

MICHAEL FRAYN'S

N  
G  
O  
F  
F  
i  
S  
E  
S  
S

"A great farce"

Sunday Times.

"A pulverisingly funny play"

Guardian.

"Mr. Frayn's brilliant and  
best work"

Daily Mail.



THE MASKERS  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

AT THE PLAZA  
ROMSEY

FEBRUARY

21.22.23.24

## **ACT ONE**

The Living Room of the Brents' country home on a Wednesday afternoon  
(Grand Theatre, Weston-Super-Mare, Monday 14th January).

## **ACT TWO**

The Living Room of the Brents' country home on a Wednesday afternoon  
(Theatre Royal, Goole, Wednesday Matinee 20th February).

## **ACT THREE**

The Living Room of the Brents' country home on a Wednesday afternoon  
(Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, Saturday 6th April).

**There will be two intervals of fifteen minutes**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Maskers would like to thank all who have contributed towards the success of this production, and in particular:

Silk Flowers - Fleurs of Swaythling  
Scaffolding - Alpha Scaffolding and Haulage, Marchwood  
Colour TV - Platt and Knight of Totton  
Photography - Paul Burrows

Patrons are advised that smoking is **not** permitted in the auditorium.  
Unauthorised photography, tape or video recording is **not** permitted.

The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.

All gangways, corridors, staircases and passages which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.

Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in the gangways.



## **STEVE CLARK**

Steve is a cartographer working for the Ordnance Survey, and is married with a 1½ year old daughter. This is Steve's debut with The Maskers and he brings a wealth of experience to the company - starting at age 6 as the Third Wise Man in his Junior School nativity play. More substantial parts have followed at the Archway Theatre, Horley, including Alan Strang in "Equus", Valere in "Tartuffe", Eric Burling in "An Inspector Calls" and Rev Parris in "The Crucible".

## **IAN MORLEY**

Ian is a Senior Lecturer at La Sainte Union College in Southampton, and is married to Noises Off Director, Fran. He joined The Maskers in 1987 and has since played in both "Rebecca" and "Flare Path". Previous roles have been from the smallest church hall to the Kenya National Theatre! and include the prosecutor in "The Vigil" and the Tramp in "She Stoops To Conquer". Ian's hobbies have recently come to include Golf, but he doesn't reckon to threaten local course records yet!

## **ELEANOR BLOTT**

Eleanor hopes to go to Drama School next year, and joined The Maskers last October to improve her skills and experience. For the last two years she has been at Richard Taunton College, Southampton, where she studied Art, Theatre Studies, English Literature and Design & Technology. Parts in college productions included Marianne in "The Miser", Lulu in "The Birthday Party", Felicity in "The Real Inspector Hound" and of course pantomime.

## **MIKE TURNER**

Mike is making his debut with The Maskers. Mike has avoided both Fame and Fortune by working as ..... a butcher boy, paper boy, LAC (RAF), Library Assistant, Piston Tester, Farm Labourer, Oil Refinery Operative, Teacher, Coal Delivery Man, Assistant Stage Manager, Theatre Director (T.I.E.), Writer and Interviewer.

In that order. More or less.

## **MARIA HUTCHINGS**

Maria presently works for the Halifax Building Society and lives with her husband in Hedge End. She joined The Maskers in 1988, and played the part of Eva in "Accrington Pals". She has been acting since the age of 11, and is now looking for a new vocation in life.

## **BELINDA DREW**

Belinda is an actor/teacher working in Hampshire Theatre in Education. She is well known to audiences of *The Maskers*, with many leading roles to her credit at the Nuffield Theatre, Mottisfont Abbey open-air productions, and here at The Plaza. Also a Musical Director for the company, next month she makes her directing debut at this theatre with "84 Charing Cross Road".

## **ROS LIDDIARD**

Ros became a Masker in 1986, having been acting since she was 12. She has played a prominent part in the company both as a leading Actress and Director in the Nuffield Theatre and at Mottisfont Abbey.

