

PLAYBILL

CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

www.cds.ky

NOISES OFF!

by Michael Frayn

This amateur production of "Noises Off" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Playing at Prospect Playhouse, Red Bay

May 2021 - 7:30 p.m. - Thu/Fri/Sat 20-22, 27-29

June 2021 - 7:30 p.m. - Thu/Fri/Sat 3-5, 10-12



Cayman Drama Society

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PG-16

Strong language

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Prospect Playhouse for the Cayman Drama Society's production of *Noises Off*. As I write this, my first message as Chairman of CDS, I can't help but reflect on how incredibly fortunate we are as an organisation and as a community. While theatres remain shuttered around the globe, we are able to experience a live production without the need for masks, or social distancing. We are indeed in a unique position, one I am very grateful for.

I am also thrilled to see this production finally make it to our stage. Director Paul Njoka had already gone through the process of casting in 2020 when the pandemic hit. Better late than never, I say! I would like to thank Paul Njoka for his persistence in bringing his vision to the stage, Paul de Freitas and his team for the amazing set design – work that started as soon as the curtain closed on *The Women*. Thank you to Fay Anne de Freitas for your time and efforts as Producer, and last but certainly not least, thank you to the amazing cast and crew for bringing this show to life.

Finally, to our patrons, thank you for supporting community theatre and sharing the show. If you are not yet a member of the Cayman Drama Society, we encourage you to join. As a member you will get early-bird opportunities for tickets, invitations to members' events, and you will be able to stay up-to-date on the latest news from CDS. There are also numerous volunteer opportunities, so please consider getting involved.

Enjoy the show!

Vanessa Hansen-Allott

Chairman 2021/2022





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Noises Off has been at the back of my mind since I first watched it at the Phoenix Players Theatre in Nairobi, Kenya in 1999. I was so fascinated by the hilarious and relatable inner workings of a cast prepping for a show. However, my dreams were always tapered by the realization of how much skill and finesse would be required from a set design perspective. I watched the play again at the San Francisco Playhouse in 2017 and after feeding Paul De Freitas a few Magners at the CDS bar, convinced him to help me design and build the set, if we ever did it in Cayman.

Initially scheduled to open in 2020 as CDS' 50th Anniversary show, the pandemic resulted in us losing a number of the original cast members who left the island or were otherwise unavailable to perform in 2021. Replacing the actors was a challenge, however, it allowed the production team to schedule targeted closed auditions with actors who had never performed at the Prospect Playhouse. I hope I'm not getting ahead of myself in writing that the closed auditions resulted in a perfectly cast play with every actor fitting into their roles seamlessly.

A successful show usually reflects a concerted effort from its Producer, and Fay Anne de Freitas has been a project management blessing. Fay Anne and I have worked together on and off stage in *Barefoot In The Park* (2018) and *Educating Rita* (2019), and I definitely could not have done this without her planning and execution. In the interest of adding more directors to the CDS pool, Catherine Marron joined the team as an Assistant Director and has been a tremendous asset. Catherine hopes to direct her own show in 2022 and I do not doubt that she will be successful.

I'd like to take the time to thank the Cayman Drama Society for allowing me to direct my fourth play at the Prospect Playhouse. And finally, a big thank you to the members of the Theatre Management committee for the time and effort it took in building such a complex, yet practical set. As you are about to see.... the set is the tenth character in our play within a play.

Please enjoy the show

Paul Nioka
Director

THEATRE MANAGER'S MESSAGE

It is time for a retrospective look back. You will remember that in 2004, Hurricane Ivan tore away much of the walls surrounding the Prospect Playhouse stage. Eventually, it was time to repair and rebuild.

Peter Phillips was Theatre Manager at the time – and he took the step which has made the staging of this play possible at the Prospect Playhouse. How? He not only repaired the damage but, in the process, lifted the height of the roof over the stage to just about 29 feet.

Why is this important? Well, if you have ever requested a tour backstage (and you are welcome as a member to ask for one), you will have seen that the roof is metal with strong, supporting metal rafters from which hang all of the things that need to be over the stage. The list includes lighting fixtures and cables, scrims and projection screens, borders – the black cloth across the top of the stage – and legs (the black cloth which define the edges – stage left and right, and many other temporary and permanent fixtures.

