

Laurence Olivier Award!
NOISES OFF!
A British Backstage Farce



COMEDY

MAY 24 - JUNE 28



NOISES OFF

Michael Frayn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James B. Parker

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Spencer Hohl

DIRECTED BY

Jennifer Hohl

STAGE MANAGER

Seth Larson

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Josh Augenstein

SET & LIGHTING DESIGN

James B. Parker

COSTUME DESIGN

Rebecca Fenton

SOUND DESIGN

Spencer Hohl

PROPERTIES BY

Seth Larson

HAIR & MAKEUP

MacKenzie Pedersen

Light and Sound Tech

Olivia Simmons

Special Thanks to

Scott Naegle

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DIRECTORS NOTE

When I was in my early 20's, my dad, Tom Parker, took all seven of us on a long-awaited trip to Europe, ending in London, to see the sights, and of course, to see what was new on the West End. We saw Starlight Express, 42nd Street and CATS, among others. The lady who ran the pension we were staying at, loved hearing my mom tell her about the shows we'd been seeing. She told us about these two brand new shows that everyone was raving about. One was Les Miserables, and the other one was Noises Off! So we split up... Mom and I went to see Les Mis, and the other five Parkers went to see the comedy. When we reconvened later that night, Mom and I were on this spiritual high, trying to describe this new kind of musical/opera, and the now-famous turntable set...and this powerfully moving story about redemption and love...but it was falling on deaf ears! Five to two...we didn't stand a chance! They were laughing so hard, trying to describe this show...this cast of characters who were mirrors of our theatrical selves...Dad was Tim, Mom was Lloyd (without the infidelity streak, obviously) and us kids, an amalgamation of all the rest! I distinctly remember them trying to tell us about all of the plates of sardines, and the girl running around in her underwear. When the movie came out, I couldn't wait to see this comedic dream cast with my idol, Carol Burnett, headlining the stellar cast: Michael Caine, John Ritter, Christopher Reeve, Denholm Elliot, Marilou Henner, Julie Hagerty, Mark Linn-Baker...and the girl in her underwear, Nicollette Sheridan. Although this film is brilliantly directed and executed...I remember being kind of

disappointed... something was missing. As our family got together and was talking about it, I realized what wasn't there...the LIVE AUDIENCE!! Where was the laughter?? So as wonderful as the movie is, it can't compare to the experience of watching a live performance of the play on a stage in front of a real live audience. This show is more of a duet between the two than any other comedy I can think of! Anyway... After our auditions in March, I, once again, couldn't wait to get working with my Local Comedic Idol, Mary Parker Williams, headlining this stellar cast: Michael Hohl, Roger Dunbar, Tom Hohl, Duane Stephens, MacKenzie Skye Pederson, Nichole Holbrook, Seth Larson...and the girl in her underwear, Corinne Adair. Hats off to this marvelous and patient cast...ridiculously talented, but oh, so giving and kind. Brilliant comedians. It's been an honor to be the Cap'n of this particular Boat. Hats off to Seth Larson, who is playing Tim, but is also Tim in real life...He is the Production Assistant/Prop Master/Wizard at the Details. Thank you to Josh Augenstein, the Stage Manager and Axe Designer. My brother, Jim, who built this incredible set, with the help of our wonderful neighbor, Scott Naegle, using new technology, and a lot of determination. He also did the Lighting Design. My son, Spencer, used his mad skills to do the Axe Choreography, also creating the Sound Design, while my daughter, Olivia, consented to be the one in the booth, literally running the whole show. Lastly, kudos to my dear husband, Michael. I seriously can't do anything without him. It's true. He knows it. Just ask him.

So...As the show opens, as we begin this duet, you and I... I have the privilege of leaving the director, "Lloyd," behind, and joining you in the audience. I can't wait!

"Doors and Sardines! That's what it's all about! That's theatre! That's LIFE!" Yup. Couldn't have said it better myself.

