

actors ensemble of
berkeley

present

Noises



by

Michael Frayn
Directed by
Collin Johnson

July
20
thru
August
18

\$15 tickets
\$12 seniors
\$12 students

8pm
Fridays
Saturdays &
5:00-6:49
5:59-9:00

Live at Theater
Berkeley
2pm Sunday
(8/12)

www.
aeofberkeley
.org

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

There's no rule book for producing theatre. Different experiences breed different styles. Different styles breed different approaches. However, if there ever was a rule book, *Noises Off* takes that book and hacks it to pieces with a comically oversized sharp object (featured in tonight's performance).



This is not a traditional piece of drama
This is neatly-packaged chaos.

This is a simultaneous love letter/cruel prank to the world of the thespian, the director, the dramaturg, the technical crew. The show within the show, *Nothing On*, is a c-grade regional touring production, filled with over-the-hill talent, moronic pretty boys, ignorant boobs and silly tarts. The show itself is terrible, which makes *Noises Off* so endearing and brilliant. Mr. Frayn has funneled his theatrical obsession into something that pretty much says it all. Nothing ever goes perfectly, and nobody ever truly knows what they're doing, but that's what makes it all so exciting.

I grew up with this show. It remains a singular, unique benchmark for meta, self-aware drama. There's quite simply nothing else like it. From smashing down the fourth-wall to incorporating the audience into the performances to witnessing a real-life two-story in-character set change, this show has the most laughs per square foot than anything else I have ever read -- but what takes it over the top into sheer genius is the potential for so many more laughs embedded within the chaos. The possibilities are bottomless, and that's the kind of challenge that's worth losing sleep over.

In conclusion, when you direct something like this, your job is to essentially make sure no one dies.

So far so good.

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Colin Johnson



About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley has been around the block (and just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest-running stage company in Berkeley. In 1965, AE began performing at the Live Oak Theatre — and has ever since.

Our mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend, participate in and be helped through theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round.

As Berkeley's only true community theatre company, we depend on our volunteers to bring their energy and creative vision to each play we produce. If you would like to volunteer in our theatre, give us a call or send us an email! We'd love for you to play a part in our next show!

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
P.O. Box 663
Berkeley, California 94701
www.aeofberkeley.org
info@AEofBerkeley.Org



Check out www.AEofBerkeley.Org and subscribe to our email list for

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Board of Directors

Alan Barkan, Robert Estes, Jose Garcia, Jonathan Gordon, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bob Gudmundsson, Colin Johnson, Martha Luehrmann, William Martinelli, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Stanley Spenger, Matthew Surrence, Kim Stewart

Special Thanks To: Emily Buysee, Stanley Spenger, Jonathan Sanchez, Vicki Siegel, Norm De Veyra, Shu Ping Guan, Jon Farrell, Jose Garcia, the City of Berkeley, and Pat and Eugene in the Live Oak Recreation Center.

Cast

in Order of Appearance

Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett.....Cynthia Roberts
Lloyd Dallas.....Avi Jacobson
Poppy Norton-Taylor.....Laura Peterson
Garry Lejeune/Roger.....Vince Faso
Brooke Ashton/Vicki.....Jordan Michele Kersten
Frederick Fellowes/Phillip Brent.....Nick Dickson
Belinda Blaire/Flavia Brent.....Annika Bergman
Timothy Algood.....Theo Adams
Selsdon Mowbry/Burglar.....Norman Macleod

Production Crew

Director.....Colin Johnson
Stage Manager.....Hannah Tobin-Bloch
Set Design.....Brian Quackenbush
Costume Design.....Helen Slomowitz
Light Design.....Alecks Rundell
Props.....Hawley Allen
Set Construction.....Bob Gudmundsson,
Brian Quakenbush
Assistant Lighting Design.....Max Chervin
Sound Board Operator.....Alex Wong
Sound Effects.....Turner Capeheart Candy
Stagehands.....Zach Forster, Marta Backman
Graphic Design.....Human Fiction
Photography.....Elizabeth Tyson, Anna Kaminska
Producer/Program.....Jerome Solberg

