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The Miser

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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Otterbein College Theatre (Since 1907)

*The Department of
Theatre and Dance
presents:*



The Miser

by Molière

Translation by David Chambers

**Campus Center Theatre
100 W. Home St.**

**January 29 - February 1,
February 5 - February 8, 1998**

Directed by Phil Kilbourne

Scenic Design by D. Glen Vanderbilt, Jr.

Costume Design by Katie Robbins

Lighting Design by Rob Johnson

Sound Design by David Mead

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Setting

Time / Location: Late-17th century / Paris, Harpagon's house

Act One

Act Two

Act Three

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Act Four

Act Five

Cast

HARPAGON	Jason Nettle
CLEANTE.....	Randy Goetz
VALERE.....	Ben Hauck
MARIANNE	Gretchen Siemon
ELISE	Liz Beckham
FROSINE	Katie Pees
ANSELM/M. SIMON	Damon Decker
LA FLECHE.....	Marc Donmoyer
CHIEF OF POLICE/DOG WRANGLER	Matt Sharpless
M. JACQUES	Jesse Wilson

Production Staff

Artistic Director	DENNIS ROMER
Audience Services Director	BRIAN FALCK
Production Manager.....	GREGORY BELL
Technical Director	TIMOTHY D. ALLWEIN
Costume Shop Supervisor	MARCIA HAIN
Choreographer.....	HEATHER WHITE
Stage Manager.....	COLLEEN MCKNIGHT
Assistant Stage Manager	JILL CENESKIE
Assistant Technical Director.....	GEORGE DESHETLER
Sound Technician	ANDREW HAGAN
Assistant to Artistic Director.....	ARWEN NICHOLS
Properties Master	JENNY HITMAR
Assistant Properties Master.....	KATE OPPERMANN
Wardrobe Master	BECKY MORRISON
Wig Wranglers.....	AMY GASPARIK, ASHLEY PALMER, ROB FLEMING
Master Painter	JASON JENKINS
Master Carpenter.....	LORA WINSHIP
Master Electrician	SHERYL WARREN
Assistant Master Electrician	RACHAEL ROSENTHAL
House Manager	EMILY VAUGHAN
Box Office Manager.....	TRICIA COLLINS

WARDROBE CREW

Holly Barnett, Shanna Clay, Joshua Daugherty, Billoah Greene, Faith Talley

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

Amy Kaufman, Matt Sharpless, George DeShetler Jr., Andrew Hagan, Peter Nein, Casey Beard, Shanna Clay, Robyn A. Henry, Jenny L. Hitmar, Jason A. Jenkins, Michael Schertzer,

Lora Winship, Holly E. Barnett, Joshua C. Daugherty
SET/PROPERTIES RUNNING CREW
Molly Gardina, Mandy Wheeler, Jay Michael Grayson
ELECTRICS/USHER CREW

Jennifer Brinker, Jennifer Downs, Jaclyn Holsey, Robin Seabaugh, Ted Sima, Stacey Sinclair, Robert Stretch, Jamie Sutton, Rae-Michelle LeRoy, Amy Miller

Director's Notes

When my friends in St. Paul heard I was coming to Ohio to direct *The Miser* here at beautiful Otterbein, (and knowing that I had achieved a modicum of success with *The Imaginary Invalid* at Ohio State), one of them said, "So, it looks like you're bringing Moliere to the Buckeyes." Aside from the obvious condescension in the phrase, (and seriously, anyone whose mascot is a blond rodent can hardly be disparaging of those who worship a poisonous nut)(Golden Gopher vs. Buckeye), there is something of the ring of truth in that phrase. I don't mean to say that I feel like the Johnny Appleseed of Baroque Comedy, rather that I have always felt that Classical Theatre is rarely fun for an audience, and I like theatre to be fun. I also believe that live theatre is a truly wonderful and communal experience, and all too often audiences have been subjected to Art and not Theatre. If I have a credo, it is "Lighten Up, for God's Sake."

