

Massey Theatre presents Arts Club Theatre Company's

# NOISES OFF

by Michael Frayn



FEB 15-27, 2022

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## WELCOME TO THE MASSEY



Congratulations on taking the step back into the theatre. We have missed your presence. It hasn't been easy slowly growing apart from our audiences and the artists who bring the magic into our lives. Losing the habit of live performances is something we all need to work against. They bring us such escape, exploration and in closer touch with the others we share the space with. The ancient traditions of theatre were carefully constructed all over the world, by every culture, to conjure a shared experience, shared emotional expression, connection and belonging. Theatre artists provide one of humankind's

greatest social opportunities and we have gone too long without!

So here we are together once again with a production that both takes us back and carries us forward. Laughter to break the ice of the past two years of isolation and loss. I have no doubt this production will delight. I ask you to do a little more than you might have in the past to help get the available seats of this limited run filled with people you know who need to be warmed with laughter. Help bring people back to the theatre, for this and all the great shows to come all over the region. Performing artists are ready to help us take our next steps forward. Let's make sure we are here to receive the magic and medicine they offer.

Enjoy the show!

Jessica Schneider  
Executive Director

## MASSEY THEATRE

The Massey Theatre opened in 1949 as British Columbia's largest theatre, at the time, with 1,260 seats. Since then, its lights have shone on thousands of performances and has become a cherished space to experience the arts. The Massey hosts large scale musicals, international music and dance performances, symphonies, choirs, ballets and more.

With a commitment to the cultural life of the community, it supports programs for emerging artists and community groups as well as new creation and production residencies. The theatre is a key gathering place with over 100,000 visitors and hosting over 200 events/performances each year.

Recently, a 35,000 square foot expansion of the venue has become a reality creating, Eighth & Eight Creative Spaces (a transitional name). New creative spaces will make a significant contribution, providing a new home and infrastructure for the arts of the future. Eighth & Eight will support more exploration, digital arts production and community practice with expanded programming and opportunity for a numerous and inclusive array of stakeholders activating the facility in innovative ways.



## Thank you.

New Westminster businesses, arts & culture makers, and non-profit organizations need us now more than ever. Supporting local benefits all of New West, as local operators are our friends and neighbours. So, thank you for being here.

Enjoy the show! And spread the word:

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Massey Theatre presents Arts Club Theatre Company's

# NOISES OFF

by Michael Frayn

Directed by Scott Bellis

## STARRING

Tess Degenstein	<i>Brooke Ashton</i>
Charlie Gallant	<i>Garry Lejeune</i>
Ming Hudson	<i>Poppy Norton-Taylor</i>
Kayvon Khoshkam	<i>Frederick Fellowes</i>
Andy Maton	<i>Selsdon Mowbray</i>
Nora McLellan	<i>Tim Allgood</i>
Andrew McNee	<i>Lloyd Dallas</i>
Emma Slipp	<i>Belinda Blair</i>
Colleen Winton	<i>Dotty Otley</i>

## CREATIVE TEAM

Ted Roberts	Set Design
Christine Reimer	Costume Design
Alan Brodie	Lighting Design
Matthew Piton	Associate Lighting Design
Anton Lipovetsky	Sound Design
Alison Matthews	Dialect Coach
Mike Kovac	Fight Director
Ronaye Haynes	Stage Manager
Tanya Schwaerzle	Assistant Stage Manager

There will be one intermission.

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The Massey Theatre is on the the ancestral and unceded territories of the Hul'qumi'num speaking Coast Salish peoples including Qayqayt, Kaytzie, Kwantlen, Musqueam and Kwikwetlem.



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Kristal Doe-Salmon | David Dorner Photography



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### THE BENEFITS OF FARCE

Welcome to Michael Frayn's *Noises Off*. This mathematically precise and colourfully outlandish comedy exploded onto the London theatre scene in 1982, and has been continually produced around the world ever since. It is arguably one of the best examples of contemporary farce in English theatre. Mr. Frayn has continued to tinker with the script over the years, and the result is a sharply detailed roadmap to chaos and calamity, which makes my job a heck of a lot easier.

The ancient Greeks, of course, were staging farces long before 1982, using buffoonish characters, physical gags, and scatological humour to lay comic waste to important personalities and institutions. We see elements of similarly broad comedy around the world, in the kyogen plays of fourteenth-century Japan, the clowns of Commedia dell'Arte, the high-energy films of Bollywood, and the modern TV sitcom. *The Three Stooges*, *Three's Company*, and *The Three Sisters* are all good examples of popular low comedy, in which the comic "rule of three" is a central theme.

