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The Dinner Party

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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2004-
2005
Season

Violet

The
**Ugly
Duckling**
+2

THE DINNER PARTY

The
Women
of
Lockerbie

DANCE
2005

JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE

Presents

The Dinner Party

by NEIL SIMON

Stage Direction
JOHN STEFANO

Set Design
ROB JOHNSON

Costume Design
KATIE ROBBINS

Lighting Design
DAVID ROMICH

January 27 - February 12, 2005
Campus Center Theatre

cast

Claude	Luke Bovenizer
Albert	Zach Kleinsmith
Andre	Daniel Everidge
Mariette	Kate Murphy
Yvonne	Amy Carlson
Gabrielle	Lilian Matsuda

production staff

Artistic Director	Dennis Romer
Audience Services Director	Elizabeth Saltzgeber
Production Manager	Becky Morrison
Movement Coach	Melinda Murphy
Speech & Dialects Coach	Melissa Nutting
Technical Director	Gregory Bell
Assistant Technical Director	Chase Molden
Scenic Studio Supervisor	Richard Uhrick
Costume Shop Supervisor	Marcia Hain
Stage Manager	Alex Myers
Assistant Stage Manager	Erin Snyder
Master Carpenter	Cortney Lucia
Deck Chief	Carmen Rowlands
Master Painter	Nichole McClintock
Assistant Painters	Marybeth Cave, Christina Hodges
Master Electrician	Corinne Betz
Assistant Master Electrician	Dieter Willis
Light Board Operator	Ben Zuk
Props Master	Marybeth Cave
Props Assistant	Stephanie Ahern
Wardrobe Master	Trent Kugler
Hair Stylists	Jessica Noble, Kate Oliva
Sound Consultant	Matt Christian
Sound Operator	Kim Killeya
House Manager	Brittany Cope
Box Office Manager	Tiffany Rollins
Graphic Designer	Justin A. P. Jones

production crew

Scenic Studio Assistants

Emily Buch, Marybeth Cave, Richard Dwyer, Elliot France,
Travis Gilmore, Christina Hodges, Trent Kugler, Chase Molden,
Roger Payne, Jayson Pritchard

Set and Props Running Crew

Ayaunna Bibb, Marat Gray, Carmen Rowlands, Jared Rigsby

Electrics Crew

Matt Buettner, Catherine Burns, Tess Emerson, Meredith
Holomuzki-Zgonc, Jessica Noble, Roger Payne, Cory Roof,
Drew Williams, Dieter Willis, Ben Zuk

Wardrobe Crew

Elizabeth Daniels, Cory Roof

Scenic Studio Participation Students

Ayaunna Bibb, Marat Gray, Carmen Rowlands, Jared Rigsby,
Steve Chazaro, Abigale Gregory, Keeshon Morrow,
Selina Verastigui, Nichole Lehman, Kelley Monts de Oca,

Box Office Crew

Brittany Cope, Jessica A. Jackson, Nichole Lehman,
Kelley Monts de Oca, Erin Snyder, Arian Steiner, Rachel Wulber

The Dinner Party is a one-act play.

There will be no intermission.

director's note

One of the things we do here in preparation for auditions is to give the company a packet with scenes for them to prepare and a note from the director about the play. I thought you might like to read what the actors received two weeks before auditions for *The Dinner Party*.

"First of all, it's a comedy. The fact that the characters are, towards the end, quite open with each other and very serious about what they're saying, doesn't take away from that fact. All good comedy is based in truth. I think we sometimes believe that only tragedy is truthful. If that's right, the human race is in trouble. What makes this a comedy is that, in addition to being truthful, (1) much of it is quite funny, and (2) there's definitely hope at the end.

"The dramatic situation is generated by one woman's hope that she can bring three couples back together, despite years of bad blood. It's a fantasy, as are the speeches at the end where the characters reveal the best thing their spouses ever did for them. If courts required divorcing couples to go through that exercise, maybe more marriages would survive the whips and scorns of time. Courts don't, of course, and marriages dissolve. But Neil Simon, who's been through a couple of marriages, has every right at this time in his life to imagine what might happen if couples were forced to admit the *good* things they have done for each other.