Produced under arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

**Performed Fridays/Saturdays at 8 p.m.
July 20th – August 18th, 2012
Sunday Matinee August 12th at 2 p.m.**

Act I is approximately 55 minutes

15 minute intermission

Act II is approximately 50 minutes

10 minute intermission

Act III is approximately 45 minutes



Cast and Crew Biographies

in Alphabetical Order

Theo Adams (Timothy Algood) has been featured in such shows as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Rumors*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Fame*, *Working*, and *Godspell*. He was born and raised in San Diego and dedicates this show to his friend, James Huntington. www.LiquidGeometryMusic.com

Hawley Allen (Props) hails from the ridiculously hot plains of Sacramento and is ecstatic to have relocated to Oakland just in time for summer. She teaches low income nutrition classes by day, she is a jazz pianist and improv performer with PAN theater's *Awkward Face* come sun down. Don't go up against her in a Louis Armstrong parody competition...she will beat you every time.

This is **Annika Bergman's** (Belinda/Flavia) first production with **Actors Ensemble** and she's stoked to be a part of a great show and such a happy and lovely company. Annika has just recently moved back to the Bay Area after living in Ohio studying theatre and musical performance. Some of her favorite past shows have included *Hair* (ACLO), *Pride and Prejudice* (B-W), *Fiddler on the Roof* (CCMT), and *Urinetown* (PPT). Thanks as always to all who have helped and supported her along the way. Enjoy the show my loves!

Max Chervin (Assistant Light Design) is a recent Berkeley High Grad (ONE TWO!!!) and a long time actor first time light-er. He has played old, angry, rich men throughout his youth, ranging from Caldwell B. Cladwell in *Urinetown* to Lester Trainsmith in *Comic Potential*. This is Max's second time working with Actor's Ensemble (the first time he was wearing a dress in a rare Oscar Wilde play.) Max is currently Assistant Directing with **Stagedoor Conservatory's** Teens on Stage production of *Sweeney Todd*. If you like the lighting for this show, JUST WAIT for *Sweeney Todd*!

Nick Dickson (Frederick/Phillip) is very happy to join AE in this production. Extremely. After studying Theater and Literature at UC Santa Cruz, Nick spent two years becoming a legal, certified clown at the San Francisco Circus Center's Clown Conservatory. As his first full play was *Rumors* by N. Simon, Nick feels a tidy fulfillment participating in *Noises Off*, and he will happily die at the final curtain of the closing night.

Vince Faso (Gary/Roger) has wanted to be a part of a production of *Noises Off* for years and is thrilled for the opportunity. Favorite Bay Area credits include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* and *A Few Good Men* with Diablo Actors Ensemble, and *King Lear* with CalShakes. He's also directed recent productions of *12 Angry Men* and *Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight*. Vince is a founding member of the SF-based comedy improv team, **Chinese Ballroom**, and is the drama teacher at **Redwood Day School** in Oakland. Thanks to Carl for her love and support.



A musician by training, **Avi Jacobson** (Lloyd) came to Berkeley from Israel in 1997. He appeared/solobed with many Israeli ensembles, was diction/dialect coach for the New Israel Opera, studied/performed at BATS Improv, and is part of the now-retired EDLOS comedy a cappella quartet. Avi recently appeared in *Big River* (CCCT: Silas Phelps, Judge Thatcher, Counselor Robinson), *Oliver!* (Dr. Grimwig) and *My Fair Lady* (Prof. Karpathy) at Woodminster, and *Broadway Bound* (Ben) at Masquers Playhouse.

Colin Johnson (Director) has been deeply involved in theatre and film production since his headstrong infancy in the wilds of Washington State. His production resume has skewed towards original works (20 plus) since his migration to the Bay Area in 2008, where he's worked with such diverse entities as Planofight, SF Olympians, Bay One Acts, Round Belly Theatre Company and **Battle Stache Studios** (which he co-founded). He enjoys long walks on the beach, misty spring sunsets, the occasional taffy apple and a good hearty chuckle.

Jordan Michele Kersten (Brooke/Vicki) is having a hilarious and fabulous time portraying Brooke in *Noises Off*. She first set foot on the stage at the age of 7, at which time she fell in love with theatre, and hasn't left since. Born and raised in Silicon Valley, Jordan had a six-year stint in San Diego, and returned to the beautiful Bay Area to live in San Francisco last year. Some of Jordan's favorite roles include Jenny in *The Shape of Things*, Stella in *Streetcar Named Desire*, and Bambi in *Curtains*. Jordan is excited to make this her debut with **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**, and she is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and director. Thanks to all who made this production possible!

