

**The eighth and final production of A Noise Within's
2018-2019 Season: LET ME IN
Presented by the S. Mark Taper Foundation**

Noises Off
By Michael Frayn

Co-Directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott

May 21 – June 9, 2019

(Press Opening Weekend – May 25 & 26)

Pasadena, Calif. (April 24, 2019) – A Noise Within (ANW), the acclaimed classic repertory theatre company, is bringing back its smash hit production of Michael Frayn's hilarious off-the-wall comedy *Noises Off* for a limited engagement from **May 21 through June 9, 2019**. Reviving a critical and audience favorite for all to enjoy, ANW Producing Artistic Directors **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott** and **Geoff Elliott** will once again direct the play-within-a-play that pays homage to the art of theatre-making as chaos reigns onstage and off! There will be **press performances** on **Saturday, May 25 at 8 p.m.** and **Sunday, May 26 at 2 p.m.**

"*Noises Off* is truly one of our signature productions, with audience members returning to see it two or more times," says Director Geoff Elliott. Director Julia Rodriguez-Elliott adds, "Everything about the deft physical and verbal interplay between actors is ideal for A Noise Within's focus on ensemble work."

Frayn's joyfully out-of-control British farce features an under-rehearsed and over-worked cast and crew with a penchant for drama more personal than professional, readying themselves for the world premiere of a new play with the auspicious title, *Nothing On*. As the production progresses, the bumbling cast brings down the house – literally!

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ANW's previous stagings of Frayn's outlandish production have won rave reviews from critics, whose praise included "a superb cast hit the banana peel running and never let up" (*Los Angeles Times*); "laser sharp comic timing" (*Broadway World*); "A Noise Within tackles the comedy with aplomb" (*TheaterMania*); and "Michael Frayn's delightfully complicated British farce could hardly have a better rendition than this" (*Backstage*).

After its sold out run last season, the same beloved cast will return this May with **Rafael Goldstein*** reprising his role as Tim Algood, **Apollo Dukakis*** as Selsdon Mowbray, **Geoff Elliott*** as Lloyd Dallas, **Jill Hill*** as Belinda Blair, **Erika Soto*** as Poppy Norton-Taylor, **Emily Kosloski*** as Brooke Ashton, **Jeremy Rabb*** as Frederick Fellows, **Kasey Mahaffy*** as Garry Lejeune, and **Deborah Strang*** as Dotty Otley.

Single ticket prices for *Noises Off* start at \$25 and are available at anoisewithin.org, by phone at 626-356-3121, and at the box office located at 3352 East Foothill Blvd. in Pasadena, Calif. A *Pay What You Can* performance will take place on **Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

Calendar Listing

Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

Co-Directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott

at A Noise Within, 3352 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107

Running Time

Two hours and thirty minutes, including two intermissions.

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The Cast and Creative Team

The cast includes (*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States)

Tim Algood: Rafael Goldstein*

Selsdon Mowbray: Apollo Dukakis*

Lloyd Dallas: Geoff Elliott*

Belinda Blair: Jill Hill*

Poppy Norton-Taylor: Erika Soto*

Brooke Ashton: Emily Kosloski*

Frederick Fellows: Jeremy Rabb*

Garry Lejeune: Kasey Mahaffy*

Dotty Otley: Deborah Strang*

Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and **Geoff Elliott** will direct. The scenic design is by **Fred Kinney**; costume design by **Angela Balogh Calin**; lighting design by **Ken Booth**; composer/sound design by **Jeff Gardner**; wig stylist is **Shannon Hutchins**; stage manager is **Samantha Sintef*** and assistant stage manager is **Jacob Houser***. † Designer is represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829 of the IATSE

Sponsors

ANW's 2018-19 Season is presented by the **S. Mark Taper Foundation**.

Co-Sponsor: **Chris Burt & Tieu-My Nguyen**

Media Sponsor: **KCET Media**

Performances

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. (**Early Bird**)

Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. (**Early Bird**)

Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. (**Early Bird and Pay What You Can**)

Friday, May 24 at 8 p.m. (**Early Bird**)

Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m. (**Early Bird**)

Saturday, May 25 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 26 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 31 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 1 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 2 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m.

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Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 7 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 8 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 8 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 9 at 2 p.m.

Buy Online: www.anoisewithin.org **Buy Via Phone:** 626-356-3121

Purchase at Box Office: 3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107

Regular Prices: Single tickets from \$25, Student Rush with ID an hour before performance \$20.

Groups (10 or more): Adults from \$25 to \$50 a ticket, up to 35% off; Students from \$18/tickets. Call 626-356-3121 for more information and ask for Subscriber Services Manager Deborah Strang.

About the Play

Michael Frayn was inspired with the idea for *Noises Off* in 1970, when he was watching from the wings a performance of the farce *The Two of Us*, which he had written for Lynn Redgrave and Richard Briers.

