Auditions
for
Noises Off
by Michael Frayn

Arnette Scott Ward Performing Arts Center
Chandler-Gilbert Community College
2626 E. Pecos Rd., Chandler, AZ 85225

Auditions: Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 5 p.m.

WHAT IS NOISES OFF ABOUT?
This popular, hilarious comedy has often been called the funniest farce ever written. Critics call the play “spectacularly funny” and “a festival of delirium”. Noises Off is a play within a play. It is about an ambitious director and his troupe of mediocre actors. The cast and crew are putting together a silly bedroom comedy titled, Nothing On - a single-set farce in which lovers frolic, doors slam, clothes are tossed away, and embarrassing hi-jinks ensue.

The three acts of Noises Off expose different phases of the disastrous show, Nothing On:
- Act One: On Stage during dress rehearsal.
- Act Two: Backstage during a matinee performance
- Act Three: On stage during a delightfully ruined performance

PERFORMANCES
Thursday, October 16 at 7:30 pm; Friday, October 17 at 7:30 pm;
Saturday, October 18 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm

REHEARSALS
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm starting Friday, September 5.
These are available days/times for rehearsals. Actors will not attend all rehearsal time slots. Depending on actors’ schedules, they will only be required to attend two or three rehearsals per week up until tech week.

Tech Rehearsals will be on October 13-15th from 5 pm to 11 pm. ALL actors must attend ALL tech rehearsals.
Once cast in the play, all actors must register for THP201. THP201 does not meet at an additional class time.
This is the class that gives you credit for our rehearsal time.

The set for this show is intense and actors must work on the set for a minimum of 10 hours.
We may have one Load-in/Saturday rehearsal, TBA.

Actors enrolled in THP213 tech theater may also do the play if cast. We will work around the time conflict.

PREPARE
Headshots and resumes are always appreciated, but not required. Auditions will include improv and movement based activities as well as cold readings. You will be asked to create different voices and characters, so bring your personality and be prepared to have a good time!

CONTACT INFORMATION
shalynn.reynolds@hotmail.com     Performing Arts Office    480 732 7343
Name ___________________________________ Age ______
(as you would want to appear in the program)

Phone ___________________________ Secondary Phone________________________

Address __________________________________ City ______________ State __ Zip ______

Email _____________________________

Do you have any requests or restrictions concerning your participation in this semester’s production?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

List any past productions you have performed in (Music Theater, Theater, Dance) with the production name and mo/yr performed. Attach a resume if you have one.
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Have you had dance training?  ___ Yes  ___ No  If yes, what type ____________________
____________________________________________________________________________

How many credit hours are you registered for this semester ________________________

How many hours per week will you be working this semester ________________________
Performers in the production are REQUIRED to complete 10 hours of assistance in either the costume or scene shop.

Please indicate your areas of interest:
Costuming ____  Set Construction ____  Props _____
Additional work options may be available in tech support or office assistance.

Performers selected for participation must enroll in the appropriate class section before the rehearsals begin and be a student in good standing throughout the production.

Performers are also responsible for providing ONE usher for one of the performances. A sign up sheet is available in the office and should be arranged at least two weeks prior to the performance. The usher will be allowed to view the production for free.

Performers are expected to be on time for all scheduled rehearsals and curtain calls. They agree to be fully prepared and ready to work cooperatively with cast and directors.

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Please note all known conflicts with rehearsal and performances here:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Your attendance is required at all scheduled dates not listed as a conflict above.

Statement of Acceptance:
I have read the terms of participation above and I agree to fulfill my obligations in fully participating in this production. I understand that college credit will be posted to my transcript based on my participation and fulfillment of this agreement. I also understand my MCCCD Student Account will be assessed $25 for each script given me if not returned before the beginning of the show’s last performance and/or for each costume, accessory or prop not turned in immediately after the last performance. I will sign a separate contract explaining the Lease Agreement.

Name ___________________________ Date ___________________________ 

*********** To be completed when role is accepted ***********

_____________  Actor/Actress  ______________

role/s
Noises Off
Character Breakdown

Noises Off is a play within a play and a farce. The actors in Noises Off are putting on a play entitled Nothing On. They are from England and actors will use British accents.

MALE ROLES

Tim Allgood
Tim is the stage manager of Nothing On. As well as having his own stage management responsibilities, he is also Freddie’s body double in one scene and understudy for all of the male roles. He is incredibly tired and overworked, having not been to bed for 48 hours. He is logical and sensible but frequently finds himself overruled and bossed around by Lloyd, particularly in Act II, when he is sent to buy some flowers for Brooke instead of running the show. He is constantly stressed and clearly not comfortable in front of an audience, getting tongue-tied and flustered when he has to apologize for the late start of the show in Act III.

