

Past Productions

As Good As New	1981
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	1982
Blithe Spirit	1983
Night Must Fall	1984
Cat On The Fiddle	1985
A Murder Has Been Arranged	1986
Abigail's Party	1987
Habeus Corpus	1987
Music Hall	1988
The Hollow	1988
The Farndale Murder Mystery	1989
Do Not Disturb	1990
More Tea Vicar	1990
When We Are Married	1991
Cinderella	1991
The Farndale Macbeth	1992
Confusions	1992
Private Lives	1993
Dick Whittington	1993
Music Hall	1993
Family Planning	1994
A Chorus Of Disapproval	1994
How The Other Half Loves	1995
We'll Meet Again	1995
The Witch's Revenge	1995
What The Butler Saw	1996
A Funny Thing Happened...	1996
Steel Magnolias	1997
Shiver Me Timbers	1997
The Weekend	1998
Season's Greetings	1998
Play On	1999
Aladdin	1999

Our thanks to Smarden Post Office and to The Flying Horse for selling tickets for this production.

The Dining Room	2000
A Millennium Revue	2000
She Stoops To Conquer	2000
Out Of Order	2001
Sleeping Beauty	2001
Bedroom Farce	2002
A Golden Jubilee Revue	2002
Hay Fever	2002
Way Upstream	2003
Cinderella	2003
Music Hall	2004
Strewth	2004
Gym & Tonic	2005
Music Hall	2005
Keep Smiling Through	2005
Dick Whittington	2005
Outside Edge	2006
Blackadder	2006
Anything Goes	2007
Robin Hood	2007
Aladdin	2007
Let Me Entertain You	2008



Our next production will be staged here in The Charter Hall on **Friday, 27th** and **Saturday, 28th** **November.**



Smarden Players

Present

Michael Frayn's

Noises

Off!

Cast in order of appearance

Dotty Otley/Mrs Clacket	~	Pat Palmer
Lloyd Dallas - Director	~	Peter Gibbs
Garry Lejeune/ Roger Tramplemain	~	Geoffrey Fletcher
Vicki/Brooke Ashton	~	Kate Randolph
Frederick Fellowes/ Phillip Brent	~	Hilary Millen
Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent	~	Lea Randolph
Poppy - Asst Stage Manager	~	Meilissa Woodall
Tim - Stage Manager	~	Mike Twort
Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar	~	David Robbins

Directed by Kathy Gibbs

Produced by Smarden Players

Set Design - Peter Gibbs

Constructed by members of the Players
with special thanks to Jeff Tumbridge

Lighting & Sound - Mike Townsend & Amanda Hill

Backstage - Jan Barnes, Sara Drury, Simon Peek

Prompt - Fran Lester

Front of House - Michelle Holmwood, Phil Holmwood



Grand Theatre

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Proprietors: GRAND THEATRE (Weston-super-Mare) LIMITED
General Manager: E. E. A. GRADSHAW

The Grand Theatre
Weston-super-Mare
is a Member of the
Grand Group

Commencing Tuesday 15th January for One Week Only

Evenings at 7.45

Matinee: Wednesday
at 2.30

Saturday at 3.00
and 8.30

Otatar Productions Ltd

present

DOTTY OTLEY

BELINDA BLAIR

GARRY LEJEUNE

in

NOTHING ON

by

ROBIN HOUSEMONGER

with

SELSDON MOWBRAY

BROOKE ASHTON

FREDERICK FELLOWES

Directed by **LLOYD DALLAS**

Designed by **GINA STAIRWELL**

Lighting by
CHUCK SPANNER

Costumes by
PATSY BUTTON

WORLD PREMIERE PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR!

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

The use of cameras and tape recorders is forbidden.

The management reserve the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

From the Theatre rules "All seats shall be available for use during all performances"

"The flap curtain shall be lowered during each performance".

