

## **Drama society pulls it off -with 'Noises Off'**

THE Faringdon Dramatic Society's successful production of the Michael Frayn comedy 'Noises Off' came to Faringdon Junior School in early November for four performances and played to large houses and over 350 people in all. Based on the back stage shenanigans of the cast of a fourth rate touring comedy, the play within a play, spins the audience's heads around both in front and behind the stage. The play opens with a dress rehearsal of the comedy and there's sarcasm delivered in huge dollops by the director, played by Daniel Lander, from the back of the theatre. This is a really bad play and he knows it, but the audience sees behind the scenes and the comedy comes from the increasingly fraught relationships between the actors and the misunderstandings that come between them. The play was very well received by audiences on all four nights, and there were times when their laughter drowned out the words, and some may have found the second act quite bewildering for its quick fire, non stop slapstick action. One highlight was Jeff Barry, playing Carry Lejeune, doing a spectacular tumble down the stairs to a big round of applause. Noteworthy comedy performance from Lesley Phillips as Dotty Otley, with her plates of sardines and the gentleman burglar, Selsdon Mobray, played by Roger Leitch, but all the actors and behind the scenes people deserve a big round of applause. This is a complex play to put on, there are countless entrances and exits, a big set to turnaround (twice) and full credit to all concerned and especially the very able direction of Dave Headey for pulling it off. Society patron Rory Bremner attended one performance giving a morale boost to all involved. Rehearsals for the society's annual pantomime 'Pirates of the Faribbean', written by Nick Coard, are already well underway for late January and early February performances at the same venue.

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