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Is He Dead?

Otterbein University Department of Theatre and Dance

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Otterbein University

Department of Theatre & Dance

presents



A new comedy

By

Mark Twain

as adapted by David Ives

Original Broadway production produced by

Bob Boyett Roger Berlind Daryl Roth Jane Bergere

E. Morten/P. Robbins J. O'Boyle/R. Stevens Roy Miller

Sonia Friedman Productions/Ambassador Theatre Group Tim Levy

in association with

Shelley Fisher Fishkin

Directed by

MARK 'COACH' MINEART

Scenic Design by

ROB JOHNSON

Lighting Design by

T. J. GERCKENS

Costume Design by

REBECCA WHITE

Sound Design by

DOC DAVIS

Stage Managed by

ANNIE SCHROEDER

February 18-21 & 25-27, 2016

Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall
30 S. Grove St., Westerville

CAST

In order of appearance:

Agamemnon Buckner ("Chicago")..... Jack Labrecque
Hans Von Bismarck ("Dutchy")..... Evan Moore-Coll
Marie Leroux Lauren DiMario
Cecile Leroux Asel Swango
Papa Leroux Steven Meeker Jr.
Jean-François Millet Jordan Wood
Bastien André Sileyemon Ndongo
Madame Bathilde Sally Clark
Madame Caron..... Tristan Gillia
Phelim O'Shaughnessy..... Phil Cunningham
Basil Thorpe/ Claude Rivière/Charlie/The King of France Ben Folts

SCENE SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Spring, 1846 in Barbizon near Paris
The studio of Jean-François Millet

~ 15-minute intermission ~

ACT II

Three months later in Paris
The drawing room of the Widow Tillou

One trophy wife.

Three "entitled" children.

One ex-wife.

No will or trust.

Drama? Ooooooh yeah, we know drama.

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HONORARY CAST LIST

Supporting Actor (\$50-\$99)

Harold Amspoker	Barbara George	Charles & Marion Rees
Don & Marilyn Andersen	Steve & Kathy Grant	Richard & Doris Reichert
Anonymous	Emily Gazerro Hall	Lynn & Joy Rinehart
Bill & Judyth Barr	John & Ann Hentz	Brenda Jauchius Ritzman
Donald & Gene Bennion	Douglas Hoover	Anne Robinson
Dan & Linda Bevan	Norman Hosansky	Ronald & Joyce St. Pierre
Carl & Carol Boehm	Walter & Connie Kobalka	Albert & Louise Siegel
Len & Sharon Bussard	J. Thomas & Kathleen Jones	Rex & Jane Sprague
Wallace & Barbara Cash	Bill LaTaille	James Tarpoff
Ted Chaney	Chuck & Connie Layne	Richard & Jeanette Robinson
Leonard & Roberta Clark	Richard & Catherine Loveland	Thomas
Mike & Debra Collins	William Lyons	Roger & Margaret Lloyd Trent
John & Barbara Condon	Barbara McKenzie	Ullom-Morse Family
Clay Cormany & Rebecca	William & Harriet Merriman	Michael Vehonsky
Coleman Princehorn	Dennis & Marjorie Munger	Jay & Barbara Wilcox
Bob & Jocelyn Fu Curry	Nevalyn Fritsche Nevil	Sara Willson
Leslie R. Epstein	Neil & Connie Ostrove	Jim & Marilyn Young
Jim & Di Erickson	James E. Paxton	David & Ann Ziegel
Robert & Deborah Forsblom	William Radloff	

Extra (\$10-\$49)