"Now none of you who will be playing these roles have been married or divorced. But you've been in relationships that have dissolved. And many of you have watched your parents' marriages dissolve. You have life experience you can bring to this play. You have the memory of hopes that your parents would get back together, or that your boyfriend or girlfriend would call you on the phone and say, 'I'm sorry, I was wrong, I want us back together.' That's the engine which drives this play, and we all have plenty of fuel for it."

This cast has been a joy, and we've had more fun together than any company I can remember. Part of that has been our discovery of the truths in the play. Neil Simon isn't Camus, or Proust, or Sartre, but he's a better writer than he's been given credit for being, and his works will be done for generations, because they're truthful, and wise, and funny. We hope you enjoy the play!

John Stefano

January, 2005

profiles

John Stefano (Director) has been Professor and Chairman of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Otterbein College since 1992. He began his professional acting career at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in a production of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I*, and has appeared in productions around the country, most recently as John Adams in Otterbein's production of the musical *1776*. He has also directed over forty productions, sixteen of them at Otterbein, including *Big River* (with the late Tony Award-winner Ron Richardson as Big Jim), the Columbus Dispatch's Best Musical of 2000, *West Side Story*, and *ctrl+alt+delete*, an original commissioned piece by Anthony Clarvoe. Dr. Stefano earned his B.A. in Theatre at Pomona College, an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of California-Riverside, and his Ph.D. from UCLA. He began teaching at Southern Methodist University in 1975, and continued his academic career at Emporia State University in Kansas (where he staged Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*) and Illinois State University where he was Department Chair and Managing Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. In addition to administration and directing, he continues to teach at Otterbein, where his work focuses on acting and musical theatre. He has been active in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, serving as respondent, Festival Host and Regional Chair. In 1998, he was awarded the KC-ACTF Gold Medallion Award of Excellence. In his spare time, he consults with attorneys on witness preparation and, once a month, serves as Music Soloist at Congregation Beth Tikvah, where his wife Sally is the Director of Education. He has two sons, David, a bassoonist who just completed his Master's Degree at Indiana University, and Andrew, who just graduated from Brandeis University, and is teaching American History at a high school in Boston.

Rob Johnson (Scenic Designer) has designed sets and lights since 1987 for Otterbein College and continues to freelance professionally. Recently he designed the settings for *Unde Vanya*, produced this past fall by the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) and is currently hard at work designing our upcoming spring musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Rob designed the set and lighting for last summer's comedy hit, *Forever Plaid*, and also lit *Black Comedy* before departing on sabbatical. He is also the author of an interactive CD-ROM on theatrical lighting technology published worldwide through First Light Video in California and continues to work on freelance projects in the areas of interior design, computer graphics, and 3D computer animation.

Katie Robbins (Costume Designer), is in her 18th year as resident designer at OCT. Some of her favorite projects from prior seasons include *Aradia*, *A Little Night Music*, *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, and *Medea*. In addition to her teaching and designing duties, Professor Robbins serves as the supervisor for the design/technology student interns, the coordinator of the Design/Technology Area, and will be filling in this spring as department chair while Dr. Stefano takes a much deserved sabbatical. She is also serving her third term as Secretary for the USITT/Ohio Valley Section. In her spare time, Katie enjoys scuba diving and "getting lost" with Mike on the Goldwing.