The Miser is an old comedy, and since I have always thought that comedy was a medium for the young (look at Chevy Chase then and now), for such a play to succeed you must approach it not as a relic but as a blueprint for an energetic and youthful production. This play has a lot to say about money, and the love of riches. The common misconception is that money is the root of all evil. Actually the quote says that the love of riches is the root of all evil, (and tonight I hope it's the root of comedy as well, but let that go.) We of the Booming Babies, the narcissistic wastrels of demography, did have one thing going for us once upon a time. We wanted, for a time, something other than wealth. A recent survey (and this information comes from *Politically Incorrect*, so you know it must be right) stated that when asked, 75% of the student population today said that their main goal in life was to be well off, only 25% said that they wanted to attain a personal philosophy. Thirty years ago those numbers were reversed. What happened?

I know there are those of you out who think that there is nothing wrong with those numbers, and indeed maybe not. But there is something wrong when arts in schools are deemed "impractical" just because there is no direct profit-producing result in them (and having spent a life in the pursuit of art, I can attest to the validity of that statement.) There is something wrong when we deny help to our neighbor because the monetary expense is too high. There is something wrong when our compassion, our morals, indeed our civilization are dependent on how much it will cost.

By this time you are now starting to thumb through the program to see if there is an escape clause, and I don't blame you. Don't worry. We are not here to harangue you about greed and covetousness. We are here to give you a good time. There will be no heavy moralizing in this show. (As the song says, "Morals tomorrow, Comedy tonight.") All I want to say is that I have nothing against money, some of my best friends are ten-spots. It is just the love of money that bothers me.

So lighten up, for God's sake.

Biographies

Phil Kilbourne (Director) was last and first seen at Otterbein last spring as Polonius in *Hamlet*. Phil graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre, and received his Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing from The Ohio State University. At Ohio State he directed *Eleemosynary*, *Speed-the-Plow*, and the acclaimed production of Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid*, which was named as Best Production of the Year by the Columbus Dispatch and which won one of the very first Central Ohio Critics Circle awards. Recently in Columbus Phil directed *Romeo and Juliet* at Actor's Theatre and *Jack and Jill* for Red Herring. As an Ohio actor, Phil has played Titus Andronicus for Actor's Theatre, Charles in *Blithe Spirit* for CATCO, and Lloyd in *Reckless* for Ohio State.

Phil has performed over 60 roles with the Summer Theatre at Mt. Holyoke College and the New Century Theatre in Western Massachusetts. His roles most recently there have included Baron Victor Frankenstein in *Frankenstein*, Inspector Goole in *An Inspector Calls*,

Charles in *Blithe Spirit* (again) and John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*. In his twenty years as an actor, Phil has over 150 professional credits to his name.

Phil now lives in St. Paul MN with his lovely wife (and high-school sweetheart) Marysue Moses and equally lovely step-daughter Eliza. He works for Theatre-at-Work.

Rob Johnson (Lighting Designer) is our resident scenic designer in his tenth year at Otterbein. Rob has won an Ezekiel Design Award for lighting Otterbein's *Phantom* last year. The Ezekiel is awarded by the Ohio Valley Section of The United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) for outstanding design work and includes academic and professional companies from all over the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. Recent lighting designs include *A Chorus Line* at Otterbein, *Sisters* at CATCO, and *Artscape*, a festival of the performing arts at The Capitol Theatre in Columbus. To date, he has designed over 100 productions. Rob continues to be at the forefront of computer-aided design and animation. He is currently doing freelance work in computer graphics, animation, and web design and teaches courses at Otterbein in the use of the technology. Rob would like to dedicate his work in memory of his father.

Katie Robbins (Costume Designer) is the resident costume designer at Otterbein College. Her costumes have been seen in Otterbein's productions of *Romeo & Juliet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Most recently, Katie designed the costumes for *Marcus Is Walking*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Hamlet* and Summer Theatre's *Ten Little Indians*. She has also designed CATCO's *Flying West*.