Actually, *Three Sisters* is Chekhov. That's Russian realism. You can scratch that one. But you get the point: clearly, a well-executed pratfall, over time, maintains its value.

I note that the word "farce," apart from a dramatic context, has many negative associations in everyday use. According to Thesaurus.com, which is where I do most of my directorial research, "travesty," "sham," "mockery," and "total crap" are all synonyms. In drama, however, "farce" is defined as "comedy that depends on an elaborately contrived, usually improbable plot, broadly drawn stock characters, and physical humour." Sounds pretty fun to me.

Theatre provides an opportunity to unite an audience. With comedy, that potential for unification is especially potent. Laughing together, even with hundreds of total strangers, can strengthen our immune systems, boost our mood, diminish pain, and protect us from the damaging effects of stress. All good things. Laughter transcends language. It's contagious and primal. And let's face it: we live in difficult times. Human activity constantly threatens to pull us all apart in a hundred ways, through differences in politics, economics, and religion. Laughter allows us to set all that aside for a while. It relaxes us, and can provide the renewal we need to tackle the world. It's medicine!

*Noises Off* is a messy look at the backstage life of a hapless company of actors under a palpable amount of stress. Flubbed lines, missed entrances, petty jealousies, and deteriorating civility are all ready to be served up for your viewing pleasure.

Enjoy the feast.

Scott Bellis



Chris Gailus and Sophie Lui

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## THE COMPANY



**SCOTT BELLIS** Director

For the Arts Club as Director: *Noises Off*, *The Piano Teacher*  
As a performer: *The Woman in Black* (debut, 1992), *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Philanderer*, *School for Scandal*, *Cyrano*, *The Optimists*, *Poster Boys*, *Enchanted April*, *Avenue Q*, *Good People*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Saint Joan*, *The Matchmaker*

Other Theatre directing credits: Carousel Theatre for Young People; Studio 58; Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon; Solo Collective; Bard on the Beach

Film & TV selections: *The Beachcombers*, *21 Jump Street*, *MacGyver*, *The X-Files*, *Smallville*, *Maid*

Other: Scott studied Theatre Arts at Studio 58 (Langara), is the recipient of 6 Jessie awards, (including Outstanding Direction for *Noises Off!*), and has served as Council President of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.



**ALAN BRODIE** Lighting Designer

For the Arts Club: *Lawrence and Holloman* (debut, 1998); favourites: *The Shoplifters*, *Mustard*, *The Flick*, *Avenue Q*, *Gordon*, *Tear the Curtain!*, *His Greatness*, *Art*

Other theatre: *The Children* (Belfry); *Coriolanus*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bard on the Beach); *La Cenerentola*, *The Overcoat: A Musical Tailoring* (VOA); *Emergence* (Ballett Zürich); *Plot Point* (Pacific Northwest Ballet);

As Director: *Skylight*, *Wit*, *The Father* (Peninsula Productions); *The Drawer Boy*, *A Few Good Men* (Ensemble Theatre Co.); *The Open House* (Sticks & Stones); *2BRO2B* (Studio 58)

Other: Recipient of 10 Jessie awards. Design BFA from UBC, directing MFA from UVic. Artistic Associate: Ensemble Theatre Company. Member: Associated Designers of Canada.



**TESS DEGENSTEIN** Brooke Ashton

Tess Degenstein is an actor, screenwriter, director, improviser, and voice-over artist. She is ecstatic to be back with you all.

As an actor and improviser, Tess has performed across the country, most notably touring the hit off-Broadway show *Blind Date*. Internationally she has performed and taught improv in Vienna, Berlin, Athens, London, Oslo, Atlanta, and New York. She has been nominated for multiple Canadian Comedy Awards, and a Sterling Award for Best Actor. She

was honored to receive a Jessie Award last year for this production of *Noises Off*. Television credits include featured roles in *New Eden*, *Frankie Drake*, *King*, and *Murdoch Mysteries*, as well as multiple international commercials and music videos. Tess has written three feature films for Chesler Perlmutter Productions, and has directed a couple of shorts.

