

Faringdon Dramatic Society

(affiliated to NODA)

presents

A balance scale with the word "Noises" on the left pan and "Off" on the right pan. The scale is tilted, with the right pan being lower. The word "Noises" is in a large, blue, serif font, and "Off" is in a similar font, also in blue. The scale is drawn in brown and red lines.

Noises Off

by
**Michael
Frayn**

Faringdon Junior School

November 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th 2006

Noises Off

by Michael Frayn

What's this? Two programmes?

Yes, because **Noises Off** is a “play about a play”. The play it's about is a very silly but traditional farce called **Nothing On** by Robin Housemonger, with innumerable doors, ridiculous cases of mistaken identity, and of course many unexpected appearances of underwear. It is being staged by “Otstar Productions”, a company put together by Dotty Otley, a well-known TV star from some years back, who has fallen on hard times and is looking to build herself a little nest-egg.

She has appointed a director, Lloyd Dallas, who is looking to raise his profile from outdoor Shakespeare in London parks, and a cast of four former colleagues from the TV world. They have taken on a hard-worked and put-upon crew of two, the lowest in the pecking order, who struggle on as set builders, stage managers, and where necessary understudies. The final cast member is recruited by Lloyd from his theatrical connections: a veteran stage actor named Selsdon Mowbray. Like the others he is somewhat down on his luck.

We join our little company at their final rehearsal for the opening night of **Nothing On** at the Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare, and follow them as they head north through the British provinces. We eavesdrop on the backstage at Ashton-under-Lyne, and finally we become their audience in Stockton-on-Tees. Prepare for their relationships, rivalries and misunderstandings to mirror, if not surpass, those in the farce they are so desperately trying to bring to the stage...

Dave Headey

CAST (in order of appearance)

Dotty Otley	Lesley Phillips
Lloyd Dallas	Daniel Lander
Garry Lejeune	Jeff Barry
Brooke Ashton	Alex Oliver
Poppy Norton-Taylor	Debbie Lock
Frederick Fellowes	Simon Wisbey
Belinda Blair	Sarah Varnom
Tim Allgood	Rob Thorpe
Selsdon Mowbray	Roger Leitch

Directed by **Dave Headey**
Assistant director **Carolyn Taylor**

Act I

Rehearsal of Act 1 of Nothing On, Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare

Act II

Backstage during Act 1 of Nothing On at the Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne

Act III

Performance of Act 1 of Nothing On at the Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts 1 and 2 during which the bar will be open, and another interval between Acts 2 and 3 when the raffle will be drawn

Production Team

Producer	John Taylor
Stage Manager	Tim Evans,
Set design and construction	Rob Thorpe, Nick Evans, Tim Evans, Gary Field, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, Paul Mountford-Lister, Peter Webster
Set decoration	Jo Webster, Carole Tappenden, Simon Wisbey, Debbie Lock
Stage crew	Mary Mountford-Lister, Nick Evans, Alan Merrick, Paul Mountford-Lister, Peter Webster
Lighting	Ian Chandler, Rob Griffin
Sound	Gary Bates, Micky Hinder
Wardrobe	Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield
Props	Claire Pinkney, Fiona Merrick, Keith Merrick
Prompt	Sandra Keen
Posters	Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey, Daniel Lander
Front of House	Denise Monk (organiser), Katie Goodwin, Joyce Harrison, Jill Headey, Joan Lee, Paul Mountford-Lister, Carole & Jim Tappenden, Alan Taylor, Lynda Wisbey

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following:

- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities
- **Faringdon Junior School** for providing a venue and for their continuing cooperation
- **Tetronics Ltd** for storage and scenery-building facilities
- **White Horse Country Wear** for box office facilities
- **“Thanks a Bunch”** for help and advice with flowers

and **Sandwich Fillers** for set builders' sustenance

The Players

Lesley Phillips (Dotty Otley)

This is Lesley's fifth show with FDS. She has also appeared in such diverse productions as **Under Milk Wood** (as Polly Garter and Lily Smalls), **Blithe Spirit** (Edith), **King Lear** (Cordelia), and **The Importance of Being Ernest** (Cicely). She also loves music and musicals and has sung in concerts from village halls to the Royal Albert Hall! Lesley was last seen on this stage exactly a year ago playing the title role in **Educating Rita**.



