

Q&A with Guest Actor Catie Councill (who plays faded star Dotty Otley)

GTA is pleased to welcome back Catie Councill, who graduated from Brenau and the GTA program in 2013. Patrons may remember her performances in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *She Loves Me* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.



Q: What do you consider to be this production's biggest challenge?

Great question! As I was researching this show I found in the interviews that most of the actors spoke of its challenges with all of the lines, dialects, precise physical comedy, and many props. I would have to agree that it is challenging. I think, however, that the greater challenge is to stay playful within the structure. I think it is easy to be bogged down and discouraged with all there is to layer and accomplish- but I find that my best work always reveals itself when I am not pushing for a product, but instead finding joy in the process. So that is my personal challenge for this show- look for the joy in the process, and the play in the performance.

Q: What about this production excites you the most?

Two things. First- I jumped at the chance to come back and work with Jim Hammond and the zany cast of *Noises Off*. When I was a student here (I graduated with my BFA in Acting '13) I use to dream of coming back to work alongside the students as a professional. I love the energy that students have- the drive and the questions. I'm working alongside them as they figure things out, believe in themselves, and play hard- and it energizes me to do the same. Secondly- the role of Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett is one that some of my favorite comedic actors (Patricia Routledge, Carol Burnett, Andrea Martin) have played and it is a great opportunity to follow in their footsteps and have my own take on the character.

Q: What has been your favorite part of the rehearsal process so far?

The differences between acts 1-3 and the unique challenges that they each represent. The first act my character is struggling with her memory and focus, the second act she is dealing with a fight with a lover and physical altercations, and the third act she is at her lowest and just trying to get through the last performance in whatever way she can. I have enjoyed discovering the differences in rehearsal, and the belly laughs I have had from those discoveries.

Q: What are you hoping audiences take away from this production?

A deep craving for sardines.

Just kidding! I hope they take away a sense of hope- that if so much laughter can come from failure, then they can hang in there and perhaps view the world with a little more levity.

Q: Why should audiences come see *Noises Off*?

When it comes to life I think author Veronica Roth said it best: "Sometimes crying or laughing are the only options left, and laughing feels better right now." Come have a laugh on us no matter what is going on in your life.