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The Cherry Orchard

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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The Cherry Orchard

A Comedy

by Anton Chekhov

Adapted by David Mamet
From a literal translation by Peter Nelles

January 25-29 & February 1-5, 1995

Otterbein College Theatre

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30 S. Grove Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081

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The Advisory Board was first established in 1986 to begin an Endowment Fund for the department. Since that first year, approximately $225, 000 has been raised through a variey of activities, including last year's highly successful "Showcase '94," which brought back alumni from all over the country. The Endowment Fund is used by the department to fund such things as student travel to conferences, bringing in guest artists, and purchasing equipment. The Board also raises funds through the annual sale of Entertainment Books, and those proceeds underwrite opening night receptions and other social events for students, their parents and guest artists. These people serve selflessly, and the department is immensely grateful for their support.

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Department of Theatre & Dance

The Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance has a three-fold mission. In its desire to develop theatre artists of the highest quality, it strives to provide a select number of undergraduate students with the training, education and experiences necessary for the successful pursuit of professional careers in theatre arts. In support of this mission and the liberal arts goals of the College, the department seeks to provide its students with the knowledge and skills necessary to live full, rewarding and productive lives. Offering the BFA and BA degree programs, the Department of Theatre and Dance undertakes to develop and graduate theatre artists who are sensitive, aware, and total human beings. Through its public performance programs, the Department endeavors to serve as a cultural resource for the College, the community and the central Ohio region.

In an attempt to provide our students with a competitive edge, we employ a faculty and staff of artist/teachers who work intensely with the students both in production and the classroom. In addition to our professional faculty and staff, guest artists are frequently brought to campus to work with us in production and in the classroom. Before graduation, BFA students are required to complete a professional internship thus providing them with a unique and invaluable introduction to the real world of theatre. In all that we do, we strive to create and maintain the professional environment necessary for the continued growth and development of our students, faculty and staff.

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From the Director

"What's turned out isn't a drama, but a comedy, in places even a farce..."
Anton Chekhov, Sept. 15, 1903

Reading Chekhov's letters has convinced me that our sacred, reverential approach to his work is misleading. To tap into that incredible balance of humor and pain at the core of this play requires a daredevil attitude, emotional honesty, passion and then more passion, and the ability to lovingly say "These people are fools—and so are we!" As the characters hurl themselves with absolute passion at every situation, so we hurled ourselves into the volatile world of rehearsing this play. From the grueling improvisation of Grisha's death through the delirious rounds of dancing the legzinka, the company and I have lived a fascinating journey.

And what we have discovered is that Americans have a sensibility for Chekhov that is more in keeping with the Russian temperament than we would have thought. It is incredibly satisfying to be in the world of the play, to let the characters take us to new and dangerous places. The richness of life, the contradictions, the different points of view, the multiplicity, the passion, the pathos, the paradox, the many and varied themes of the play feel like playing jazz. It is for us the theatrical equivalent to playing in a jazz band.

As a result, this production is not about a bunch of depressed people sitting around feeling maudlin. But rather it is about all of us, you and I, caught in a moment of change, held fast by our fears and passions, unable to act yet unable to resist the tremendous sense of life and vitality of self that makes us all so very human.

So what's turned out isn't a drama, but a comedy, in places even a farce...

Doreen Dunn, January 25, 1995

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Otterbein College Theatre presents...

The Cherry Orchard

A Comedy

by Anton Chekhov

Adapted by David Mamet
From a literal translation by Peter Nelles

Guest Director	Doreen Dunn
Set Designer	Rob Johnson
Costume Designer	Katie Robbins
Lighting Designer	Dana White
Sound Designer	Robert Holland
Technical Director	Kathlyn D. Brandt
Costume Shop Supervisor	Marcia Hain
Assistant Technical Director	Fred L. Smith
Production Assistant	Pat Foltz

The Cherry Orchard is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., 45 W. 25th St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Guest Biographies

Doreen Dunn (Guest Director) Ms. Dunn's theatrical career has spanned stage and screen, both nationally and internationally, as actor, director, choreographer, and playwright. Among her many director and choreographer credits, highlights include *Fiddler* in Vegas, *Fantasticks* in Paris, *La Ronde* in New York, and Jean Stapleton's *Hello Dolly*. Since moving to Ohio, she has directed CATCO's world premiere of Carter Lewis' drama, *The Women of My Father's House*, and numerous productions at Players Theatre Columbus and Phoenix Theatre Circle. Treasured memories at Players include choreographing the acclaimed production of *Assassins* and directing Steven C. Anderson's *Mama Said Never* and *A Peace From Our Hearts*. Favorites for the Phoenix are last season's award-winning *Kabuki Sleeping Beauty* and the upcoming *Julie of the Wolves*.