Elizabeth J. Arnold	Edwin A. Geer	Nancy Schweiger
Christina Baker	Mike Grayson	Gregory & Sharon Shannon
Kay Ball	Rita Gregorek	Jack Sheppard
Benjamin H. Bennett	Charles & Charlene Hammond	Paul & Alyce Sheridan
Dick & Joyce Brown	John & Alice Heller	Nancy Schweiger
Elizabeth A. Burrier	Elliot B. & Ruth Hodgdon	Ronald G. & Linda Simpson
John & Judith Cashman	Kimberly Fippin Hoessly	David B. & Joyce Shannon
Judith E. Cashman Trust	Roger & Robin Howard	Warner
Larry & Margaret Cepek	Ronald & Margaret Jewett	James E. & Carol Carpenter
Gerald & Karen Ciula	Margaret Lares Kadunc	Waugh
John & Ursula Corbett	Joseph & Elizabeth Kolmer	Thomas & Susan White
Richard & Diane Demlow	Barbara Lambert	Roger L. Wilson
L. Thomas & Mary Alice Dillman	Barbara Glor Martin	
Richard & Marie Dilley	Shirley Bracken McJunkin	
Barbara Donohue	Carl D. & Helen W. Miller	
Denise Edwards	Tom & Mary Ellen Miller	
Alyce Douce Elbert	Eleanor Murphy	
Leigh & Sharon Evrard	Deanne Reed	
Susan Fenstermaker	John & Ann Ressler	
Lawrence Friedman	David & Diane Russell	
Alzada Gallagher	Allan Sager	

PRODUCTION STAFF

Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance.....	John Stefano
Audience Services Director.....	Elizabeth Saltzgiver
Resident Technical Director.....	Patrick Stone
Production Manager.....	Kristen Cooperkline
Costume Shop Supervisor	Julia Ferreri
Light & Sound Supervisor	Doc Davis
Administrative Assistant	Matt Wolfe
Speech & Dialects Coach.....	Melissa Lusher
Movement Coach	Melinda Murphy
Assistant Director.....	Maggie Veach
Dramaturg.....	Emily Bubeck
Fight Choreographer	Phil Cunningham
Assistant Stage Managers	Natalie Love, Sarah Smith
Production Assistant.....	Tori DeProspero
Assistant Scenic Designer	Kacey VanderMolen
Charge Artist.....	Karen Crenshaw
Paint Assistant	Alli Dembicki
Properties Master	Kate Bindus
Properties Assistant	Nick Hahn
Master Electrician.....	Joaquin Silva
Assistant Master Electrician	Ethan Brown
Light Board Operator	Christopher Smith
Assistant Costume Designer/ Wardrobe Master	Brady Irwin
Wardrobe Assistant.....	Emma Sicker
Junior Drapers	Brady Irwin, Ashley Sattler, Emma Sicker
Sound A1	Gunnar Schmidt
Box Office Managers.....	Heidi Olander, Alexx Conrad
House Manager	Grace Hoover

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

Arri Allen	Natalie Love
Mikayla Burr	Gunnar Schmidt
Alli Dembicki	Nikki Solomon
Ian Hawthorne	

SCENERY CREW

Aaron Allebach	Kathryn Lee
Ethan Wintgens	Lindsay Cluckey
Grace Auls	Miranda Cotman
Jacob Sundlie	Riley Mankin
Joelle Marshall	

ELECTRICS CREW

Lindsay Cluckey	Reuben Reese
Grace Auls	Christopher Smith
Joelle Marshall	

LIGHT & SOUND ASSISTANTS

Arri Allen	Joaquin Silva
Ethan Brown	Tess Webster
Tori DeProspero	

COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS

Miranda Cotman	Anna Mulhall
Julianne Graffeo	Hannah Pohlman
Brady Irwin	Ashley Sattler
Riley Mankin	Melissa Schlecht
Allison Mogle	Emma Sicker

WARDROBE CREW

Alexander Smith-Fields	Mikayla Burr
Allison Mogle	Reuben Reese
Jessica Palagano	

BOX OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Connor Dunn	Steven Meeker Jr.
Grace Hoover	Annie Schroeder
Shawn Meeker	Tara Smith

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

RE: *Is He Dead?*

I have been an admirer of Twain both as a writer and a thinker since I first encountered his work in my childhood with Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, and Injun Joe. I later moved on to other works including *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *The Diary of Adam and Eve*, and *On the Decay of the Art of Lying*.

Is He Dead? was written by Mark Twain in 1898 and was never produced during his lifetime. The script remained dormant until it was 'rediscovered' in Berkley's Bancroft Library in 2002.

Twain's original script was untenable for a modern production; it was conceived in a now unpopular 3 act format and required a cast of 35 actors. Award-winning playwright David Ives was brought on board to tighten and trim Twain's script down into something that would be producible as well as attractive to modern audiences. *Is He Dead?* received its first public performance in December of 2009 in New York's Lyceum Theatre on Broadway.

