

Spies Michael Frayn

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Noises Off - Michael Frayn 2017-01-12

Noises Off is not one play but two - simultaneously a traditional sex farce, Nothing On, and the backstage farce that develops during Nothing On's final rehearsal and tour. The two farces begin to interlock, as the

characters make their exits from Nothing On only to find themselves making entrances into the even worse nightmare going on backstage, and exit from that only to make their entrances back into Nothing On. In the end, at the disastrous final performance in Stockton-on-

Tees, the two farces can be kept separate no longer, and coalesce into one single collective nervous breakdown. *Noises Off* won both the Evening Standard and the Olivier Awards for Best Comedy when it was first produced, and ran in the West End for nearly five years.

Michael Frayn's most recent play, *Copenhagen*, won both the Evening Standard Best Play Award in London and the Tony Best Play Award in New York.

Collected Columns - Michael Frayn 2016-04-05

One of the funniest writers of his generation, Michael Frayn has been writing humorous newspaper columns since 1959, principally for the "Guardian" and "Observer", and originally came to prominence as the thrice weekly purveyor of these short, surreal, razor-sharp explorations of human foibles, sex, politics, manners, and the events of the day. This volume brings together 110 of his finest and funniest pieces from over the years, selected and introduced by Michael Frayn himself, and is an

unmissable treat for the many fans of his unique comic voice, as well as a revelation for fans of the award-winning literary novels and plays of his later career.

Spies in Canaan - David Park 2022-05-12

A bold and unsettling parable about guilt, atonement and redemption from the winner of the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award 'It is seldom that one can say a book is perfect, but this is as close as I've seen in a very long time' SUNDAY INDEPENDENT 'A bold and unsettling parable about guilt, atonement and redemption' IRISH TIMES Michael has travelled a long way from his boyhood under the endless skies of the Midwest. His retirement is peaceful, if solitary. But one day there is a visitation: a mysterious car on the seafront, and a package delivered. From its contents, Michael understands that he has been commissioned to undertake a final journey. As Michael makes his way deep into a distant desert - a strange and liminal landscape that lies between hell and

redemption - he undertakes another journey, into long-suppressed memories: of Vietnam and the dying days of war, and to face a final accounting for what was done. Taut, atmospheric and moving, *Spies in Canaan* is a powerful elegy to the pain of love, the guilt of old age, and the grace of atonement. 'Another compact marvel ... This is a meditative novel that, while investing heavily in a patient build-up of atmosphere, never forgets the need to put a foot on the gas' DAILY MAIL 'David Park's novels are always elegantly written' INDEPENDENT 'Unflinching, courageous, wise, alert to the thrill and sorrow of violence ... Adds to David Park's status as a superb novelist' FRANK MCGUINNESS

Focus On - Angela Topping 2008

Spies - Michael Frayn 2009-01-08

In the quiet cul-de-sac where Keith and Stephen live the only immediate signs of the Second World War are the blackout at night and a single

random bombsite. But the two boys start to suspect that all is not what it seems when one day Keith announces a disconcerting discovery: the Germans have infiltrated his own family. And when the secret underground world they have dreamed up emerges from the shadows they find themselves engulfed in mysteries far deeper and more painful than they had bargained for.

'Bernard Shaw couldn't do it, Henry James couldn't do it, but the ingenious English author Michael Frayn does do it: write novels and plays with equal success ... Frayn's novel excels.' John updike, New Yorker 'A beautifully accomplished, richly nostalgic novel about supposed second-world-war espionage seen through the eyes of a young boy.' Sunday Times 'Deeply satisfying . . . Frayn has written nothing better.'

Matchbox Theatre - Michael Frayn 2014-10-14
Matchbox Theatre presents a miniature sketch show: thirty dialogues and monologues by Michael Frayn, to be played in the smallest theatre in the world - the theatre of your own

imagination. Sir Geoffrye and Lady Hilarye, sleeping peacefully on their marble tomb these last six hundred years, are woken by the thump of rock music in the crypt beneath them... A gala performance of Shakespeare, and as a special treat the sponsor's guests are being wined and dined on stage as extras in the banquet scene... The eternal triangle in an airport departure lounge: two lovers and the flight announcements... The scripts are provided. Everything else - casting, set design, ice-cream sales - is up to the reader...

Audience - Michael Frayn 1991

This amusing satire about audiences by the author of *Noises Off*, *Copenhagen* and other acclaimed plays takes place in the stalls (orchestra) of a West End theatre. The cast includes an usherette, audience members and a playwright in agony over crinkling candy wrappers, talking out loud, and inattention to his play. The characters in Michael Frayn's metatheatrical comedy are actually watching the

audience, expecting them to perform, and comedy ensues as Frayn holds a mirror up to the audience and they see their own foibles as audience members.