D. Glen Vanderbilt, Jr. (Scenic Designer) is a Professor of Theatre at Ohio Wesleyan University. He has worked around the country as a designer, director, and educator at Interlochen Center for the Arts, CATCO, University of Colorado, Cleveland Playhouse, BalletMet, Boston Publick Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Vanderbilt University, Northwestern University, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. This is Mr. Vanderbilt's fifth production for Otterbein College. His *A Perfect Ganesh* design for CATCO recently won an award for merit from the USITT - Ohio Valley, which Glen has won on five previous occasions. His design for *Angel Street* (Interlochen Arts Camp) was selected for the Design Expo '96 at the National USITT Conference. He served on the Ohio Theatre Alliance Board of Directors for seven years and is a Past-President. He is a member of the United Scenic Artists of America and lives in Dublin.

Liz Beckham (Elise) is a Freshman BFA Acting major from Houston, TX. Liz is making her mainstage debut, but also was seen in *Chicago* and *Noon* last Fall. She would like to thank her parents, the Denny's Assembly, James Cameron, and most especially Rachel Mattox. Liz would also like to give a big HIDEE-HO to Phil, Colleen, and the incredible cast members for making her first show "a hundred billion laughs!" Now that's comedy!

Jill Ceneskie (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Freshman BA Theatre major from Sunbury, Ohio. This is Jill's first ASM position at Otterbein. She would like to thank everyone involved in the production for a wonderful experience and her family and friends for their never-ending support. Most of all, she thanks the cast and crew of *Titanic* for their inspiration - it made all the difference.

George DeShelter Jr. (Assistant Technical Director) is a BFA Design/Technology major from Hilliard, OH. "I would like to thank my parents, family, and friends for their support and love."

Damon Decker (Simon/Anselme) is a Junior BFA Acting major from Dallas, Texas! He has also been seen in *Robin Hood*, *A Few Good Men*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Hamlet*, *Cabaret*, and *1776*. He would like to thank Shad, Lavona, and Sam for their friendship, and he would like to dedicate this performance to his father. "I love you Dad."

Marc Donmoyer (La Fleche) is a Junior BA Theatre major from Worthington, OH. Marc is excited to be reappearing on the Otterbein mainstage after a long unintentional "sabbatical." He would like to thank the cast for great fun, his biological family for being liberal and fun, and his fraternal family of Pi Beta Sigma for all their support. Marc would also like to thank the light of his life, Kelly, for looking like Kate Winslet did in *Titanic*. Marc is in love with his soul-mate, Jesse.

Randy Goetz (Cleante) is a Sophomore BFA Theatre Performance major from Longview, TX.

He appeared in last fall's *The Emperor's New Clothes* and the workshop productions of *Chicago*, *Sweet Eros*, and *The Basement*. Randy would love to thank the phat pads (and John!), his delightful cast members, and the cast and crew of *Titanic*.

Ben Hauck (Valere), a Senior BFA Theatre Performance major, returns to the Otterbein stage from his autumn internship at Ortlip & Filderman Casting in New York City. This role marks his seventh mainstage appearance. Thanks to Dude for helping him with lines.

Jenny Hitmar (Props Master) is a Sophomore BFA Design & Technology major from Cortland, OH. Her latest work included scene painting in *The Emperor's New Clothes*. She sends her love and thanks with a gumball to K.T. who wins the prize for a "12 seater" automobile.

Jason A. Jenkins (Master Painter) is a Sophomore BFA Design/Tech major from Marion, OH. He is happy to be returning as Master Painter. He would like to thank Sheryl, Tim, Jenny, Mike, Glen, and the brothers of Pi Beta Sigma.

Colleen E. McKnight (Stage Manager) is a Sophomore BA Theatre major from Greenville, MI. Colleen is having a very busy year stage managing *The Miser*, the commissioned play in spring, and having Assistant Stage Managed *1776* in fall. She would like to thank the cast and crew, "Hidee-Ho," the phat-pad, my long suffering roommate Sarah, my mom and dad, and the cast and crew of *Titanic*. Thanks for making such a wonderful movie!

