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The Launch 2018: A Senior Cabaret

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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OTTERBEIN THEATRE & DANCE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

THE LAUNCH



Hosted by
ANDREW LIPPA

Directed by
THOM CHRISTOPHER WARREN

Musical Direction by
LORI KAY HARVEY

Choreography by
STELLA HIATT KANE

Scenic Design by
ROB JOHNSON

Lighting Design by
JESSICA PALAGANO

Sound Design by
KEYA MYERS-ALKIRE

Stage Managed by
SARAH SHORT

November 11, 2018
Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville

THE LAUNCH: A SENIOR CABARET

Hosted by Andrew Lippa

Featuring the BFA Acting & Musical Theatre Class of 2019

Maxwell Bartel
Alissa Dellork
Tristan Gillia
Matthew Gittins

Abigail Isom
Noël Isaacson
Kara Jobe
Kat Lee

Trey Plutnicki
Reuben Reese
André Spathelf Sanders
Jacob Sundlie

accompanied by Lori Kay Harvey, piano

"More Life" from Now. Here. This./ "Opening Up" from Waitress.....The Class of 2019

"More Life": Music & Lyrics by Jeff Bowen

"Opening Up": Music & Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

"Medley in 3/4 time"Trey

A medley of songs by Rodgers & Hammerstein, Jeanine Tesori, Sheldon Harnick, and Jerry Bock

Rumors.....Tristan & Reuben

By Neil Simon

"You'll be Back" from HamiltonMatthew

Music & Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

"Ain't No Party" from DreamgirlsKat & Reuben

Music by Henry Krieger, Lyrics by Tom Eyen

"The Beauty Is" from The Light in the PiazzaNoël

Music & Lyrics by Adam Guettel

Brighton Beach MemoirsAbigail & Kara

By Neil Simon

"Destruction" from Dance 2016: The Goddess.....André

Choreographed by Stella Hiatt Kane

Role of Della.....Tristan & Alissa

By John Wooten

The Toxic Avenger medleyThe Musical Theatre Class of 2019

Music by David Bryan, Lyrics by David Bryan & Joe DiPietro

Shakespeare medleyThe Acting Class of 2019

By William Shakespeare & friends

"Ring Them Bells"Reuben with Tristan, Maxwell, Kara, André, Trey & Matthew

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

THE LAUNCH: A SENIOR CABARET

"Sooner or Later" Kat
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Girls and Boys..... Kara
By Dennis Kelly

"Different as Can Be" from *A Very Potter Musical*..... Matthew & Trey
Music & Lyrics by Darren Criss & A. J. Holmes

"Ain't It Adorable" Alissa
By Alissa Dellork

Rumors Maxwell & Noël
By Neil Simon

"Heart" from *Damn Yankees* Jacob, André, Trey, & Reuben
Music & Lyrics by Richard Adler & Jerry Ross

"The Chain"/ "Ring of Keys" from *Fun Home* Abigail with Kat & Noël
"The Chain": Music & Lyrics by Ingrid Michaelson
"Ring of Keys": Music by Jeanine Tesori, Lyrics by Lisa Kron

"Little Bit of Luck" from *My Fair Lady* Maxwell with Trey & André
Music by Frederick Loewe, Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Thoroughly Modern Millie medley Abigail, Noël, Matthew, Trey, André, & Tristan
Music by Jeanine Tesori, Lyrics by Dick Scanlan

"This Time" from *Now. Here. This.* The Class of 2019
Music & Lyrics by Jeff Bowan

PRODUCTION STAFF

Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance Christina Kirk
Acting Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance T. J. Gerckens
Chair, Department of Music Dennis Davenport
Managing Director Elizabeth Saltzgiver
Interim Production Manager Elynmarie Kazle
Assistant Stage Manager Thomas Martin
Faculty Technical Director Patrick Stone
Stage Crew Amelia Elias, Ashton Lambert, Apple Tsai
Interim Lighting & Sound Supervisor Kelly Ganley
Master Electrician John Diver
Followspot Operators Alexa Magro, Stephen Blauch
Manager of Ticketing and On-Campus Promotion Tara Smith
House Manager Alyssa Samuelson