Travels with a Typewriter - Michael Frayn
2011-06-02

In mid-career, Michael Frayn took up his old trade of journalism, and wrote a series of occasional articles for the *Observer* about some of the places in the world that interested him. He wanted to describe 'not the extraordinary but the ordinary, the typical, the everyday', and his accounts became the starting point for some of the novels and plays he wrote later. From a kibbutz in Israel to summer rains in Japan, bicycles in Cambridge to Notting Hill at the end of the 1950s, they are glimpses of a world that sometimes seems tantalisingly familiar, sometimes vanished forever. Michael Frayn is the celebrated author of fifteen plays including *Noises Off*, *Copenhagen* and *Afterlife*. His bestselling novels include *Headlong*, which was

shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, *Spies*, which won the Whitbread Best Novel Award and *Skios*, which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. "All writers of fiction should be required by law to go out and do a bit of reporting from time to time, just to remind them how different the real world in front of their eyes is from the invented world behind them." Michael Frayn 'Whether he's on a kibbutz or a bicycle, Frayn makes acute observations and the writing is enchanting.' Conde Nast Traveller
[A Landing on the Sun](#) - Michael Frayn
2017-08-03

For fifteen years, ever since the taciturn civil servant Stephen Summerchild fell to his death from a window, there have been rumours. So Brian Jessel, a young member of the Cabinet Office, is diverted from his routine work and asked to prepare an internal report. Slowly, from the archives in the registry, Jessel begins to reconstruct Summerchild's last months. It emerges that, at a time when America had just

put men on the moon, the British were involved in an even bolder project, and that Summerchild was investigating a phenomenon as common as sunlight, but as powerful and dangerous as any of the forces that modern science has known. The secret world into which Brian Jessel stumbles turns out to be even more extraordinary than his department had feared.
Towards the End of the Morning - Michael Frayn
2015-11-12

Michael Frayn's classic novel is set in the crossword and nature notes department of an obscure national newspaper during the declining years of Fleet Street, John Dyson, a mid-level editor, dreams wistfully of fame and the gentlemanly life -- until one day his great chance of glory arrives. But does he have what it takes to succeed in the exciting world of television?
Listen to this - Michael Frayn 1990
This varied collection of short sketches and monologues by the author of *NOISES OFF*, *BENEFACTORS* and others is essential to any

actor's library. Most pieces are comic and all are perfect for classes and auditions. Contents: At the Sign of the Rupture Belt (2m, 1f) Blots (Monologue) Confession (Monologue) Do You Think You Are? (1m, 1f) Glycerine (1m, 1f) Head to Head (Monologue) Heaven (1m, 1f) Listen to This (1m, 1f) A Little Peace and Quiet (1m, 1f) The Messenger'

Spies - Thea Von Harbou 2008-04-01

Spies (1929) is from the pen of Thea von Harbou, author of "Metropolis." Translated from the German by Helen J. Stiegler.

Democracy - Michael Frayn 2004-12-15

A brilliant exploration of character and conscience from the author of COPENHAGEN, set amid the tensions of 1960s Berlin In Democracy, Michael Frayn once again creates out of the known events of twentieth-century history a drama of extraordinary urgency and subtlety, reimagining the interactions and motivations of Willy Brandt as he became chancellor of West Germany in 1966 and those

of his political circle, including Günter Guillaume, a functionary who became Brandt's personal assistant-and who was eventually exposed as an East German spy in a discovery that helped force Brandt from office. But what circumstances allowed Brandt to become the first left-wing chancellor in forty years? And why, given his progressive policies, did the East German secret police feel it necessary to plant a spy in his office and risk bringing down his government? Michael Frayn writes in his postscript to the play, "Complexity is what the play is about: the complexity of human arrangements and of human beings themselves, and the difficulties that this creates in both shaping and understanding our actions."

Hapgood - Tom Stoppard 2018-05-08

With his characteristically brilliant wordplay and extraordinary scope, Tom Stoppard has in Hapgood devised a play that "spins an end-of-the-Cold-War tale of intrigue and betrayal, interspersed with explanations of the quixotic

behavior of the electron and the puzzling properties of light” (New York Times). It falls to Hapgood, an extraordinary British intelligence officer, to try to unravel the mystery of who is passing along top-secret scientific discoveries to the Soviets, but as she does so, the web of personal and professional betrayals—doubles and triples and possibly quadruples—continues to multiply.

