# THE THEATRE

96"SEASON

MAY  $29^{TH}$  - JUNE  $8^{TH}$ , 2025









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## The Theatre of Western Springs Presents

#### **Noises Off**

A play in three acts by Michael Frayn

Directed by Greg Kolack

#### Cast

In order of appearance

Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett. Jennifer Jermano Miller Lloyd Dallas. Dan Murphy Garry Lejuene/Roger Tramplemain. RJ Cecott Brooke Ashton/Vicki. Christy Wielosinski Poppy Norton-Taylor Karen Arnold Frederick Fellowes/Philip Brent Mike Janke Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent Sara Gray Schilling Tim Allgood. Chris Olson Selsdon Mowbray/The Burglar. Tim Feeney

#### Setting:

The living room of the Brent's country home Wednesday afternoon

#### ACT I

Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare Monday, January 14

#### **ACT II**

Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne Wednesday matinee, February 13

#### **ACT III**

Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees Saturday, April 6

There will be two fifteen-minute intermissions.

"Noises Off" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.www.concordtheatricals.com

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The Theatre of Western Springs gratefully acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

#### **Director's Corner** By Greg Kolack

In 1984, I saw the Broadway production of Noises Off.

I knew nothing about the show, except a friend had highly recommended it as one of the funniest plays he had ever seen. I somehow scored 5th row center seats for the show, and left the theatre with my stomach hurting from laughing for over 2 hours. To this day, it is THE funniest show I have ever seen.

I had already done a few bad productions, and though none of those experiences were as awful as *Nothing On*, I could definitely relate. Yet I knew this was not a show only for "insiders" - anyone would find the show hysterical.

And though I was VERY early in my directing career, I knew I wanted to direct it. It took 41 years, but here I am. And once I knew I was going to direct it...it became terrifying. I honestly didn't know if I had the stamina to direct this show anymore. It has been one the most challenging, exhausting, confusing, and frustrating shows I have directed in almost 50 years of directing-and I've loved every minute of it.

So many people to acknowledge for taking this wild, crazy, hilarious journey together. The cast, for their creativity, comic brilliance, fearlessness, and amazing energy and stamina. The stage management team for their remarkable ability to keep track of the insane staging and complex technical aspects of the show. The designers and crew who made the complicated look easy. And especially Set Designer/Tech Director

Imani McDaniel, Construction Chair John Baderman, and the entire construction crew who put the monstrosity you see before you together in 7 nights, a week earlier than expected, thanks to a year of planning.

We all laughed together – A LOT!

SARDINES!!!!!!!!



#### **Dramaturg's Diary** By Katie Hedrich

Michael Frayn's Noises Off provides a farcical insight into the world of theater. The play's structure, themes, and characters are thoroughly crafted to work in a symbiotic way, drawing the audience into a world where everything that can go wrong does go wrong.

The play incorporates various elements of the farce. Frayn masterfully utilizes repetitive actions, misunderstandings, and precise timing to create humor. The play relies heavily on physical comedy, with characters constantly running, falling, and getting into absurd situations.

The play explores the contrast between the desired order of a theatrical production and the chaotic reality of human behavior, according to The Guardian. The characters, particularly the actors, are driven by their egos and insecurities, leading to conflict and comedic mishaps. Noises Off satirizes the world of theatre,

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exposing the egos, vanities, and sometimes incompetence of those involved. Sardines, whisky, and the constantly misplaced props symbolize the chaotic nature of the production and the characters' struggles to maintain control.

In summary, Noises Off stands as one of the finest examples of the unpredictable nature of live theater.