Frayn said, “It was funnier from behind than in front and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind.” An early one-act version, *Exits*, was written and performed in 1977 at a fundraising midnight matinee. At the request of his associate, Michael Codron, Frayn expanded this into what would become *Noises Off*, whose title comes from the theatrical phrase for “sound heard in the wings.”

The play had its premier at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London in 1982, directed by Michael Blakemore and starring Patricia Routledge, Paul Eddington, and Nicky Henson. It opened to universally ecstatic reviews from audiences and critics. The play would go on to win the 1982 Olivier Award for Best Play and the 1982 London Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy and received nominations for the 1984 Tony® Award for Best Play and the 1984 Drama Desk Award for Best Play.

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Frayn said, “After the play had opened at the Lyric Hammersmith in 1982, I did a great deal more rewriting, and went on rewriting until Nicky Henson, who was playing Garry, announced on behalf of the cast (rather as Garry himself might have done) that they would learn no further versions. The play transferred to the Savoy Theatre and ran until 1987 with five successive casts. For two of the cast changes I did more rewrites. I also rewrote for the Washington production in 1983, and I rewrote again when this moved to Broadway. When the play was revived at the National Theatre in 2000 I rewrote yet again. Some of the changes were ones that I’d been longing to make myself—there’s nothing like having to sit through a play over and over again to make your finger itch for the delete key—while many more changes were suggested by my new director, Jeremy Sams.”

Given its widespread popularity among audiences and critics in many different countries, *Noises Off* has managed to strike a universal chord with its story about actors struggling to put on a perfect show.

“I think it’s connected to the fear we all have inside ourselves that we might be unable to go on with the performance...We all feel we might break down—and sometimes we do. So when we see it happening to those idiots on the stage in a farce, it’s a release of the tension,” explained Frayn.

About the Playwright

Michael Frayn is an English playwright, novelist, and translator who resides outside of London with his wife Claire Tomalin, an English biographer and journalist. He is best known as the playwright of *Noises Off* (1982), as well as the dramas *Copenhagen* (1998) and *Democracy* (2003). His novels, *Towards the End of the Morning* (1967), *Headlong* (1999), and *Spies* (2002), have also received critical acclaim, making Frayn one of the few English language writers to succeed in both drama and prose fiction.

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Frayn was born on September 8, 1933 in Mill Hill, London to Thomas Allen Frayn, an asbestos salesman, and Violet Alice Lawson Frayn, a shop assistant. He grew up in Ewell, Surrey, and was educated at the elite Kingston Grammar School until his mother died when he was 12 years old, after which he was transferred to a state school. Later, during his two years of National Service, Frayn learned Russian at the Joint Services School for Linguists. He went on to study philosophy at Emmanuel College in Cambridge and graduated in 1957. Frayn then worked as a reporter and columnist for *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, where he established a reputation as a satirist and comic writer and started writing novels.

By 1970, Frayn had published three popular novels, *The Tin Men*, *The Russian Interpreter*, and *A Very Private Life*. At first, he struggled to find the same success as a playwright. He wrote many rejected scripts and even produced an evening of his own short plays that was not received well by audience members or critics. However, Frayn kept writing. In 1982, with the publication of *Noises Off*, Michael Frayn earned his third Evening Standard Award, the oldest theatrical award in the UK, for Best Comedy of the Year. The first two were *Alphabetical Order* (1972) and *Make or Break* (1980), both of which are typical English office comedies. *Copenhagen* (1998) won Frayn his fourth Evening Standard Award for Best Play of the Year in 1998, as well as the 2000 Tony® Award for Best Play. In addition to his extensive playwriting and fiction career, Michael Frayn is also well known for translating Chekov: he adapted *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters*, and *The Cherry Orchard*. Frayn has also written screenplays for the films *Clockwise*, starring John Cleese, *First and Last*, starring Tom Wilkinson, and the TV series *Making Faces*, starring Eleanor Bron.

Frayn's recent books include his memoir, *My Father's Fortune: A Life* (2010), which was shortlisted for the 2010 Costa Biography Award and won the 2011 PEN / Ackerley Prize, as well as *Skios* (2012), a comic novel on a case of mistaken identity.

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PRESS RELEASE

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About A Noise Within

A Noise Within has been called “an oasis for those who love classic stories” by *Los Angeles Times* and is a leading regional producer based in Pasadena, Calif. ANW’s award-winning resident company practices a rotating repertory model at their state-of-the-art, 324-seat performance space. This venue, established in 2011, has allowed ANW to expand its audience, surpassing its previous box office, subscription, and attendance records year after year.

In addition to producing world-class performances of classic theatre, the organization runs robust education programs committed to inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. Helmed by Producing Artistic Directors **Geoff Elliott** and **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott**, who hold MFAs from San Francisco’s renowned American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.), A Noise Within truly delivers **CLASSIC THEATRE, MODERN MAGIC**. <http://www.anoisewithin.org>

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