BIOGRAPHIES

Andrew Lipppa's (Host) new hit song "Evil Like Me" appears in Disney's *Descendants*. Written for Kristin Chenoweth, the soundtrack hit #1 on the "Billboard 200" album chart, #1 on the iTunes and Billboard soundtrack charts, and has been viewed over 50 million times on YouTube. Recently, Andrew composed and conducted a world premiere piece for the international piano virtuoso Lang Lang and the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in Guangzhou, China. This new work, a 32-minute, 5-movement piece called "Rising Tide," will be reprised later in 2016 and recorded in China. Lipppa's epic Concept Opera *I am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk* had its world premiere at The Music Center at Strathmore in April of this year starring Kristin Chenoweth as Anne Hutchinson and Mr. Lipppa as Harvey Milk. This summer is the US premiere of *Life of the Party* – a musical compendium of Mr. Lipppa's career – produced by Theatreworks in Mountain View, CA and starring Mr. Lipppa. Broadway credits include music and lyrics for *Big Fish* directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman; Tony-nominated music and lyrics *The Addams Family* (over 1,000 productions worldwide); music for Aaron Sorkin's play *The Farnsworth Invention* directed by Des McAnuff (*Jersey Boys*). In 1999, he contributed three new songs to the Broadway revival *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (including "My New Philosophy" for Tony-Award Winner Kristin Chenoweth) and created all new arrangements. Off-Broadway credits include *The Wild Party* (book/music/lyrics) which won the Outer Critics Circle Award for best musical and Drama Desk Award for best music; *John & Jen* music and co-wrote book (w/ Tom Greenwald). His epic oratorio for men's chorus, orchestra and soloists, *I Am Harvey Milk*, has seen over 20 productions including at Disney Hall and Lincoln Center. His musical *A Little Princess* (written with Brian Crawley) premiered at Theatreworks, was seen in concert at Texas State University in 2011 and is licensed for worldwide production by Music Theater International (MTI). Mr. Lipppa is proud to have been music director for many concerts for Kristin Chenoweth including the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall. Recordings include Julia Murney's CD *I'm Not Waiting*; *The Addams Family* (Decca Broadway and Spanish and German productions); *Big Fish* (Broadway Records); *The Wild Party* (RCA Victor); *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (RCA Victor) which earned him a Grammy Award nomination; *A Little Princess* (Ghostlight); *John & Jen* (2 different recordings: Ghostlight and Broadway Records); and *I Am Harvey Milk*. Mr. Lipppa also produced the original cast recording of *Bat Boy* (RCA Victor). Awards: Tony and Grammy nominations; shared Emmy for Nickelodeon's *The Wonder Pets*; The Gilman/Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award; ASCAP's Richard Rodgers/New Horizons Award; The Drama Desk Award; The Outer Critics Circle Award. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Lipppa serves as president of The Dramatists Guild Fund. He was born in Leeds, England and grew up in suburban Detroit.

T.J. Gerckens (Acting Chair/Artistic Director/Producer) is the lighting design faculty member at Otterbein University, a USA829 Union Lighting Designer, and proud Otterbein alumnus. At Otterbein, he has designed the lighting for *Snoopy!!!*, *Oklahoma!*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *Damn Yankees*, *Dance 2016: The Goddess*, *The Crucible*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *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 design team for the Tony Award winner and MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Mary Zimmerman for the last 23 years. Most recently, he designed Mary Zimmerman's production of *Rusalka* at the Metropolitan Opera in NYC, and productions including *The Odyssey* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Wonderful Town* at the Goodman Theatre in

BIOGRAPHIES

Chicago, *Guys and Dolls* in L.A., and her world-premiere adaptation of *Treasure Island* at the Lookingglass Theatre and Berkeley Rep. 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. 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.

Thom Christopher Warren (Director) serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance and made his Otterbein directorial debut last spring with *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and most recently helmed *Big Fish* with Stella and Lori Kay. Thom comes to campus directly from the Broadway company of Disney's *The Lion King* having worked for over fifteen years both onstage (Scar, Zazu, Timon, Pumbaa, and Ed) and off, having toured with the show as Resident Director and serving on the creative team for the Chinese production in Shanghai. Over the course of a thirty year career as an actor, Thom has worked on and off-Broadway, regionally at some of the nation's leading theatres such as The Guthrie, La Jolla Playhouse, Paper Mill Playhouse, Hartford Stage Company and many others, as well as touring the country with companies of *The Lion King*, *Into the Woods*, *Godspell*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, (with our very own Lori Kay Harvey!) and Barry Manilow's *Copacabana*. This past summer, Thom had the pleasure of working at the Porthouse Theatre in Kent, playing Dan in their production of *Next to Normal*, and is over the moon to be playing Albin/Zaza in Short North Stage Company's *La Cage Aux Folles*, running now. Concert work includes singing alongside Mr. Manilow at Madison Square Garden and at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, as well as singing in the *Sondheim Birthday Concert* with the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center, and many evenings featuring the work of Mr. Sondheim at 54 Below in NYC. Having spent the last decade balancing teaching with performing, Thom has been fortunate enough to guest direct at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music and has taught and led master classes at Kean University, Yale University, the University of Michigan, the New York Film Academy, Pace University and South Carolina School of the Arts. Thom lives in Clintonville with his husband Adam, and their dog, Hamilton, and is forever grateful to Lori Kay and Stella for their humor and patience. Endless thanks to the extraordinary class of 2019 and sending you all out into the world with nothing but love and gratitude.