#### **Production Credits**

Director Greg Kolack

**Assistant Director** Natalie DeToro

Stage Manager Cal Turner

#### **Assistant Stage Managers**

Deb Vaccarella, Mary Van Nest

#### **Box Office Annual Chair** Mary Ellen Schutt

#### **Box Office Crew**

Mary Ellen Schutt, Janel Palm, Sarah Vladika, Patti Roeder, Mary Wood

#### **Costume Annual Chair**

Janet Venzon

#### **Costume Designer**

Pam Podolner

#### **Costume Crew**

Jessica Steele, Stephanie Olson, Julie Tomek Campo, Jennifer Robison, Krystine Striska, Eugenia Callison, Sarah Simmons

#### **Dialect Coach**

Andrew Pond

**Dramaturg Annual Chair**Courtney Beresheim

**Dramaturg**Katie Hedrich

Fight Choreographer/Stunt
Performer
RJ Cecott

Hair and Makeup Annual Chair Kerri Mummert

Hair and Makeup Chair Kerri Mummert

**Hospitality Annual Chair** Joe Mills

#### **Hospitality Crew:**

Peg Callaghan, Amy Doerhring, Mike Huth, Patricia Huth, Siobhan Maguire, Angela McDonald, Joe Mills, Liliana Mitchell, Jay Mondragon, Rex Nyquist, Guy Sullivan, Greg Von Dare

House Bar Annual Chair Danny Parrott

**House Management Annual Chair** Mike Janke

#### **House Managers**

Sandy Cook, Tim Gannon, Harry Hultgren, Mary Kuhn, Arlene Page, Tom Pfeil, Denise Sondej, Janet Venzon

**Lighting Annual Chair** Linda Bugieski

**Lighting Designer** Linda Bugielski

**Lighting Crew** 

Nancy Belda, Darla Goudeau, Gina Palmer

Play Selection/Casting Annual Chair
David M. Rodriguez

**Play Selection/Casting Committee** 

Courtney Beresheim, Angelee Johns, Greg Kolack, Gina Palmer, Joe Petrolis, David M. Rodriguez, Gregory Von Dare, Sue Wisthuff

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Harry Hultgren, Haruka

**Program Production**Bridget Bittman, Mark MacLean

Properties Annual Chair Laura Leonardo Ownby

**Properties Design Co-Chairs**Nick Corpora Brandt, Shea Corpora
Brandt

**Properties Crew** 

Peter Ellis, Chad Hamilton, Rob Nardini, Gina Sanfilippo, Reaghan Watkins

Publicity Annual Chair Ginny Richardson

Sandwich Sunday Annual Chair Rossann Baker-Priestley

Sandwich Sunday Chair Mary Kuhn

Sandwich Sunday Crew Katie Pecis, Dick Kuhn

Set Construction Annual Chair Harry Hultgren

**Set Construction Chair** John Baderman

#### **Set Construction Crew**

John Baderman, Dennis Burke, Anne Cahill, Tim Feeney, Tim Gannon, Harry Hultgren, Mike Huth, Tom Kearney, Jim LaPietra, Steve Morse, Drew Walczak

Set Design Imani McDaniel **Set Painting Annual Co-Chairs**Jennifer Rakvin, Ann Marie Hultgren

#### **Set Painting Crew**

Eugenia Callison, Carrie Cheri, Barb Hammack, Angelee Johns, Mary Kuhn, Kathy Kusper, Kellyn Maguire, Cheryle McKay, Sharon Opila, Katie Pecis, Jennifer Robison, Denise Sondej, Chrissy Schulte, Guy Sullivan, Mary Wood

Sound Annual Chair Pat Politano

Sound Designer
Joe Mills

**Sound Crew** 

Joe Mills, Pat Politano, Jack Calvert, Bill Hammack

Associate Artistic Director Greg Kolack

Technical Director Imani McDaniel

TWS ANNUAL TECHS:

Costumes
Danna Durkin

**Lights**Benton Bullwinkel

**Paint** Ann Marie Hultgren

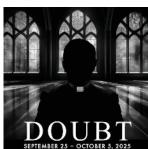
**Props & Furniture**Angelee Johns, Kathi Campbell

Sound Bill Hammack

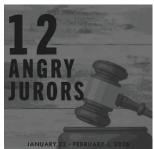
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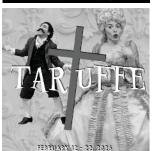
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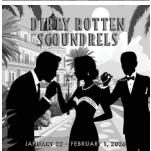














