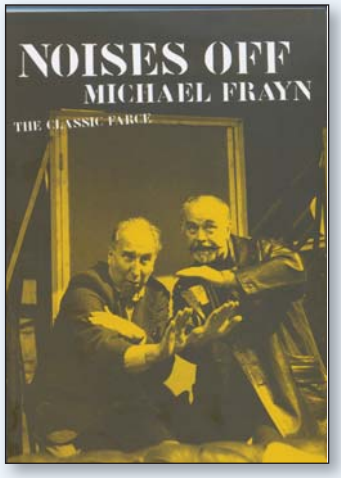
Methuen Drama

Noises Off

Michael Frayn



"Written by a man with a vision... Recommended."
—*Library Journal*

"The funniest play written in my lifetime"
—Frank Rich, *The New York Times*

"Frayn's construct is based on the principle that if farce involves watching the wheels come off a well-oiled machine, then nothing could be funnier than seeing the wheels fall off a farce itself. Pure comedy gold."
—*The Guardian*

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Noises Off
Winner of the Evening Standard, the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and the New York Drama Desk Award.

In *Noises Off* Michael Frayn creates an ingenious play-within-a-play farce. The on-stage play is a dreadful bedroom farce called *Noises On* in which scantily clad young ladies are being chased in and out of continually opening and slamming doors by old men. The backstage farce develops during the play's final rehearsal and tour as the characters make their exits from *Noises On* only to find themselves making entrances into the even worse nightmare going on backstage and then have to go back again on stage to *Noises On*. In the end the two farces can be kept separate no longer, and coalesce into one single collective nervous breakdown.

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