Norman Macleod (Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar) trained as an actor with York Repertory Theatre in England. Since 1965 he has performed in numerous local productions, including appearances with **Actors Ensemble** as Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, as King Berenger the First in *Exit the King* and as The Chorus in *Antigone*. From the sublime to the ridiculous; he now looks forward to acting in his favorite form of theatre: - a good old fashioned English bedroom farce, especially with such a talented and exuberant cast. Norman thanks Dianne for her continued support and forbearance during his theatrical endeavors.

Laura Peterson (Poppy Norton-Taylor) is ecstatic to be making her bay area debut with the incredible cast of *Noises Off*. Originally from the beautiful state of Vermont, she made her way out west after receiving her theatre degree from Jacksonville University. Some of her favorite roles include, Kate in *Dancing in Lughnasa*, and Marcy in *Dog Sees God*. She would like to thank her friends who have become her family for their incredible love and support.



Brian Quakenbush (Set Design/Construction) hails from a frozen cornfield in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He studied theater and philosophy amongst the cornfields surrounding Grand Valley State University, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Fed up with corn, he moved to Vashon Island off the coast of Seattle where he began writing plays, poetry, music and producing variety show benefits for the local food bank at the local watering hole. In 2008 he co-founded **Round Belly Theatre Company** in Oakland, CA as an actor, writer, designer and producer. As Co-Founder of **Battle Stache Studios**, Brian is now Producer, Actor, Writer, and Technical Designer. He also takes delight in sunshine and avocados.

Cynthia Roberts (Dotty/Mrs. Clackett) is enchanted to be making her debut at **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**. She has performed in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Favorite roles include Grace in *Bus Stop*, Cookie in *Rumors*, and Wikewitch in *Anton in Show Business*. She is co-founder of **Corporate Improv Solutions**, a training company that uses improvisational theater techniques to improve communication, sales, and customer service skills.

Alecks Rundell (Lighting Design) I am happy to be working with Max and the rest of talented production crew. I am grateful to the **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** for supporting fabulous live art, especially *Journey of Light*, a *Glo-Opera*, coming to the **SF Fringe Festival** this September. Please support *AE of Berkeley* for their contributions to community art. And Love to Priscilla.

Helen Slomowitz (Costumer) is thrilled to be working on one of her favorites, **Noises Off** at her favorite theatre, **Actors Ensemble!** Helen has costume designed for many theatres, film & TV in the Bay Area, as well as LA. She thanks the crew & cast & marvelous director for all their input, help & just plain wonderfulness!

Hannah Tobin-Bloch (Stage Manager/Light Board Operator) is very excited to be a part of **Noises Off** this summer! She has most recently stage managed for Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* at her high school, Bentley, and had the amazing opportunity to work with incredible people who introduced her to the awesome world of theater, this time behind the scenes. In addition to stage management, Hannah has designed sound and lights for several shows, both in and out of school.

Alex Wong (Sound Board Operator) is thrilled to be a part of **Noises Off**, his first non-high school production. He has previously worked in Bentley's tech theater program, where he has worked sound and lights, both as a designer and a board op, in over eleven shows spanning four years. Alex is also currently a student at Boston University, and is pursuing a double major in electrical engineering and lighting design.



Don't miss the 4th show in our 2012 Season!

Richard III

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Sharon Huff-Robinson

The villain you love to hate – and hate to love

October 19th – November 1st, 2012

Auditions Aug. 5th and 6th

email Sharon@aeofberkeley.org for more info

Summer Staged Reading Series

Featuring works by Michael Frayn

All shows at Live Oak Theatre - \$5-\$10 sliding scale

- Tuesday **July 31st** at 8 p.m. – **The Two of Us** – 4 comic one acts, directed by Anna Andersen and Vicki Siegel
- Tuesday **August 7th** at 8 p.m. – **Benefactors** – Two couples get involved in “doing good” – and do a bit o’ harm to each other as well, directed by Matthew Surrence
- Sunday **August 12th** at 7 p.m. – **Madame Gufay** by Norah Foster, – a “work in progress” about a French “force of nature” invading U.C. Berkeley for Free Speech, Free Love, or maybe just a French poodle.
- Tuesday **August 14th** at 8 p.m. – **Copenhagen** – the monumental meeting between the physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg during WWII, investigating – friendship, science, morality, and the atomic bomb



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