

The Cat in Photography
by Sally Euchaire
Chronicle Books

This collection of photographs and short essays will appeal to anyone who loves cats. The photos date from the early 1800's to today and are the work of professional photojournalists, artists, and amateur snapshooters.

Rather than a simple anthology of cute cat pictures, this collection is an impressive history of photography. The book shows the progression of animal portraiture starting in the era of the daguerreotype -- where fast moving cats were difficult to capture -- and progressing to the film technology we have today where spirited informal snap shots are possible.

The photos in the collection are funny, endearing, and at times shocking. Essays at the end of the book explain some of the stories behind the photos, such as one shot of Salvadore Dali, a bucket of water, and a falling cat. To get the surreal look, the photographer made over fifty attempts, using as many different cats. (Because they all ran away after they were dropped.)

If you appreciate the beauty of cats, or if you are intrigued by fine art photography, this book is a definite must.

A. Chisholm

ACT Stages Comedy

Who? ACT (a community theater)

What? "Noises Off" - Michael Frayn's hilarious farce

When? Thursday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3, 1996 at 8 p.m.

Where? Carrefour Theater, 5 Acadian Drive, Charlottetown

Why? Because it's good theater!

Brisk pacing, slamming doors, scantily-clad attractive young women, recalcitrant trousers - these are the ingredients we have come to expect from farce. And so it is with British playwright Michael Frayn's hilarious play, "Noises Off." However, Frayn's genius lies in the unseating and upending of this formula. ACT (a community theater) is proud to present this wonderful play as the first

production of its new season.

Directed by David Sherren, Noises Off features ACT veterans Gerry & Ray, Ed Rashed, Barbara Rhodenhizer, Greg Stapleton, Kim Gillis and Ben Kinder. These 'old hands' are joined by ACT newcomers and CBC television personality, Sara Fraser.

The play opens with a British touring company dress-rehearsing "Nothing On", a conventional British sex farce. Within the first act of this 'play-within-a-play,' Frayn employs the standard cliches of the traditional farce. Caricatures - a pleasant but dotty house cleaner, an outraged wife, an oversexed young beauty, and a nervous lover - stampede in and out of doors while voices rise and

trousers fall. In the second act, however, Frayn creates a modern variation of this formula as the entire set is fumed around, permitting the audience to see the mayhem that occurs while the company feuds backstage. The set is turned once again for the third act so that the audience witness the final result of three months of bitter touring.

Noises Off has been described as "pulverisingly funny" by the Manchester Guardian's Michael Billington, and "the funniest play I have ever seen in the West End" by The Times' Ned Chaillet. Noises Off will be presented by ACT on Thursday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3 at 8:00 p.m. at the Carrefour Theater. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$8 seniors and students, and may be purchased in advance at the Confederation Centre Box Office (566-1267), or at the door. For further information, please contact, Lee Ellen Pottie at 628-6341.

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