Jennifer Hohl

PS. This production is dedicated to The Two Toms...as in "Cap'n Tom's Sardines in Oil"..my dad and my husband's dad...great guys...I hope they are watching and laughing from the Other Side. We miss you. XO

SUMMARY

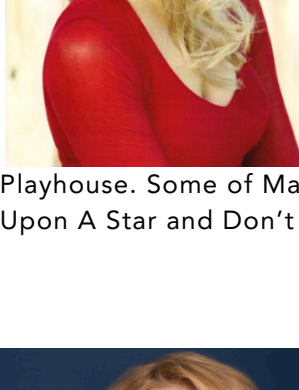
Noises Off by Michael Frayn is a fast-paced farce about a group of actors struggling to stage a British sex comedy called Nothing On. Told in three acts, the play shows the same scene during a chaotic dress rehearsal, a backstage meltdown mid-tour, and a final performance where everything falls apart. Packed with slapstick, missed cues, and behind-the-scenes drama, Noises Off is a hilarious tribute to the madness of live theatre.

CAST

DOTTY OTLEY/MRS. CLACKETT

MARY PARKER WILLIAMS

Mary is thrilled to return to the Parker Theatre stage for this season's Noises Off. Mary is no stranger here. She directed and performed in The Mystery of Edwin Drood Season 2023 and Season 2024's The Importance of Being Earnest. Some of Mary's other performing credits are HCT's The Curious Savage (Fairy May), See How They Run (Ida), To Kill a Mockingbird (Miss Maude), and numerous years playing multiple characters at The Desert Star Playhouse. Some of Mary's film credits are Touched By an Angel, Wish Upon A Star and Don't Look Under The Bed.



BELINDA BLAIR / FLAVIA BRENT

MACKENZIE PEDERSEN

MacKenzie is excited to be back at Parker Theatre after being Billy in The Sting. They hold a BFA in Musical Theatre from SUU and have spent the past decade performing in theaters from Utah to Chicago. Favorite credits include Kathy (The Last Five Years), Audrey (Little Shop of Horrors), Stella (A Streetcar Named Desire), Lina Lamont (Singin' in the Rain), and Sally/Charon (The Lightning Thief). Offstage,

MacKenzie is a voice actor and legal data privacy professional who never underestimates the power of a good story—or a great con. Love to Abdallah—the only one who knows all my tells and plays anyway.

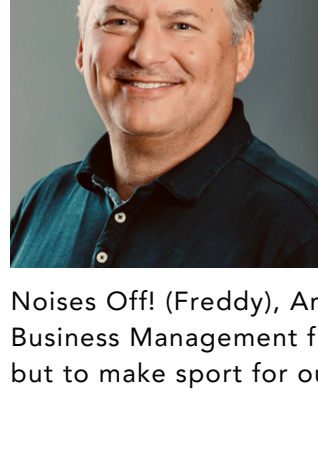


LLOYD DALLAS

MICHAEL HOHL

Michael was last seen in the Sting and Woman in Black his favorite credits include Hale Centre Theatre - Hello Dolly! (Horace Vandergelder), Bright Star (Mayor Dobbs), Peter and the Starcatcher (Lord Astor), Big River (Pap), Big Fish (Amos Calloway), Joseph ...Dreamcoat (Jacob), and The Three Musketeers (Athos); West Valley Arts - Little Shop of Horrors (Mr. Mushnik), She Loves Me (Mr. Maraczek); CenterPoint Legacy Theatre - To Kill A Mockingbird (Atticus Finch)

Noises Off! (Freddy), Arsenic and Old Lace (Teddy). Michael has a BS in Business Management from Westminster College. "For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbors, and laugh at them in our turn? "

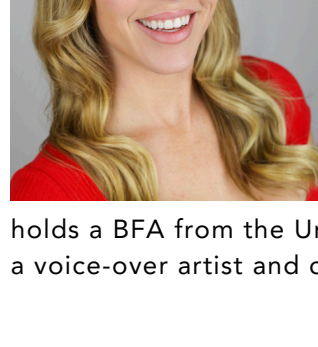


BROOKE ASHTON / VICKI

CORINNE ADAIR

Corinne is delighted to be making her Parker Theater debut! Recent stage credits include: Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Babette), Clue On Stage (Yvette), See How They Run (Penelope Toop), Lucky Stiff (Dominique), and One for the Pot (Cynthia Hardcastle) with Hale Centre Theatre; Clue On Stage (Miss Scarlet) and Matilda the Musical (Mrs. Wormwood) with HCTO; and Curtains (Bambi) with The Grand Theatre; She

holds a BFA from the University of Utah. When not on stage, she works as a voice-over artist and certified yoga instructor. "XOXO A, G, & B"