The key thing here is that the set for NOISES OFF is two storeys and 17 feet tall. If you subtract the height of the roof rafters, that leaves a space of 10 feet above the set into which to fit all of those things mentioned in the prior paragraph. And everything is adjustable – flown on ropes and wire/winch.

We should take the time to thank the Theatre Management committee (Paul de Freitas, Peter Pasold, Bill Mervyn, Liam Oko and Frank McGill) for the set build..

Paul de Freitas
Theatre Manager







THE CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

Presents

Noises Off

by Michael Frayn

This amateur production of “**Noises Off**” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

A play within a play in three acts. The cast of *Noises Off* are performing another play, *Nothing On*.

ACT ONE

Act One Nothing On - The living-room of the Brents' country home. Wednesday afternoon.
(Final Rehearsal: Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare.
Monday January 14)

ACT TWO

Act One - Nothing On - The living-room of the Brents' country home. Wednesday afternoon.
(Backstage: Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.
Wednesday matinee, February 13)

ACT THREE

Act One - Nothing On - The living-room of the Brents' country home. Wednesday afternoon.
(Final performance: Municipal Theatre,
Stockton-on-Tees. Saturday April 6)

PLEASE NOTE

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ACTING CLASSES FOR ADULTS

"Acting is the ability to dream on cue" ~ Ralph Richardson ~

Whether you are a complete beginner looking to have some fun and gain confidence, a seasoned performer looking for a challenge and to hone your skills, a professional wishing to improve their public speaking, or you just want a place to use your creative energies and have some fun, then we have something for you.

From weekly training classes to monthly workshops and training events, CDS is bringing acting classes to Grand Cayman!



DRAMA CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairytales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairytales" ~ Albert Einstein ~

Play and storytelling are a key part of everyone's childhood. Here, we create a supportive environment in which children and teenagers can practice self-expression, touch on issues of relevance to them and learn about stagecraft. This helps youths gain confidence as well as practical skills they can transfer to the outside world. Most importantly, we have fun!

**For more information or to book,
visit the training section at www.cds.ky**



CREW

DIRECTORS	Paul Njoka, Catherine Marron
PRODUCER	Fay Anne de Freitas
STAGE MANAGER.....	Amanda Vierra
COSTUMES	Fay Anne de Freitas
PROPERTIES	Giji Alex
CHARACTER WORKSHOP.....	Kirsty O’Sullivan (CDS CayStage)
CHILD/CDS LIAISON	Erica Ebanks, Adam Roberts
PRODUCTION DESIGN	Paul de Freitas
SET CONSTRUCTION.....	Paul de Freitas, Peter Passold, Bill Mervin, Liam Oko, Frank McGill
SET DECORATION	Amanda Vierra
SOUNDS & LIGHTS	Erica Ebanks
BACKSTAGE.....	Simone Middleton, Emma Oko, Jardae Barnes, Dante Bilchuris, Judah Heart, Martin Campion, Zoe Sulisz
PROGRAMME.....	Kirsty O’Sullivan, Paul de Freitas and Fay Anne de Freitas
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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



ANGELA PRETORIUS (POPPY NORTON)

Angela Pretorius who plays the role of Poppy, is a full time accountant and a part-time fitness trainer. Angela grew up in Durban, South Africa where she participated in many stage productions during her schooling career including playing the lead character, an ogre, in a winning school play in 2000. She has since enjoyed reading scripts and watching productions and since moving to Cayman in 2009 has had a stage reappearance on her bucket list. She attended the Cayman Drama Society Adult acting lessons with Ms. Kirsty Sullivan in 2018. Angela goes to show that it's never too late to rejoin the stage world..