NOTHING ON

by ROBIN HOUSEMONGER

Cast in order of appearance:

Mrs Clackett	DOTTY OTLEY
Roger Tramplemain	GARRY LEJEUNE
Vicki	BROOKE ASHTON
Philip Brent	FREDERICK FELLOWES
Flavia Brent	BELINDA BLAIR
Burglar	SELSDON MOWBRAY
Sheikh	FREDERICK FELLOWES

The action takes place in the living-room of the Brents' country home, on a Wednesday afternoon

for OTSTAR PRODUCTIONS LTD

Company and Stage Manager	TIM ALLGOOD
Assistant Stage Manager	POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR

Production credits

Sardines by Sardine Services. Miss Ashton's lenses by Double Vision Optical Ltd. Antique silverware and cardboard boxes by Mrs J. G. H. Norton-Taylor. Stethoscope and hospital trolley by Severn Surgical Supplies. Straitjacket by Kurnly Restraints Ltd. Coffins by G. Ashforth and Sons.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of EUROPEAN BREWERIES in sponsoring this production.

Behind The Dressing Room Doors

DOTTY OTLEY makes a welcome return to the stage to create the role of Mrs. Clackett after playing Mrs. Hackett, Britain's most famous lollipop lady ('Ooh, I can't hardly, old me lolly up!') in over 300 episodes of TV's *ON THE ZEBRAS*. She was born in Malta, the only daughter of Lt. Cdr. Clive Otley, R.N., D.S.M., and trained at the Estelle Birkwood School of Drama and Allied Arts, winning the Bronze Medal, and going on to the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage, where she gained invaluable experience as ASM in successful productions like *AS YOU DESIRE* and *STARCHED APRONS*. Understudying Bee Duffell in *HADDOCK'S EYES* at the New Lindsey Theatre, Notting Hill Gate, and Margaret Lockwood in *PETER PAN* at the Scala, was followed by The King's Theatre, Peebles for a season, and then the Duke's Players at Lyme Regis for the better part of two seasons, and this in turn led to a prolonged stay in Australia, where she enjoyed some of the biggest successes of her career. When she gets the time she intends writing her memoirs, she says.

BELINDA BLAIR (Flavia Brent) has been on the stage since the age of four, when she made her debut in *SINBAD THE SAILOR* at the old Croydon Hippodrome as one of Miss Tom Tanner's Ten Tapping Tots. She subsequently danced her way round this country, Southern Africa, and the Far East in shows like *ZIPPEDY-DOO-DA!* and *HERE COMES LES GIRLS!* A damaged tendon led to her first straight parts in *GOOD TIME GIRL*, *LADIES OF THE NIGHT*, and *RING TWICE FOR RITA*. More recently she has been seen in such comedy hits as *DON'T MR. DUDDLE!*, *WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED?*, and *TWICE TWO IS SEX*. She is married to scriptwriter Terry Wough, who has contributed lead-in material to most of TV's chat shows. They have two sons and three retrievers.

GARRY LEJEUNE (Roger Tramplemain) was twice winner of the Rose Bruford Medal for Effort. His many successful tours have brought him to Weston-super-Mare only once before, when he was starring in *THE ADVENTURES OF A WINDOW DRESSER*. He has made innumerable television appearances, but is perhaps best-known as 'Cornetto', the ice-cream salesman who stirs the hearts of all the lollipop ladies in *ON THE ZEBRAS*. Recently made his 'big screen' debut in *UP THE VIRGIN SOLDIERS*, for which he was nominated as Best Male Newcomer under Forty in any British Low-Budget Comedy Film by readers of the *SUN* newspaper.

SELSDON MOWBRAY (Burglar) first 'trod the boards' in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* with the Ben Greet Players, with whom he toured for three years, playing, among other roles, *Moth*, *Mustardseed*, and *Nerissa* (!) After war service in the Artists' Rifles, outstanding seasons with various repertory companies across the length and breadth of Great Britain led to his first West End play, *KELLY'S EYE*. Then 'alfresco' in Regent's Park for several seasons, playing leads. To Stratford thence for *Mercutio*, *King John*, and the Porter in *MACBETH*. To Hollywood for several good supporting roles, including Stand-in to Robert Newton. Back home he played *King Lear* in Portsmouth, and joined the BBC Rep for two months in 1938. Great War No. Two saw him back in Khaki. Invalided out in 1940 he continued to serve by joining Ensa, and performing all over the world in many different 'Theatres of War'. To Dublin in 1946, where he set up his own touring company playing the Classics, and rivalling the great Agnew Macmaster. Returned to England in 1952 and set up his own tour - a revival of *MR. CINDERS*. Since then, apart from an occasional excursion to 'tread the green', he has been busy writing his autobiography, which he is thinking of titling *HANGING ON THE WALL*.