GARRY LEJEUNE / ROGER

ROGER DUNBAR

Roger was recently in Parker Theatre's production of The Sting in the role of Henry Gondorff. Other productions in the area include Harvey (The Grand), The Time Machine and Treasure Island (HCT Sandy), The 39 Steps, Into the Woods (Sandy Arts Guild), Waiting for Godot (Sting & Pioneer), Doubt, Amadeus (Utah Repertory), King Charles III (Pioneer), Betrayal (Pinnacle Acting Company), and One Big Union (Plan B)



FREDERICK FELLOWS / PHILLIP BRENT

THOMAS HOHL

Tom Hohl is stoked to be returning to the Parker Theatre stage. Some of his favorite roles include Mr. Bingley in "Pride & Prejudice," Ben Franklin in "The Lightning Mind of Ben Franklin," The Sheriff of Nottingham in "Robin Hood," and half of a gate in "The Comedy of Errors." Tom's grateful for his beautiful wife and son for supporting him in everything.



SELSDON MOWBRAY / BURGLAR

DUANE STEPHENS

Duane is excited to be back on The Parker stage! He was last seen in The Sting. His love for the theatre all started way back when he first performed locally with the Parker's at Promised Valley Play House and City Rep. During his many years performing, he has also been seen on stage at Salt Lake Acting Company, Pioneer Theatre Company, and Provo Theatre Company. eight seasons with the Utah Musical

Theater at Weber State, as well as dinner theatre at The Fireside Theatre near Madison, Wisconsin. Not confined to the stage, Duane has also been seen many times in recurring roles for the hit television shows Touched By An Angel and Promised Land on CBS, as well as over 40 film and television projects. You can catch him regularly on various streaming sites, as well as the Disney Channel and The Hallmark Channel.



TIMOTHY ALLGOOD

SETH LARSON

Seth is so excited to be a part of Noises Off and such a talented cast. Last year he was seen in Pride & Prejudice playing Colonel Fitzwilliam here at the Parker and is grateful to Jenni for letting him be a part of another incredible show. "Dedicated to Brett and Margot as always"

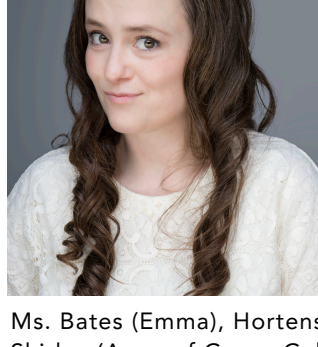


POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR

NICOLE HOLBROOK

Nicole Holbrook is so excited to be back at the Parker Theatre with such an amazing cast and crew! She hails from Vista, CA. She graduated with a BA in Stage and Screen Acting from UNLV in Las Vegas, NV, and while there originated the role of Helen Evans in the period horror short, It Lives In a Cave in the Woods. Nicole's first play was The King and I at The Grande Theatre at the tender age of five. Since then, her favorite roles include Mother (Blood Wedding), Susan (The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe), Mrs. Webb (Our Town), Mary Bailey (it's a Wonderful Life),

Ms. Bates (Emma), Hortense (The Boyfriend), Honour (Tom Jones), and Anne Shirley (Anne of Green Gables). Thanks to my kids and husband, who daily dream and imagine with me! Thank you, Jenni, for this wonderful opportunity. You are forever the best witch in the Woods!



PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR

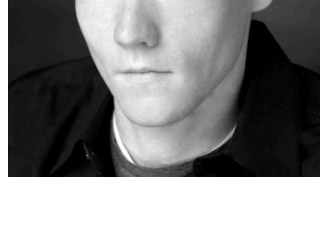


JENNIFER HOHL

Jennifer recently directed Persuasion this year at the Parker. Jennifer is an accomplished director, writer, musician and performer. Favorite credits include: The Light in the Piazza (Margaret Johnson), Hello, Dolly! (Dolly Levi), Fiddler On The Roof, Into the Woods, Little Women, Mary Poppins, and Joseph... Dreamcoat. She has written, directed, and performed for the last 15 years in Witchapalooza at Gardner Village, works as a vocal instructor, and is a wellknown director and music director in the Utah theatre community. She holds a BA in Music from

BYU. "Thank you to my dearest husband, children, and grandchildren: you are all the most interesting and hilarious people I know."