ASL shows are offered for each of our Mainstage Theatre productions on the following dates: Angel Street - Saturday, September 13, 2pm; Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors - Saturday, October 25, 2pm; Rudolph JR - Saturday, December 6, 11 am; 12 Angry Jurors - Saturday, January 31, 2pm; Wizard of Oz - Saturday, April 18, 11 am; Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - Saturday, June 6, 2pm

#### **Curtain Calls**

Cast Information

Sara Gray Schilling (Belinda Blair/



Flavia Brent) is thrilled to be making her return to the stage after quite a long hiatus during which she fed and watered her children. Past roles include

Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Lil' Bit in *How I Learned to Drive*, and Goneril in *King Lear*. She's grateful to her husband and the aforementioned children for being cool about this, and would like to let them know that she lives here now.

Christy Wielosinski (Brooke Ashton/



Vicki) is thrilled to be in Noises Off, easily one of the smartest and most challenging shows of her career. She wants to thank everyone involved in this production

for their intense dedication and talent. She also wants to thank her husband, Steve, for being her biggest cheerleader. Christy was last seen on the TWS stage in *Young Frankenstein* (Elizabeth- understudy) and *Murder on the Orient Express* (Countess).

#### Jennifer Jermano Miller



(Dotty Otley/ Mrs. Clackett) saw Noises Off in high school and knew she had to be in it someday. She thanks her late theatre director, "Mac," for exposing her to that performance. A versatile actor/director with an M.S. in Education (Theatre) from IU, she's directed many productions and performed in numerous TWS productions. Jennifer is the Theatre/Fine Arts Director at The University of Notre Dame's Robinson Center. Love to her family, TWS family, and always—Mac.

Mike Janke (Frederick Fellowes/



Philip Brent)
last appeared in
TWS's Forum
production of
The Other Place.
Previous onstage productions
include Daisy at
Village Theater

Guild and TWS productions of Rumors, Leading Ladies, Ghost in the Machine, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Odd Couple, The Elephant Man, A Murder is Announced, and Pride's Crossing. Mike also serves as annual chair of the House Management crew. #TCB

**RJ Cecott** (Garry Lejeune / Roger Tramplemain & Fight Choreographer)



is proud to be back at TWS, following his turns in *The Great Gatsby* (Gatsby), *Gypsy* (Tulsa), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Stanley; BWW Award Nom. --

Best Actor), *Witch* (Frank Thorney / Fight Choreographer) and most recently, *The Mousetrap* (Detective Sergeant Trotter; BWW Award Nom. -- Best Actor). An award-winning actor, some other favorites include *Spring Awakening* (Moritz).

Shrek: The Musical (Donkey) and columbinus (Eric Harris). You can see more at rjcecott.com/ or @rjcecott actor.

Dan Murphy (Lloyd Dallas) is



thrilled to return to TWS after recently appearing here in the *MisCast Cabaret*! Some favorite roles include Reverend Moore

(Footloose), Cladwell (Urinetown) and Billy Flynn (Chicago), all at the Beverly Theatre Guild (BTG), and Big Josh (Big: The Musical) with Orland Park Theatre Troupe. He enjoys playing woodwinds for musicals, having played for BTG, Beverly Arts Center, Palos Village Players, and others. He also sings barbershop with the West Towns Chorus in Downers Grove.

Karen Arnold (Poppy Norton-



Taylor) was most recently seen on the TWS stage in A Funny Thing... Previous performances include Silent Sky, The Man Who Came to

Dinner and Mauritius. Backstage, Karen enjoys stage managing, preparing Sandwich Sunday meals and working in the booth. Karen is a TWS Children's Theatre grad, Life Member and has served on the Board of Governors. She says "Luff you" to all her family and friends. Tim Feeney (Selsdon Mowbray/



The Burglar) has been at TWS since 1999. He has been in such shows as Murder On the Orient Express, The 39 Steps, Moonlight and Magnolias,

Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Amadeus, Dearly Departed and Around the World in 80 Days. He also works on props, paint and construction crews.