Ives has done a masterful job as care-taker of Twain's original vision. All of Mr. Twain's wit and voice are clearly present in this current incarnation of the text.

RE: **The Nature of Farce**

Farce (stemming for the French word meaning 'stuffing' or 'padding') is a particular form of theatrical storytelling that first appeared in the 18th century as short comic sketches inserted as breaks in longer dramatic works, but farce traces its roots as far back as the Commedia dell' Arte of the Italian Renaissance.

Farce is meant to be nothing more than entertainment, a theatrical confection, and on its surface seems like an easy enough thing; after all, the plots as well as the characters of farce are simple enough, and an entire play and its characters can be described in a few short sentences. Really, how difficult can it be to create a confection? Well...I remember the first time I tried to make a soufflé...

As with the making of a soufflé, it is very often the case that the simplest things can be the most difficult to do with excellence. Farce has been described as the most difficult and challenging of all theatrical forms. It is not only immensely physical, it requires a robust size and vigor of performance, a consummate awareness of the audience, impeccable comic-timing, as well as the ability of performers to be surgically precise in the execution of both dialogue and movement night after night after night. Farce is so demanding and difficult that the word *farceur* was coined to describe those actors who were especially skilled in it.

Having told you all of this, please feel free to forget it. While some appreciate the delicacy of a fine soufflé because of how difficult it is to master, others simply and purely enjoy the taste. Farce is just the same, whether you know how it is made or not, it is meant to be joyful and delicious.

On behalf of the company of *Is He Dead?* (actors, designers, production teams, stage managers, various stage crews, box office, publicity teams, etc) let me say that we hope you enjoy your time in the theatre with us today. If you do, please know that the credit belongs to the students of the Otterbein Department of Theatre and Dance. If anything displeases you, please know those mistakes are entirely mine. Thank you for coming.

- Mark

HONORARY CAST LIST

Otterbein University Department of Theatre & Dance honors those who have given so generously during the 2015-16 Academic Year.
Thank you for contributing to the education of our students!

Producer (\$5,000+)

Ohio ENT / Hearing Health Solutions

Director (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Dorothy Deibel
James G. Flaherty
Kathy A. Krendl & Richard S. Gilbert
Christine J. Lei
Mark N. & Betty Peters

Designer (\$500-\$999)

The Columbus Foundation	Nationwide Foundation
Ron Lykins	Ruth Tallman Pifer Fund
Al & Louise Minor	Barbara M. Ruppel

Diva (\$250-\$499)

Kay Atkinson Ball	Thomas M. Bay & Martha Dean Kerr
Judy Gebhart Bear & Daniel Bear	Nancy Jo Pifer
Brian Day	Paul S. & Sheila Reiner
Pamela M. Erb-Melville	Douglas R. Smeltz
John & Terry Geary	Alan & Linda Smith
Sarah & Jim Hickey	Jon & Joyce Stonebraker
John T. & Eileen Fagan Huston	Norma F. Worley

Star (\$100-\$249)

Lawrence & Connie Ackert	Paul Hammock	Jim & Martha Owens
Anonymous	Mark Havanec	Jeff & Veronica Reutter
Anonymous	Vince & Gayle Herried	David & Anne Robinson
Charles & Rebecca Ansley	Vinny Herwig	Marvin & Juanita Rusk
Richard Arndt & Karen Miller	David & Alma Nash Holl	Elizabeth A. Salt
Fred & Patricia Baum	Myra Jamison	David & Beckey Stamm
Richard O. & Linda Spicer Beckner	Herbert & Jeanne Johnston	J. Mikal & Janice Townsley
James V. Blazek	Thomas J. & Donna L. Kerr	Ken & Lise Wadkins
David Coffman	Douglas R. & Mary Pat Knight	Willis S. White
Roy & Joy Croy	Thomas & Barbara Knight	Laura Cean Wilson
Alan & Christy Coupland	Otto & Janet Laster	
John L. & Sharon Davis	Bernard Losekamp	
Petie Dodrill	Michael & Nancy A. Miller	
Margaret Morgan Doone	Jack & Peggy Moreland	
Margaret English Duffy	Alan E. & Carol S. Norris	
Stephen Fleischer	Dennis & Sue Ann Norton	
	Brad Ostroff	

