



PITLOCHRY  
FESTIVAL  
THEATRE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Pitlochry Festival Theatre celebrates the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of

## Noises Off

By **Michael Frayn**

Directed by **Ben Occhipinti**

Designed by **Liz Cooke**

Lighting Design by **Peter Fennell**

Sound Design by **Kevin Murray**

Fight directed by **Robin Hellier**

Cast: **Marc Small** (Lloyd Dallas); **Connor Going** (Garry LeJeune); **Rachael McAllister** (Brooke Ashton); **Keith Jack** (Frederick Fellowes); **Deirdre Davis** (Dotty Otley); **Keith Macpherson** (Selsdon Mowbray); **Meg Chaplin** (Poppy Norton-Taylor); **Richard Colvin** (Tim Allgood) and **Alyson Orr** (Belinda Blair).

Dates: **May 27 – 1 October, Pitlochry Festival**

Press performances: **Fri 3 June at 8pm and Sat 4 June at 2pm & 8pm**

**Auditorium, Pitlochry Festival Theatre**

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre to celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of classic farce Noises Off - what could possibly go wrong?**

Get ready for a riotous night out this summer as Pitlochry Festival Theatre celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Michael Frayn's irresistible farce within a farce from 27 May-1 October.

Hailed as a celebrated modern classic, *Noises Off* chronicles the hilarious slapstick capers of a touring theatre company as they stumble their way, from rehearsals to opening night, through a farcical fictitious play called...*Nothing On*.

With technical brilliance and split-second timing, *Noises Off* takes us behind the scenes with a company of actors, stage manager and a temperamental director in a hilarious and heartfelt tribute to the unpredictability of life in theatre.

*Noises Off* was previously performed at Pitlochry Festival Theatre in 1987 and 2010.

Playwright **Michael Frayn** said:

*"Wonderful to see theatre gradually coming back to life after Covid. And for me, the Pitlochry Festival is a particularly cheering milestone along the road to normality because they're doing the first professional UK post-Covid production of Noises Off."*



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*So, thank you, Pitlochry! I send you my very best wishes for the production, and I hope it helps to spread a little cheerfulness around."*

*Noises Off's* exciting cast will feature **Marc Small** (*Barefoot in the Park*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre); **Connor Going** (*Wind in the Willows*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and *The Choir of Man*, Australia and USA tour); **Rachael McAllister** (*A Christmas Carol*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre); **Keith Jack** (*Any Dream Will Do*, BBC; *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Fame*, UK Tours); **Deirdre Davis** (Eileen Donachie in *River City*, BBC Scotland, *Bold Girls*, Citizens Theatre and *Monarch of the Glen*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre); **Keith Macpherson** (*The Yellow Door*, Lyceum/ Edinburgh International Book Festival; *Waiting for Godot*, Citizens Theatre and *Stan and Ollie*, BBC Films); **Meg Chaplin** (*Arrival*, imPOSSIBLE and *The Midnight Child*, UK Tour); **Richard Colvin** (*Sunshine on Leith*, UK Tour and *A Christmas Carol*, Bolton Octagon) and **Alyson Orr** (*Cinderella*, Pavilion Theatre Glasgow).

*Noises Off* is directed by **Ben Occhipinti** with set and costume design by **Liz Cooke**, lighting design by **Peter Fennell** and sound design by **Kevin Murray**.

Director and Pitlochry Festival Theatre Associate Director **Ben Occhipinti** said:

*"It is a great privilege to be directing Michael Frayn's Noises Off in its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. It probably goes without saying that this play is one of the greatest farce's ever written and I am in no doubt that audiences will enjoy watching and laughing together this summer. Michael Frayn is such an exceptional dramatist that he's been able to create such a brilliant story with many loveable characters whilst also making us belly laugh. With a brilliant company of actors, it is sure to bring the house down as they try to manage all the doors and sardines! The design is wondrous, so I also know audiences will love to enjoy the mise-en-scène which Noises Off has become infamous for over the years."*

The idea for *Noises Off* came to playwright **Michael Frayn** after watching from the wings a production of his 1970 farce *The Two of Us* with **Richard Briers** and **Lynn Redgrave** at the Garrick Theatre. He noted that seeing the actors dashing between the different doors backstage was all far funnier from behind than it was out front.

Frayn didn't get round to working on anything until 1977, when he wrote a 15-minute version for a charity event. At the request of his associate, **Michael Cordon**, Frayn expanded this into what would become *Noises Off*.

The original production directed by **Michael Blakemore** opened to great acclaim at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in 1982 starring **Patricia Routledge** and **Paul Eddington** and went onto transfer to the Savoy Theatre where it won Best Comedy of the Year at the Olivier

Awards. The iconic play has been performed worldwide and was made into a film in 1992 starring **Michael Caine**.

*Noises Off* runs from 27 May - 1 October. Tickets are available from the Box office on **01796 484626** or online at [pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](http://pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

**-Ends-**

For all press interviews please contact Duncan Clarke PR:  
T **07880893750** or E [duncanclarkepr@gmail.com](mailto:duncanclarkepr@gmail.com)

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Press performances: Fri 3 June at 8pm and Sat 4 June at 2pm & 8pm Auditorium, Pitlochry Festival Theatre.**

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Pitlochry Festival Theatre celebrates the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Noises Off**

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#### **Listings**

##### **Noises Off**

**May 27 – 1 October**

**Eve perf at 8pm:** May: 27, 28, 30 / June: 3, 4, 20, 25, 29 & 30 / July: 9, 11, 14, 23, 29 / August: 3, 4, 8, 20, 29

September: 2, 7, 13, 24 & 26 Sept / October: 1

**Mat at 2pm:** 4 June and 8 & 14 Sept

**Ticket prices:** From £16-£39

**Box Office and group bookings:** 01796 484626 email

[boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

**Website:** [pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](http://pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre. A Theatre for Everyone. A Theatre for a Lifetime.**



For over 70 years, we've been Highland Perthshire's artistic heart and soul, sitting perched on the edge of the River Tummel and looking out to Ben-y-Vrackie. Established in 1951 as The Theatre in a Tent, Pitlochry Festival Theatre offers a theatrical experience unique in Scotland - a summer season performed in repertory, allowing audiences to enjoy six different productions in six days, all performed by a resident company of actors. Now attracting over 100,000 visitors each year, we're not just a venue - we're also famous for producing large-scale plays and musicals that delight theatregoers of all ages.

As part of our mission to create, nurture and inspire, we encourage interactive creativity through our programme of festivals, workshops and other events for young people, families, writers, and professional creatives.

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre**

Address: Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Port-Na-Craig, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5DR

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by funding from Creative Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council. It is also grateful to the many individual Donors, Trusts, and Foundations who continue to support the Theatre.