STAGE MANAGER AND PROPS



SETH LARSON

Seth's Stage Manager and Production Assistant credits include Emma (Parker Theatre), Into the Woods (Hale Centre Theatre) Pirates of Penzance (Hale Centre Theatre), Witchapalooza (Gardner Village), She Loves Me (West Valley Arts) and the state sponsored production of "Spike 150" celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER



JOSH AUGENSTEIN

Josh is thrilled to be backstage of backstage in this production of Noises Off! He holds a love for storytelling of all mediums with credits spanning the screen and stage with his most recent appearance as Captain Benwick in Parker Theater's own production of Persuasion. Further projects include Biff Loman in Death of a Salesman, multiple features with BYU's AdLab (Lyft and the Red Cross) and capstone film projects (Ballad of the Westwind Kid and Bygone), as well as background work in Angel Studios', The Chosen. He's excited to share this experience with family, friends, and the wonderful cast and hopes that you enjoy the show!

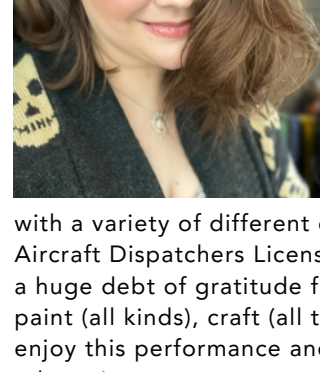
SET & LIGHTING DESIGN



JAMES B. PARKER

In addition to playing countless roles as an actor, James has been designing lights and building sets since for what feels like...most of his life. Starting way back in the City Rep days at the old Utah Theatre, through the Utah Children's Theatre years, and now the Parker Theatre. In addition to sets and lighting, James has designed and remodeled the historic Avalon Theatre along with the Soda Fountain Shop and Studio. James is the Executive Director of the Parker Theatre.

COSTUME DESIGN

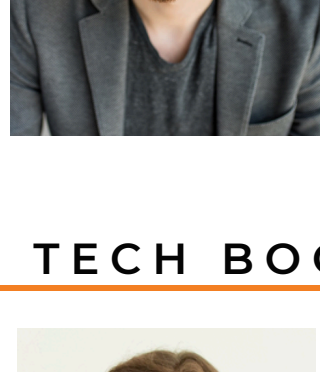


REBECCA L. FENTON

Rebecca always feels so blessed every time she gets to costume a Parker Theater production. This is her seventh show for Parker and her thirteenth show overall since beginning costuming for theater in 2023. This process has been so fun. She is delighted classic favorite has been produced in such a meaningful way. Parker Theater really knows how to do beautiful storytelling with no detail overlooked. Random stuff about Rebecca. She has her own custom bridal and bridal alterations business. She has been doing fashion design for 30 years along \

with a variety of different careers. She has her Rotor Wing Pilot's License and Aircraft Dispatchers License. Rebecca has 3 kids and 1 husband for whom she owes a huge debt of gratitude for his loving patience and easy laughter. She loves to paint (all kinds), craft (all the crafts) and read (like a lot). She really hopes you enjoy this performance and this awesome cast has put their time and excellent talents in to.

SOUND DESIGN



SPENCER HOHL

Spencer has created the music and sound effects for several productions at the Parker Theatre - including Emma, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Christmas Carol and many others. Spencer also serves the Associate Artistic Director at the Parker.

TECH BOOTH OPERATOR



OLIVIA SIMMONS

Olivia has served as both a tech operator and stage manager for multiple productions at The Parker Theatre. Growing up in a theatre family, she's always felt at home behind the scenes and brings that passion to every show she supports—on stage or off.

Ready For a Special Treat?

Stop by the soda fountain before the show or at intermission!

NOISES OFF SPECIALTY MENU

Cherry Cream Soda

Blend of cherry syrups with a touch of Vanilla cream.

Frozen Banana Pudding

Creamy vanilla pudding with fresh banana, and vanilla oreo cookie thins.