Lori Kay Harvey (Musical Director/ Accompanist) is in her 11th year as a member of the musical theatre faculty at Otterbein. She has music directed over 35 shows in central Ohio and throughout the US and has performed extensively as an actor/ singer/ dancer on both national and international tours and in numerous regional theatres. Recent Otterbein credits include *Big Fish*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *Damn Yankees* and *The Addams Family*. Tour credits: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (National), *Grease* (Brazil). Regional: *Next to Normal* (SRO Theatre Co.), *Beauty and the Beast* (Ordway Center, MN), *Jekyll and Hyde* (Arvada Center, CO), *The Taffetas*

BIOGRAPHIES

(Totem Pole Playhouse, PA), *Camelot* (Westchester Broadway Theatre, NY), *The Who's Tommy*, *Damn Yankees* (Mill Mountain Theatre, VA), *Brigadoon*, *Carousel*, *The Desert Song* (Media Theatre, PA), and *The Good War* (Weathervane Playhouse, OH). In 2014, she received nominations from both BroadwayWorld Columbus and the 10th Annual Jebby Awards for Best Actress in a Musical for her role as Diana in *Next to Normal* with the SRO Theatre Company in Columbus, OH. She won Best Musical Director from BroadwayWorld Columbus for *Les Misérables* at Otterbein in 2014. Concert credits: Soprano soloist - *Bernstein's West Side Story* with Maestro Peter Stafford Wilson and the Springfield and Westerville Symphonies, Soprano soloist - Excerpts from *Claudel - CDT @ 20*, *Mozart Requiem* with The National Chorale (Avery Fisher Hall), *Puttin' On the Rit*z with Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra (Carnegie Hall and recorded on TELARC label), and *The Magical Music of Disney* (Cincinnati Music Hall and Circle Theatre, IN, recorded on TELARC label and GRAMMY-nominated). Television credits: *Sex in the City*, *Guiding Light*, *Mel Torme's Christmas Special*, and various commercials and industrials. Education: BS in Voice Performance and Theatre from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Member of Actor's Equity Association. To all our beautiful seniors, I will miss you all and best wishes!!!!

Stella Hiatt Kane (Choreographer) is the Director of Musical Theatre and Director of Dance at Otterbein University and the founding Artistic Director of JazzMet. Ms. Kane has been a member of the national companies of *Sugar* and Bob Fosses' *Dancin'* and a member of the national and international companies of The American Dance Machine. She has made television appearances in productions such as PBS' *Dance In America* and The Ann Reinking Special with Ann Reinking, Chita Rivera and Ben Vereen. Ms. Kane has taught for New York's American Dance Machine/Harkness House and the Actors' and Directors' Lab. She has been a visiting guest artist/teacher at several universities including The Ohio State University and New York University and has been a master teacher in residence at the Northern Ballet Theatre in Leeds, England. She has also been a guest choreographer for Columbus Dance Theatre and BalletMet. Otterbein's fall production of *Big Fish* marked Ms. Kane's forty-third choreography direction for a musical. Her recent Otterbein collaborations have included *Damn Yankees*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Oklahoma!*. Additionally, she has directed and choreographed Otterbein University dance concerts, including *Famously Yours...Forever*, *The Goddess* and *Move Me*. To all of you wonderful students, I wish you successful and joyful journeys.

