

STAGE • WRITE

**The
Williamsburg
Players**
Community theatre
at its best

NOISES OFF

Written by Michael Frayn

April 19th - May 5th



It's all about doors and sardines. Or rather, the mayhem that ensues when a group of actors rehearse and then put on a show while letting their personal lives and individual idiosyncrasies get in the way. Michael

Frayn's *Noises Off*, the ultimate "Show-Within-A Show" opens on the Williamsburg Players stage April 19 and continues through May 5.

Noises Off revolves around the cast and crew of a new show, *Nothing On*, and gives the audience a look at what goes into putting on a show, and more importantly, what can go wrong. There are several shows that have taken on this theme, but *Noises Off* does it bigger and better than any other by giving the audience a view of the show from backstage. If you've ever thought actors can put aside their differences, maintain a professional demeanor and remain quiet backstage, *Noises Off* will definitely change your mind!

The cast of *Noises Off* consists of Jim Gandolfo as Lloyd, the frustrated director of *Nothing On* and Christine Fonsale as Dotty, the leading lady of the production. Dotty's current love interest, Garry Lejune (Larry Shaw Jr.) is in the production, as is one of Lloyd's current girlfriends, Brooke (Kat Brouse). Holly Johnson and Sam Miller play Belinda Blair and Frederick Fellowes, two dependable actors but each

with their own quirks. Chris Kozody and Kate Goddin are Tim and Poppy, the production's stage managers who try to keep things running amidst all the chaos. Rounding out the cast is Tony Gabriele as Selsdon, an aging actor who enjoys performing almost as much as he enjoys his whiskey.

The production is directed by Kimberly Vernall, most recently seen on the WP stage in our 2011 production of *42nd Street*. Amy Lyles serves as the production manager along with Clayton Hill serving as the stage manager.

Noises Off runs at the James-York Playhouse from April 19th through May 5th on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm and Saturday afternoons at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$18.00 and can be purchased online at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office at (757) 229-0431.

So, if you want your funny bone tickled, come see what has been billed as the funniest farce ever written. We guarantee you'll never look at theater the same way again!

INSIDE

A Tribute to Broadway Concert - Page 2

Upcoming Auditions - Page 2

Message from the Treasurer - Page 2

The Players People Volunteer Spotlight - Page 3

The Musical-Comedy-Who-Done-It "Curtains" - Page 3

Message from the President, Hugh Siggins - Page 4



A TOAST TO BROADWAY FUND RAISING CONCERT

An evening filled with musical tributes to the Great White Way. Solos, Duets and Group numbers from Broadway Musicals will be performed!

Come hear some of your favorite Broadway show tunes sung in concert as the Williamsburg Players hold this Fund Raising event to help cover some of the bills associated with opening the new venue.

**ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY
SAT. MAY 19 7:30 PM \$18.00**

Limited Seating

Visit www.williamsburgplayers.org or call (757) 229-0431 to purchase tickets today!

THANK YOU TO OUR SET STRIKE VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday, March 18th, *Pride and Prejudice* was put to bed, making way for our next show, the funniest face ever written, *Noises Off*.



The following people were instrumental in helping strike and clean the theater: Paul Carroll, Emma Cross, the Cross Family, Jim Dwyer, Alicia Hainsworth, Stacy Hasselbacher, Mark Hutter, Amy Lyles, Brandon Lyles, Amy Stallings, David Stallings, Jenny Taylor, Cate Westenberger, Christine Westenberger, Michael Westenberger, Zack Westenberger, Ed Whitacre, and Janae Whitacre.

Adopt a Chair

As you sit in the new auditorium, look down at the arms of your seat. If there's a nameplate there, then the purchase of that chair was made by one of our generous donors. If there's no nameplate, that chair still needs someone to adopt it. Please think about purchasing a chair and nameplate with a \$300 donation. Every chair deserves an owner.



A Message from the Treasurer

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our gift givers and ticket buyers. We are extremely appreciative of all the gifts we have received this fiscal year, and without you we would not have been able to achieve our newest asset, the new theater.



While it is new, we also recognize some improvements need to be made. Like moving into a new home and then adding a garage or a porch, we too must address some issues, some of which you, our patrons, have brought to our attention. Time and money will see they get addressed.

As one could imagine, along with from the \$1.7M mortgage, many other costs are associated with opening and operating a venue of this size. Some bills still linger from last year and other wish-list items still need to be purchased (see list below). We do not want to impose but your continued support is so very important right now. A small gift of \$50 from each of our 1,470 patrons would go such a long way right now to help us through the last few months of our current fiscal year. Now more than ever your continued generosity is so important. Larger gifts are welcomed as well and all gifts, no matter the size, are appreciated and tax-deductible.

If you like to make a larger gift donation and designate it for something specific please contact me at pnatale@williamsburgplayers.org or leave me a message on our business phone at (757) 229-1679 and I will return your call. Or if you prefer, you can just send your donation to PO Box 91, Williamsburg, VA 23187.

Normal Operating Expenses

Dominion Power - \$2,000 a month
Grounds Keeping - \$450 a month
Phone & Internet - \$250.00 a month
Musical Royalties - \$7,500 a show
Cleaning Company - \$500 a month
Playbill - \$1,200 a show

Past Due Bills

Theater Curtains - \$10,000 Balance
Theater Lighting System - \$3,000 Balance
Theater Sound System - \$7,500 Balance
Theater Seating - \$10,000 Balance
Engineering Consultants - \$25,000 Balance

Wish List

Lift to put up lights and drops - \$7,500
Lights for theater steps - \$4,000
Lights for driveway and sign - \$8,000
New shed for storage of props and lumber - \$3,750



UPCOMING AUDITIONS

Our Main Stage and Readers' Theatre are holding auditions. Perhaps you or someone you know would like to audition. As a first time performer looking to make their theatrical debut or a seasoned stage actor returning to the stage, all levels of talent are encouraged to audition.