Strawberry Swizzle

Cookie Straws

Circus Sundae

Animal circus cookies, sugar cookie dough, confetti pretzels, with confetti sprinkles

Chocolate Peanut Butter Lovers

It Sweet Sardines

Red Swedish Fish

Savory Plate

Marinated artichokes, olives, crackers, cheese, mixed nuts, and cranberries



Always made with love from our bakery ♥

Next on the Parker Stage

Macbeth
William Shakespeare

One of William Shakespeare's most enduring tragedies, unfolds against a backdrop of ambition, power, and moral decay. The play opens amidst a war-torn Scotland, where three witches appear and prophesy that Macbeth, a valiant general, will become the king. Spurred by ambition and influenced by his ruthless wife, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth embarks on a murderous path to fulfill the prophecy.



SHAKESPEARE

AUGUST 2 - 30



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Debbie Dee Conger
Ronald Houston
Lawrence Hancock
Clifford Fisher
Mark Stahmann
Clark Bullen
Carrie Drown

We would love to hear your thoughts
of the show!



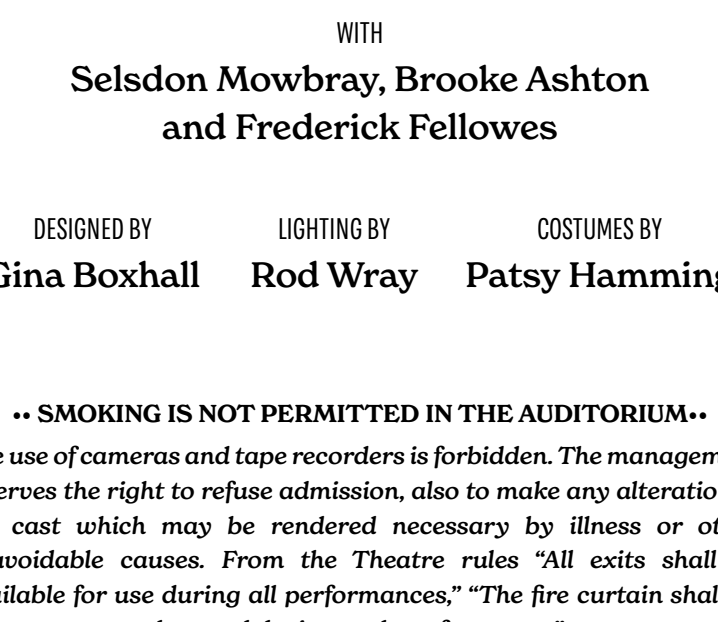
PLAYBILL

PARKER THEATRE

NOTHING ON!

By Robin Housemonger

THE SEA'S LITTLE SECRET.



YUM!

CAP'N TOM'S SARDINES IN OIL

THE PARKER THEATRE PRESENT

Dotty Otley, Belinda Blair
and Garry LeJeune

IN

NOTHING ON!

WRITTEN BY

Robin Housemonger

DIRECTED BY

Lloyd Dallas

WITH

Selsdon Mowbray, Brooke Ashton
and Frederick Fellowes

DESIGNED BY

Gina Boxhall

LIGHTING BY

Rod Way

COSTUMES BY

Patsy Hamming

.. SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM..

The use of cameras and tape recorders is forbidden. The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes. From the Theatre rules "All exits shall be available for use during all performances," "The fire curtain shall be lowered during each performance."

.. Cast ..

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
Brents' country home, on a Wednesday afternoon.

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

.. Production Credits ..

Sardines provided by Cap'n Tom's Sardines in Oil.

Miss Ashton's lenses provided by Larson's Double Vision Optical Ltd.

Antique silverware and boxes provided by Mrs. J.P.H. Norton-Taylor.

Stethoscope and hospital trolley provided by Severn Surgical Supplies.

Straitjacket provided by Grandma JoJo's Kumfy Restraints Ltd.

Coffins provided by Nigel James & Sons.

.. Who's Who in the Show ..



