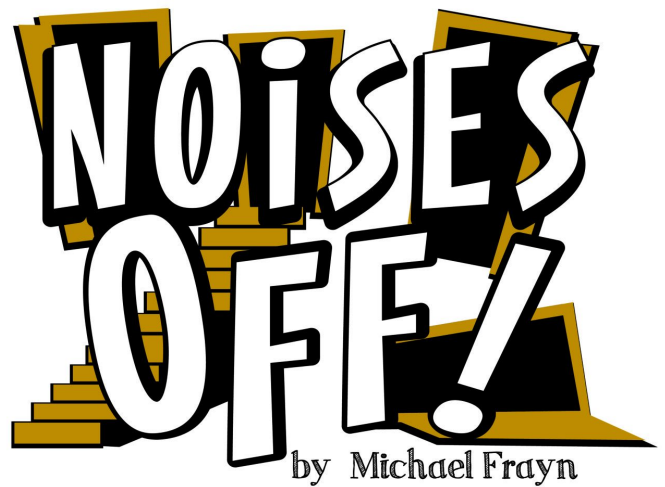


# NOISES OFF AUDITION INFORMATION

2018 Fall Mainstage  
April 5th, 6th, 7th, 2018

*Auditions for **Noises Off** are January 31st.  
Sign-ups are in room #8201. Please check-in with  
the Stage Manager at auditions.*



- **GENERAL AUDITIONS:** January 31st from 2:45-6pm. Sign-up for an audition time in #8201, these auditions are closed. Once you audition you are free to go. The actor needs to be the actor application signed by parents, résumé, and actor headshot. Please have two contrasting monologues (comedic/dramatic, contemporary/classical) not to exceed 3 minutes (one needs to be a Classical). Call-backs will be posted the morning of February 1st.

**More information is at <http://www.gilbert-theatre-ensemble.com/noises-off-auditions.html>**

- **CALL-BACKS:** February 1st from 2:45-6pm. If you are selected for a call back, sides will be available in the morning, and you will be allowed to semi-prepare a reading from the script with a scene partner of your choosing from the call-back list.

## **AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Please bring a current headshot & résumé, and the actor application signed by parents.
- A prepared monologue is required. Please prepare 2 contrasting monologues (comedic/dramatic, contemporary/classical) of your choosing not to exceed 3 minutes.
- Slate your name and title of your pieces prior to your monologue. Don't forget to take an actor beat before beginning your monologue. Slates and monologues cannot exceed 3 minutes.
- Call-Backs will consist of readings from the script. Call-backs, if needed, will be at the director's discretion.
- Bring your calendar and be prepared to list all conflicts. Conflicts not listed at time of auditions may not be honored.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Noises Off opens April 5th and continues through April 7th, 2018. Strike is Monday after school. Performances are Thurs. – Sat. at 7:00 PM. The last two weeks of rehearsal are mandatory for all actors and technicians, this is non-negotiable.

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## NOISES OFF PLOT

It is only hours before the opening of a British adult farce, *Nothing On*, and the touring company is hurriedly running

through a final dress rehearsal in the Grand Theatre, Weston-SuperMare, before the first audience arrives.

### Act One

During the first act, we are an audience to this production of a play within a play. The *Nothing On* cast is loveable, but mainly inept; however, we cheer for them under our breath and hope that they can pull it together and get the show on the road. Dotty, the actor playing Mrs. Clackett, can't remember her entrances and exits. Garry, the male love interest, can't remember his lines. And Brooke, playing Vicki, the female lead, is constantly posing and primping, without any understanding of what the play is about or what she is doing. Trying to pull this all together into some semblance of a presentable show is the director, Lloyd Dallas, who is sitting in the darkened auditorium shouting out directions and trying to get everybody ready for opening. Act 2, however, dashes all our hopes.

### Act Two

For this act, we, the audience, are sitting backstage; the entire set has been turned 180 degrees. We can hear the actors performing out front, but what we see is the back side of the scenery flats, the stage manager trying to keep the action flowing and everybody happy, and the various antics of the actors offstage between their exits and entrances. The play has been on the road for one month now, and relationships between cast members, as well as the quality of *Nothing On* have deteriorated. Garry and Dotty are in the middle of an unhappy love affair. Poppy, the assistant stage manager is pregnant; and Selsdon Mowbray, an actor in his late sixties, is trying to stay sober between scenes. Add to this, a visit by director Lloyd, who is there first of all to comfort his "overly excited" lover, Brooke, and second to try and save his play from total disaster. Most of the company is in a continual state of agitation, and this disorder is carrying over into the play, causing missed entrances, flubbed lines, and general hilarity. Act 3 is even more frenetic.