Speak After the Beep - Michael Frayn 1997

This is a collection of writings by Michael Frayn, based on his column in *The Guardian*, covering the pomposities and inanities of public announcements, fashionable conversations, and self-advertising of all kinds.

Donkeys' Years - Michael Frayn 2017-03-23

Michael Frayn's 'gorgeous farce' about a university reunion premiered thirty years ago at the Globe Theatre, London. Returning to the West End in a sparkling new production, it remains a classic comedy. Twenty years after graduation, six former students return to their

university college for a reunion dinner. Whilst their lives may have had varying degrees of success, all are connected by a common past. Once locked in college for the night, the graduates begin to relive their youth, and old friendships, feuds - and the much-desired but absurdly proper Master's wife - come tumbling back into the present . . . 'The show reaches that plateau of comic bliss when it becomes physically impossible to stop laughing' *Daily Telegraph* 'The West End's summer gets off to an exhilarating start with the hilarious return of Michael Frayn's comedy *Donkeys' Years*' *Sunday Express* 'All the confidence of a serious comic masterpiece. Masterclass performances. This is one of the best revivals in the West End for years. Unmissable!' *Sunday Times*
Headlong - Michael Frayn 2000-09-01
An unlikely con man wagers wife, wealth, and sanity in pursuit of an elusive Old Master. Invited to dinner by the boorish local landowner, Martin Clay, an easily distracted philosopher,

and his art-historian wife are asked to assess three dusty paintings blocking the draught from the chimney. But hiding beneath the soot is nothing less-Martin believes-than a lost work by Bruegel. So begins a hilarious trail of lies and concealments, desperate schemes and soaring hopes as Martin, betting all that he owns and much that he doesn't, embarks on a quest to prove his hunch, win his wife over, and separate the painting from its owner. In *Headlong*, Michael Frayn, "the master of what is seriously funny" (Anthony Burgess), offers a procession of superbly realized characters, from the country squire gone to seed to his giddy, oversexed young wife. All are burdened by human muddle and human cravings; all are searching for a moral compass as they grapple with greed, folly, and desire. And at the heart of the clamor is Breugel's vision, its dark tones warning of the real risks of temptation and obsession. With this new novel, Michael Frayn has given us entertainment of the highest order. Supremely

wise and wickedly funny, *Headlong* elevates Frayn into the front rank of contemporary novelists.

[Alphabetical Order](#) - Michael Frayn 2016-12-15
Winner of the Evening Standard Best Comedy Award after its long run at the Hampstead Theatre and on the West End in 1975, *Alphabetical Order* is set in the library of a provincial newspaper where battle is joined between the forces of order and chaos, between arid organisation in the person of the new library assistant, Leslie, and humane confusion in the person of Lucy, the much-loved resident librarian. Drawing on his experience as a journalist, Frayn draws his gallery of characters with the hilarious accuracy which can only come from first-hand experience. This edition features the author's revised version of the script presented at the Hampstead Theatre in April 2009.

The Trick of It - Michael Frayn 2002-12-16
In a novel about the creative process, a series of

letters reveals the relationship between a celebrated female novelist and her less-than-humble disciple. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

My Father's Fortune - Michael Frayn

2011-02-15

For the first time, Michael Frayn, the "master of what is seriously funny,"* turns his humor and narrative genius on his own family's story, to re-create the world that made him who he is

Whether he is deliriously funny or philosophically profound, as a novelist and a playwright Michael Frayn has concerned himself with the ordinary life lived by erring humans, which is always more extraordinary than people think. In *My Father's Fortune*, Frayn reveals the original exemplar of the extraordinary-ordinary life: his father, Tom Frayn. A clever lad, a roofing salesman with a winning smile and a racetrack vocabulary, Tom Frayn emerged undaunted from a childhood spent in two rooms with six other people, all of them deaf. And undaunted he stayed, through German rockets,

feckless in-laws, and his own increasing deafness; through the setback of a son as bafflingly slow-witted as the father was quick on his feet; through the shockingly sudden tragedy that darkened his life. Tom Frayn left his son little more than three watches and two ink-and-wash prints. But the true fortune he passed on was the great humor and spirit revealed in this beguiling memoir. * Anthony Burgess *Alphabetical Order and Donkeys' Years* - Michael Frayn 1977

