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PRESS RELEASE
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Subject: *Noises Off* plays at the Ferndale Repertory Theatre **October 9 – October 26**

***Noises Off* Opening at Ferndale Rep**

New York critics have described the side-slitting hilarity of **Noises Off** as “The funniest farce ever written.” This much-loved and uproarious comedy is The Ferndale Repertory Theatre’s season opener and will run from **October 9 through October 26**.

Written by Michael Frayn, **Noises Off** premiered in London in 1982, winning both the Evening Standard and the Olivier awards for Best Comedy, and ran in the West End for nearly five years. It opened on Broadway in 1983 starring Dorothy Loudon and Victor Garber and was nominated for a Tony award. Carol Burnett and Christopher Reeve starred in the movie version and there was also a successful Broadway revival in 2001, which starred Patti LuPone and Peter Gallagher. The Rep first mounted a production of the play in 1990 to rave reviews.

Noises Off follows the on- and off-stage antics of an inept acting troupe as it stumbles from bumbling dress rehearsal to disastrous closing night. Everything that can go wrong does, as actors try desperately to hang onto their lines, their performances, and the furniture as they tour the hinterlands of the outer regions of Britain. Add a slippery plate of sardines and a slew of slamming doors and you have just a few of the ingredients of one of the most hilarious productions to hit the stage.

One of the most challenging aspects of producing *Noises Off* is the construction of the set. It has to be capable of being completely reversed for the second act. It also needs to be two stories tall. The challenge is the limited space of the Rep Theatre’s stage due to a 13-foot arch. This seemingly impossible challenge will meet its match with Ferndale’s own Gary Franklin who has his work cut out for him, along with volunteers who have joined him to spend many hours in its construction

The playwright says he got the inspiration for this three-act rollercoaster when he stood behind the scenery during a performance of one of his comedies and saw that the backstage chaos was considerably more comical than the action onstage.

Still hailed today as one of the funniest farces ever written, there's never a dull moment. Be prepared to laugh through 7 slamming doors, one breaking window, 10 trips up and down stairs, 17 false entrances, 73 flubbed lines, 46 miscues, one dramatic highlight, 22 double entendres, 6 regular entendres - and that plate of sardines.

Ferndale Rep's veteran director Renee Grinnell helms the show, which opens October 9, which is an actor's benefit and runs through October 26, 2008. For reservations, call the Rep's Box 707.786-5483.