



For Immediate Release
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MEDIA RELEASE
THEATRE CALGARY OPENS
SEASON WITH BIG LAUGHS
IN *NOISES OFF*

SEPTEMBER 10 – OCTOBER 5, 2019

(CALGARY, AB) - Theatre Calgary is set to open its 2019-20 season with big laughs, a set full of doors, and a cast of Calgary favourites in *Noises Off*, by **Michael Frayn**.

If there was ever a play that could take the world of theatre, and turn it on its head, it is *Noises Off*. Taking place during a dress rehearsal, backstage, and a late-run performance, the show is a play-within-a-play, that lets us laugh along with a group of actors who are desperately trying to remember their lines, and their alliances.

What is considered one of the best contemporary farces written, *Noises Off* originally began in 1977 as a Michael Frayn one-act play called *Exits*. Over the next five years, Frayn would flush out the show to become about a play-within-a-play that spans three acts, which made its debut in 1982. Since then, he has rewritten the play several times, with the most recent version published in 2000.

"Michael Frayn has created one of the best – and most complicated - examples of the genre," says director Mark Bellamy. *"Noises Off is actually a farce inside a farce – or rather a farce about a farce. The intrepid artists trying desperately to get through the fictitious door-slamming farce Nothing On are beset with every problem a theatrical production can encounter."*

Designing the set and lighting for *Noises Off* is Betty Mitchell Award winner Anton de Groot. With a complex script that dictates precisely where and when characters are running in and out of the multitude of doors, de Groot had to reverse his design process. *"I usually conceptualize a design form the abstract to the concrete. For Noises Off, it was the opposite. Certain elements, such as the doors, have to be a certain way."*

Noises Off features some of Calgary's funniest actors and familiar faces to our audiences, including **Tyrell Crews** (Garry Lejeune), **Anna Cummer** (Poppy Norton-Taylor), **Christian Goutsis** (Lloyd Dallas), **Braden Griffiths** (Timothy Allgood), **Karen Johnson-Diamond** (Belinda Blair), **Duval Lang** (Selsdon Mowbray), **Camille Pavlenko** (Brooke Ashton), **Graham Percy** (Frederick Fellowes), and **Elizabeth Stepkowski Tarhan** (Dotty Otley).

Along with director Bellamy, and designer de Groot, the creative team includes **Deitra Kalyn** (Cosutme Design), **Scott Reid** (Set & Projection Design), **Cory Sincennes** (Costume Design), **Alan Brodie** (Lighting Design), **Joshua D. Reid** (Sound Design), **Mark Limacher** (Associate Music Director), **Brock Jellison** (Associate Choreographer), **Jane MacFarlane** (Voice and Dialect Coach), and **Karl H. Sine** (Fight Director). The Stage Manager is **Patti Neice**, Assistant Stage Manager is **Ashley Rees** and the Apprentice Stage Manager is **Chandler Ontkean**.

Noises Off previews September 10-12. Opening night is September 13. Performances run Tuesday thru Sunday with evening curtain at 7:30pm (Tues-Thurs & Sunday) and 8:00pm (Fri & Sat), weekend matinees at 2:00pm. Tickets for all performances start as low as \$35.00 and can be purchased through Theatre Calgary at 403-294-7447 or online at theatrecalgary.com. All performances take place in Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.

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For more information or interview requests please contact:
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TELEVISION/VIDEO MEDIA CALL - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1:00pm
Max Bell Theatre, Arts Commons PRINT - photos available upon request