DAVE SHERWIN (LLOYD DALLAS)

Dave is returning to the stage for the first time since his late teens, when he appeared as Jack opposite Dan Stevens (of Downton Abbey and Beauty and the Beast) in a UK production of Lord of the Flies. Since then, their careers have taken rather different routes, with Dave working as an attorney for 15 years. Before this long hiatus, Dave featured as a ragamuffin pickpocket in the 1994 West End revival of Oliver! under the watchful eye of Jonathan Pryce's Fagin, a lost boy terrorised by Brian Blessed's Captain Hook in a UK touring production of Peter Pan and as John in a youth production of Miss Saigon celebrating 10 years of the hit West End show. Dave's mother was also on the stage, though it is to her great disappointment that he acquired precisely none of her dancing genes. Dave had a brief and unsuccessful career as a professional rugby player with London Irish before turning gamekeeper and recently retired as an international referee after having taken charge of 18 test matches. Most importantly, he is a husband to the wonderful Victoria and father to two little girls aged 5 (Naia) and Ava (3) all of whom bring him great delight!



GABRIELLE WHEATON (DOTTY OTLEY)

Gabrielle has been involved with the Cayman Drama Society since she was a child, with her first performance being in The Wizard of Oz, held at the Inn Theatre at Royal Palms. Through the years she has taken on such roles as one of the old aunts in Arsenic and Old Lace, a young fiancée in Private Lives, a careworn sister in Dancing at Lughnasa and an eccentric tour guide in Lettice and Lovage. She has also directed A Midsummer's Night Dream and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, and every year appears as Grizz in the Playhouse Family Christmas Show. Noises Off marks her return to the stage in her first full-length play in several years.





CAST BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*



LIAM OKO (GARRY LEJEUNE)

Liam Oko in the role of Gary and Roger is originally from Nova Scotia Canada and has been performing since he was a young boy. After excelling at his high school drama program, Liam moved on to perform in numerous productions at the Bauer Theater in Antigonish Nova Scotia as well as having lead roles in the annual music of the night productions which included Joseph and the amazing technicolor dream coat and Honk the musical. Liam's work earned him a spot in the youth performance company at Neptune theater in Halifax NS appearing in the premiere production of shout the musical. Following shout Liam was selected to be part of the young actor's company at Neptune and appeared in the comedy Ashland Falls with the company in July of 2016. Liam also trained with the Stratford Shakespeare school in Stratford Ontario. Since arriving on island Liam has appeared in numerous productions at the playhouse including playhouse family Christmas over the last 5 years, Not Now Darling, Footloose, Barefoot in the Park, The diary of Anne frank, Proof and The illusion. This past February he was one of the assistant directors for the comedy the Women. Liam will be moving back to Canada to obtain his bachelor of fine arts in acting starting in the fall.



MICHAEL BISHOP (FREDERICK FELLOWS)

After a 30 year gap, Mike Bishop returned to the stage in 2016, performing in several CDS productions, including 'Diary of Anne Frank', 'Grease', 'Footloose' and 'Not Now Darling'. It is not unusual to find other members of Mike's family also volunteering around the theatre in the sound booth, operating a spotlight, helping backstage, greeting patrons at front of house and serving drinks at the bar!



MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN (SELSDON MOWBRAY)

Michael got his first "taste" of theatre at the Cayman Islands High School during his formative years. Thereafter life pursuit created opportunities overseas to explore acting classes, modelling and broadcasting amongst other studies. Michael returned to the local stage in 2007 and has constantly been involved in numerous productions locally and abroad with both the Cayman National Cultural Foundation and the Cayman Drama Society. Michael's pursuit of this craft has allowed for exploration of many genres from oratory to movies to live theatre; the variety has also included a broad spectrum of character roles from drama to comedy. Without a doubt, this pursuit is certainly a life passion for Michael and he views each opportunity as one to escape from reality for himself and the viewing audience.

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*



OLIVER BISHOP (TIM ALLGOOD)

Oliver has been acting and performing from a young age and has recently started in a variety of Cayman's theatre productions such as; *The Addams Family*, *Shrek the Musical* and *Grease*. Having left the island in 2018 to continue his performing arts career, Oliver turned down the road of music and has since been studying music production at university in Bristol.



