



Announces Open Auditions for Michael Frayne's

NOISES OFF

Directed by ALMA BECKER

Sunday, February 21st and Monday, February 22nd - 7 to 9PM
At the Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park

About the Play – The finale of HMT's 25th season is Michael Frayne's hilarious farce in which he exposes the off stage amorous antics of an English theatre company on tour. The back stage hi-jinks threaten to disrupt their current production of *NOTHING ON*. Our actors will each play two characters – an actor in the theatre company and a role in their production of *NOTHING ON*. All the pleasures of a farcical story are present – chases, collisions, multiple slamming doors, mistaken identities, miscellaneous seductions, and drastic misunderstandings – all adding up a celebratory spoof of life in the theatre.

Company of Actors – *NOISES OFF* requires a skilled group of comic actors to create a spontaneous and high-energy production. Besides wonderful comic timing and keen concentration the actors will need to have physical agility and stamina. The play is composed of three different versions of *NOTHING ON* (the play within the play) and the actors will need to have sharp memories for the verbal and choreographed repetition of the text and staging. The two-story setting will require ease of movement on stair units, and no fear of heights. And all the characters require English accents.

Cast Breakdown:

Dotty Otley (Mrs. Clackett in *NOTHING ON*) - 55 - 65; a jolly, spry character actress who has put her own money into the production of *NOTHING ON* as a starring vehicle for herself; though she has appeared in many memorable roles her own memory is not always dependable. She is currently the object of affection of one of the younger actors. Stirs things up, even when she doesn't know it, both on stage in *NOTHING ON* and backstage. Actor must enjoy the smell of sardines.

Lloyd Dallas (Director) - 40 - 55; an egocentric director who works non-stop and has a love interest (or two) in each production he directs; fancies himself a ladies man; a condescending opportunist who thinks he's above the actors he directs and everyone else. He'd like to stay out of the fray but finally joins in for the culminating chaos of *NOTHING ON* and *NOISES OFF*.

Garry Lejeune (Roger Tramplemain in *NOTHING ON*); 30's; the young leading man currently enamored with the leading lady Dotty though she is somewhat his senior; a nice kind of guy, the sensitive type; always has a lot of say but never finishes his thoughts. In *NOTHING ON* he plays Tramplemain - a horny real estate agent who pretends he owns one of the houses he handles and his love interest is the ingénue, Vicki.

Brooke Ashton (Vicki in *NOTHING ON*): early 20's; an attractive, near-sighted and accident prone ingénue who can't keep track of her contact lenses or her clothes; one of the director's love interests. A little ditsy or perhaps naïve. Energetic and willing. Actor must be comfortable appearing in underwear on stage. As Vicki in *NOTHING ON* she is a Tax Agent who is more interested in hanky panky than tax evaders.

Poppy Norton-Taylor (Assistant Stage Manager and Understudy for *NOTHING ON*): early 20's; this is Poppy's first theatre job; efficient and determined but oh so gullible; unhappily she's the *other* love interest of the director. Often called on to do too many jobs at once - lives in a state of confusion and potential upset. Has a sense she's in the wrong place at the wrong time. Replaces Vicki in Act II - without a skirt.

Frederick Fellowes (Philip Brent and Sheikh in *NOTHING ON*): 40's; some insecurities as an actor - wants to do things 'right.' He prefers things (like plays) to be logical. His wife has just left him in Act I. Seeing violence of any kind gives him a nosebleed. Role involves a lot of physical humor: character walks with his trousers around his ankles for several pages including on stairs. He also gets his hands glued to things. In *NOTHING ON* he plays the well-to-do playwright who lives in Spain with his wife in order to avoid British taxes.

Belinda Blair (Flavia Brent in *NOTHING ON*): 40's; chatty, charming, and chummy with Freddie; seems to know numerous secrets. In *NOTHING ON* she plays the playwrights pampered and wife who misreads circumstances and turns jealous and hostile (this happens in her 'real' life also.)

Tim Allgood (Stage Manager and Understudy; Philip's double as Sheikh in *NOTHING ON*): 30's - 40's; the organized trouble-shooter of the company who is no match for the shenanigans of the actors. Always caught in the middle. As a jack of all trades he fixes doors, runs errands, tries to hold things together. And then he is expected to play two roles at the same time or act on stage at the same time he's supposed to lower the curtain from off stage. Also sleep deprived.

Selsdon Mowbray (Burglar in *NOTHING ON*): 60's; a friend of Dotty's; a character actor with a reputation for drinking too much, too often; it may be true or not; but the acting company is always alert about his whereabouts and hidden bottles of booze. A little hard of hearing. In *NOTHING ON* he plays the burglar who longs for the time he broke into banks not houses. Discovers his long lost daughter is the one with 'nothing on.'

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About Rehearsals - Pre-Rehearsals: Three or four rehearsals between Feb 28 (Sun) and March 4 (Thur) to include readings of the script and English accent sessions, 7:00 – 10:00pm. Five weeks of Rehearsals to tech: March 7 – April 8, Sunday through Thursday, 7:00 – 10:00pm. Note about Memorization: Due to the nature of Frayne's three act play, including lots of physical humor and repetitive (but slightly altered) dialogue taking place on a complicated turntable set, the cast will have very early off book dates.

Production Dates: Weekends April 16th – May 2nd

About the Director- Alma Becker is a Senior Artist in Residence at Skidmore College where she recently directed *THE WOMEN*. In addition to teaching acting and directing at Skidmore she has directed numerous productions including: *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*, *THE INSECT PLAY*, *THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT*, and *THE TEMPEST*. She serves on HMT's Artistic Advisory Board and has directed HMT productions of *PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE*, *OUR TOWN*, and *THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK* among others.

Auditions will be from the script. Please bring a current photo to auditions, photos will not be returned
Scripts are available at the Saratoga Springs Public Library at the Reference Desk.

For further information, please call Home Made Theater at 587-4427