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Mark Twain Foundation Mark Twain died in 1910, leaving his estate to his sole surviving child, Clara. When Clara Clemens Samossoud died in 1962, and further beneficiaries passed away in 1979, the Clemens assets, including various literary rights, passed to the Mark Twain Foundation, a perpetual charitable trust whose purpose is to enable mankind to enjoy the works of Mark Twain forever. The present trustees of the Foundation are JPMorgan Chase Bank and attorney Richard A. Watson.

Shelley Fisher Fishkin was determined to bring Twain's *Is He Dead?* to the stage from the moment she read the manuscript. A professor of English and director of American Studies at Stanford University, she is the award-winning author or editor of more than 30 books, including *The Oxford Mark Twain; Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African American Voices; Lighting Out for the Territory: Reflections on Mark Twain and American Culture*; and *From Fact to Fiction: Journalism and Imaginative Writing in America*. She is past president of the American Studies Association and the Mark Twain Circle of America.

David Ives is probably best known for his evenings of one-acts, collected as *All in the Timing* (Vintage Books) and *Time Flies* (Grove Press). His full-length work to date has been collected in *Polish Joke and Other Plays* (Grove). He is also the author of two young-adult novels, *Monsieur Eek* and *Scrib*. He lives in New York City with his wife, Martha.

Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), published more than 30 books, hundreds of short stories and essays and gave lecture tours around the world. Often regarded as the "father of American literature" for his keen wit and incisive satire, Twain's works include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The Cardinal Classroom

Otterbein University students travel all over the world to study, volunteer, and serve our global society. Seniors Jordan Donica (Theatre) and Matt Hofacker (Mathematics) have created a program to raise money for a school in Africa. The students hope to raise a total \$15,000 in order to build a much-needed classroom for the residents of Nkhoma, a small village in Malawi.

For more information about the project, contact
Matt: matthew.hofacre@otterbein.edu or
Glenna Jackson: gjackson@otterbein.edu or 614-823-1561



BIOGRAPHIES

Mark 'Coach' Mineart (Director) Mark's professional theatre career spans over 25 years and three continents as an actor, director, and fight choreographer. He has appeared on and off Broadway with such stars as Denzel Washington and Kelsey Grammer as well as worked at many of the nation's most well respected and award-winning regional theatres. Classically trained, he has portrayed many of the great characters of western theatre, among them Cyrano de Bergerac, Macbeth, Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*, and Lennie in *Of Mice & Men*. He has created roles in almost a dozen world premiere productions by such playwrights as Jane Martin and Eric Cobble, and even had roles written for him by multiple Tony and Drama Desk Award-winner Arthur Kopit. Mark has appeared in feature films, a variety of television programs and worked as a performance capture artist on blockbuster video games such as *Crysis II*, *Bullet Storm* and *NCIS: The Game*. In August of 2015 Mark joined the faculty at Otterbein University where he serves as Associate Professor of Performance in the Department of Theatre & Dance. Mark was most recently seen playing the notorious Black Stache in CATCO's recent production of *Peter & the Starcatcher* at the Riffe Center. *Is He Dead?* marks Mark's (see what I did there?) directorial debut at Otterbein.

Rob Johnson (Scenic Designer) is a full professor and the Head of Design/Technology in the Department of Theatre & Dance at Otterbein University. He has been a designer and professor at Otterbein for 28 years, joining the faculty in 1987. His undergraduate degree is from Bowling Green State University. He also holds two masters degrees, one from West Virginia University where he studied scenic design, and the other from the Ohio State University where he earned his M.F.A. in lighting design. He freelanced professionally as a scenic and lighting designer for many years working with other universities and professional companies. He has designed award-winning scenery for much of his career. Highlights include Otterbein's smash hit, *42nd Street*, working with Tony award winning director and choreographer Randy Skinner and more recently *Into the Woods*. Lighting designs include work for Ballet Met, Denison University, Ohio State University and Ohio Wesleyan University. He was also a pioneer in the use of 3D computer modeling and animation for scenic design and authored an interactive CD-ROM on "Basic Lighting Technology for the Theatre", published worldwide through First Light Video, out of Venice, CA. He gives thanks to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for all of his many opportunities and blessings.