Directing credits for Otterbein include *Nunsense* (I and II), both productions of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Something's Afoot*. Choreography highlights include *Evita*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Camille*.

A co-author of the frequently produced *Frontiers*, Ms. Dunn has been honored with two Ohio Arts Council Playwriting Fellowhips. Her plays have been represented in CATCO's *Shorts Festival* and in the Cleveland Public Theatre's Festival of New Plays. Ms. Dunn is a graduate of Northwestern University and a member of five theatrical unions (AEA, SAG, AFTRA, SSDC, and DGA). In her spare time, she is the wife of Dennis Romer and proud mother of 12 year old son, Eric.

Kathleen Gaffney (Mme. Ranevskaya) is truly a renaissance woman of the arts having achieved professional distinction as an actress, playwright and director. She has appeared in over 250 plays from Off-Broadway's *Kali Mother* at the Actor's Playhouse, to regional theatres such as the San Diego Globe Theatre and Alley Theatre, to Broadway National Tours playing Madge Larabee in *Sherlock Holmes* and Faye in *Chapter Two*. Thus far she has played Lady MacBeth three times, most recently at the

American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Conn., under the direction of Tony Award nominee, Tony Tanner. Cleopatra has been one of her favorite roles, Ms. Gaffney, appeared in that ground-breaking production of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* directed by Estelle Parsons in New York. She was resident leading lady at The Center for Music, Drama and Art in Lake Placid for five seasons performing such roles as; Mrs. Patrick Campbell in *Dear Liar*, Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter*, Tracy in *The Philadelphia Story*, Sadie Thompson in *Rain*, and Catherine in *The Heiress* and Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie* among many others.

In 1981 she wrote her first one woman show called *Incarnations*, performed more than one thousand times throughout America including appearances at The Globe Theatre, Montalvo Center for the Performing Arts and Lincoln Center in New York. Her next one woman show was *Diary of A Hostage's Wife* premiering at St. Peter's in New York and subsequently touring California, Wyoming, Oregon and Texas. Meanwhile, Kathleen created the role of Life in a precedent setting performance art piece at Carnegie Hall with orchestra entitled *Life and Death*. Years of playwriting and directing followed.

She co-authored, together with Doreen Dunn, *Frontiers*, which premiered in Los Angeles, *Variety* calling it "very nearly a masterwork." Chatauqua Arts Festival commissioned her to write *Hill Farm* which also premiered there. Other commissions followed, among them, *Queens Jazz*, a jazz revue starring jazz legends Walter Perkins, Bross Townsend and Bobby Cunningham. With funding from The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation she wrote and directed *Jersey Jazz* which toured the state. In 1991 she wrote and directed the jazz revue *171 Jazz Boulevard* which premiered at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. *Challenge Her*, Kathleen's newest play, which she also directed, opened in the spring of 1994 in New York at Queens Theatre in the Park.

The Cast (in order of appearance)

Lyubov Ranevskaya, a landowner	Kathleen Gaffney
Anya, her daughter	Marni Kuhn*
Varya, her adopted daughter	Tess Hartman*
Leonid Gaev, her brother	Chris Libby*
Yermolay Lopakhin, a merchant	Mark Von Oesen
Petya Trofimov, a student	Michael A. Faber
Semyonov-Pischik, a landowner	Rodney L. Cross*
Charlotta, a governess	Nicole A. Franklin-Kern*
Yepikhodov, a clerk	Ben Hauck
Dunyasha, a maid	Sara Laudonia*
Firs, a valet	Steven Skocki*
Yasha, a young valet	Grant Peelle
A Stranger/Station Master	John Mancz
A dog	Pongo Stein

The action takes place on the estate of Madame Ranevskaya.

ACT I. A former nursery in the house. Early morning, spring.

ACT II. The open country near the house. Sunset, summer.

ACT III. The living room of the house. Late August.

ACT IV. The same as Act I. Fall.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

* indicates membership in Cap & Dagger

Acknowledgements Otterbein College Theatre would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their contributions to our production of *The Cherry Orchard*:

Alěs Martínek · Edie Cole · Haddad Oriental Rugs

Guest Biographies, *continued*

Television writing credits include *The Guiding Light*. Her first book, *Take It From The Top, Monologues From The Multicultural Experience* was published in 1993 by Firestein Books. Her second book *Chrysalis* will be published later this year.