Rob Johnson (Scenic Designer) is a full professor with the Department of Theatre & Dance at Otterbein University and serves as co-director of Design/Technology. With Otterbein since 1987, Rob teaches scenic design, scenic rendering, model-making, computer-aided drafting and a number of specialty courses in computer graphics. Recent design work at Otterbein includes the settings for the musicals *Big Fish*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Damn Yankees*. Rob has designed for hundreds of productions throughout his career including musicals, drama, dance concerts, and opera. He has won numerous Ezekiel Awards for his design work. In addition to an undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University, he holds two graduate degrees: a Master of Arts from West Virginia University and a Master of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University. He would, as always, like to thank Jesus Christ for a life full of many personal blessings and a wonderful career.

BIOGRAPHIES

Jessica Palagano (Lighting Designer) is a senior BFA Design/Technology major from Hilliard, OH. Previous credits include *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (Lighting Designer), *Dance 2017: Move Me* (Co-Lighting Designer), and *The Launch 2017* (Lighting Designer). In the spring, she will be an Entertainment Tech professional intern at Walt Disney World in Florida. Jessica would like to thank the class of 2019 for always being there for her; she will miss them dearly, but knows they will do great things in the future!

Keya Myers-Alkire (Sound Designer) has been working in lighting and sound for professional theatre and events for more than 25 years. After earning her BFA in Theatre Arts from Ohio University, she has worked with theatre companies including The Utah Shakespearean Festival, Players Theatre Columbus, CATCO, Available Light Theatre, and Tantrum Theatre. At CATCO, she served as the Master Electrician and Sound Designer for 20 years, working with many talented Lighting Designers and having fun creating a vast number of sound designs. As a member of the IATSE Local 12 Stagehand Union, she also enjoys working on events and productions with Ballet Met, in Columbus' downtown theatres, in the Convention Center, and across Columbus.

Sarah Short (Stage Manager) is a junior BA Theatre and Business Administration double major with a minor in Arts Administration from Marion, OH. Previous credits include *Big Fish* (House Manager), *Drag Show 2017 and 2018* (Production and Company Manager), and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Assistant Stage Manager). She would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support.

Patrick Stone (Technical Director) began his tenure as the Technical Director at Otterbein in the Fall of 2014. He spent the previous seven years at the University of Arkansas as the Faculty Technical Director. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and a Bachelor of Arts from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. He teaches classes in stage-craft, properties design and construction, metal working, technical direction, wood working, and motion scenery. Patrick also enjoys consulting with local and regional theatres ranging from professional through junior high school. When not in the Scenic Studio or backstage, Patrick enjoys any activity that gets him outdoors. This past January, he served as Technical Director for the premier of *Flamingo and Decatur* in Chicago at the Theatre Wit. Patrick has serious concerns regarding last minute strategies about long term planning.

John Diver (Master Electrician) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major from Lambertville, MI. Previous credits include *Big Fish* (Master Electrician), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Assistant Master Electrician), *Festival 2018: It's Up To Art* (Lighting Designer). John would like to thank his family and friends for their support! Congratulations Class of 2019!

Thomas Martin (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major from Worthington, OH. Previous credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Draper), *Big Fish* (Draper), and *Dance Concert 2018* (Assistant Costume Designer).

THE CLASS OF 2019



Maxwell Bartel is a BFA Acting major from Cincinnati, OH. Favorite Otterbein credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank), *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (Ross), *Rumors* (Glenn Cooper), and *Dance 2017: Move Me* (Ensemble). He would like to thank his incredible family, friends, professors, and Trey for all of their love and support.



Alissa Dellork is a BFA Acting major from Aldie, VA. Otterbein credits include *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), *The Diary of Anne Frank*, (Margot Frank), and *Doubt: A Parable*, (Sister Aloysius). Alissa is excited to begin the next phase of her life interning with a casting office in NYC at the beginning of 2019. She would like to thank her beautiful family for their infinite love and support. To my fearless class of 2019, we did it! The glorious thing about life is that the learning never stops. When we fully embody and acknowledge the beauty of ignorance, only then can we begin to build a vocabulary of aspiration.



Tristan Gillia is a BFA Acting major from Brooklyn, NY. Some of Tristan's favorite roles include Cookie (*Rumors*), Mrs. Meers (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Lady Macduff/Gentlewoman/Old Woman (*The Tragedy of Macbeth*), Madam Caron (*Is He Dead?*), and Francis Nurse (*The Crucible*). She is very excited to move back to NYC and start her internship with a casting office. She would love to thank her family, friends, professors, and class of 2019 for four wonderful years.