Rebecca White (Costume Designer) joined the Theatre & Dance faculty as the resident Costume Designer in 2007 and teaches courses in costume history, costume design, costume technology, and makeup. Some of Rebecca's previous designs at Otterbein include *Into the Woods*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Pippin*, *Gypsy*, and *How to Succeed in Business...Without Really Trying*. Rebecca's work has been on stage at the Santa Fe Opera, The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Park Square Theatre, St. Cloud State University, Theatre l'Homme Dieu and the Minnesota Centennial Showboat. Rebecca holds an MFA from The University of Minnesota and a BS from The University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse.

T.J. Gerckens (Lighting Design) is the lighting design faculty member at Otterbein University, a USA829 Union Lighting Designer, and proud Otterbein Alum. At Otterbein he has designed the lighting for Dance 2015: *Famously Yours Forever*, Dance 2014: *Tell Tale Poe*, and *Into the Woods*. As a freelance lighting designer T.J. has been part of the

BIOGRAPHIES

design team for the Tony Award winner and MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Mary Zimmerman for the last 22 years. Most recently he designed *Guys and Dolls* at Wallis Annenberg Center in L.A. His lighting designs have been seen at regional theatres across the United States, on and off Broadway, and at the Metropolitan Opera. Internationally, he has designed in England, Australia, and at the LaScala Opera House in Milan, Italy. He has received numerous awards for his designs including New York's Drama Desk Award and Lortel Awards for his lighting of *Metamorphoses* on and off Broadway, Jefferson Awards for *The Odyssey* and *Metamorphoses* in Chicago, and an award for "Exemplifying the Art of Collaboration" given to the Zimmerman design team by Entertainment Design Magazine. You can see his designs for *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *La Sonnambula* on DVDs released by the Metropolitan Opera. Upcoming design projects *Blood Wedding* at the Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago, *Treasure Island* in San Francisco, and a yet-to-be announced opera at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. T.J. comes to Otterbein after two years at the University of Toledo, and prior to that he spent 17 years in production and executive management at CATCO. T.J. holds a BFA from Otterbein University and an MFA from Boston University. He is married to set designer, scenic artist, and Otterbein adjunct instructor Stephanie R. Gerckens. They have two children and live in Plain City.

Doc Davis (Sound Designer/Lighting & Sound Supervisor) was born and raised in Pearl, MS. After receiving a BA in Theatre from Belhaven University, he continued his education at the University of Illinois. While completing his MFA in Sound Design, he worked as a sound engineer at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, assisting such music acts as Dee Dee Bridgewater, The National, Keb' Mo', Mavis Staples, and more. Since moving to Columbus, OH, Davis has been very active in the Otterbein University Theatre Department acting as Adjunct Professor, Sound Designer, and Lighting and Sound Supervisor.

Kristen Cooperkline (Production Manager) earned her Bachelor of Arts in History/Theatre from The College of Wooster and her Master of Arts in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green University. She then received her MFA in Stage Management from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2012. Her Illinois credits include *Macbeth*, *La Calisto*, *Battle of Angels*, *February Dance*, and *Our Town*. Following her graduation, Kristen served as the Event Coordinator for the first-ever American College Dance Festival Association South Regional Conference as well as a stage manager for Bebe Miller Company.

Melissa Lusher (Speech and Dialects Coach) is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Otterbein University where she teaches acting, speech and dialects. She is the resident speech/dialects coach for all Otterbein Theatre productions and regularly serves as a guest dialect coach at area universities and theatre companies, including Denison University, Actors' Theatre of Columbus, and Short North Stage. Melissa holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the combined program of Carnegie Mellon University and the Moscow Art Theatre in Russia, and a B.F.A. in Acting from Carnegie Mellon. She was a founding company member of the American Studio Theatre in New York City and also served as the company's resident voice and speech coach. Favorite acting credits include Barbara in *August: Osage County* (Otterbein Theatre), Goneril in *King Lear* (Actors' Theatre),

BIOGRAPHIES

Jordan Wood (François Millet) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Indianapolis, IN. Previous credits include Collins in *RENT* and Ensemble for Dance 2015: *Famously Yours...Forever*. Thank you to Coach and the whole cast and creative team. Thank you to my family and friends who have been so ridiculously supportive and enjoy the show. It's been a blast!

