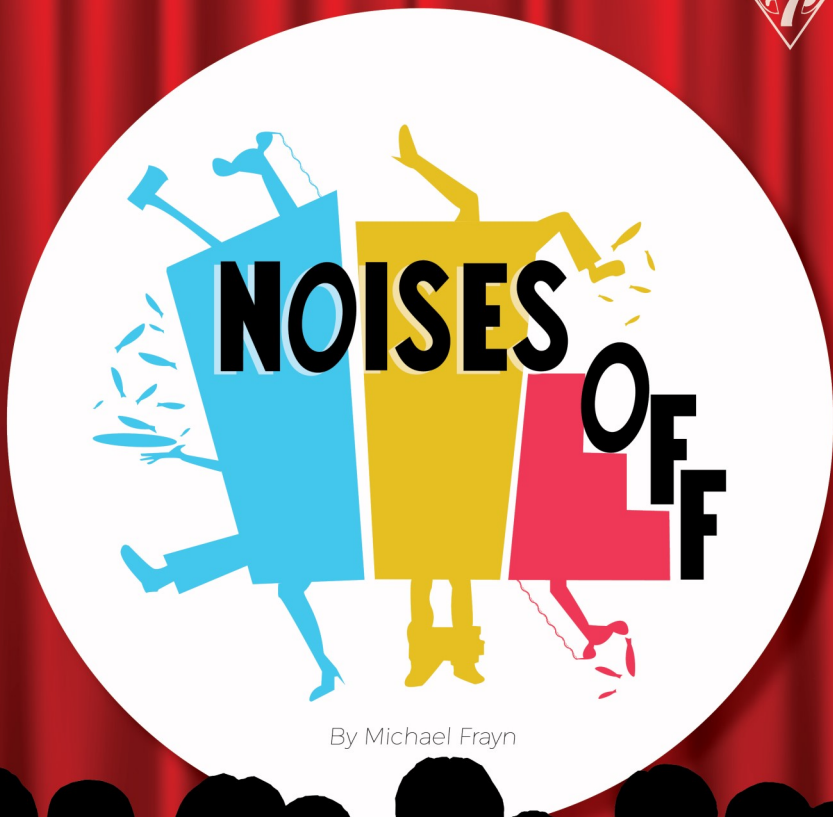


THEATRE 7 PRESENTS



By Michael Frayn



October 15-17 & 22-24, 2021

7:30PM / 2PM SUNDAY | DECATUR CIVIC CENTER

Brimming with slapstick comedy, a naughty backstage farce, with slamming doors, falling trousers and flying sardines!



Rated R: Strong language, adult situations



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“You should direct a show.” After being with Theatre 7 for 25 years, they finally convinced me to direct the chaos that is Noises Off. As a first-time director, I went in blind. I honestly had NO idea what the producer did, wardrobe needs, or what budget constraints were.

When the pandemic hit, Noises Off was postponed not once, but twice from its original April 2020 performance date. Half of the cast could no longer do the show after the 18-month hiatus and, for a moment, it seemed as if we were destined to shelve the show permanently. And yet, everything has come together as it usually does.

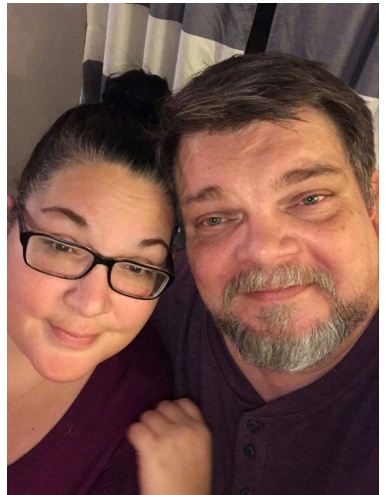
Thank you to those cast members who waited to finally get this show on stage and to board members who stepped in to help me navigate the perils of stage production. And to my wife, Tara who is the Assistant Director of this show and of me (Ha!), you're the Barbosa to my Sparrow; the Chewie to my Han; the rudder to the ship. You took some of what I thought were brilliant ideas and correctly said, “No.”

And I'm quite certain that the late, superbly great Peter Churukian, who directed me in this show in 1998, is watching somewhere with his friend Joe Straka and saying, “It's not \$%#&ing bad.”

