

NOISES OFF

Synopsis:

This play-within-a-play captures a touring theatre troupe's production of *Nothing On* in three stages: dress rehearsal, the opening performance, and a performance towards the end of a debilitating run. We are given a window into the inner workings of theatre behind the scenes, progressing from flubbed lines and missed cues in the dress rehearsal to mounting friction between cast members in the final performance. Brimming with slapstick comedy, *Noises Off* is a delightful backstage farce, complete with slamming doors, falling trousers, and backstage romances.

List of Characters:

Dotty Otley / Mrs. Clacket:

(Off stage Dotty) A late-middle-aged American actress. Forgetful. Dating a younger man. (On Stage Character: Mrs. Clackett): A Cockney Housekeeper for the Brent's home in England. Hospitable, though slow.

Brooke Ashton / Vicki:

(Off Stage: Brooke) A young inexperienced American actress. Pays no attention to other performers. Is always losing her contact lenses. (On Stage Character: Vicki): An English woman who works for Inland Revenue and is trying to woo Roger.

Belinda Blair / Flavia Brent (Off stage Belinda): Cheerful and sensible, a reliable American actress. (On Stage Character: Flavia Brent): Phillip Brent's English wife. She is dependable, though not one for household duties.

Poppy Norton-Taylor: American Stage Manager. Emotional and over-sensitive, and envious of Brooke, whom she understudies. Carrying Lloyd's child.

Lloyd Dallas: The director of the play, *Nothing On*. Temperamental.

Garry Lejeune / Roger: (Off stage: Garry) An American actor with speech affectations that disappear onstage but are everpresent offstage. (On Stage Character: Roger): An English Real estate agent who is attempting to rent Flavia's and Phillip's home, but uses it for his own personal benefit.

Frederick Fellows / Phillip Brent / Sheikh : (Off stage: Freddy) An American actor with a serious fear of violence and blood. (On Stage Character: Phillip Brent): An Englishman who lives out of the country with his wife Flavia to avoid paying taxes. On Stage Character: Sheikh): A Middle-Eastern, Interested in renting Flavia's and Phillip's home and is the spitting image of Phillip.

Selsdon Mowbray / Burglar: (Off Stage: Selsdon Mowbray): An elderly alcoholic Englishman who hides his bottles onstage. Is hard of hearing when he wants to be. (On Stage Character: Burglar): Old Cockney man in his seventies, breaking into the Brent's home.

Timothy Allgood: An over-worked American Assistant Stage Manager. Understudies Selsdon and Freddy.