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Book by Joseph Stein

Music by Jerry Bock

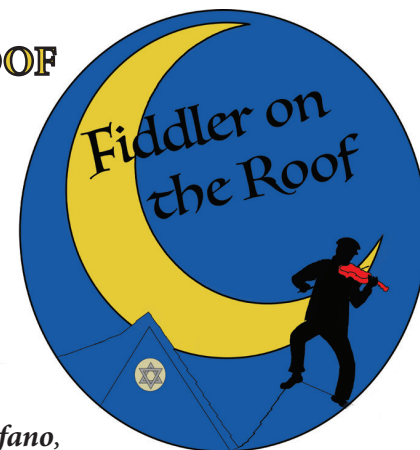
Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

April 7-10, 14-16

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Featuring **John Stefano**,
Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance,
as Tevye!



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com



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Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall
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www.otterbein.edu/drama

BIOGRAPHIES

Evan Moore-Coll (“Dutchy” Hans von Bismark) is a junior BFA Acting major from Charlottesville, VA. Previous credits include Merriman in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Greg (Astronaut)/Intermission Man/Janitor in *Middletown*, Menelaus/Aegisthus in *The Greeks: The Murders*, Warnock “Ticky” Waldgrave in Otterbein Summer Theatre’s production of *The Nerd*, and Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Thank you to the entire cast and crew of this show; it’s been a pleasure working with each of you. Thank you to my Mom, The Three Musketeers, the lovely Rebecca Schafer, and to the Carolina Panthers for making it to the Super Bowl.

Sileyemon Ndongo (Bastien André) is a freshman BFA Acting major from East Columbus, OH. Sileyemon is extremely grateful for each individual who facilitated his being here and doing this show, in spite of his constant enthusiastic skulduggery and delinquent antics. Also he would like to apologize for his constant frenzied irreverence and rapscaillon behavior.

Ashley Sattler (Draper) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major from Beavercreek, OH. She has previously worked on *RENT* (Props Master), *Dance 2015: Famously Yours...Forever* (Props Master), *Into the Woods* (Master Carpenter), *Sweet Charity* (Props Master), and *Dance 2014: Tell-Tale Poe* (Wardrobe Master). Enjoy the show!

Sarah Smith (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior BA Theatre and Music double major from Hilliard, OH. Previous credits include *RENT* (Production Assistant), *Dance 2015: Famously Yours...Forever* (Production Assistant), and *Middletown* (Wardrobe Assistant). I would like to thank my amazing parents and big brother, Tommy, for all of their unconditional love and support and for reminding me to always be the best I can be. Thank you to the cast and crew for such a wonderful experience!

Asel Swango (Cecile Leroux) is a junior BFA Acting major from San Antonio, TX. Previous credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Conrade), *The Greeks: The Murders* (Cassandra/Chorus), and the 2014 and 2015 Festivals. She also performed as Titania for Salem Shakespeare’s production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Asel would like to thank Coach for this incredible opportunity and his notebook full of inspiring quotes! She would also like to thank the cast and crew, the theatre class of 2017, Ian, and her mother for the love and support she gives her every day! Enjoy the show!

Kacey VanderMolen (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major and Film Studies Minor from Loveland, OH. Previous credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Master Electrician), *Into the Woods* (Assistant Master Electrician), *The Greeks: The Murders* (Props Assistant), *Sweet Charity* (Sound Assistant) and *Middletown* (Paint Assistant). I have had an immensely fun time working on this production. Our design team has certainly been a lot of fun to work with. As for future plans, my dream is still to work for Disney one day, but education never stops. A masters degree might come first.

Maggie Veach (Assistant Director) is a senior BA Theatre major from Westerville, OH. Previous credits include Assistant Director for *Dance 2015: Famously Yours...Forever* and Dramaturg for *RENT*. Thank you to the cast and crew for this amazing experience! Thank you to Mark Mineart for this wonderful opportunity. And to the Widow Tillou!