### Act Three

It is a month later again, and the tour is reaching an end. We, the audience, are out front again, watching a performance of *Nothing On* that has reached the point of complete and hilarious deterioration. The business of performing the show has become subordinate to the business of solving personal problems. Dotty refuses to come out of her dressing room. Garry is now drinking Selsdon's whiskey. Scenery collapses, and props explode. Practical jokes have become common, and actors are now taking verbal, and sometimes physical, cracks at each other both backstage and on stage. Normal rules of logic and response don't apply anymore. Ultimately, however, they carry off the show—in some semblance. The unhappy band of actors manages to get to the last line, spoken by Selsdon: "When all around is strife and uncertainty, there's nothing like . . . (takes the plate of sardines) . . . a good old-fashioned plate of curtain!"

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## CHARACTER LIST – NOISES OFF

Some actors play two characters. One onstage character and one off stage character.

### FEMALE CHARACTERS

#### **Dotty Otley / Mrs. Clacket:**

*(Off stage Dotty)* A late-middle-aged American actress. Forgetful. Dating Garry, though she attempts to make him jealous by meeting with Freddy.

*(On Stage Character: Mrs. Clackett):* A Cockney Housekeeper for the Brent's home in England. Hospitable, though slow.

#### **Brooke Ashton / Vicki:**

*(Off Stage: Brooke)* A young inexperienced American actress. Pays no attention to other performers, either in performance or backstage. She seems as though she is not really present – like she is somewhere else inside her head. Is always losing her contact lenses. One-third of a Lloyd–Poppy–Brooke love triangle.

*(On Stage Character: Vicki):* An English woman who works for Inland Revenue and is trying to woo Roger.

#### **Belinda Blair / Flavia Brent**

*(Off stage Belinda):* Cheerful and sensible, a reliable American actress. She may have feelings for Freddy.

*(On Stage Character: Flavia Brent):* Phillip Brent's English wife. She is dependable, though not one for household duties.

#### **Poppy Norton-Taylor:**

American Stage Manager. Emotional and over-sensitive, and envious of Brooke, whom she understudies. Carrying Lloyd's child. One-third of a Lloyd-Poppy-Brooke love triangle.

### MALE CHARACTERS

#### **Lloyd Dallas:**

The director of the play, Nothing On. Temperamental. One third of a Lloyd–Poppy–Brooke love triangle.

#### **Garry Lejeune / Roger:**

*(Off stage: Garry)* An American actor who never finishes a sentence. Always is completing sentences with, "you know..." Easily fired up, repeatedly tries to attack Freddy after believing that Dotty was cheating on him with Freddy. Speech affectations disappear onstage but are ever-present offstage. Dating Dotty.

*(On Stage Character: Roger):* An English Real estate agent who is attempting to rent Flavia's and Phillip's home, but uses it for his own personal benefit.

**Frederick Fellows /Phillip Brent / Sheikh:**

*(Off stage: Freddy)* An American actor with a serious fear of violence and blood. Gets nosebleeds easily. Often questions the meaning of his lines and moves. Blames himself often for things going wrong.

*(On Stage Character: Phillip Brent):* An Englishman who lives out of the country with his wife Flavia to avoid paying taxes. He enters the country knowing that if he is caught by Inland Revenue, he will lose most of the year's income.

*(On Stage Character: Sheikh):* A Middle-Eastern, Interested in renting Flavia's and Phillip's home and is the spitting image of Phillip.

**Selsdon Mowbray / Burglar:**

*(Off Stage: Selsdon Mowbray):* An elderly alcoholic Englishman who hides his bottles onstage. If he is not in sight while rehearsing, the stage crew must find him before he passes out. Is hard of hearing when he wants to be.

*(On Stage Character: Burglar):* Old Cockney man in his seventies, breaking into the Brent's home.

**Timothy Allgood:**

An over-worked American Assistant Stage Manager. Understudies Selsdon and Freddy.