-Shawn Becker

I am the Han, Shawn is the Chewie!

- Tara Becker



Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

ACT I

The Fabulous Fox Theatre,
St. Louis. January 14.

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

Little Theatre on the Square,
Sullivan. February 13.

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT III

Decatur Civic Center.
April 6.

*Noises Off is presented by
special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc., a Concord
Theatricals Company.*

Please be considerate of the actors and fellow audience members and silence digital devices.



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CAST & CREW

Dotty Otley.....Mary Wilking
Lloyd Dallas.....Brad Barding
Garry Lejeune.....Evan Miller
Brooke Ashton.....Katie Ciambella
Poppy Norton-Taylor.....Emily Steele
Frederick Fellowes.....James Palagi
Belinda Blair.....Casey Hedenberg
Tim Allgood.....Aidan Lee
Selsdon Mowbray.....Zachary Hammon
Understudy (Selsdon).....Josh Hammon

Director.....Shawn Becker
Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....Tara Becker
Set Design.....Scott Magruder
Producers.....Emily Steele, Kathy Zientara
Costume Coordinator.....Dina Fryman
Props.....Lesla Andrich, Penny Williams
Set Dresser.....Tanya Haubner
Set Construction.....Joe Beggin, Doug Fryman, Steve Trout
House Manager.....Cynthia Hinkle
Stage Crew.....David Gilpin, Kathy Zientara, Doug Fryman,
.....Shawn Becker, Steve Trout, Taner Eiswald,
.....Guinevere Gephart



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THE STORY

Called “the funniest farce ever written,” Noises Off presents a manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called Nothing’s On. Doors slamming, on and offstage intrigue, and an errant sardine all figure in the plot of this hilarious and classically comic play.

This fast-paced comedic farce involves misunderstandings, mistaken identities, and some third thing that also starts with an M — mayhem? Presented in three acts, it follows a motley cast of actors and crew and their attempts to put on the play within the play.

THEATRE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Tanya Haubner; Vice President, Diane Boswell;
Treasurer, Kelley Mosley; Secretary, Abby Martin;
Building Manager, Scott Magruder; Marketing, Morgen Mosely

ABOUT THE SET

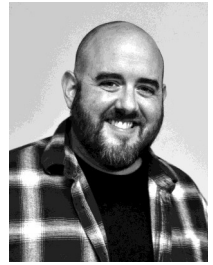
I've had a great time designing and building this challenging set. I started working on it in 2020 just before the pandemic stopped everything and resumed this August. I am so happy to have had the chance to complete it — finally!

This set is unique in that it is one large and heavy piece that turns 180° between each act. With eight doors and a second floor, it has been quite a challenge. I hope you'll stick around during the intermissions to see it (slowly) turn.

Thanks to Doug Fryman, Steve Trout, Joe Beggin, and the painting crew for their invaluable help. Thank you so much for coming to see our play and enjoy the show!

- Scott Magruder, Set Designer

Brad Barding — Brad has been performing on stage since 1990 and is thrilled to be returning to the Theatre 7 family! His notable roles include: Jesus Christ Superstar (Judas), Guys and Dolls (Sky Masterson), Shrek the Musical (Shrek), Spamalot (King Arthur), Jekyll & Hyde (Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde), Into the Woods (Baker), The Little Mermaid (King Triton) and most recently Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey II). Enjoy your sides splitting from this one, folks!



Katie Ciambella — Katie has been onstage since childhood. She has also spent many years backstage doing lighting and sound at the Decatur Civic Center. After years doing lights for various Theatre 7 shows, this will be her first on-stage performance with them. She has always done musicals and this is my first play. She fell in love with the show and had to give it a try!



Casey Hedenberg — Noises Off is Casey's debut with Theatre 7. Her most recent roles were with Decatur Underground Theater in All Shook Up (Mayor Matilda Hyde) and Into the Woods (Granny). She can also be spotted in parades as a member of the Heroes of Legend Cosplay group. Casey is an alumni of University of Illinois-Urbana and Millikin University. When not performing, she enjoys spoiling her niece and nephew, playing with her dog, singing and watching the St. Louis Cardinals.



Did you like the performance?