Becky Morrison (Wardrobe Master) is a Junior BFA Design Technology major from Zanesville, OH. She would like to dedicate this performance to Maytag, Kenmore, and Whirlpool.

Jason Nettle (Harpagon) is a Senior BFA Acting major/ BA Music Theory and Composition major from Hilliard, OH. Jason has been seen in *A Chorus Line*, *Phantom*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Hamlet*, *Sweet Charity*, *Cabaret*, and *1776*. He would like to thank his Dad, his brother, and the gang from Hudson St. who have taught him everything about comedy, and the cast and crew of *Titanic* who have taught him how to feel his soul.

Kate Oppermann (Assistant Props Master) is a Sophomore BA Theatre major from Worthington, OH. After taking a quarter off to do theatre outside of Otterbein, Kate is glad to be back in the swing of things.

Katie Pees (Frosine) is a Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Dayton, OH. She has been involved with concert choir and Cap and Dagger. Katie's credits at Otterbein include *Phantom*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Cabaret*, and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. She would like to thank her mom and dad for their love and support and Pen for believing in me and being the best friend anyone could possibly have.

Rachael Rosenthal (Assistant Master Electrician) is a Sophomore BA Theatre major from Meadow Lands, PA. She would like to thank her grandfather, Mike, Lori, and Sheryl for all of their help. To Sarah and Amy A Big Snootchie Bootchie, and to all of her friends. "Trivial Pursuit, my room, tonight!"

Matthew Sharpless (Chief of Police) is a Senior BFA Acting major from Cincinnati, OH. "I was Much in *Robin Hood*. Since then, I've been the resident man in uniform in *A Few Good Men*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Hamlet*. I'm directing a workshop this quarter. Oh, and I have not seen *Titanic*."

Gretchen Siemon (Marianne) is a Sophomore BA Theatre major from Springfield, OH. This is Gretchen's first main stage performance. She would like to send love and thanks to her family for always being there. "I love you Kristian and Twinkee." A special thanks to Ashley who has stuck by me another year! And to Katie Pees, "I know you love me." And finally to the cast—— *I will marry him!*

Sheryl A. Warren (Master Electrician) is a Sophomore BFA Design/Tech major from Silver Spring, MD. Sheryl is excited to be back in the lighting area after a short stint as wardrobe master in *1776*. She sends her love to Marke, Josh, and her family back home. Thanks Rachael for all your support.

Jesse P. Wilson (M. Jaques) is a Sophomore BFA Acting major from Columbus, OH. Jesse

most recently portrayed Thomas Jefferson in Otterbein's production of *1776*. He was also Selsdon in last year's *Noises Off*. Hey Marc, "I'm king of the world!! Woo Hoo!"

Lora Winship (Master Carpenter) is a BFA Design Technology major from Gahanna, OH. Lora is having fun playing with lots of power tools. This is her first master carpenter position, but she has spent a lot of time in the shop from Summer Theatre. Thank you to all who have made an impact on her life, you know who you are!

For Your Information...

Otterbein College Theatre (Campus Center)

Latecomer's Policy - The House Manager may seat latecomers only during times which minimize disruption of the play. The management accepts no responsibility for inconvenience to latecomers and can make no adjustment because of it.

Fire Notice - The exit indicated by a red light nearest to your seat is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency please do not run - walk to that exit.

Cameras and Recording Devices - The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs during the performance are strictly prohibited.

Restrooms and Telephones - The restrooms and telephones are located upstairs in the Lobby.

Administrative Office

614/823 - 1657

Monday - Friday 9:30 - 4:30

Box Office

614/823 - 1109

Monday - Friday 1:30 - 4:30

THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL XXXI

Presented and Produced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Supported in Part by the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theatre education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theatre production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1999.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theatre grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theatres across the nation.

Special Thanks:

Ohio Wesleyan University Department of Theatre and Dance

The Ohio State University

Dr. Hinton