

# Conventions of Comedy Worksheet

This worksheet defines different Theatrical Conventions of Comedy. In the boxes provided, write where and how each convention was used in *Noises Off* (and *Nothing On*).

## Language Comedy

Language Comedy is created through the script and can encompass:

- Sarcasm – when you say one thing but mean another
- Misuse of language – a slip of the tongue
- Mondegreens – mishearing words and replacing them with similar sounding words
- Non sequiturs – a factual statement followed by an absurd conclusion

## Physical Comedy

Physical Comedy is created through the characters' movement on stage and is closely linked to lazzo. Physical Comedy is also created on stage through slapstick such as actors slipping, sliding, kicking, hitting, tripping and falling.



# Conventions of Comedy

## Worksheet

### Repetition

When an action or event is repeated over and over, the repetition creates Comedy. *Nothing On* is repeated three times throughout *Noises Off* and each time is funnier than before.



### Miscommunication

When an action, statement or idea is mistaken for something that it is not. This misunderstanding creates Comedy.



### Mistaken Identity

When someone is believed to be someone they are not.



# Conventions of Comedy Worksheet

## Master/Servant Relationship

Comedy is created through the imbalance of status in the master and servant relationship.



## Wholehearted commitment

When a character has a one track mind and throughout the play is working towards achieving one particular goal or outcome.



## Signposting or Signalling

When the audience know something that the characters on stage do not.

