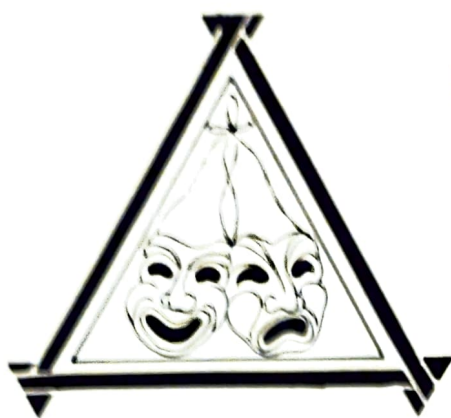




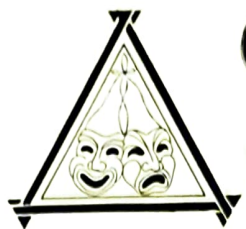
KANATA THEATRE

PRESENTS

NOISES OFF

*a theatrical farce
by*

MICHAEL FRAYN



KANATA THEATRE

PRESENTS

NOISES OFF

a theatrical farce
by

MICHAEL FRAYN



Kanata Theatre
Stephen Wheeler is trying to explain the problem, but Jennifer Harris looks as though she can't go to sleep very long. Don't miss going on the production of "Noises Off" and find out what is Schop Wednesday through Saturday May 11-14. Curtain time 8 p.m. Box office 592-1715.



Peter Jefferson and Nedra Nash rehearse for Noises Off, the Kanata Theatre's final production of the season, giving audiences a delightful evening of entertainment before the summer begins. Noises Off will be produced May 11 to 14 in the auditorium of the Earl of March High School. All performances are at 8 PM. For more information and reservations call the Box Office at 592-1715.



Kanata Theatre actors Laura Kipway and Brooke Kereford are enjoying the rehearsal of Michael Frayn's farce Noises Off. Director Jim Holmes is working his cast hard as this superbly funny production comes together. Kanata audiences are in for a treat with this final play of Kanata Theatre's 1987-88 season. The set, being constructed on two levels, completely revolves giving the designer Ron Martin and his crew a challenging job. Noises Off will be staged May 11-14 in the auditorium of the Earl of March High School. All performances are at 8 p.m. Box Office: information and reservations at 592-1715.

Theatre Review

'Noises Off' a hilarious send-up

by Kenneth Johns

Michael Frayn's 'Noises Off' is a brilliant send-up of the farce, a play which has been adapted for television by the BBC and is now being performed by the National Theatre.

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Kanata players sparkle with fast-paced farce

by Bruce Mason

Photo: John Doe

I got a letter from the British Theatre Association asking me to review 'Noises Off' by Michael Frayn. I was a little bit of a sceptic at first, but I was soon won over by the fast-paced farce.

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Production review

by Bruce Mason

Photo: John Doe

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PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

PRODUCER

CO-PRODUCER

SET DESIGN

SET CONSTRUCTION

STAGE MANAGER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

STAGE CREW

FURNISHINGS

PROPERTIES

COSTUMES

LIGHTING

SOUND

PROSCENE

WHAZ-UP

PHOTOGRAPHY

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PRODUCTION

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Kanata players sparkle with fast-paced farce

By Steven Mazey

Citizen staff writer

It was a brave move for Kanata Theatre to attempt a production of *Noises Off*.

Michael Frayn's play is a farce, one of the staples of amateur theatre, but at the same time it's a parody of farce, a play about everything that can go wrong on stage.

Frayn includes all of the familiar elements — the frenzied pacing, the complicated plot, the endless entrances and exits, the misplaced props and the quick costume changes — and exaggerates them to dizzying proportions.

It's a play that demands discipline and perfect timing.

Kanata Theatre also knew any local performance of the play would be compared with the sterling professional production performed at the National Arts Centre two years ago.

But Kanata's risk has paid off.

Its production may not be quite as polished as the NAC's, but it is still extremely well done. To do any farce well is difficult, but to pull off *Noises Off* as well as it's been done here is a major accomplishment.

Director Jim Holmes and his cast and set designer are all first-rate. The split-second entrances and exits were almost perfectly

Theatre review

Noises Off

Kanata Theatre

Earl of March High School

May 11 to 14

done opening night, the frantic pace was maintained throughout, and there wasn't a bad performance from anyone in the cast of 10, although articulation was occasionally sloppy.

Jenefer Haynes deserves special mention for her top-notch timing and her hilariously broad physical performance, as does Stewart Wheeler, who has to hop up and down several flights of stairs in one act and then roll down another set in the third.

As the constantly harassed director, Brooke Keneford is also excellent as he spirals into increasingly hysterical fits of rage at the endless mishaps of his actors.

Set designer Ron Maslin has done a great job with the complicated two-storey set that involves more than eight doors and has to be reversible for different acts.

Audience members who remain in their seats during either of the two intermissions will get to see the many stage hands emerge to move the huge pieces around. On Wednesday, they won a deserved round of applause for their work.

Theatre Review

'Noises Off' a hilarious send-up

by Amanda Gibbs

Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* is a theatrical send-up of the dramatic form which has been explored quite extensively by the Kanata Theatre this season — the

farce. It lampoons the crazy situations, the physical, almost burlesque performances, and the actors themselves who become the caricatures that they portray night after night. The result is a

very funny parody which mimics such "froth" to the highest degree.

This piece is a play within a play, which allows the audience to see the antics onstage as well as off. One act from the farce within the farce is repeated three times; however we see this same act from three different perspectives. The first is that of a dress rehearsal in which we are introduced to the actors and their desperate director, played with inimical grouching by Brooke Keneford. His farcical players are worried about character motivations, forget lines, get lost and are basically a rag tag bunch. The scenes that these actors finally wade through are a pastiche of many of the conventions of the insane world of the farce. *Nothing On*, the name of the play they are trying to stage, is an oversexed comedy of terrors—a farcical nightmare.

In the next act we see the characters from backstage with the entire set being turned around. The audience then discovers that the actors are not so different from their characters. There are backstage intrigues, love affairs, running around. Is art imitating reality?

And finally, the audience views the play from its traditional perspective, and sees how the intricate farce falls apart after a long touring season.

While the whole theme tended to wear thin after the second act, the performances kept the play moving and exciting to watch. The blocking of the actors movements, which tended to be very complicated, and the wonderful timing of the fast-paced banter were the product of some great directing by Jim Holmes.

The cast itself was very consistent. Every one of the nine members gave polished performances. There were several of particular note, one being Stuart Wheeler's very physical portrayal of the male ingenue. His gestures, pratt-falls and general jumping about were hilarious and a fine example of comedic timing. As well, Jenefer Haynes was perfect as the old cockney maid/and the aging actress. Yet every one of the actors deserves kudos for their contribution to an excellent ensemble of players.

The set design was superb as usual, with several flights of stairs and doors everywhere. It is certainly a difficult play to stage and yet all the elements came together during last week's run. Perhaps this tongue-in-cheek piece was a fitting end to a season of farces. Next season's line-up, in celebration of the Kanata Theatre's 20th anniversary, looks very exciting with plays by Edward Albee and the play *84, Charing Cross Road* which was recently made into a great motion-picture. And if *Noises Off* is an indication of things to come, one can be sure that it will be a very good season indeed.



Noises off
or
Nothing on!



a change
of
scene →

























BEDROOM
DOOR
SHH!

MEZZANINE
LOO

←
KITCHEN

DOWN-
STAIRS
LOO

