## **ROBIN PETHERBRIDGE**

Robin now works in Advertising, and from modest beginnings as the 'third shepherd' with St Anne's kindergarten, Bexhill-on-Sea, Robin's acting career later blossomed at Sheffield University with leading roles in "Salad Days", "Habeus Corpus", "The Importance of Being Earnest", Davids Hare's "Teeth and Smiles", and the rock musical "Everything's Everything" at the 1976 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The distinguished National Theatre actor Edward Petherbridge is unfortunately no relation. This is Robin's first appearance with *The Maskers*.

## **MALCOLM BROWN**

Malcolm started acting at school in South Wales and with various groups there, notably Cowbridge Amateur Society and Cardiff Little Theatre. On arrival in Hampshire he joined the Chesil Theatre in Winchester, and *The Maskers'* Theatre as well. He's played Aimwell in "The Beaux Stratagem" and Don Antonio in "The Rover", both at Mottisfont Abbey, and Maxim deWinter in "Rebecca" and Freddie in "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" at the Nuffield. You may catch his voice in between programmes on TVS where he's a continuity announcer or at weekends on Ocean Sound.

## **FRAN MORLEY**

Fran, our Director, is a teacher by profession and in addition to *The Maskers* - for which this is her fourth production - she has directed middle school children, youth club members and prep school boys. Her last *Maskers* play was also at The Plaza - "Flare Path". Acting roles have included Sheila in "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" and Titania in "The Dream".

## THE PLAY

*Noises Off* was first presented, by arrangement with Michael Codron, at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, on 23 February 1982, and on 31 March by Michal Codron at the Savoy Theatre London. It had an enormously successful six year run and has only recently become available for amateur performance.

### **The Times Literary Supplement said when it opened**

"Michael Frayn's new play is a farce about a farce, taking the cliches of the genre and shaking them inventively through a series of kaleidoscopic patterns. Never missing a trick, it has as its first act a pastiche of traditional farce; as its second, a contemporary variant on the formula; as its third, an elaborate undermining of it. The play opens with a touring company dress-rehearsing *Nothing On*, a conventional farce. Mixing mockery and homage, Frayn heaps into this play-withina-play a hilarious melee of stock characters and situations".

## THE AUTHOR

Michael Frayn, novelist, playwright, translator, has written a number of plays for the stage including the award winning *'Alphabetical Order'* and *'Donkey's Years'*. His translation of *'The Cherry Orchard'* is currently in London, the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton has just been host to the Premier of his translation of Yuri Trifomov's play *'Exchange'* and his skill as a writer of screenplays has been seen on television recently in *'Clockwise'*, starring John Cleese, and *'First and Last'*, starring Joss Ackland. *Noises Off* is probably his best known work for the stage.

## THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

The Maskers Theatre Company was formed in 1969 by a small group of enthusiastic amateur actors. Since then membership has swelled to over eighty and the company has become well-known for producing a wide variety of productions to a high standard. Maskers are based in Southampton at the Eastpoint Centre.

The Maskers perform several major works in each season. These usually include two productions at the Nuffield Theatre, an open air production at Mottisfont Abbey and shows at other venues including Romseys' Plaza Theatre.

Successful shows at the Nuffield include 'A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg' 'When The Wind Blows' 'The Servant Of Two Masters' 'The Dresser' and 'Lock Up Your Daughters'.

The Maskers Youth Theatre is a new group within Maskers for members 15 - 25. They perform separate shows as well as taking part in the main company productions.

If you would like to receive regular details of Maskers productions, please write to :-

Jan Ward

123 Upper Shirley Avenue

Southampton

Hampshire

SO1 5NL

# The Maskers Theatre Company

BOOK YOUR SEATS NOW  
IN THE FOYER

Marks & Co  
84 Charing Cross Road  
London W.C.2  
England

from the book by Helene Hanff  
adapted for the stage by James Roose-Evans  
directed by Belinda Drew

**The Plaza  
Romsey  
April**

**25·26·27·28**

Evenings at 8.00 - Matinée Saturday only at 2.30

Tickets £3.85 Concessions £3.50

from Roger Shaw-Chemist. Telephone 0794 513193

Credit Cards Accepted