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### Private Lives

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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OTTERBEIN

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C O L L E G E

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**PRIVATE LIVES**

**by Noel Coward**

***May 27, 28, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 1983***

**Director — Don Streibig**

**Scenic Designers**

**Lucy Lee Reuther — Michael Blankenship**

**Costume Designer — Michael Slane**

**Light Designer — Lucy Lee Reuther**

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# NOEL COWARD

The man himself is gone, but Noel Coward's work lives on. His was a career unmatched in theatrical annuals, a life which embraced and encompassed virtually every phase of the entertainment media. Coward progressed from being a precocious child performer to a leading actor on both the London and New York stages. He was a major playwright, composer, lyricist, director; a performer at home in an intimate club or on the vast stages of Las Vegas; a dazzling television personality, even a movie star. He was truly a man for all seasons whose likeness shall not soon be seen again.

Mention Noel Coward's name and immediately one recalls the dapper, suave Englishman with the caustic wit, the somewhat eccentric and flip attitude, the man of ultimate glamour who knew all sides of society. But Coward was much more, a deep and serious artist as well, whose life was spent in the pursuit of perfection in his chosen field.

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Noel Coward has never let me down. Over a period of 30 years I've been lucky to direct or produce eight of Coward's plays and have found the results to be a pleasure and a joy. What a master he is of the seemingly glib and superficial. Yet, how neatly he sums up the comic (and universal) pettiness of us all.

A part of us always aspires to be as sophisticated and knowing as Elyot and Amanda. Most of us end up as the typical Coward maid, tripping over the furniture.

I've played Coward scripts often for young U.S. troops in Germany. The G.I.s never failed to laugh at his broad slapstick as well as his subtle "ping-pong" wit. I treasure the note he sent from his Switzerland villa, advising us which French love song we should use for his "Fallen Angels".

Only once did I see Coward on stage. In the mid sixties in London he appeared in and directed his "Suite in Three Keys", a bill of three plays performed on alternating nights with Irene Worth and Lili Palmer. It was a delightful assignment for Coward, allowing him to play an American with a Texan accent.

Coward's popularity dropped after the Angry Young Men school of drama arrived in 1960, but his stable of memorable characters has never gone out of style. Witness George C. Scott's revival of "Present Laughter" last fall and the current Taylor-Burton version of "Private Lives."

It's a joy to work again with the talented Otterbein performers and rediscover the delicate clockwork comedy of Sir Noel.

—Donald R. Streibig

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AMANDA PRYNNE .....	Elizabeth E. Stinson**
LOUISE .....	Anne Barnes

\*Indicates membership in Cap and Dagger Drama Club

\*\*Indicates membership in Theta Alpha Phi National Theatre Honorary

## SYNOPSIS OF PLAY

Act I — The terrace of a hotel in France  
A summer evening

Act II — Amanda's flat in Paris  
A few days later.  
Evening.

Act III — The same.  
Next morning.

★ *There will be one 12 minute intermission during the production* ★

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Director-Technical Director . . . . .	Prof. Fred J. Thayer
Director . . . . .	Prof. Ed Vaughan
Director-Costume Designer . . . . .	Prof. Lucy Lee Reuther
Secretary . . . . .	Nancy Loeffler
Public Relations . . . . .	Barbara Paddock
Chairman, Department of Speech and Theatre . . . . .	Dr. James Grissinger
Students Assistants . . . . .	Carol Giffen, Diane Idapence

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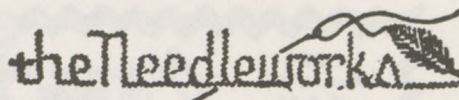
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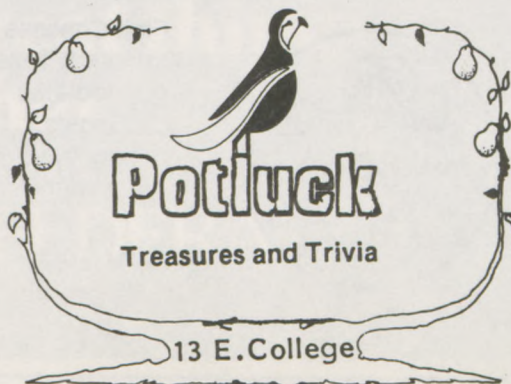
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Assistant to the Director: Jim E. Fippin\*

Costumes: Lori Archer\*, Elaine Pool\* — Co. Chm., Bethany Bohall\*, David DeCooman\*, Allison Dixon\*,  
Ruth Pettibone\*, Steve Salyer\*

House Managers: Susan Diol\*\*, H. Todd Freeman\*

Lighting: Liz Tegzes\*, Carl Wolfe\*\* — Co. Chm., David Caldwell, Jeff Kin\*

Make-up: Tonye Patano\*\*

Publicity: Susan Diol\*\*, H. Todd Freeman\* — Co. Chm.

Props: Michael Blankenship\*, Chm.

Sound: Giovanni Moscardino\*

Scenery: H. Todd Freeman\*, Chm.; Laura Stitt\*, Nancy Fox, Karen Frye\*

Tickets: Tracy Jones\*\*, Chm.; Jim E. Fippin\*, H. Todd Freeman\*, Carol Giffen\*\*, Elizabeth E. Stinson\*\*

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