Jeff Barry (Garry Lejeune)

Jeff has been involved in productions as diverse as **The Importance of Being Ernest** and **Sweeney** with both the Leach Valley Players and Stratton Drama Group. His first role with FDS was Gerry in **Dancing at Lughnasa** and earlier this year was seen as impoverished landowner Pishchik in **The Cherry Orchard**.

Alex Oliver (Brooke Ashton)

Alex has just gained a BTEC in Performing Arts at New College, Swindon and is currently taking a gap year while applying for courses. She has participated in many FDS pantomimes, most recently as Princess Amanda in **Dreamers** (in which she also was choreographer) and a wide variety of shows, from Cabarets to Shakespeare.



Simon Wisbey (Frederick Fellowes)

Simon has been with FDS for about ten years and has taken part in many productions, including **Blood Brothers** (Eddie), **The Crucible** (Rev. Parris), **Much Ado About Nothing** (Don Pedro) and most recently as Frank in **Educating Rita**. Simon's appearance as an inebriated scoutmaster in **Gosforth's Fete** continues to be remarked upon by many.

Sarah Varnom (Belinda Blair)

Sarah has been involved with the theatre since she first trod the boards at the age of 6. Since joining FDS she has enjoyed all manner of roles in the society from **Wicked Witch**, to prompt, to Chairman, to man-eating Muriel in **Habeus Corpus** and Fraulein Kost in **Cabaret**. Sarah's last appearance for FDS was as Maggie in **Dancing at Lughnasa**.



Roger Leitch (Selsdon Mowbray)

Roger is one of that rare breed who has featured as actor, director and writer with FDS. His director's credits include such diverse productions as **Separate Tables** and **Oh What a Lovely War!**, and he was the author of this year's pantomime, **Dreamers**.



Daniel Lander (Lloyd Dallas)

This is Daniel's fifth production with FDS. Previous credits include Mortimer Brewster in **Arsenic & Old Lace**, Nico in the award-winning **Albert**, and Lopakhin in **The Cherry Orchard**. Professionally trained, Daniel has worked with Gordon Kaye from 'Allo 'Allo and was a contributing writer on a BBC comedy sketch show along with Ricky Gervais.

Rob Thorpe (Tim Allbrook)

Rob enjoys singing and acting, and is a member of both FDS and Wantage Stage Musical Society. He has appeared in three of our pantomimes including **Dreamers** earlier this year, and like his *alter ego* in Noises Off has spent many hours and days designing and constructing the split-level, rotatable set.



Debbie Lock (Poppy Norton-Taylor)

Debbie has been in FDS for nineteen years as an actor and director - she has directed three pantomimes, the most recent being this year's **Dreamers**. Another of those she directed was **Wind in the Willows** which won the ODN panto competition.

Society News

We were sorry to hear of the death of Nancy Reeves, a founding member and stalwart of the Society for many years both as an actor and director. Her last starring role with the Society was as Aunt Ada Doom in **Cold Comfort Farm** – fondly remembered as a cracking production. Her funeral was very well attended – the congregation included a number of past and present members.

Suggested by one of our members, **Kate Lord**, we have a particularly interesting project on the go at present, namely a possible exchange with a Canadian drama group in 2007 or 2008. More research is going on as we speak to establish what we may be letting ourselves in for, but this may be an opportunity to spread our fame as a society far and wide!

The wonderful Elizabethan costumes created by our “Ladies of the Wardrobe” (**Jeni Summerfield & Joan Lee**) were recently hired in their entirety for the Abingdon production of **Kiss Me Kate**, providing a very useful contribution to the society's coffers.

Recent Awards to the Society

Ron Kench Shield awarded by the National Opera and Drama Association for the best amateur production in London and the South East:

2001 **The Crucible**

2004 **Dancing at Lughnasa**

Oxford Drama Network award for the best pantomime in Oxfordshire:

2005 **Snow White**

Wallingford One-Act Play Festival awards:

2004 Punters prize: **Shakers**

2005 Best production: **Albert**

New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over fifty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for “Dancing at Lughnasa” in 2004.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Or email us at webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Forthcoming Production (at Faringdon Junior School):

Pirates of the Faribbean - a pantomime by Nick Coard - Jan 26 to Feb 3