Thank you so much for being here. We want to make you laugh! xo



**CHARLIE GALLANT** Garry Lejeune

For the Arts Club: *His Greatness* (debut, 2007); most recently: *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*; *Noises Off* favourites: *Black Comedy*, *The Real Thing*

Other theatre selections: *Done/Undone* (Bard), *Shakespeare In Love* (Bard), *The Scarlet Letter* (Theatre Calgary), *Long Days' Journey Into Night* (Stratford), *The Winter's Tale* (Groundling), *Our Town* (Shaw), *Peter & The Starcatcher* (Shaw), *Proud* (Belfry), *A Few Good Men* (MTC/Citadel), *Becky Shaw* (Mitch & Murray),

*December Man* (GreenThumb), *Brief Encounters* (Vancouver Playhouse), *Snowman* (Rumble).

Film/TV: *Good Witch*, *The Strain*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Fringe*, *Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief*.

Other: Graduate of Studio 58, photographer (@charlie\_byrd on Instagram), musician, and proud life partner of Kate.



**RONAYE HAYNES** Stage Manager

For the Arts Club: *Miss Saigon* (debut, 2005); recent favourites: *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Bed & Breakfast*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Once*, *Forget About Tomorrow*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Men in White*, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Billy Elliot*, *Red Rock Diner*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*

Other theatre: *Bed & Breakfast* (GTC/Globe); *The Magician's Nephew, I & You* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play"* (Carousel Theatre for Young People); *Art, Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Gateway)

Other: Ronaye would like to thank her favourite husband, David Campbell, for always being there and keeping her sane during this Pandemic.



**MING HUDSON** Poppy Norton-Taylor

For the Arts Club: *The Penelopiad* (debut, 2011)

Other theatre: *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Timon of Athens*, *Lysistrata* (Bard on the Beach); *East Van Panto: Snow White* (Theatre Replacement); *BlissKrieg* (Atomic Vaudeville); *PostSecret: The Show* (Firehall Arts Centre); *Big Bad, Fall Away Home* (Boca del Lupo); *Lig & Bittle, Are We There Yet?*, *The Early Bloomer* (Concrete Theatre); *The Boy Who Learned to Fly* (Kaleidoscope Theatre)

Other: Ming is also a devised theatre creator, collaborative director, independent producer, and teaching artist. She holds a BFA (University of Victoria), a MA (Rose Bruford College), and is a graduate of LISPA (now arthaus.berlin). "All my love to mom and Nicholas."



**KAYVON KHOSHKAM** *Frederick Fellowes*

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Kayvon trained at The Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria, BC.

Selected Theatre: *The Graduate* (Arts Club), *Buffoon* (Arts Club), *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Othello* (Bard on the Beach) *Twelfth Night* (NAC), *The December Man* (NAC), *Home is a Beautiful Word* (Belfry Theatre), *Chelsea Hotel* (Firehall Theatre), *The Father* (Search Party)

In addition to acting Kayvon is a director and producer.

Check out his podcast *The Vigilante Book Club* (@clubvigilante)



**MIKE KOVAC** Fight Director

For the Arts Club: *The Thing About Men* (debut, 2009); as Fight Director: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Mustard*, *Misery*, *Thanks for Giving*, *Angels in America*, *Hand to God*, Other theatre: *Children of God*, *Les Filles du Roi* (Urban Ink); *Sweeney Todd* (Snapshots Collective); *She Kills Monsters*, *The Crucible*, *Edward II* (UBC)

Film & TV: *Batwoman*, *Tin Star*, *The 100*, *Supernatural*, *Legends of Tomorrow*, *iZombie*, *Some Assembly Required*,

*Fake Blood*.

Other: Recipients of the Paddy Crean award and J.P. Fournier Award – Fight Directors Canada. Mike would like to thank his wife, Jacqueline, as well as his fellow fighters in the Vancouver FDC.



**ANTON LIPOVETSKY** Sound Designer

For the Arts Club: *It's a Wonderful Christmas-ish Holiday Miracle* (as Musical Director and Sound Designer), *One Man, Two Guvnors* (as Musical Director), *The Unplugging* (as performer)

Other theatre: Composer of seven musicals. Current musical commissions: *Cowboy Tempest Cabaret* (Musical Stage Company) and *Way Out There* (YES Theatre).

Other: Two-time Jessie award winner, graduate of Studio 58 and Stratford Festival Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Acting. Instagram: @antrOn.

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**ANDY MATON** *Selsdon Mowbray*

For the Arts Club: *Les Canadiens* (debut, 1977); *Gossip* (1978)

Other theatre (some favourites): *Run for Your Wife*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Evita*, *Lone Star*, *Leader of the Pack*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Glorious Mud*, *The Glass Menagerie*.