David M. Romich (Lighting Designer), a senior Design/Technology major, is excited about this, his first design for Otterbein's mainstage season. Recently, David completed an internship with the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, where he worked as a sound engineer on world premieres of Lee Blessing's *Flag Day* and Keith Glover's *The Rose of Conazon*. At Otterbein, Romich's credits include Master Painter for *The Music Man*, Master Electrician for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *A View from the Bridge*, and others. In addition to technical work at Otterbein, David provides sound and lighting for other functions and shows in the Columbus area. After graduation this spring, David plans to pursue his interests in Lighting and Sound Design for theatre and event production. He sends thanks to his family, the Otterbein faculty, the Brothers of Sigma Delta Phi, and above all, God.

profiles

Marcia Hain (Costume Shop Supervisor) has been a member of the Otterbein Theatre Tech Staff since 1989. She runs the costume shop full time and has also designed for the productions of *The Music Man*, *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Li'l*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *A Guy, A Girl and Gershwin*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Secret Garden*, *Oklahoma*, *Hay Fever*, *Dance 2000*, *Pinocchio*, *How The Other Half Lives*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *1776*, *A Few Good Men*, and *Sherlock's Last Case*. She also served as Associate Designer for *Phantom*. Ms. Hain has an extensive background in Home Economics as well as commercial costuming and free-lance design and construction.

Melinda Murphy (Movement 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. She has coached Otterbein productions including *Our Country's Good*, *ctrl+alt+delete*, *Fuddy Meers*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Laramie Project*. She has also coached equestrians, figure skaters, musicians, and competitive barbershop quartets and choruses including the two-time international gold medallist Southern Gateway Chorus.

Melissa Nutting (Dialect Coach) has just joined the Otterbein faculty teaching Speech and Dialects and Theatre History. She served as the speech and dialect coach for Otterbein's recent productions of *Violet* and *The Ugly Duckling* +2. She holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the combined program of Carnegie Mellon University and the Moscow Art Theatre and a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon. Melissa comes to Otterbein directly from New York City where she is a founding company member of the American Studio Theatre and also served as resident vocal coach. Favorite roles include Marina in *Volochy* (LaMama E.T.C.), Margaret in *Richard III* and Emilia in *Othello* (AST), Clytemnestra in *The Greeks* (Moscow Art Theatre), and the title role in *Miss Julie* (CMU).

Rich Uhrick (Scene Shop Supervisor) is in his second full season since returning to his alma mater. As an alumnus, he looks forward to the facelift of Cowan Hall and the removal forever of the green paint. He hopes that everyone will be able to join us in celebrating a new era starting in February. Before his return, he worked in Regional Theatres across the Midwest and New England, including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, New American Theatre, Missouri Repertory Theatre, and The Court Theatre in Chicago. He is also a published Poet. He now lives in Columbus with his wife Lisa. They work with Ohio Pug Rescue to provide for abandoned or surrendered Pugs [dogs].

Stephanie Ahern (Props Assistant) is a junior BA Theatre major from Starksboro, VT. Her previous credits include Assistant Master Painter for *A View from the Bridge*, Properties Master for *Broadway Babies*, and Assistant Master Electrician for *Medea*. For two years prior to her arrival at Otterbein, Stephanie worked for the Addison Repertory Theatre of Middlebury, VT, doing back stage work for the main stage shows *A Christmas Carol* and *The Lusty and Comical History of Tom Jones*. She also wrote a script, *The Date*, which was produced for an audience in their Black Box Theatre. Stephanie plans to write a play about the AIDS epidemic in Africa and the effects it has on family structure and the community. She would like to thank her parents and church family for all of their love and support and also her Father in heaven, through whom all things are possible.

profiles

Corinne Betz (Master Electrician) is a junior Design/Technology student from South Bend, IN. Previous credits include Master Painter for *The Ugly Duckling* + 2, Sound Assistant for *Violet*, and Assistant Set Designer for *The Music Man*. She was also the Master Painter for Otterbein Summer Theatre in 2004. She would like to thank her mom, dad, sister, and Chad, for all their love and support.

Luke Bovenizer (Claude) is a third year BFA Musical Theatre major from Cadiz, OH. His previous Otterbein credits include roles in *Violet*, *The Music Man*, *The Butter & Egg Man* and the Director's Circle production of *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. Luke sends special thanks to his family, the fantastic girls from The White House, and the always supportive brothers of Pi Beta Sigma, especially Zach and Daniel. "OFA."

