# THEATRE

# 'Noises Off' a funny look at world behind the curtain

By David Bates
Emerald Contributor

Finals are just around the corner, and as the entire campus gradually turns into an enormous stress factory, the best therapy for the harried student may be to see "Noises Off" at the Robinson Theater.

In fact, the production may very well be the best time you'll ever have laughing at other people's problems.

## Review

Don't assume, however, that a relaxing, mind-easy evening of theater is in store. Michael Frayn's farce will have you doing mental acrobatics as you follow the antics of a third-rate theater company.

The company is shown rehearsing, and then performing "Nothing On," an incredibly bad sex comedy with a storyline dependent upon the location of a plate of sardines.

The first, and possibly funniest act of "Noises Off" ushers the audience through the chaotic final rehearsal of "Nothing On." With the cast's idiosyncrasies and personal dramas firmly etched in our minds, Act II features the same scene being performed a month later, but from backstage. In Act III, we return to the front once again as the backstage warfare we've just witnessed completely obliterates any sense of logic that might have existed before. It is an actor's nightmare come true, but the results are hilarious.

The only problem with "Noises Off" may be that it isn't funny quite often enough, but this flaw is by no means a fatal one. Frayn's rendition of the same scene three times in a row may not be boring, but much of the momentum is lost in the third act because of the repetition.

Credit must also go to director Jack Watson, who probably surprised even himself with what must be the finest blocking witnessed at the Robinson Theater. Richard Harris' set design also is good, as well as pragmatic. The University Theater has hit the bull's eye with this one, folks. Give yourself a break from studies this week and catch it at the Robinson Theater.

*"Noises Off" will be staged at 8 tonight, Friday and Saturday, in addition to a 2 p.m. Saturday matinee.*

Photo by Christophe Charbaudie

***Cast members from the latest University Theater production "Noises Off" give a behind-the-scenes look at life in a third-rate theater company.***

# *Dickens play brought to Hult*

By David Bates
Emerald Contributor

It's difficult to say how many different theatrical versions of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" exist today.

Playgoers usually are able to find one rendition or another every holiday season to provide additional Christmas cheer, and this year will be no exception.

Oregon Repertory Theater, which has offered various forms of "A Christmas Carol" almost every year since 1977, is gearing up to present a new rendition this month. Scripted by Michael Paller, this year's "Christmas Carol" won't just limit itself to telling Ebeneezer Scrooge's story — it will tell its own as well.

The story begins not with Scrooge, but with Dickens himself. The year is 1843, and Dickens is spending a relaxing Christmas Eve at home with his family and a few friends. He is soon persuaded by his guests to tell a story. However, there is one condition. "If we're to have a story," he says, "let each of us take a part in its telling."

Props, characters and costumes then are assigned to the startled guests, and Dickens prepares himself to play Scrooge. What follows is the original rendition of "A Christmas Carol." The guests each play a variety different roles, as well as participate in the creation of sound and visual effects. It's vintage Dickens at his best.

Joseph Gilg, who also directed ORT's production of "Extremities" earlier this season, is at the helm as artistic director. Eugene stage veteran Ken Hof, who appeared in last year's production of "Appalachian Ebeneezer" plays the dual roles of Dickens and Scrooge. Also featured are Denny Guehler, Bill Reid, Eliza Roaring Springs and Connie Doolan.

"A Christmas Carol" opens Dec. 18 at the Soreng Theater in the Hult Center and continues on Dec. 19, 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the Hult Center Box Office.


Sunny
University Sunny Service Station
Foreign & Domestic Cars
Remember Winter Car Care
open 8-6 Mon. through Fri.
1905 Agate St. • 344-0869

Cash
For Textbooks
Mon. - Fri.
Smith Family Bookstore
768 E. 13th
1 Block From Campus
345-1651

Special Holiday Season Hours
STUDENTS!
SAVE TIME, HASSLE & MONEY!
EUGENE MAIL CENTER, INC.
1430 Willamette Street • Phone 484-5889
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
8 AM to 6 PM (Nov. 30 to Dec. 24)
UPS, PUROLATOR and FEDERAL EXPRESS
ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL MAIL BOX SERVICES, TOO

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED CLASSICAL & OPERATIC MUSIC ON COMPACT DISC
BIS, EMI, PHILIPS, LONDON, ARCHIVE, CHANDOS
DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON, HARMONIA MUNDI, WINDHAM HILL, L'OISEAU-LYRE, HUNGAROTON, TELARC
Musique Gourmet
Catering to Discriminating Compact Disc Collectors
— FROM $9.95
Located inside BRADFORD'S on the Mall
150 W. Broadway
OPEN SUNDAYS NOON-5
343-9000

poppi's
GREEK TAVERNA
Real Greek Food
Imported Beers,
Greek Wines and
Daily Specials
Gift certificates available for Christmas
Closed Tuesday
675 East 13th, Eugene
343-0846

COPIES 3¢
All Day Every Day
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-8:00pm
Sat. 10-6pm
Print America
519 E. 13th
485-1940

DANCE CITY SWEATS
GRAND OPENING SALE CONTINUES
Great Gifts at
BIG SAVINGS
• Gift Certificates
• 6.99 Sweats
• Robo Duck T-Shirts and Sweatshirts
DANCE CITY SWEATS
877 E. 13th 342-6375
Next To the U of O Bookstore
10 am - 8 pm Mon - Fri
11 am - 5 pm Sat.

Campus Hair Design
emu ground floor
shampoo cut & style $10.
484-0314

Book & Tea Cafe
DINNER
DINNER COMES IN MANY STYLES AT
Book & Tea Cafe
Open Tues-Sat 8:30-10 pm Sunday 9-5 1646 East 19th, Eugene 344-3422