A Very Private Life - Michael Frayn 2015-11-12

'Easily the most original thing Frayn has done . . . written with elegant simplicity.' New Statesman Uncumber lives at a time in the distant future when all humanity is divided in two - the Insiders and the Outsiders. The Insiders are privileged, with their every need catered to by somatic drugs, three-dimensional holovision and a prolonged life. Uncumber lives in this luxurious world and is told that she must

never go out into the dust and disease of the real world. Uncumber, however, is haunted by a restless and inquisitive spirit. When she falls in love with an Outsider, she decides to go exploring ... 'A fairy tale of the future.' Guardian *The Russian Interpreter* - Michael Frayn 2015-11-12

'A love affair through an interpreter,' said Raya. 'That's a very cultured prospect.' Raya is a mercurial Moscow blonde who speaks no English, and the affair she is embarking upon is with Gordon Proctor-Gould, a visiting British businessman who speaks no Russian. They need an interpreter; which is how Paul Manning is diverted from writing his thesis at Moscow university to become involved in all the deceptions of love and East-West relations.

Skios - Michael Frayn 2012-06-19

The great master of farce turns to an exclusive island retreat for a comedy of mislaid identities, unruly passions, and demented, delicious disorder On the private Greek island of Skios,

the high-paying guests of a world-renowned foundation prepare for the annual keynote address, to be given this year by Dr. Norman Wilfred, an eminent authority on the scientific organization of science. He turns out to be surprisingly youthful, handsome, and charming—quite unlike his reputation as dry and intimidating. Everyone is soon eating out of his hands. So, even sooner, is Nikki, the foundation's attractive and efficient organizer. Meanwhile, in a remote villa at the other end of the island, Nikki's old friend Georgie has rashly agreed to spend a furtive horizontal weekend with a notorious schemer, who has characteristically failed to turn up. Trapped there with her instead is a pompous, balding individual called Dr. Norman Wilfred, who has lost his whereabouts, his luggage, his temper, and increasingly all sense of reality—indeed, everything he possesses other than the text of a well-traveled lecture on the scientific organization of science. In a spiraling farce

about upright academics, gilded captains of industry, ambitious climbers, and dotty philanthropists, Michael Frayn, the farceur "by whom all others must be measured" (CurtainUp), tells a story of personal and professional disintegration, probing his eternal theme of how we know what we know even as he delivers us to the outer limits of hilarity.

Look Look - Michael Frayn 1990

Michael Frayn's farce "Noises Off" was about actors at work; this later work shows the other half of the great confrontation which constitutes live theatre - the audience. "Look Look" was first performed at the Aldwych Theatre, London, in April 1990.

Stage Directions - Michael Frayn 2009-01-08

Stage Directions covers half a lifetime and the whole range of Frayn's theatrical writing, right up to a new piece about his latest play, Afterlife. It is also a reflection on his path into theatre: the 'doubtful beginnings' of his childhood, his subsequent scorn as a young man and,

surprisingly late in life, his reluctant conversion. Whatever subjects he tackles, from the exploration of the atomic nucleus to the mechanics of farce, Michael Frayn is never less than fascinating, delightfully funny and charming. This book encapsulates a lifetime's work and is guaranteed to be a firm favourite with his legions of fans around the world.

Alarms And Excursions - Michael Frayn

2017-04-07

"Michael Frayn has the rare ability to construct farcical comedy around philosophical principles and the laughs and the ideas effortlessly intermesh" (Guardian) Four old friends sit down for a quiet evening together. But they are harassed by various bells, sirens, buzzers, warblers, beepers and cheepers, all trying to warn them of something. What are these electronic voices trying to tell them? Can they understand the mysterious disasters before disaster strikes? It's a race against time - because there are seven more plays and twenty

more characters still to come before the evening is through, plus a lot more strange noises - and increasingly desperate calls from eleven separate pay phones...

The Copenhagen Papers - Michael Frayn
2003-01-04

In a brilliant coda to the play *Copenhagen*, Michael Frayn receives mysterious letters that take him back to the theme of his bestselling novel, *Headlong* -- human folly, this time his own. Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* has established itself as one of the finest pieces of drama to grace the stage in recent years. The subject of the Tony-winning play is the strange visit the German nuclear physicist Werner Heisenberg made to his former mentor, scientist Niels Bohr, in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen and the quarrel that ensued. Heisenberg's intentions on that visit, for good or for evil, have long intrigued and baffled historians and scientists. One day, during the British run of Copenhagen, Frayn received a curious package from a

suburban housewife, which contained a few faded pages of barely legible German writings. These pages, which she claimed to have found concealed beneath her floorboards, seemed to cast a remarkable new light on the mystery at the heart of play. As more material emerged -- specifically notes that appeared to give instructions on how to put up a table-tennis table but perhaps containing important encoded information -- actor David Burke, who was playing Niels Bohr, began to display extreme, even suspicious interest in Frayn's growing obsession with cracking the riddle of the papers. And Frayn, for his part, lost all sense of certainty. Was he the victim of an elaborate hoax? By turns comic and profound, *The Copenhagen Papers* explores the conundrum that is always at the heart of Frayn's work -- human gullibility and the eternal difficulty of knowing why we do what we do.