Matthew Gittins is a BFA Muscial Theatre major from Chardon, OH. Previous credits include *Big Fish* (Edward), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Trevor Graydon), and *Damn Yankees* (Joe Boyd/Joe Hardy). Each and every one came to me when I needed them. There's nothing else I can feel except gratitude. Thank you to my family, my friends, and my professors for shaping me into the artist that I am. You helped me shape someone that I don't mind knowing. This show is dedicated to my professors. Thank you.

THE CLASS OF 2019



Abigail Isom is a BFA Musical Theatre major with a Dance minor from St. Louis, MO. Abigail's favorite Otterbein Credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Millie), *Damn Yankees* (Gloria), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Chava), and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Laurie). Abigail has also worked professionally at Theatre Aspen, Stages St. Louis, and The MUNY. She sends special thanks to Thom, Lori-Kay, Stella, and the theatre and dance faculty for their guidance throughout this process. She also thanks her wonderfully supportive parents, the FDG, and the class of 2019. This one goes out to G&P.



Noël Isaacson is a BFA Musical Theatre major from Atlanta, GA. Her favorite previous credits include Otterbein's *Big Fish* (Sandra Bloom), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Miss Dorothy), *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Mrs. One), and Otterbein Summer Theatre's production *Oklahoma!* (Aunt Eller). She now is headed to NYC to start her internship next semester. Thank you to my loving parents and Jackson for always supporting me, and to Lori Kay for pushing me to new heights (while also being my second mom). One last time to the class of #TWENTYWINETEEN!

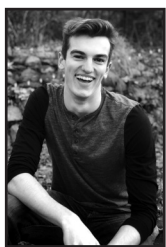


Kara Jobe is a BFA Acting major from Dayton, OH. Some of Kara's favorite roles include Isabella Bird/ Nell /Joyce in *Top Girls*, Betty Parris in *The Crucible*, and Nora in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at Otterbein, as well as The Chorus of *Dumb Bunnies* in *[PORTO]* at Available Light Theatre. She is passionate about original work created by and for women and plans to pursue this passion in NYC.



Kat Lee is a BFA Musical Theatre major from Gahanna, OH. Some of Kat's favorite credits include *The Crucible* (Tituba), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Miep Gies), and *Big Fish* (The Witch) at Otterbein, as well as *Dreamgirls* (Lorrell Robinson) at Short North Stage. Endless thanks to her family. She will definitely have fun stormin' the castle.

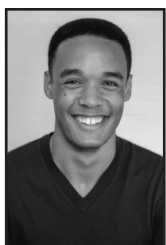
THE CLASS OF 2019



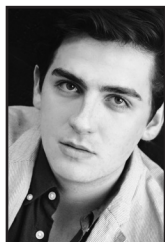
Trey Plutnicki is a BFA Musical Theatre major from River Edge, NJ. His favorite projects at Otterbein have been *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Boss/Fixer/Charles), the Junior Cabaret, and *Toxic Avenger*. Trey has also enjoyed being president of Mainstage Improv. He wants to thank his family, all of his professors at Otterbein, Victoria Pero, Ms. Stiles, Max, Abigail, and Payton for their support.



Reuben Reese is a BFA Musical Theatre major from Atlanta, GA. Previous credits include *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Mr. One), *The Addams Family* (Caveman), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Russian Soloist). He would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support, especially his mother and Christopher.



André Spathelf-Sanders is a BFA Musical Theatre major with a concentration in Dance from South Bend, IN. Previous credits include Utah Shakespeare Festival - *Big River* (Servant, Slave, Jim u/s), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Host, Pistol, and Robert u/s), and *Greenshow* performer. While at Otterbein, he also seen in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Addams Family*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and all previous Dance Concerts. He wants to personally thank his Mom, Dad, his little brother Christian, and especially his Grandparents for helping support and give him life lessons that have made him who he is today. And of course, God for letting him get as far as he has.



Jacob Sundlie is a BFA Acting major from Marblehead, MA. Jacob has worked at The Shawnee Playhouse, Carousel Music Theater, Weathervane Playhouse, and NCC Summer Theatre. At Otterbein, Jacob has been in *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Damn Yankees*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Dance 2015: Famously Yours...Forever*. He is currently directing *Next to Normal* as an Advanced Directing Project.

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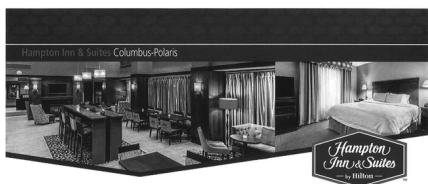
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