**Noises Off – Synopsis & Character Descriptions**

Often thought of as the funniest play ever written, Noises Off is an insanely fun dive into farce. It is a “play-within-a-play” that sees a cast of British actors attempting to rehearse and perform their farce, and the chaos that comes plus the backstage dramas.

Act 1 – Final Dress rehearsal LATE into the night before opening. The cast is trying to get a run through of their show after a very short rehearsal period. We meet the characters, see their quirks and how they interact with one another.

Act 2 – The production is a few weeks into its tour at this point, and some drama has surfaced as a pair of the actors that had been involved in a backstage romance have broken up. One of them blames another actor in the cast and lashes out in EXTREME JEALOUSY. Naturally, this happens DURING the performance as we watch their chaos backstage as they try to make peace, fight with each other, and still perform the show. Yes, as you’ve read, this act takes place BACKSTAGE.

Act 3 – We are a couple of months into their tour at this point and we see an attempted performance. The issue, however, is now everybody hates each other and it is no longer about doing the show; it’s about surviving and trying to sabotage each of your opponents. Whether it is onstage or not. They try and keep the show on the track but it eventually goes completely off the rails

As an audience, we only ever see the first act of their play.

Cast of Characters:

* Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett:
	+ Female, 50-69
	+ English television star. Dotty is producing and performing in this show as an investment for her retirement fund. Forgetful, she often struggles to remember blocking, props, and lines. Currently engaged in an affair with her much younger castmate, Garry. In *Nothing’s On*, she plays Mrs. Clackett, the Brents’ Cockney housekeeper.
* Lloyd Dallas:
	+ Male, 40-59
	+ English; the director of the play, *Nothing’s On*. Temperamental. Sarcastic. Jaded. But also suave, smooth, and charming when he chooses to be. He’s secretly involved in affairs with both Brooke and Poppy.
* Garry Lejeune/Roger Tramplemain:
	+ Male, 30-39
	+ English. Professional leading man with an unfortunate inability to finish a sentence unless it’s dialogue. Tries to keep the show going and remain positive but also prone to vicious jealousy. Currently engaged in an affair with his much older castmate, Dotty. In *Nothing’s On*, he plays Roger Tramplemain, an English real estate agent who is attempting to rent the Brents’ house to a Sheikh as well as use it as a place to secretly cavort with Vicki.
* Brooke Ashton/Vicki:
	+ Female, 18-29
	+ English; young, idealistic; inexperienced. Very attractive, but not a great actress. Spacey. A bit ditzy. Forgetful, often losing things. Blind without her contacts. Secretly having an affair with Lloyd Dallas, the director. In *Nothing’s On*, Brooke plays Vicki a tax authority employee who is trying to seduce Roger.
* Poppy Norton-Taylor:
	+ Female, 18-29
	+ English; the assistant stage manager; earnest. Hard-working, skittish, sensitive, and highly emotional. Invested in the production. Overworked to the point of exhaustion. Secretly having an affair with Lloyd Dallas, the director. Understudy to the female roles.
* Frederick Fellowes/Philip Brent:
	+ Male, 40-49
	+ English, sweet, neurotic, bumbling, and oblivious. Well-intentioned, but lacks confidence and is rather dim-witted. Fears blood and violence and is prone to nosebleeds. His wife left him during the rehearsal process. In *Nothing On’s*, he plays Philip Brent, the man who owns the house that the play takes place in, but is living in Spain to avoid taxes.
* Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent:
	+ Female, 30-39
	+ English; a talented, veteran actress; charming, reliable, positive. Acts as the company peacemaker, but is also the company gossip. In *Nothing’s On*, Belinda plays Flavia, Philip Brent’s well-to-do wife.
* Tim Allgood:
	+ Male, 30-39
	+ English; the production’s stage and company manager. Exhausted, over-worked, sleep-deprived, frantic, and completely flustered. Understudies the male roles, fixes the set, and runs Lloyd’s errands on top of his usual duties.
* Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar:
	+ Male, 70-79
	+ English, an aging, veteran actor. Forgetful, alcoholic, nearly deaf (or at least selectively deaf), and prone to napping on the job. In *Nothing’s On*, he plays the Burglar who breaks into the Brent household.