Chris Olson (Tim Allgood) was last



seen on stage
in the ensemble
of Young
Frankenstein.
Previously,
he's worked in
various lighting
roles for Disney,
Santa Fe Opera,

Goodman and other Chicago area theatres. Away from TWS, Chris flies the friendly skies as an airline pilot. "Tim" has been a dream role for many years, and Chris is thankful to be alongside such a wonderful cast, crew and staff. Love to Steph, Aaron, Julianne and family.

#### **Backstage Bows**

Crew Information

Greg Kolack (Director) is Associate Artistic Director and has directed numerous productions at TWS, including Curious Incident, Misery, Great Gatsby, Radium Girls, Murder on The Orient Express, Graduate, The Father, Calendar Girls, the HSR production of The Laramie Project, and the film It's a Wonderful Western Springs Life. Recipient of 3 Jeff Awards, he served as co-artistic

director of Circle Theatre for 7 years, where he conceived and directed the world premiere of Rebecca Gilman's *The Crime of the Century*, among others. As always, his work is dedicated to the memory of his parents.

Natalie DeToro (Assistant Director) is 16 years old and assistant directing for the first time. A member of HSR, you may have seen her onstage in Spamalot and Night of the Living Dead, or you may not have seen her backstage as an ASM in Little Women and on Sound Crew for SpongeBob. She would like to thank the amazing cast and crew, as well as Greg Kolack and David Rodriguez for making this incredible experience possible.

Cal Turner (Stage Manager) is a Life Member and Active Laureate of TWS. Cal has served as stage manager for many shows, most recently Mousetrap, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, and Accomplice. Cal has designed lights for many shows and has served as guest director, most recently for The Melville Boys and The Enchanted April and he has directed many plays for the Directors' Workshop program.

Deb Vaccarella (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be a part of this funny and fantastic production. She has been an Active Member of TWS since 2010 and enjoys volunteering her time backstage and on. Debbie thanks Director Greg Kolack, and Partners In Crime Cal Turner and Mary Van Nest, along with the amazing cast and crew, who learned the incomprehensible at warped speed! Sardines! Sardines!

Mary Van Nest (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Life Member/TWS

active since 1991. She has served on many crews including properties, paint, sound, costumes, makeup and house managing. Mary was annual hospitality chair for two years and a former member of the board of governors. On stage, Mary was last seen in *Love, Loss and What I Wore* and *A Trip to Bountiful*. Thanks to Greg & the entire cast/crew for this wonderful experience!

Pam Podolner (Costume Design) was last seen in the TWS production of Young Frankenstein as Ziggy, the Village Idiot. This is Pam's first time chairing costumes, and she really hopes that the actors' trousers only fall down when they're supposed to. Fingers crossed and enjoy the show!

Andrew Pond (Dialect Coach) (He/him) moved to Chicago in 2002 from South Florida...for the weather. He is Artistic Director and a founding member of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre and has appeared in many of their productions. Along with his onstage work at several Chicagoland theaters, he is an Elvis impersonator, juggler, balloon artist, plays with puppets, does Muppet voices, and has a degree in philosophy so he can use words like "epistemology" at parties.

Katie Hedrich (Dramaturg) This is Katie's second time serving as Dramaturg and is very excited about this opportunity to explore the unique world of farce. Katie has been an active member of TWS since 2019 and has participated in performances such as The Nerd (Tansy), Couples (Cynthia), A Marriage Is Arranged, Directors Workshop, (Aline), The Curious Case of the Dog in the Nighttime (Judy), and A Doll's House, Part 2 (Nora). Katie is grateful

to be part of such a creative and collaborative artistic community.