BIOGRAPHIES

Marina in *Volodya* (LaMaMa E.T.C.), Margaret in *Richard III* (AST), and Clytemnestra in *The Greeks* (Moscow Art Theatre). Favorite directing credits at Otterbein include *RENT*, *The Greeks: The Murders*, *The Nerd*, and *Spring Awakening* (named one of the Best 10 Shows of 2012 by the Columbus Dispatch). Melissa is a member of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA).

Melinda Murphy (Movement/ Voice Coach) teaches Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais Method® in the Otterbein Theatre and Dance Department, with application to movement, voice, characterization, singing, and dance. Melinda is one of the few teachers trained in both methods; she combines them in her private practice in Columbus, and in classes and seminars for performing artists at other Ohio colleges. Since coming to Otterbein, she also trained to teach Fitzmaurice Voice work for its specialized tools for improving the voice and breath. Melinda has coached Otterbein productions since the turn of the century. She has also coached equestrians, figure skaters, musicians, and competitive barbershop quartets and choruses including the two-time international gold medalist Southern Gateway Chorus.

Patrick Stone (Technical Director) is new to Otterbein University having spent the last seven years at the University of Arkansas as the departmental Faculty Technical Director. He holds a Masters of Fine Arts from University of South Dakota in Vermillion and a Bachelors of Arts from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. He teaches classes in stage craft, properties design and construction, metal working, technical directing, wood working and motion scenery. He also enjoys consulting with local and regional theatres ranging from professional to junior high. Lately he has been exploring the application of pneumatic actuators and cylinders in scenery and props. Patrick’s favorite drywall screw is 1-5/8”.

Annie Schroeder (Stage Manager) is a junior BA Theatre major from Dublin, OH. This year, Annie is serving as President of Cap and Dagger and Production Manager of the Drag Show. Last spring, she was the Assistant Director for *Into the Woods*. She would like to thank her parents, Amanda, and TEM for their constant support; and the cast, her team, and Mark for making this process incredibly fun and rewarding. In the future, Annie hopes to work in theatre for social/political change...as Millet says, “Great art, supreme art has no nationality”.

Kate Bindus (Props Master) is a senior BFA Design/Technology major from Chagrin Falls, OH. Previous credits include Stage Manager for *Middletown* and *Dance 2015: Famously Yours...Forever* and Props Master for *Into the Woods*. Kate is extremely excited to be working on *Is He Dead?* as her final show at Otterbein. She would like to thank her extremely loving family, supportive faculty, and amazing friends for all their help and support throughout this process and her four years at Otterbein.

Ethan Brown (Assistant Master Electrician) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major with a concentration in Audio Production from Granville, OH. Earlier this semester, Ethan was the Sound Designer for Festival 2016.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sally Clark (Madame Bathilde) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Memphis, TN. She was last seen on the Otterbein stage as Gertrude Seacole in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other credits include Seada in *Necessary Targets*, Agnes in *She Kills Monsters*, Mary Dalton in *Native Son*, and Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical*. I am so thrilled to be a part of this hilarious show with an even more hilarious cast. Thank you to Mom, Gray, Steven, and the class of 2018 for your love and support. Thank you, Coach for this wonderful opportunity. Shout out to Madame C, it has been a blast since day one.

Karen Crenshaw (Charge Artist) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major from Newnan, GA. She also served as Charge Artist for last fall's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, and was a Company Member of the 2014 and 2015 Otterbein Summer Theatre seasons. Thank you to the production team for their constant hard work. I dedicate this show to my Mom. Much love to DT2017.

Phil Cunningham (O'Shaughnessy/Fight Choreographer) is a senior BA Theatre major from Dublin, OH. Previous Otterbein credits include Fight Choreographer for *The Greeks: The Murders*, *Into The Woods*, and *RENT*. He also recently performed with Gallery Players as Stanley in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. I would like to thank my friends, family, and brothers who have supported me throughout my time in college, and a special thank you to the cast, crew, and production staff of *Is He Dead?*, for making my last semester of college an incredible growing experience. Also, a special thank you to Mark Mann and Coach Mineart, two of the most influential and inspiring teachers I have ever had.