BROOKE ASHTON (Vicki) is probably best known as the girl wearing nothing but 'good, honest, natural froth' in the Hauptbahnhofbrau lager commercial. But she has enjoyed a flourishing stage career, extending from a widely acclaimed Dandini in Hull to six months in the Lebanon with PIXIE PEARLS. Her television appearances range from Girl at Infants' School in ON THE ZEBRAS to Girl in Strip Joint in ON PROBATION. Cinemagoers saw her in THE GIRL IN ROOM 14, where she played the Girl in Room 312.

FREDERICK FELLOWES (Philip Brent) comes from a theatrical family – his parents were a popular speciality dance act of the thirties and forties, 'The Funny Fellowes'. He taught at a prep school near Hayward's Heath before bowing to family tradition and joining the Osmosis Players. There followed successful seasons in Nairobi, Ventnor, and Southwold, and he was most recently seen in the controversial all-male version of THE TROJAN WOMEN. He is happily married, and lives near Crawley, where his wife breeds pedigree dogs. 'If she ever leaves me,' he says, 'it will probably be for an Irish wolfhound!'

ROBIN HOUSEMONGER (Author) was born in Worcester Park, Surrey, into a family 'unremarkable in every way except for an aunt with red hair who used to sing all the high twiddly bits from THE MERRY WIDOW over the tea-table.' He claims to have been the world's most unsuccessful gents hosiery wholesaler, and began writing 'to fill the long hours between one hosiery order and the next.' He turned this experience into his very first play, SOCKS BEFORE MARRIAGE, which ran in the West End for nine years. Several subsequent plays have been produced, and at least one of them broke box office records in Perth, Western Australia. NOTHING ON is his seventeenth play.

LLOYD DALLAS (Director) read English at Cambridge, and stagecraft at the Salisbury. A Commonwealth Scholarship took him to Princeton, where he spent his time 'commuting to New York to see Miller and musicals on Broadway, and Lee Strasberg and Tallulah Bankhead at a party on East 10th St.' Since then Lloyd has directed plays 'in most parts of Britain,' winning the South of Scotland Critics' Circle Special Award in 1968. In 1972 he directed a highly successful season for the National Theatre of Sri Lanka. In recent years Lloyd has probably become best-known for his brilliant series of 'Shakespeare in Summer' productions in the parks of the inner London boroughs.

TIM ALLGOOD (Company Stage Manager) trained for a career in Market Research, and became interested in the theatre only through a chance holiday visit to a local production of THERE'S A GIRL IN MY SOUP. He had got himself taken on by the company as Assistant Stage Manager before he realised that the girl in question was not only in the soup, but also married, with two growing children! During a production of HAMLET at the Lyceum, Portsmouth, he took over the part of Polonius at short notice, but subsequently found himself more in demand on the technical side. His most recent job was with BETROTHED, a thriller by Sam Brennick, both on the tour prior to its West End opening in December 1980, and again on the tour which followed the conclusion of its successful West End run in January 1981.

POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR (Assistant Stage Manager) is from a family found more often on the Boards of leading companies than on the boards with touring companies. Her father is chairman of European Breweries, but has been 'terribly sweet about it all – so far!' After schools in Cheltenham and Montreux she found life far too full to leave time for work. So this is her first job and she is enjoying the challenge enormously. Her hobbies include riding, ski-ing, tennis, reading good books, and loving anything small and furry.

SYNOPSIS

"The funniest farce ever written.... A veritable celebration of truly awful theatre, a backstage explanation of how things got that way, and a magnificent coda of how they just got worse. The bad has never had it so good!" ~ N.Y. Post

Act I

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 II

We hear the first act of *Nothing On* from backstage, after it's been running a month

Act III

We are taken back to the first act of *Nothing On*, this time after two months of touring