Lloyd Dallas
Lloyd is the director of Nothing On, although his heart does not seem to be in it. In Act I he is tired and desperate to finish the dress rehearsal and his stress levels rise as the rehearsal is constantly brought to a standstill by various members of the cast. Most of the time he prevents his anger from showing by patronizing the actors, referring to them as ‘love’ and ‘honey’ and making snide remarks at their expense. He is having affairs with Brooke and Poppy, although it is clear that his affections lie more with Brooke. When his temper reaches bursting point, he vents his frustrations at Brooke, cruelly humiliating her in front of the rest of the cast. During his visit to the production on tour, he is unwilling to do anything to help the show, prioritizing spending time alone with Brooke. However, at the end of the play, it is his quick thinking that saves the performance.

Frederick Fellowes
Freddie is a seasoned actor, most well-known for his appearances in various TV hospital dramas, who plays the roles of Philip Brent and the Sheikh in Nothing On. He has a very nervous disposition, suffering from nosebleeds whenever he is faced with violence and is overcome with dizziness at the sight of blood. He seems weary and stressed during Act I and we later find out that this is because his wife has left him that morning. Referred to by Garry as ‘that poor halfwit,’ he is not particularly intelligent and for the most part of Act II is completely unaware of the impact his platonic chat with Dotty has had on her relationship with Garry.

Garry Lejeune
Garry is a fairly well-known actor who plays the role of estate agent Roger Tramplemain in Nothing On. He is having a secret relationship with Dotty Otley, with whom he previously acted in the sitcom On The Zebras. He is well-meaning, constantly trying to keep the cast’s morale up but also argumentative and defensive, frequently standing up to Lloyd during Act I. However, the majority of the time he comes across as inarticulate when he tries to express himself, frequently leaving sentences unfinished and his listeners confused. He takes himself and his work very seriously and is incredibly possessive of Dotty, turning to violence against Freddie in Act II, when he believes he is being cheated on. However, he tries to remain as professional as possible throughout Act III, despite the various problems thrown at him.

Selsdon Mowbray
Selsdon is an elderly Shakespearean actor, who has only ever played supporting roles throughout his career. He plays the small role of the Burglar in Nothing On. He is apparently hard-of-hearing and frequently misses his cue to enter, although Lloyd suggests that actually ‘he can hear better than I can.’ However, when he is onstage, he is an enthusiastic actor, delivering each of his lines as if it is a Shakespearean monologue. Unfortunately he frequently forgets his lines, freezing mid-sentence and waiting for a prompt. He is also an alcoholic and because of this he is falsely accused of hiding multiple bottles of whisky around the set.
**FEMALE ROLES**

**Brooke Ashton**
Brooke is a relatively new and inexperienced actress, appearing as Inland Revenue tax collector Vicki in *Nothing On*. Although she has had several minor roles on screen, this is her stage debut. She is having an affair with director Lloyd Dallas, unaware that he is also having a relationship with Poppy. She is highly emotional and practices meditation to calm her nerves. The majority of the time she is oblivious to what is going on around her, rarely listening to the conversations of her fellow actors. She is eager to impress and even when things go wrong during the performance, she carries on regardless, unable to adapt to changes or mistakes. She wears contact lenses which she has a habit of losing and finds it very difficult to see anything without them.

**Belinda Blair**
A former dancer, Belinda is a successful actress, having appeared in number of farces and now playing the role of Flavia Brent in *Nothing On*. Of all the cast, she is the most resilient, constantly rallying her fellow actors and supporting them through their various dilemmas. However, her constantly positive attitude seems to grate on other members of the cast and it is suggested that there may be an element of falseness to her sunny disposition. She is the source of all gossip, filling Lloyd in on the various relationships and dramas within the company. She is very protective of Freddie and clashes violently with Dotty when she thinks that there is something going on between them.

**Poppy Norton-Taylor**
Poppy is the inexperienced but well-intentioned assistant stage manager of *Nothing On*. As well as being responsible for cueing the show, Poppy is understudy for all of the female characters. She has recently been having a secret relationship with Lloyd and at the end of Act II we find out that she is pregnant with his child. Despite the fact that she frequently gets the blame when things go wrong, she is still in love with him. She is very highly-strung, constantly on the verge of tears and becomes very jealous of Brooke when she finds out that she has also been involved with Lloyd.

**Dotty Otley**
Dotty is the leading actress of the *Nothing On* company, playing Mrs. Clackett the cockney housekeeper. Famous for her role as Mrs. Hackett the lollipop lady in the TV sitcom *On The Zebras*, as well as her many stage roles playing similar characters, she is not only starring in, but also financing this production of *Nothing On*, using her life savings in the hope that she can ‘put a little something by’. She is forgetful, getting her lines and moves wrong throughout Act I. Nevertheless, she is an exuberant actress, playing the role with energy and good comic timing. She enjoys being the center of attention and is flirtatious, causing Garry – a younger actor with whom she is having a relationship - to think she is cheating on him with Freddie. She is also shown to be something of a drama queen in Act II, when she initially refuses to perform and has a vicious streak which sees her tying Garry’s shoelaces together. By the end of the play she is behaving very unprofessionally. However, with Lloyd’s help, it is she who ultimately saves the play with her quick thinking, as it draws towards the final curtain.