Also in 1991 Kathleen co-founded with her husband, Roger Shea, Artsgenesis, Inc. a non-profit arts-in-education organization which creates programs that act as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of students and educators. She serves as President of the organization. Her newest creation *Virtual Theatre'* is slated to open Off-Broadway in the fall of 1995.

Ms. Gaffney received her BA in Theatre, from Buffalo State University and was awarded an MFA fellowship to Wayne State University. She is a member of the board of directors and former president of The League of Professional Theatre Women, a trustee of the Educational Theatre Association of America, serves as a delegate to the National Coalition for Education in the Arts, and was appointed to the National Endowment for the Arts/Department of Education's Goals 2000 Work Group. She is the mother of Kerrianne, age 12, and Kasey age 4.

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THE SNEEZE
Vintage farce by Anton Chekhov (translated and adapted by Michael Frayn)
April 5 - April 29

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Stage Manager ..... Patrick H. Wallace*
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Rachel L. Chaves*
Master Carpenter ..... Nomkita Chirunga
Master Painter ..... Seth Reinick
Properties Master ..... Paul Marr
Assistant Properties Master ..... Krisdee Baun
Wardrobe Master ..... Jenny Keplar
Master Electrician ..... Josh C. Allen
Sound Operators ..... Aaron Ramey, Stephen Grinch

Scene Shop Assistants

Josh C. Allen, Kathlyn D. Brandt**, Krisdee Baun, William Lee Cecil III**, Virginia DeChant, Rob Holland, Matt Sharpless, Steve Skocki

Costume Shop Assistants

Krisdee Baun, Bob Cline**, Heather Miller, Jennifer Reibert, Tami Warnock

Set and Properties Crew

Tony Cisco, Amy Ellenberger, Scott Green, Adam Judd, Anna Khoury, Lara Linley, Arwen Nichols, Angie Walters

Wardrobe Crew

Brian Davis, Kathryn Felsenthal, Josh Freshour, Maura Hass, Jessica Luniewsky, Melody McDowell, Chelsea Meyer, Jason Nettle, Matt Sharpless

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John Stefano Chair
Dennis Romer Artistic Director
Rob Johnson *Design faculty*
Christina Kirk *Performance faculty*
Katie Robbins *Design faculty*
Rob Shaffer *Design faculty and Technical Director*
Sharyllynn Shaw *Performance faculty and Director of Dance*
Ed Vaughan *Performance faculty*
Dana White *Design faculty*

Adjunct faculty:

George Boft *Dance*
Jon Devlin *Dance*
Troy Jansen *Dance*
Stella Kane *Dance*
Pam Scheurer *Children's Theatre*
Tim Veach *Dance/Theatre*

Staff:

Tod Wilson *Managing Director*
Jeanne Augustus *Administrative Assistant*
Marcia Hain *Costume Shop Supervisor*
Fred L. Smith *Assistant Technical Director*
Pat Foltz *Production Assistant*

Otterbein College Theatre is affiliated with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the Ohio Theatre Alliance, the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for adjudication 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 non-competitive KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D. C., in the spring of 1995.

The KC/ACTF is a program of the Kennedy Center Education Department, which also includes youth and family programs, professional development opportunities for teachers, and performances for school groups, the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education, the Performing Arts Centers and Schools Program, performance enhancement events, national and community outreach initiatives, the Kennedy Center Internship Program, and the National Symphony Orchestra education program. The Kennedy Center also works closely with Very Special Arts, an education affiliate of the Kennedy Center.

Last year more than 800 productions and 17,000 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 theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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Otterbein Arts Calendar

Art

January 30-February 18
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Lecture, Feb. 6, 3 p.m., Riley Auditorium
Reception to follow

Music

February 8 (Wednesday)
Faculty Recital Series: Lyle Barkhymer, clarinet
& Cynthia Cioffari, bassoon
8:00 p.m., *Battelle Fine Arts Center*

February 18 (Saturday)
Otterbein Chorale & Opera Theatre
A staged performance of Bernstein's eclectic
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8:00 p.m., Church of the Messiah
(51 N. State St., Westerville)

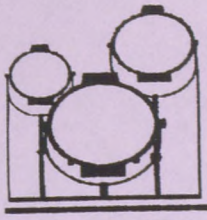
March 3 (Friday)
Faculty Recital Series: Michael Haberkorn, piano
8:00 p.m., *Battelle Fine Arts Center*