**Kerri Mummert** (Hair and Makeup Chair) is proud to be part of the production.

Linda Bugielski (Lighting Design) served as the Annual Chair for lights for several years and has been on the TWS Foundation Board since 2009 first as a BOG Representative and now as Secretary of the Board. Linda has designed and co-designed lights for TWS since 2006, and this is her second time working on lights for *Noises Off* with TWS.

Haruka (Annual Production Chair) is wishing the cast, crew and production team a very successful show! 皆 さん、いつもありがとうございます! Untuk cinta saya, terima kasih kerana menyokong saya.

Shea Corpora Brandt (Properties Design Co-Chair) is happy to be joining the *Noises Off* team as coprops chair. You may recognize her from her TWS debut as "male villager" in *Young Frankenstein*. OR you may have seen her around helping Nick with random CT stuff. She hopes you laugh your sardines off tonight!

Nick Corpora Brandt (Properties Design Co-Chair) is the Children's Theatre Director for TWS and was recently seen onstage as Igor in Young Frankenstein. Whether it be directing, construction, acting, tech crew, and more, Nick loves working on shows in any capacity. Noises Off is one of his favorite plays, so organizing these sardines has been a labor of love!

**John Baderman** (Set Construction Chair) This is one of the biggest sets

that we've built. We hope you like it. John would like to say a huge thanks to the amazing construction crew for an incredible job. We are always looking for more construction help. Subscribers and non-subscribers are welcome, from complete newbies to those who have basic woodworking skills. Come and join us and give it a try and see your work on stage at a future show.

Ann Marie Hultgren (Set Painting Co-Chair) is a life member of TWS and Active Laureate. She chaired paint for *Mousetrap* and served on the fundraising committee for *Carnival/Carnivale*. She helped move the set during *Pygmalion*, as well as painting the set, and co-chaired set dressing for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Ann Marie is the annual paint co-chair and paint technician.

Jennifer Rakvin (Set Painting Co-Chair) has enjoyed working behind the scenes painting many sets since becoming a TWS Active in 2023. On stage, she appeared as the Parlor Maid in *Pygmalion* and at the Cattell in the shorts *Reunion* and Agatha Christie's *The Rats*. She has been continually impressed by this pool of multi-talented, welcoming people.

Joe Mills (Sound Design Chair) chairs Hospitality and By-Laws at TWS and is on the Budget and Finance Committee. Routinely helping with sound and various projects around the theatre, Joe enjoys learning new skills and helping other people at TWS. His most recent roles include Monsieur Bouc in Murder on the Orient Express and the Monster in Young Frankenstein. He encourages you to support TWS in any way you can and help community theatre thrive!

Imani McDaniel (Set Design, Technical Director) has received an M.F.A. in Scenic Technology from UIUC as well as a B.A. in Theatre Arts with emphases in both technical theatre and performance and a minor in English from Eastern Illinois University. Before coming to TWS, she spent several years as the technical director at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois, where she also taught youth drama classes. She loves theatre and couldn't be happier to have found a home here at TWS!

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Business Manager Maureen Blaber

Technical Director Imani McDaniel

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Glen Ellyn

Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency May 23 - 25

Theatre-on-the-Hill, Bolingbrook

Noises Off May 29 - June 8

Theatre of Western Springs Western Springs

Back to the 80's
The totally awesome musical
June 12 - 15

Rising Stars, Des Plaines

The Prom June 20 - 29

Theatre121 Woodstock

Follies
June 20 - 29

Wheaton Drama Wheaton Shrek
July 17 - 19
WeGo Community Theatre

West Chicago

On Golden Pond July 18 - 27

> Grove Players Downers Grove

The Wedding Singer
July 18 - 20

Little Mountain Community Theatre Lemont

### WestSuburbanTheatre.com

Visit the website for all performance and audition information. Use the QR code to join our e-mail list.





Packed like sardines?

Need some breathing room?

Jason can help find you

some elbow room.

#### JASON KILARSKI REALTOR®

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Jason has moved families since 2000 and audiences since 2022.



CHRISTIE'S