Amy Carlson (Yvonne) is a native of Boulder, CO and is most honored to be a part of the wonderful and talented cast of *The Dinner Party*. As well as realizing that she is a tree, she is grateful for her wonderfully talented and intelligent sophomore class who uplift, inspire and continue to challenge her in every acting class. She would like to extend a special thanks to John Stefano for the sense of ease, poignancy and creativity that he brought to every rehearsal; to Melissa Nutting for her unending devotion to her students, and her humor and drive for perfection; to Ed, Dennis, Chris and Melinda for giving her the plethora of useful tools with which she is able to create more than she could imagine; and to her mom and dad for their unending love and support. This performance is dedicated to her dear friend Beth whose courage, grace and humor have illuminated her life.

Marybeth Cave (Props Master) is a BFA Design/Tech major from North Olmstead, OH. Previous credits at Otterbein College include Master Carpenter for *Violet* and for this past Otterbein Summer Theatre season. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, especially her mother.

Daniel Everidge (Andre) is a junior Musical Theatre major from San Antonio, TX. Previous Otterbein credits include *Violet*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Music Man*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Lisel*, *ART*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Scapino!* Daniel would like to thank the cast, the crew, John for this opportunity, his room-bibidy mates, the brethren of Pi Beta Sigma - especially Luke and Zach, and his family. "I'm covered in BEEEEEEES!!"

Zach Kleinsmith (Albert) is a junior Acting major from Louisville, KY. He was last seen as Tenacious Q in *The Ugly Duckling* +2. Other Otterbein credits include: Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man*, Alfieri in *A View From the Bridge*, Keith in *Betty's Summer Vacation*, Andy Paris in *The Laramie Project*, and Scapino in *Scapino!* Zach would like to thank John, the cast and crew, the junior class, his brothers at Pi Beta Sigma (especially Luke and Daniel), and Melissa for all their help. He would also like to give a shout out to Mom, Dad, Eli, Anyu and Apu.

Lilian Matsuda (Gabrielle) is from a far away place known as Westerville. She is a sophomore Musical Theatre major and is honored to have shared the stage with these five very unique, very talented, and very "demented" people. Many thanks to John, the wonderful cast and crew, her redunkulous friends, and her loving family. She sends Love and "safute" to her Kappa pretties! "Donde está my TREE... or the basill?" GOD BLESS!

profiles

Chase Molden (Assistant Technical Director) is a junior BFA Design/Tech major from Newark. He last worked as Sound Designer for *The Ugly Duckling* + 2 and Master Electrician for *Violet* and held a similar position for the 2004 production of *The Music Man* when he was Assistant Master Electrician. Off-campus, he interned for three summers at Weathervane Playhouse in Newark. In the future, Chase plans to work on lights, sound and custom properties. He sends special thanks to his mom, grandma, and friends for always being there for him.

Kate Murphy (Mariette) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major from Beaverton, OR and is honored to be a part of *The Dinner Party*, her third show at Otterbein. She would like to thank Luke, Daniel, Zach, Lilian and Amy for taking her on the best triple-date ever; Alex and Erin for their hard work and dedication; the technical crew for the beautiful set and costumes; John Stefano, Melissa Nutting, her amazing mom and dad, the crazy beautiful sophomore BFA's, her awesome Roomie, Ayaunna; and God for the gift of viola music. "Love your tree!"

Alex Myers (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Design/Tech major from Maryland. This is the first show which she has stage managed at Otterbein; previously she worked as an ASM for *Broadway Babies* and Otterbein Summer Theatre, Assistant Wardrobe Master for *The Music Man*, and Props Master for *The Ugly Duckling* +2. She would like to thank Alex S., Christina, and Elliot for everything they taught her; Becky for all of her help; and John and the cast and crew for making this such a fun experience. She would also like to thank her family and friends (the inseparable five), especially Chase and Erin- she could not have done this without you!

Erin Snyder (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore BA Theatre major from Sylvania, OH. This is her fourth show at Otterbein, and she also worked on the 2004 season of Otterbein Summer Theatre. She'd like to thank her loving and supportive parents, sisters, and boyfriend, the rest of the Inseparable Five, and of course, the amazing cast and crew.

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