For more information visit www.williamsburgplayers.org.

Main Stage

April 22 & 23 at 7:00 pm

Curtains

(See show information in the next column)

Cast: 8 principle leads (4M/4W), 8 supporting leads (7M/1W), 8 ensemble (4M/4W)

Prepare a song of no more than two minutes in length. Provide sheet music or Karaoke style CD (no words). No a capella. Dress comfortably for dance audition.

Principle leads require singing and movement. Supporting leads and ensemble require singing, movement and dance.

Any questions please contact the director, Peter Natale, on FaceBook or email him at peco@cox.net

Readers' Theatre

No Experience Required

May 20 & 21 at 7:00 pm

Well I Guess I'm Back

by William Black

Well I Guess I'm Back is the story of Jim and Nancy, two former competitors who worked at Thalhimers and Miller & Rhoads, but ultimately found they had enough in common that they became friends, then lovers. Ultimately, the relationship didn't work out, their careers took them in different directions, and twenty five years went by before they saw each other again at a flower and garden show in Atlanta. A let's catch up lunch at a nearby hotel begins the play, and even though they're both married, they realize the attraction they once felt for each other is still there. Like the song goes: *Love is lovelier, the second time you fall.*

**COMMENT
CORNER**

If you have a comment, a suggestion or an idea that you would like to share with us, you can contact us via regular mail at P.O. Box 91 Williamsburg 23187, email at webmaster@williamsburgplayers.org or leave a message on (757) 229-1679.

Please do not leave feedback on the ticket reservation line. Thank you!

COMING JUNE. 15th - JUNE 30th

CURTAINS

Book by Robert Holmes; Music by John Kander; Lyrics by Fred Ebb;
Additional Lyrics by John Kander and Rupert Holmes
Original Book & Concept by Peter Stone

It's the closing night performance of an out-of-town try-out of *Robbin' Hood!*, "a new musical of the Old West." The curtain bow resonates with a sour note from the faded voice of Jessica Cranshaw who can't act, can't sing, and can't dance - not even a little. As she takes her bow, she gasps her last breath and the cast rushes to their fallen star. A few hours later, an impromptu funeral ceremony is interrupted by a Homicide Detective who saw *Robbin' Hood!* in previews and thinks the cast are all spectacular performers. The Lieutenant has done some community theatre work himself, and is shocked to learn the show will be canceled. He reminds them they are a special breed known as "Show People." Full of song, dance, murder, mystery and a little slap-stick comedy, this show, from the creators of *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, is enjoyable from start to finish! It's a good old-fashioned musical-comedy with a little mystery and some wild west flavor mixed in!



Note: This production contains adult humor.



THE PLAYERS' PEOPLE Volunteer Spotlight

This issue we spotlight our set building and scene shop supervisor, Steve Olson.

Steve started with community theatre in 1968 with the Chatham Community Players production of *My Fair Lady*. This was the start of a twenty five year stay with them until moving to South Jersey. At Chatham, Steve was involved with set building, set design and back stage scene changes.

Next stop, after a ten year lay off from theatre work, he found himself in Martinsburg, WV, where he designed and built several shows. In November of 2011, Steve joined the Williamsburg Players, which he says has been most enjoyable. "In all," he says, "I have enjoyed doing all the jobs I have had with all the theatres." The *Noises Off* set in our upcoming production was designed by Steve.



The
Williamsburg Players

"Community Theatre at its Best"

P.O. Box 91
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
WILLIAMSBURG, VA
PERMIT NO. 41



A Message From the President

As our 55th season at the Williamsburg Players draws to a close, I am looking forward to our fourth play this year, *Noises Off*. I have read that this is one of the funniest farces that has ever been written. I am anxious to see what director Kim Vernall has done with the script. I hope our patrons feel the same way and if you are not a season subscriber, make sure you go to our website, www.williamsburgplayers.org, to get your tickets for this show. Our Premiere Night sponsor for *Noises Off* is The Structures Group who have been very instrumental in helping us with the new addition to our theater.

I reread the last two articles that I had written for StageWrite and noticed that I had spent a lot of ink asking for money to help us complete our construction program. This time, instead of asking, I want to thank everyone who contributed their time, talents and treasures to get our theater where it is today. We know that it is not perfect and we still have some opportunities for improvement, and thus are continually working to make our theater better.

Your Board of Directors has been working on the selections for the 2012-2013 season and we expect to announce these as soon as we have all the licenses in hand. As soon as we finalize the season, we will get the subscription brochures into the mail, so look for them in your mailbox in May. In addition, we will announce our selections on our website, our FaceBook page and as part of our board member welcome speech during *Noises Off*.

As a board, we recently gave a leave of absence to one of our newest members, Nick Christoff. He has been informed from his Reserve Unit that he is needed in Afghanistan for a six month tour of duty. We are proud of all people like Nick who give of their time to protect all of our freedoms which many times we take for granted. Nick, we wish you the best, thank you for your service to our country and come home safely to your place on the board of the Williamsburg Players.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next production!