Theatre

March 1-5
Six Degrees of Separation
by John Guare
Directed by Dennis Romer

Winner of the 1991 New York Drama Critic's Circle Award and inspired by a true story, the play follows the trail of a young black con man, Paul, who insinuates himself into the lives of a wealthy New York couple, Ouisa and Flan Kittredge, claiming he knows their son at college. Paul tells them he is the son of actor Sidney Poitier, and that he has been mugged and all his money is gone. Captivated by Paul's intelligence and his fascinating conversation, the Kittredges invite him to stay overnight. In the morning they discover him in bed with a young male hustler from the streets and the picture begins to change. The comedy probes the tensions that discolor contemporary life—racial friction, homophobia, homelessness, the gulf between generations, alienation and the need to belong, and even the nature of truth. A central Ohio premiere, *Six Degrees* is an extraordinarily thought-provoking play that will haunt you long after you leave the theatre.

Warning: This play contains adult themes and language.



Who's Who
The Cherry Orchard

Joshua C. Allen (master electrician) is a junior BFA design/tech major from Virginia Beach, VA. Over the past year he has designed for Dominion Theatre, Norfolk Rep. Theatre, and the Professional Theatre workshop in North Carolina. This is Josh's first show back at Otterbein. "It's great to be back!"

Kathlyn D. Brandt (technical director) is a junior BFA design/tech major from Adams County, IN. She served as stage manager for *Androcles and the Lion* and as assistant technical director for *Cat Among the Pigeons*. She looks forward to stage managing *Sweet Charity* in the spring.

Rachel L. Chaves (ass't stage manager) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Cincinnati. This is her first venture into the technical world at Otterbein. She would like to dedicate this show to Pongo the dog and to dog wranglers everywhere.

Rodney L. Cross (Semyonov-Pishchik) is a junior BFA performance major from Columbus. He was last seen as Williams in CATCO's production of the brain dissecting play *Possible Worlds*. Credits at Otterbein include *King Lear*, *The Boys Next Door* and *Big River*. Thanks Doreen.

Michael A. Faber (Petya Trofimov) is a freshman BFA performance major from Coral Springs, FL. He was last seen as a member of the Zanni chorus in *Androcles and the Lion*. Michael would like to dedicate this performance to his family.

Tess Hartman (Varya) is a junior BFA musical theatre major from Baltimore, MD. Previous credits at Otterbein include *The Odd Couple, Baby, King Lear* and *Top Girls*. Tess is also a member of Opus Zero.

Ben Hauck (Yepikhodov) is a freshman BFA performance major from Mansfield. He has appeared in the workshop production of *The Valentine Fairy*. This is his first mainstage appearance at Otterbein.

Robert Holland (sound designer) is a junior BFA design/tech major from Swannanoa, NC. He served as lighting designer for *Cat Among the Pigeons* and as co-designer for Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle* at Bowling Green over break. He would like to thank Lisa for sharing her sanity with him.

Jenny Keplar (wardrobe master) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Columbus. Jenny would like to thank Katie, Marci and Tammy for their patience. She would also like to extend her thanks to Mom and Dad, the little neurotic italian woman, the blond crazy, the spaniard, and Tod.

Nicole A. Franklin-Kern (Charlotta) is a senior BFA performance major from Marysville. Nicole was last seen this fall in *Cat Among the Pigeons*. She would like to thank her parents for their emotional and financial support.

Marni Kuhn (Anya) is a junior BFA performance major from Osceola, IN. Marni was last seen in *Top Girls*. She is very grateful for this opportunity and for the wonderful people to work with. She wishes to extend her thanks to everyone for their encouragement.

Sara Laudonia (Dunyasha) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Vermilion. This is Sara's first mainstage performance and she would like to thank her family and Brett for their support.

Chris Libby (Gaev) is a senior BFA performance major from Las Vegas, NV. Chris last appeared in *Pippin* and would like to extend his general thanks.

John Mancz (Station Master/Stranger) is a BFA performance major from Englewood, OH. John was last seen as the Lion in *Androcles and the Lion* in the fall.

Grant Peelle (Yasha) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Wilmington, OH. This is Grant's fourth mainstage production at Otterbein. He was last seen as Saul in *True West*. He would like to thank his family.

Steven Skocki (Firs) is a senior BFA performance major from Powell