Alli Dembicki (Paints Assistant) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology from Pemberville, OH. Previous credits include Paints Assistant for Dance 2015: *Famously Yours...Forever*, and Props Master for *Much Ado About Nothing* and Otterbein Summer Theatre 2015. After graduation, Alli plans to join a touring show and travel across the U.S.

Tori DeProspero (Production Assistant) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major from Delaware, OH. Previous credits include Master Electrician for Otterbein Summer Theatre 2015 and Assistant Master Electrician for the productions of *Rent* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Tori is incredibly thankful for all of the support from her family and everyone here at Otterbein!

Lauren DiMario (Marie Leroux) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Dayton, OH. Previous credits include Clelia Waldgrave in Otterbein Summer Theatre's *The Nerd*, Watchman in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Florrie in the Advanced Directing Project production of *Waiting for Lefty*. Special thanks to the whole *Is He Dead?* team, the Class of AteTeen, and my family. Much Love!

Ben Folts (Basil Thorpe/ Claude Rivière/King of France/Charlie) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Hershey, PA. Previous credits include Rick Steadman (Otterbein Summer Theatre : *The Nerd*), James Dean (Dance 2015: *Famously Yours... Forever*), Boy (*Much Ado About Nothing*), and Soldier (*The Greeks: The Murders*). Ben has had a wonderful time working on *Is He Dead?*. He would like to express his pity to his cast mates who had to wear corsets and his thanks to the entire crew and cast of this show for making its preparation such a joy.

BIOGRAPHIES

Tristan Rose Gillia (Madam Caron) is a freshman BFA Acting major from Brooklyn, NY. Off-campus credits include Mrs. Tottendale in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Mrs. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*, Mary Muldoon in *Hit and Misdeemeanor*, and Peppermint Patty in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Tristan is thrilled to be making her Otterbein main stage debut in this hilarious play! She would like to thank her family, friends, the entire cast and crew, Mark Mineart, and YOU for coming!

Ian Hawthorne (Master Carpenter) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major and Sociology minor from Mentor, OH. Previous credits include Technical Director for *Much Ado About Nothing* and Master Carpenter for *The Greeks: The Murders*. He also served as Carpenter for the productions of *RENT*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Into the Woods*. I'd like to thank Paul Gatzke for the continued inspiration to do tech theatre, and Patrick Stone for being a pretty decent mentor/professor/boss. I'd like to someday be a technical director at a large regional theatre, or work a cubicle office job because they don't seem that bad.

Grace Hoover (House Manager) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Carlisle, PA. Off campus credits include the Harrisburg Shakespeare Company production of *Antony and Cleopatra* (Soothsayer). Her Otterbein credits include *The Greeks: The Murders* (Dramaturg) and the role of Zlata in the workshop production of *Necessary Targets*.

Brady Irwin (Assistant Costume Designer, Draper, Wardrobe Master) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major from Louisville, KY. Previous credits include Wardrobe Master for *Sweet Charity* and Wardrobe Assistant for *Much Ado About Nothing*. I finally got to make something besides a skirt! Thank you to Rebecca White for dealing with me and letting me be her assistant!!!

Jack Labrecque (Chicago) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Brunswick, ME. Previous credits include Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Russ/Dan in the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of *Clybourne Park*. A shout out to my parents for all their support! Enjoy the show!

Natalie Love (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore BA Theatre major with minors in Arts Administration and Literary Studies from Reynoldsburg, OH. She was recently the Assistant Stage Manager for the fall production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Thank you to my family and to the fam.

Steven Meeker Jr. (Papa Leroux) is a junior BFA Acting major from Mount Vernon, OH. Previous credits include Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Old Man in *The Greeks: The Murders*, Assistant Choreographer for Dance 2014 and 2015, Choreographer for *The Yellow Boat*, and Ensemble for *Middletown*, *The Full Monty*, Dance 2013 and *After the Fall*. Steven is currently working on choreography and writing a new play, *Not the Truth We Seek*, which will debut in the Fall of 2016. Steven would like to thank the Bells, Shawn, his family, the class of 2017, Coach, Evan, Phil, Asel, the cast and crew of this awesome production and Sally! Enjoy the show!