VIRGINIA DOYLE (BROOKE ASHTON)

Virginia is thrilled to make her CDS debut with *Noises Off!* Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Ginna has been working as a professional actor in New York City for the past three years. Ginna made her Broadway debut in 2020 and most recently performed in the musical *August Rush*, directed by Tony Award-winning director John Doyle (not her dad, though they share the same name). Also a concert violinist, Ginna has played at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and was featured in a national commercial. She currently works for an esports startup and is thrilled to have been welcomed so warmly into Cayman's artistic community.



ZOE WALL: (BELINDA BLAIR)

Zoe has lived on island for 6 years and has enjoyed being part of the CDS family since she arrived. She has been on stage at the Prospect Playhouse performing in *RENT The Musical*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, 3 x Christmas Show's as well as performances through the training classes. Zoe is on the CDS Executive Committee and loves anything to do with the theatre. In the UK, she was on stage playing Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*, Sally in *Me and My Girl* along with other stage productions. She has done a fair bit of TV and short film acting for FilmFour, Channel 4 and Sky. She has three young boys and when she isn't ferrying them around the island to and from activities and school, you will find her helping clients on island with all their design, brand and merchandising needs.



CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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Annual endowment of CI\$10,000+

Benefits:

- Full page free advertisement in each production's program
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- Early bird ticket access
- Backstage cast meet and greet
- Wings announcement
- Reserved seating

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- Social media and radio mentions
- Discount 'keyword' for Curtain Call Bar
- Complimentary drink tickets

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Annual endowment of CI\$2,500+

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- Quarter page free advertisement in each production's program
- 2 complimentary tickets
- Brand recognition on our website
- Social media and radio mentions
- Discount 'keyword' for Curtain Call Bar
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Email: membership@cds.ky

CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

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CAYSTAGE MESSAGE

Caystage is now in its fifth year offering acting classes for children from 5+, and also to adults with all levels of experience. We performed our showcases in March, which featured adaptations of Peter Rabbit, The Wizard Of Oz, a Murder Mystery, and Romeo and Juliet for under 18s classes, and Ghosts, Macbeth, The Importance of Being Earnest, Lady Windermere's Fan, and a devised piece for the adults. These were well received, and we are now in a skills term; learning new techniques each week, which has been so popular we had to offer additional classes for one of the age groups. We are really proud of how far Caystage has come, and invite you to join our classes (or the wait list for classes, where necessary) by emailing training@cds.ky or visiting www.cds.ky/classes.

Don't forget we also support schools, and offer theatre in education workshops for English and Drama departments, or anywhere else we can be of use (what better way to bring a history class to life?) free of charge for the first two. It was also our pleasure to support Noises Off with a character development workshop during their early stage of rehearsal, and we hope you will enjoy this laugh out loud show!

Ms Kirsty

Head of Training and Support

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER & COMMITTEE

We are forever grateful to our team of volunteers. Without them, none of this would be possible.

The Curtain Call Bar at the Prospect Playhouse pride ourselves on buying local and are very grateful for the support we get from our suppliers, whose generosity means we remain the "best little bar" in Cayman.

As usual, we encourage you to place your bottles, plastics and cans in our recycle bins in the foyer. It's even greener to purchase one of our branded re-usable Cayman Drama Society cups! Not only are these a fabulous addition to any cupboard but they also mean that every drink you purchase will be at "Happy Hour" prices when poured into the cup. They are even big enough to hold a double serving of wine or double well drink plus mixer! Bring it back to every show that you attend.

Enjoy the show!!

Erica Ebanks

Front of House Manager & Committee



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Chairman.....Vanessa Hansen-Allott

Deputy Chairman.....Adam Roberts

Theatre Manager.....Paul de Freitas

Secretary.....Mike Bishop

Treasurer.....Stuart Broad

With

Melanie Wright, Erica Ebanks,

Simone Middleton, Rory Mann, Liam Oko,

Amanda Vierra, Agata Kalicki, Zoe Wall

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cayman Drama Society is committed to providing quality live theatre to educate, enrich and entertain, while providing lifelong learning opportunities and fostering creative expression.

The Cayman Drama Society was founded in 1970 and continues to be the leading provider of live theatrical entertainment on Grand Cayman.

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