

NOISES OFF

By Michael Frayn

A Theatre by the Lake, New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch and Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg production

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: THURSDAY 10 JULY AT 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of Noises Off. This pack contains information about the play and lots of images to help prepare anyone who may be anxious about their visit. This visual story also has information to help you to find your way around Theatre by the Lake.

SPECIAL TOURS OF THE BUILDING

We offer special tours of the theatre to customers booking for our Relaxed Performances. On a day of your choice, one of our friendly members of staff will show you around the theatre so you can get to know it a bit better. You'll see the Front of House areas, including the café, toilets and where the 'chill-out space' will be on the day of the performance. You'll also see the auditorium, including where you'll sit to watch the show.

TO BOOK A TOUR

Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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- About the play – Noises Off

SECTION ONE: THEATRE BY THE LAKE

WHERE IS THE PLAY?



The play is being shown at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. The theatre is located next to a lake called Derwentwater. To walk to the theatre from the town centre, follow signposts for 'The Lake'. If you wish to use a satnav, the postcode is CA12 5DJ.

There is a car park next to the theatre. This is a council car park so you have to pay to park there – make sure you have plenty of change, or you can pay by card. There are a limited number of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders, where the first three hours are free.

Here is a picture of the theatre from the outside:



ACCESS

Lift access is available to all floors of the theatre. There is only one lift, it is 79cm wide, and is located in the café on the ground floor, shown here:



There are toilets on each floor, suitable for wheelchair access. On the first floor, there is an additional ambulant disabled toilet. These are clearly signposted.



INSIDE THE THEATRE

This is the foyer (the inside entrance area):



The theatre will open at 10am and the auditorium will open at 10:30am on the day of the performance. Lakeside Café Restaurant next door is open from 9:30am. If you would like to book a space to sit and eat a packed lunch inside the theatre then please get in touch with us and we'll be able to arrange.



If you would like somewhere to sit, there are seats on the second floor on the circle. This will be a quiet area if you wish to have some 'chill out time' before, during or after the performance.

On the ground floor, there is a café (called The Spotlight Café) which will be open from 10:30am. The café sells hot and cold drinks and snacks. You can pre-order drinks for the interval, which will be waiting for you when you come into the café during the break.



Ice creams will be on sale in the Spotlight café and you can take them into the auditorium. Groups can pre-order ice creams and we can bring them into the auditorium for you at the interval, if you would prefer not to leave your seats. Please speak to Box Office staff for details.

You might notice some people walking around with walkie-talkies. This is the Customer Experience Team and they are there to make sure that everything runs smoothly. They will check your tickets and help you to find your seats. They can also answer any questions that you may have about the play or about the theatre.

You can take your bags and coats into the auditorium with you. You can just pop these on the backs of your seats or underneath them. You may also take in any hand held electronic devices that you may need.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM, THE STAGE AND THE SET

The auditorium is the part of the theatre where the audience sits when they are watching the play.

The stage is the area where the actors perform the play.

The set is the name for all the scenery, furniture and objects used on stage in a play.

WHAT DOES THE AUDITORIUM LOOK LIKE?

This show is played 'end on', with the stage at one end and the audience sitting in front of it.



Because this is a relaxed performance you can get up out of your seats if you need to and move around. You won't be allowed to go on to the stage unless you are asked by the actors. You can leave the auditorium if you need some quiet time or if you need to use the toilet.

You will have some time before the show to find your seats and get comfy before the play begins. These are the seats in the auditorium where the audience sit.

HOW LONG DOES THE PLAY LAST?

The play is about 2 hours and 30 minutes long including a 20 minute interval. Plus a 15 - 20 minute introduction where the actors introduce themselves.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SHOW?

When the play has finished you are welcome to stay as there will be a chance to meet the actors. You can leave the auditorium at any time, and you can still use the toilets and chill-out area after the show.

SECTION TWO: THE PLAY

NOISES OFF

ABOUT THE SHOW

Noises Off is a play with 9 actors in. It is a play-within-a-play, which means you're watching a show about a company of actors trying, and in this case failing, to put on a show! In this production, the play they're trying to stage is called Nothing On.