Film and TV: Winner of Best Supporting Actor in a Canadian Feature Film 2021, at the Ontario International Film Festival, for *Blue Hour*; *Eddie Goes to Space*, *Supernatural*, *Stargate SG1*, *Stargate Atlantis*, *Magic Beyond Words – the JK*

*Rowling Story*, *Supernatural*, *Rat Race*, *High Noon*, *Lonesome Dove*, *Viva Las Nowhere*, *After the Harvest*.

Other: After more than 40 years in “the biz”, in 2021 I had 2 films shown at the NewWest(minster) Film Festival...and now this appearance at the Massey Theatre – maybe I should just move here. A seriously lovely city!



**ALISON MATTHEWS** *Dialect Coach*

For the Arts Club: Voice & Text Coach for *Sweat*, *King Charles III*; Voice Instructor at the Arts Club Actor’s Intensive since its inception (2010)

Film & TV: *Disney’s Snowdogs*, *Final Destination 2*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *iZombie*

Other: Current Head of Coaching for the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival (since 2007); former Program Director of the Citadel Banff Professional Theatre Program; Voice &

Shakespeare Masterclass Instructor at Capilano University. MFA Theatre (Voice Pedagogy specialization), UBC; BFA Theatre (Acting specialization), UVic; Associate Diploma in Drama & Speech, Trinity College London. [alisonmatthews.com](http://alisonmatthews.com).



**NORA McLELLAN** *Tim Allgood*

For the Arts Club: *Vanities*, *Starting Here*, *Starting Now*, *The Club*, *Miracle Mother*, *August: Osage County*, *The Matchmaker*

Other theatre: *Julius Caesar*, *A Doll’s House*, *Lovers Winners*, *Charley’s Aunt*, *A Little Night Music*, *Noises Off*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Vancouver Playhouse); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare in High Park); over 25 seasons with Shaw and Stratford Festivals

Film & TV: *The Secret Sauce*, *Son of a Critch*, *Orphan Black*, *Killjoys*, *Cardinal*, *Saving Hope*

Other: Three-time Jessie award recipient for *Road* (Actors Resource Group), *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Vancouver Playhouse), and *The Matchmaker* (Arts Club); Toronto Theatre Critics award: *John* (Company Theatre); two Dora awards: *Music for Contortionist* and *John*. Very grateful to be back onstage again. This show is dedicated to my mom, Viviane McClelland and in memory of Christopher Newton.

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**ANDREW McNEE** Lloyd Dallas

For the Arts Club: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (debut, 2002); recent favourites: *Mustard*, *Misery*, *Onegin*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Boeing, Boeing*, *The Odd Couple*

Other theatre: *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Tempest*, *Henry V*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night* (Bard on the Beach); *The Wars*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Equus* (Vancouver Playhouse); *The Idiot*, *Crime and Punishment*

(Newworld); *After Jerusalem*, *My Chernobyl*, *The Project* (Solo Collective)

Film & TV: *Attic Trunk*, *Public Schooled*, *Grand Unified Theory*, *Aim for the Roses*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (1, 2, and 3), *Supernatural*, *Supergirl*

Other: Graduate of Studio 58. "Love to Karen, Finn, and Tommy."



**MATTHEW PITON** Associate Lighting Designer

For the Arts Club: *Noises Off* 2020 Lighting Assistant

Other theatre selections: *Mixed Nuts* (Arts Umbrella Dance Company), *The Wars* (UBC), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Alchemy Theatre) *Between the Sheets* (Pacific Theatre), *12 Minute Madness* (The Cultch Revolver Festival) *She Stoops to Conquer* (Metro Theatre) *Little Shop of Horrors* (Vagabond Theatre)

Other: BA Theatre from UFV, MFA Theatre Design and Production from UBC, Professor at the University of the Fraser

Valley. Member: Associated Designers of Canada



**CHRISTINE REIMER** Costume Designer

For the Arts Club: *Buffoon*, *The Wedding Party*, *The Audience*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Saint Joan*, *Venus in Fur*, *My Turquoise Years*

Other theatre: Christine has designed almost 100 productions in live theatre, opera, kids theatre, and living historical events across Canada and into the US. Recent productions include *MacBeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, (Bard on the Beach), *Kuroko* (Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre), *Alice in*