Dotty Otley (Mrs. Clackett)

Dotty makes a welcome return to the stage to create the role of Mrs. Clackett after playing Mrs. Hackett, Cleveland Ohio's most famous cockney-lollipop-lady ('Ooh. I can't 'ardly old me lolly up!') in over 320 episodes of TV's On the Zebras. Her many stage appearances include her critically acclaimed portrayal of Fru Säckett, the comic char in Strindberg's Scenes from the Charrelhouse. Her first appearance ever? In a school production of Henry IV Part I - as the old bag-lady, Mrs. Duckett.



Belinda Blair (Flavia Brent)

Belinda 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 around this United States, Southern Africa, and the Far East in shows like Zippey-Doodal and Here Come les Girls! 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.

"Dignity is the straitjacket of the soul. Its loss is our first stumbling step towards sanity."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

Garry LeJeune (Roger Tramplemain)

Garry while still at drama school won the coveted Laetitia Daintymen Medal for Violence as well as The Marcel Marceau Award for Excellence in Mime Expression. His television work includes Police!, Crime Squad, Suat, Forensic, and The Nick, but he is probably best-known as "Cornetto," the ice-cream salesman who stirs the hearts of all the lollipop ladies in On the Zebras.

"Mime makes the invisible, visible and the visible, invisible." - Marcel Marceau

Selsdon Mowbray (Burglar)

Selsdon 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 America in the past half-century, working his way up through the Mustardseeds and the various Boys and Sons of, to the Balthazars, Benvolios, and Le Beaus; then the Slenders, Lennoxes, Trinculos, Snouts, and Froths; and graduating to the Scroolos, Poloniuses, and Aguecheeks. His most recent film appearance was as Outraged Pensioner in Green Willies.

Brooke Ashton (Vicki)

Brooke 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 Parlor' in On Probation. Cinemagoers also saw her in The Girl in Room 14, where she played the 'Girl in Room 312'.

"The most important technological advance in history, so far as the maintenance of moral standards is concerned, was the invention of the keyhole".

- George Santayana

Frederick Fellowes (Philip Brent)

Frederick 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 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!'

"I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying."

— Oscar Wilde

Lloyd Dallas (Director)

Lloyd '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 1959. In 1962 he directed a highly successful season for the National Theatre of Sri Lanka. Since 'coming across the pond,' he has probably become best known for his brilliant series of 'Shakespeare in Summer' productions in the parks of the Inner Ozark Mountains.

Robin Housemonger (Author)

Robin 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." She began writing "to fill the long hours between one woolen hosiery order and the next," and turned that experience into her first play, Socks Before Marriage, which ran in the West End for nine years. Two later plays, Briefs Encounter and Hanky Panky, broke box office records in Perth.

Tim Allgood (Company Stage Manager)

Tim began his career rewiring dimmers for a touring production of Dial "D" for Dresser. After extensive study at the Uta Hagen Institute of Fourth Wall Design, he became known backstage as 'Tim the Invisible' for his ability to be neither 'seen nor heard' by most cast members. Most recently, he was a last-minute emergency understudy for the lead in Oliver! ("They let me keep my orphan costume," he notes.)

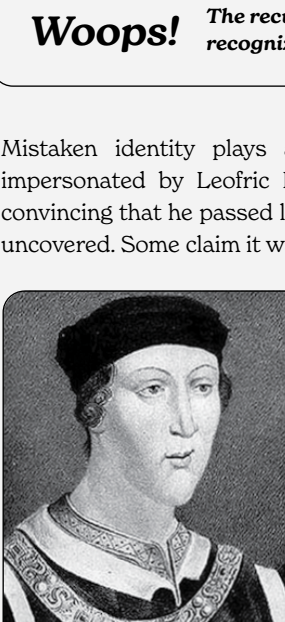
Poppy Norton-Taylor (Asst. Stage Manager)

Poppy hails from Moose Jaw Falls, Minnesota, where she began her backstage career running follow spot for Our Town in a barn theater. After completing her BA in Stage Management and a master's degree in Organizational Communications at the University of Northern Lakes, she moved to London to pursue her theatrical dreams. Since then, she has worked on over 40 productions, including the West End farces Guys and Thens, Socks Before Marriage, and My Bare Lady.

A Glimpse of the Noumenal

Condensed from Joanne Stillwater: Eros Untrousered — Studies in the Semantics of Bedroom Farce.

