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Forever Plaid

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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OTTERBEIN
UNIVERSITY
THEATRE 2004

In the Spotlight

Directed by Ed Vaughan

Anton in Show Business

a comedy by Jane Martin

June 17 - 26

Directed by David Caldwell

Forever PLAID

a musical comedy

July 8 - 25

Directed by Doreen Dunn

BLACK COMEDY



A FARCE BY PETER SHAFFER

July 29 - August 8

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Forever Plaid

Written and Originally Directed and Choreographed by

Stuart Ross

Musical Continuity Supervision and Arrangements by

James Riatt

Originally Produced by

Gene Wolsk

Stage and Musical Direction by *David Caldwell

Co-Musical Direction by Eileen Huston

Vocal Coaching by Harriet Hill

Scenic Design by Rob Johnson

Costume Design by Marcia Hain

Light Design by Rob Johnson

Sound Design by Matt Christian

CAST

Frankie	Daniel Everidge
Smudge	**David Caldwell
Sparky	Rusty Harding
Jinx	John-Philip Bowen

MUSICIANS

Piano	Eileen Huston
Bass	Eric Van Wagner

DEDICATION

Forever Plaid is dedicated to the "good guys;" to the guys who wheeled the projector carts for the AV club; to the guys who saved their allowance to give their parents a special night on their anniversary; to the guys who carried an extra handkerchief; to the guys who never went beyond first base, and if they did, they didn't tell anyone. We Salute You!

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**The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director	Dennis Romer
Producer	John Stefano
Audience Services Director	Elizabeth Saltzgiver
Stage Manager/Master Electrician	Elliot France
Assistant Stage Manager	Christina Hodges, Alex Myers
Technical Director	Rich Uhrick
Assistant Technical Director	Travis Gilmore
Costume Shop Supervisor	Marci Hain
Master Carpenter	Marybeth Cave
Master Painter	Corinne Betz
Props Master	Nichole McClintock
Wardrobe Master	Emily Buch
Movement Coach	Melinda Murphy
Light Board Operator	Jessica Jackson
Sound Board Operator	Chase Molden
Spot Light Operator	Roger Payne
Front of House Manager	Tiffany Rollins
Box Office Assistants	Erin Hood, Jessica Sedlock, Erin Snyder

BIOGRAPHIES

David Hemsley Caldwell (Director & Guest Equity Actor) returns to Otterbein having directed *The Butter & Egg Man*, *Sanders Family Christmas* and *Smoke on the Mountain*. He served as Artistic Director for the Gretna Timbers Theatre from 1996 through 2000. David appeared on "You Wrote It, You Watch It" for MTV and works as an actor, director, and playwright across the country. He most recently directed *My Way* at Totem Pole Playhouse and *Loot* in St. Louis. He also directed *Hork!* for CFRT in North Carolina, and the Los Angeles premiere of *Sanders Family Christmas*. His original plays, *Weddin' Royale*, *Time in Tonight*, *The Swinging Detective*, and *Jukebox Saturday Night*, have been produced regionally, in Los Angeles and New York. He has worked regionally at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, La Mirada Performing Arts Center, Meadowbrook Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Muhlenberg Summer Music Festival, Totem Pole Playhouse, Allenberry Playhouse, Pennsylvania Stage Company, Florida Studio Theatre, The Spanish Galleon/Myrtle Beach, the Hula Hart in Waikiki and at the Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists and the Avalon Theatre in NYC. Past productions include: *Radio Gals*, *Bosh & Moonshine*, *No Sex Please, We're British*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Gyps & Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, *The Rituals*, and *The Pump Boys & Dinettes*. While at Otterbein (1982-1986) David appeared in *The Man who came to Dinner*, *Irene*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Equus*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *West Side Story*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Baby, Terra Nova*, *The Good Doctor*, *Murder on the Nile*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *My Fair Lady*, *Ah Wilderness*, *Jacques Brel*, *Plenty*, *The Foreigner*, and *Whodunnit*. David received his MFA from Brandeis University and worked as a Literary Agent and Casting Associate for television, film, and theatre.