*Nightmareland*, (Stanley Park Ghost Train), *Chicken Girl* (Rice & Beans Theatre), and *King Arthur's Night* (Newworld Theatre). Upcoming designs include *Ominous Sounds* (Touchstone Theatre), *Atomicville* (Stanley Park Ghost Train) and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Bard on the Beach)

Other: Eleven-time Jessie award nominee and four-time winner. Her costume design illustrations have appeared in numerous publications including *The Art of Costume Design* (Focal Press) and *Opera Canada*. [www.christinereimerdesign.com](http://www.christinereimerdesign.com)



**TED ROBERTS** Set Designer

For the Arts Club: *Starting Here, Starting Now* (debut 1988); recent favourites: *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (2018), *Once*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Thanks for Giving*, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *Billy Elliot*, *The (Post) Mistress*, *The Mountaintop*

Other theatre: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Treasure Island*, *My Chernobyl* (Persephone Theatre); *Chelsea Hotel*, *Urinetown*, *Sisters* (Firehall); *Still the Night*,

*The Rez Sisters* (Magnus Theatre)



**EMMA SLIP** *Belinda Blair*

For the Arts Club: *Farewell, My Lovely* (debut, 2015)

Other theatre: *The Father* (Search Party); *Boeing, Boeing* (Persephone Theatre); *As You Like It*, *Macbeth* (Bard on the Beach); *A Christmas Carol* (Western Canada Theatre); *Silent Sky*, *Singin' in the Rain* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); *The Elbow Room Café: The Musical* (Zee Zee Theatre); *The Rivals* (Blackbird); *Moss Park* (Green Thumb); *Sleeping Beauty* (Globe); *Killer Joe* (Itsazoo); *Three Sisters* (Only Child

Collective); *King Lear* (Honest Fishmongers); *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Mermaid, international tour); *The Crucible* (Two Planks and a Passion); *The Violet Hour* (Belfry); *The Wind in the Willows* (Carousel Theatre for Young People)

Film & TV: *The Order*

Other: Four-time Jessie award nominee; SAT award nominee; graduate of Studio 58.



**TANYA SCHWAERZLE** Assistant Stage Manager

Tanya is thrilled to join this incredible team on this adventure!

Selected credits include: *Chelsea Hotel* (WCT), *The Birds and the Bees*, *Mom's The Word*, *Mamma Mia!*, *TopDog/Under Dog* (Arts Club Theatre), *The 39 Steps* (Circle Bright), *Talking Sex on Sundays*, *Chelsea Hotel*, *Circle Game* (Firehall), *Peter Pan* and *Charlie Brown* (CTYP), *Winter's Tale* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Bard on the Beach).

Tanya is the Production Manager for Carousel Theatre for Young People and Venue Manager for the Waterfront Theatre in Vancouver. She received a BFA, from the University of Alberta. Love and thanks to my Grams for pushing me to follow my dreams! Adam, "I miss you"





**COLLEEN WINTON** *Dotty Otley*

For the Arts Club: *Stepping Out* (debut 1988); *Dames at Sea*, *Shear Madness* (tour), *Calendar Girls*, *The Black Rider*, and one magic performance of *Gypsy!* Next up: *Kinky Boots*

Other: theatre favourite recent credits: *The Unnatural and Accidental Women* (NAC Indigenous Theatre inaugural production); the acclaimed sitespecific *Sweeney Todd* (Snapshots Collective – Jessie and Ovation awards for Mrs. Lovett); *Corleone*, Shelley Levine in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Winter's Tale* (Classic Chic); Daisy in *Driving Miss*

*Daisy* (RuBarb); *Hedda Gabler* (Persephone); Marilla in *Anne of Green Gables* (Theatre Calgary); Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* (RCMT)

Film/TV: *Family Law*, *Lost in Space*, *Man in the High Castle*, *iZombie*, *Van Helsing*, *You Me Her* and a host of Hallmark movies.

Other: As a student at NWSS, Colleen first set foot as an actor on the Massey Theatre stage (MANY decades ago!), she has appeared here with RCMT over the years, and she is thrilled to be back now in a fully professional production. She and her talented husband, Russell Roberts, raised their two sons, Sayer and Gower, here in New Westminster and are proud to call it home.

## MASSEY THEATRE STAFF

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Bonnie Allan

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James Glen

SHOW CREW

Jordan Boivin Lighting Operator

Reine Vinluan Fly Operator

Julie Wiebe Dresser

LOAD IN / OUT CREW

Jamie Sweeney

Stephanie Bruce

Jason Smith

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