Copenhagen - Michael Frayn 2010-08-04
The Tony Award—winning play that soars at the

intersection of science and art, Copenhagen is an explosive re-imagining of the mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel laureates to discuss the atomic bomb. In 1941 the German physicist Werner Heisenberg made a clandestine trip to Copenhagen to see his Danish counterpart and friend Niels Bohr. Their work together on quantum mechanics and the uncertainty principle had revolutionized atomic physics. But now the world had changed and the two men were on opposite sides in a world war. Why Heisenberg went to Copenhagen and what he wanted to say to Bohr are questions that have vexed historians ever since. In Michael Frayn's ambitious, fiercely intelligent, and daring new play Heisenberg and Bohr meet once again to discuss the intricacies of physics and to ponder the metaphysical—the very essence of human motivation.

Against Entropy - Michael Frayn 1967

Implications of the theory of entropy (that the trend of the universe is towards death) is

humorously applied to the goings-on in a London newspaper office.

Magic Mobile - Michael Frayn 2020-03-24

The whole world at the touch of your finger - why ever leave the imaginary realm of your mobile phone? But this book is even better. Anything but analogue, Magic Mobile is the latest offering of comic genius from Michael Frayn, the author of Matchbox Theatre and Pocket Playhouse. 'Michael Frayn is the most philosophical comic writer - and the most comic philosophical writer - of our time.' Daily Mail
Now You Know - Michael Frayn 2017-04-07
"One of theatre's subtlest, most sophisticated minds" (The Times) Now You Know: "Frayn's light but serious, marvellous play, about official and unofficial secrets, about idle curiosity and investigative purpose" (Observer)

The Human Touch - Michael Frayn 2008-01-22

Examines the role of humankind in the universe, addressing such concepts as the existence of time and space, relativity, and language in terms

of the question of what the universe would be like if human beings were not around to observe or interpret it.

Two of Us - Michael Frayn 1974-04

A collection of short plays *Black and Silver*
Characters: 1 male, 1 female Interior Set
In this short, affecting and laughable scene parents are awakened in the middle of the night by the baby. They stumble about trying to pacify the infant. At one point the husband panics because he cannot hear the baby breathing in the cradle, which is only reasonable because the wife has put it on their bed. Mr. Foot
Characters: 1 male, 1 female Interior Set A

Constructions - Michael Frayn 2013-02-21

First published in 1974 and republished following the success of Frayn's masterly work of philosophy, *The Human Touch*, *Constructions* is a dazzling, thought-provoking and fascinating book which explores some of the great problems in philosophy and of everyday life.

The Tin Men - Michael Frayn 1965

First & Last - Michael Frayn 2017-03-23

"One of theatre's subtlest, most sophisticated minds" (The Times) One spring morning a quiet, shy man in his sixties sets out from Land's End to walk the length of his native land. He has never walked more than a dozen miles in his life before, his health is uncertain, his boots are new, and he is too diffident to talk to anyone he meets along the way. His slow, solitary progress up the spine of Britain is watched by an unseen audience - his family and friends at home. How far will he get before he is forced to give up? Is he being heroic or merely selfish? As the days of his absence go by the old alliances and quarrels inside the family shift and alter. What emerges is a story about the arbitrariness of human endeavour and about the tenacious complexity of human relationships; about one man's glimpse of the country he lives in; about courage and about love. *First and Last* was directed by Alan Dossor in a production for BBC television, with Joss Ackland as the walker.

Spies - Michael Frayn 2005

There is very little evidence of the war where Keith and Stephen live. But the friends suspect the inhabitants of the Close aren't what they seem. As Keith informs his trusting friend, the district is riddled with secret passages and underground labs.

Spies - Michael Frayn 2011-05

In the quiet cul-de-sac where Keith and Stephen live the only immediate signs of the Second World War are the blackout at night and a single random bombsite. But the two boys start to suspect all is not as it seems when one day Keith

announces a disconcerting discovery: the Germans have infiltrated his own family. And when the secret underground world they have dreamed up emerges from the shadows they find themselves engulfed in mysteries far deeper and more painful than they had bargained for. Winner of the Whitbread Novel of the Year Award.

Copenhagen - Michael Frayn 2000

An explosive re-imagining of the mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel laureates to discuss the atomic bomb.