THE SETTING

In Act 1, the set is the inside of a country house. There is a staircase and many doors. In Act 2, the set has been turned around and the backstage of the set is on display. In Act 3, the set has been turned around again and is back to the house.



KEY CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.



Garry Lejeune

Garry is an actor who has a hard time finishing his sentences and is prone to jealousy. He plays Roger Tramplemain in Nothing On.



Dotty Otley

Dotty is an older actress who gets confused easily. She plays Mrs Clackett, a housekeeper in Nothing On. Her timing is very important, but she often forgets things.

Belinda Blair

Belinda is an actress who plays Flavia Brent in Nothing On. She is cheerful and tries to keep everyone calm. Offstage, she likes to gossip and tries to fix other people's problems by inserting herself in every situation.



Frederick Fellowes

Frederick is a sweet man who constantly puts himself down about his intelligence. He has lots of questions about the script, gets nosebleeds in the presence of violence and feels faint in the presence of blood. He plays Philip Brent in Nothing On.



Brooke Ashton

Brooke is an actress whose concentration is often seen dipping. She plays Vicki in Nothing On. She loses her contact lenses often causing everyone to stop whatever they're doing to look for them.



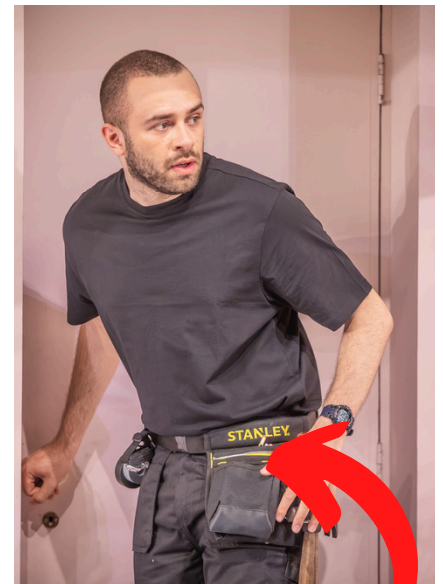
Lloyd Dallas

Lloyd is the director for Nothing On. He is often sarcastic, quick to get angry and is very promiscuous. He is secretly seeing both Brooke and Poppy at the same time.



Selsdon Mowbray

Selsdon is an older actor who often disappears to drink. The rest of the cast are always trying to keep him out of trouble. He plays the Burglar in Nothing On.



Tim Allgood

Tim is the Company Stage Manager (CSM). He does everything from building the set, rigging the lights, company VAT returns and being an understudy. He is overworked and as a result, always very tired.

Poppy Norton-Taylor

Poppy is the Assistant Stage Manager (ASM) for Nothing On. She is always stressed and is usually on the wrong side of Lloyd's temper tantrums.



THE STORY



Act 1: The actors are doing a final rehearsal of *Nothing On*, a silly play about people sneaking around a country house. But the rehearsal is a mess.

People are forgetting lines, doors aren't working, Dotty can't remember if she should carry sardines on or off, Brooke keeps losing her contact lenses, Frederick is asking too many questions, Selsdon keeps disappearing to drink.



They are supposed to be doing a comedy show. But even at the end of the night, they're still not ready. Everyone is tired and frustrated, especially the director, Lloyd.

In Act 2, it's one month later. The show is now on tour. We see behind the scenes during a live performance of *Nothing On*. The actors must stay quiet off-stage.



Garry is jealous of Dotty and Frederick. Brooke is upset that Lloyd won't talk to her. Poppy is trying to tell Lloyd she's pregnant. Lloyd shows up with flowers to cheer up Brooke, but it keeps going wrong. Selsdon tries to steal alcohol. Garry tries to hurt Frederick with an axe (but doesn't).

Actors mess with each other: shoes are tied, props are moved.

Even with all this chaos backstage, the play somehow still goes on.





In Act 3, it's two months later and it's the final performance.

Everyone is tired, hurt and angry.

The set is falling apart. No one remembers their lines. People come on at the wrong times. Props disappear or are broken. Three people end up dressed as the burglar at once. The actors make up lines to try to fix the mess.

In the end, everything goes completely wrong – but the audience in the play laughs and claps. Not because of Nothing On, but because the disaster is so funny.



We look forward to welcoming you to Theatre by the Lake. We hope you enjoy the show!