends much love to his parents and drama teachers for totally rocking out and influencing his life for the better.

Mike Rempel (Lloyd Dallas)

Mike Rempel is a senior Communications major/English minor who will be very sad upon the culmination of the final performance of *Noises Off*, for this is his last show at John Carroll. His previous JCU theatre credits include *Cabaret* (Max), *Judgment Call* (Harvey), *Murder on Sesame Street... or Fowl Play* (Oscar), *The Bear* (Smirnov), and most recently *The Valentine Fairy* (title). He would like to let you know that the cast of this production is one of the hardest-working casts he has worked with, and he has loved and appreciated every agonizing minute that he and his fellow cast members have sweated into this play. He would also like to thank his roommates (2-5-fo'-fo'l) for making it to every one of his performances, Martin and Craig for not making him cut his hair, and, of course, his parents for their ridiculously relentless support in anything he has ever done. And on we merrily go!

Michael Schneeberger (Selsdon Mowbray/The Burglar)

Michael Schneeberger, who has spent his last four years on the JCU stage, is a first year graduate student pursuing a master's degree in education. After he receives his degree and license to teach, he believes it's time for a long journey to an unknown and far away place. "I would like to thank Karen, Keith, and Martin for passing on and fostering a genuine love for the theatre. Thank you also to all the students I've ever worked with in association with the John Carroll stage—your time and friendship gave me a place to retreat, thrive and belong throughout all of college."

**Amanda Heywood** (Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent)

Amanda Heywood is a freshman Communications major here at John Carroll. This is Amanda's second John Carroll production. She was most recently seen as a PBS spokesperson in *Murder on Sesame Street... or Fowl Play* and is thrilled to part of her first main stage show. She may be fresh on the scene at JCU but Amanda is no stranger to the stage. Amanda is a proud thespian who has been involved in high school and community theatre for the past 5 years. Some of her favorite appearances include: *A Chorus Line*, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *West Side Story*, and being "Rusty" in *Footloose*. Amanda would like to thank every member of the cast and crew who have blessed her with the chance to work with them. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support; you will never know how much you mean to her! Love and prayers always! ~

**Kevin Kane** (Frederick Fellowes/Phillip Brent)

This will be Kevin's farewell performance at JCU. He has thoroughly enjoyed his experience both on and off the stage. Kevin was previously seen in *The Golden Fleece*, *Time Flies*, *The Foreigner*, and played a remarkable Bert in *Murder on Sesame Street... or Fowl Play*. "I'm really going to miss all you guys from wherever I'll end up. Let's go break some legs and stir up some laughs."

**Gina Pestak** (Brooke Ashton/Vikki)

Lovingly referred to by her fellow cast members as "Mūgina", Gina is a freshman at John Carroll University and is pursuing a pre-law degree. This is her first JCU show, but she has been involved in over ten productions ranging from Aunt Martha in *Arsenic and Old Lace* to Lady Gertrude in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. She is currently directing *Aesop's Fables* at St. Martin de Porres High School in Cleveland, which will open at the end of May. When not onstage, backstage, or in the audience Gina enjoys classical ballet, Indian food and thunderstorms.

Dotty Otley  
Belinda Blair  
Garry Lejeune

in

# Nothing On

By

Robin Housemonger



with

Selsdon Mowbray  
Brooke Ashton  
Frederick Fellowes

Directed by  
Lloyd Dallas

Set Designed by  
Gina Boxhall

Lighting by  
Rod Wray

Costumes by  
Patsy Hemming

*World Premier  
Prior to National  
Tour!*

## Behind the Scenes with the Nothing On Cast

### ...Biographies...

**DOTTY OTLEY** 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**. 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**. Understudying Bee Duffell in **HADDOCK'S EYES** at the New Lindsey Theatre, Notting Hill Gate, and Margaret Lockwood in **PETER PAN** at the Scala, was followed by **The King's Theatre**, Peebles for a season, and then the Duke's Players at Lyme Regis for the better part of two seasons, and this in turn led to a prolonged stay in Australia, where she enjoyed some of the biggest successes of her career. 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 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-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 Wough, 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 Bruford Medal for Effort. His many successful tours have brought him to Weston-super-Mare 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**



# Nothing On Cast

Mrs. Clackett.....	Dotty Otley
Roger Tramplemain.....	Garry Lejune
Vicki.....	Brooke Ashton
Phillip Brent.....	Frederick Fellowes
Flavia Brent.....	Belinda Blair
Burglar.....	Selsdon Mowbray
The Shelkh.....	Frederick Fellowes

*Mr. Lloyd Dallas offers a special thank you  
to the following individuals and institutions:*

**Rod, Gina, and Patsy for their tireless work  
The Portsmouth Opera Guild and Sinfonia  
Robin for writing this wonderful script  
The Grand Theatre (Erie, PA) Board of Directors  
Mom  
An the INDISPENSABLE Dotty Otley**

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 Strasberg and Tallulah Bankhead at a party on East 10th St.' Since then Lloyd has directed plays 'in most parts of Britain,' winning the South of Scotland Critics' Circle Special Award in 1968. In 1972 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.

POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR (Assistant Stage Manager) is from a family found more often on the Boards of leading companies than on the boards with touring companies. Her father is chairman of European Breweries, but has been 'terribly sweet about it all - so far!' After schools in Cheltenham and Montreux she found life far too full to leave time for work. So this is her first job and she is enjoying the challenge enormously. Her hobbies include riding, skiing, tennis, reading good books, and loving anything small and furry.

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 SOUP. He had got himself taken on by the company as Assistant Stage Manager before he realised 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 Lyceum, Portsmouth, 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 Brennicke, both on the tour prior to its West End opening in December 1980, and again on the tour which followed the conclusion of its successful West End run in January 1981.

ROBIN HOUSEMONGER (Author) was born in Worcester Park, Surrey into a family 'unremarkable in every way except for an aunt with red hair 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

SOLDIERS, for which he was nominated as Best Male Newcomer under Forty in any British Low-Budget Comedy Film by readers of the SUN newspaper.

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 war service in the Artists' Rifles, outstanding seasons with various repertory companies across the length and breadth of Great Britain led to his first West End play, KELLY'S EYE. Then 'alfresco' in Regent's Park for several seasons, playing leads. To Stratford thence for Mercutio, King John, and the Porter in MACBETH. To Hollywood for several good supporting Roles, including Stand-in to Robert Newton. Back home he played King Lear in Portsmouth, and joined the BBC Rep for two months in 1938. Great War No. Two saw him back in Khaki. Invalided out in 1940 he continued to serve by joining Ensa, and performing all over the world in many different 'Theatres of War'. To Dublin in 1946, where he set up his own touring company playing the Classics, and rivaling the great Agnew Macmaster. Returned to England in 1952 and set up his own tour-a revival of MR. CINDERS. Since then, apart from an occasional excursion to 'tread the green', he has been busy writing his autobiography, which he is thinking of titling HANGING ON THE WALL.

BROOKE ASHTON (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 speciality dance act of the thirties and forties, 'The Funny Fellowes'. He taught at a prep school near Hayward's Heath before bowing to family tradition and joining the Osmosis Players. There followed successful seasons in Nairobi, Ventnor, and Southwold, 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

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. Several subsequent plays have been produced, and at least one of them broke box office records in Perth, Western Australia. His one-act MURDER ON SESAME STREET... OR FOWL PLAY was nominated for a *Best Short Play That Does Not Utilize Any Original Characters Award* from the Canterbury Critic's Circle.