The cultural significance of the 'bedroom farce'—or 'English sex farce'—has long been acknowledged, particularly for its exploration of mistaken identity, cross-dressing, and role-play. More recently, scholarly attention has turned to the genre's recurring mythic themes and their spiritual implications.



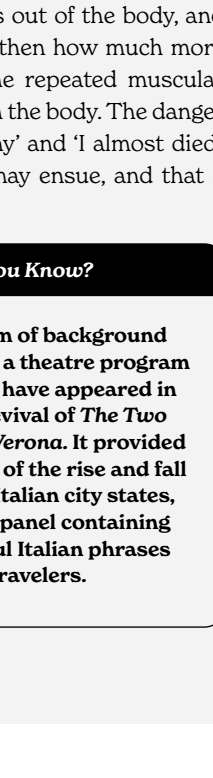
13.4 million sardines are eaten daily in Britain; the word is French in origin.

Typically, a man and woman retreat to a secret or mysterious setting (cf. Beauty and the Beast, Bluebeard's Castle, etc.) to engage in acts hidden from public view. Though framed as sexual, the narrative structure echoes the archetypal quest for transcendence. Disrobing may suggest a shedding of illusion, yet full revelation—both literal and metaphorical—is thwarted by chance intrusions, often by others on similar "quests," resembling the trials faced by initiates in esoteric traditions (cf. The Magic Flute, The Ten Commandments, etc.).

A Royal Commission on Real Estate reported that 17% of agents had, at least once, posed as the owners of properties they were selling—often to impress a romantic interest or facilitate illicit encounters. In 63% of these cases, the motive was sexual. One agent claimed to have seduced a client in the master bedroom, then helped himself to champagne and strawberries...from the garden.

A prominent visual motif is the multiplicity of doors, representing passage between the material world and hidden spiritual or infernal realms. When these doors suddenly open, they mark moments of revelation—epiphanies that offer a fleeting glimpse of the "noumenal."

The symbolic removal of trousers—typically revealing striped underpants—signifies both the exposure of primal instincts (the tiger within) and a loss of innocence. The stripes may also recall the lashings once used to punish sexual misconduct.



Woops!

The recurring feature of the loss of trousers is recognized as an allusion to the Fall of Man.

Mistaken identity plays a central role in farce. Edward IV was reportedly impersonated by Leofric Leadbetter, a tallowboiler whose resemblance was so convincing that he passed legislation and fathered a future king before the ruse was uncovered. Some claim it was the real king who was hanged.



Royal confusion.

An early pair of famous doubles - Edward IV and Leofric Leadbetter

Farce is often labeled as "funny," not only in the sense of being humorous, but also in its evocation of the strange, uncanny, or even supernatural. Laughter, central to the form, involves a loss of control and a physical release, making it a metaphorical parallel to the sexual act. Yet because it can also lead to tears, laughter may simultaneously function as a sublimated expression of grief.

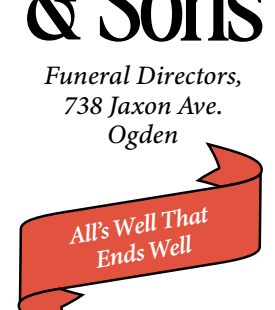
Indeed we recognize here a symbolic foretaste of death. If sneezing has been widely feared because it is thought that during a sneeze the soul flies out of the body, and may not be recaptured (whence 'Bless You!' or 'Gesundheit!'), then how much more dangerous is laughter. Not once but over and over again the repeated muscular contractions and expulsions of breath drive the 'soul' forth from the body. The danger of laughter is recognized in such expressions as 'killingly funny' and 'I almost died.' There is a lurking fear that even more spectacular violence may ensue, and that a farce may end with a bloodletting as gruesome as in Oedipus or Medea, if people are induced to 'split their sides' or 'laugh their heads off'.

Fear of the darker undertones of bedroom farce has sometimes in the past led to its dismissal as 'mere entertainment.' As the foregoing hopefully makes clear, though, financial support by the National Arts Council or a private sponsor for the tour of a bedroom farce would be by no means out of place.

Did You Know?

The first item of background information in a theatre program is believed to have appeared in 1599, for a revival of The Two Gentlemen of Verona. It provided a brief history of the rise and fall of the ancient Italian city states, and an inset panel containing a list of useful Italian phrases for travelers.

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