Let us know by email or leave a review on Google or Facebook! We appreciate your thoughts or any suggestions for future productions.

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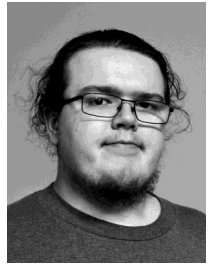
Zachary Hammon — Having started theatre with a lot of small roles, this is the largest role Zach has ever had and he is excited to display all that he has learned so far.



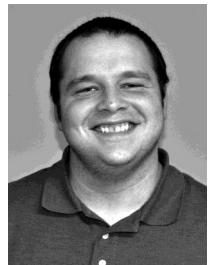
Josh Hammon (understudy) — [Unabridged] Born in 1876, this humble farmer entered the world to the bright rays of sun cast in the early morning of Mobile, Ala. A simple man, Josh loves nature and spends most of his time outdoors farming brussel sprouts. This pastoral lifestyle lends itself to his continuing efforts to understudy his brother, Zachary, in this play. As he yearns for the verdant fields of his home, he remembers the phrase, “The show must go on!”



Aidan Lee — Aidan is a student at Millikin University pursuing a degree in Theatre and Communication. Aidan was last seen in Theatre 7's productions of Lucky Stiff and Young Frankenstein. He has also performed in several high school productions including The Lion King (Scar), and The Music Man (Mayor Shin). He is thrilled to be back on stage.



Evan Miller — Evan is thrilled to be back with Theatre 7 doing live shows again. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, Evan currently works as a loan officer. He has been seen in Theatre 7's productions of Avenue Q and Farce of Nature as well as 9 to 5 at EIU. Evan would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting him and encouraging him to do what he loves.

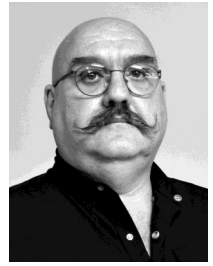


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James Palagi — You may remember James from Theatre 7's performances of Mugsy Sent Me or Lucky Stiff. Previously, James was involved in many productions over his 17 years in community theatre in Rantoul, IL, Lincoln, NE, and the Quad Cities, including as Selsdon in Noises Off in Muscatine, IA. It has been an interesting few years and James is happy that everyone has joined us to enjoy some live theatre!



Emily Steele — This is Emily's eighth show with Theatre 7, previously appearing in Young Frankenstein (Frau Blucher), Clue: The Musical (Mrs. White), and The Great American Trailer Park Musical (Lin). She has also filled many backstage roles and on the board of directors. Emily is so grateful to be back on stage and joined by an audience to once again laugh together through the shared joy of live theatre.



Mary Wilking — As the burglar in this show would say, "I am trying to adjust to retirement." Thank goodness for the theatre. Very rarely in life do you have the opportunity for a "do over." Mary has been blessed to be able to play the role of Dotty a second time. She thanks the director Shawn for believing, not just in her, but also the show!



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September-May

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8:45 a.m. NewSong Service

9:45 a.m. Christian Education

11 a.m. Sanctuary Service

1st Sunday "One Table" Service 11 a.m.

ABOUT THEATRE 7

Theatre 7 is a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteer-run organization, dedicated to fostering the theater arts in the Decatur area. Every season, the cast and crew made up entirely of volunteers produce three mainstage productions as well as several dinner theaters.

Get Involved: We need actors, builders, musicians, graphic designers, and more! Learn more by attending our membership meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm at 131 N. Water St., Decatur. Or, contact us at dectheatre7@gmail.com or (217) 362-2008.

Become a Patron! Ticket sales do not cover production costs or upkeep of our aging downtown headquarters. Support Theatre 7 by becoming a patron, purchasing a program ad, making a charitable donation, being a corporate sponsor, or hosting a dinner theatre.



COMING SOON

Every Christmas Story Ever Told Dinner Theatre

6pm December 2 & 3 | The Wagon, Decatur.

Tickets available November 1. Call (217) 362-2008.



OPEN AUDITIONS: Nana's Naughty Knickers

6-8pm November 8 & 9
Theatre 7, 131 N. Water St.

Cast: 5 men, 5 women / Show: Feb. 2021
Questions? davidgilpin@yahoo.com

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