Eileen Huston (Musical Director/Pianist) is a professional accompanist for soloists and ensembles in the Columbus area. She has taught public school music and piano, privately and at the college level, throughout her career. Ms. Huston graduated from Otterbein College in Westerville. She was a member of the Otterbein Music Faculty for several years—teaching piano and accompanying student and faculty recitals. In recent years, she was employed by Otterbein College and Capital University as staff pianist. Ms. Huston has participated as a church musician for many years and is presently active in the music program at Trinity United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Huston was the pianist in the Opera Columbus productions of *Opera of Broad Street* for many years as part of the Education Outreach program. In November, she will perform for the third consecutive year, as the pianist for a light opera gala concert at The Lake George Opera in Saratoga Springs, NY. She is married to cardiologist, Dr. John Ted Huston and they have three adult children.

Rob Johnson (Scenic & Lighting Designer) joined the faculty 16 years ago and is now a full professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance at Otterbein College. He teaches theatrical design, scene painting, lighting technology, scenic rendering, and computer graphics. This past season he designed the settings for *The Music Man*, *The Butter & Egg Man*, as well as lighting for *Broadway Babies* and the inaugural production at the new Central High School in Westerville, *Jabberwock*. Rob will be designing sets for the opening production at The Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) this fall, *Uncle Vanya*, and will be taking a sabbatical this fall to explore the latest software for scenic design, lighting design, and animation.

Marcia Hain (Costume Designer/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*, *Livel*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *A Guy*, *A Girl and Gershwin*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Secret Garden*, *Oklahoma*, *Hay Fever*, *Dance 2000*, *Pinochio*, *How The Other Half Loves*, *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.

Matt Christian (Sound Designer) is in his second year here at Otterbein Summer Theatre. His previous credits include Sound Designer for *The Music Man*, *Medea*, and *Betty's Summer Vacation* as well as Sound Engineer for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and Assistant Technical Director for *A View From the Bridge*. Matt would like to give thanks to Melissa, his fine brethren of Pi Beta Sigma, and his cohort in crime (we got hollywood).

Eric Van Wagner (Bass) has played bass for close to 15 years. In that time he has played over 50 musicals, and has remained steadily busy with performances by groups ranging from the Westerville Symphony to his 8-piece wedding band, GRUV (www.gruv.us). He attended Otterbein where he studied with highly respected Columbus musicians Sid Townsend for upright and Jeff Ciampa for electric. After graduating in 1999 he started a location recording company called EVE Audio Services (www.eveaudio.com) that caters to schools, churches, and community groups. The success of EVE has in part lead Eric back to his alma mater to participate in the creation and development of Otterbein's new Sound Production minor. Eric currently lives in Powell, Ohio with his wife, Cindy.

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+DEL*, *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.

Rich Uhrick (Technical Director) is pleased to be making his return to Otterbein Summer Theatre after a 16 year hiatus. He is a graduate of Otterbein College, receiving his BFA in 1990. He has a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Missouri- Kansas City. He now lives in Columbus with his wife Lisa. They work with Ohio Pug Rescue to provide for abandoned or surrendered Pugs [dogs]. 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.

Corinne Betz (Master Painter) is a Design/Technology student originally from South Bend, IN. Previous Otterbein credits include Wardrobe Master for *The Butter and Egg Man*, Master Painter for *Bravary Babies*, Props Master for *Medea*, and Assistant Set Designer for *The Music Man*. She would like to thank her mom, dad, sister, and Chad for all their love and support.

John-Philip Bowen (Jinx) just graduated from Otterbein College with a BFA in Musical Theatre. He will be starring in his first National Tour of *First In Flight* with Theatre Works USA starting in September. You might have seen him on the main stage in *Oklahoma*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Mikado*, *The Secret Garden*, *Scapinol*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*. He is extremely excited and honored to work with such an amazing cast (David, Daniel, and Rusty. Thank You!) He sends his love and thanks to God for allowing these dreams to come true in His timing; to his lovely Meg who is his life and everything, "Jeg Elser Deg!"; to his incredible parents; and to Ed & Sue for constant love and support. He also thanks all who worked so hard on this show. "Break a leg!"

Marybeth Cave (Master Carpenter) is a Junior BFA Design/Technology major from North Olmstead, OH. This is her second year working with OST and she is glad to be back. Her most recent credits include Master Electrician for *The Music Man* and Assistant Props Master for *Medea*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, especially her mother.

Daniel Everidge (Francis) is a Junior Musical Theatre major here at Otterbein College. Daniel hails from San Antonio, TX; however, he enjoys the cool Ohio summers. Previous Otterbein credits include last summer's production of *Art*, *Scapinol*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Live!*, *A View From the Bridge*, and *The Music Man*. Daniel would like to thank David for this excellent opportunity; Elliot, Christina, and Alex for the mellow-ness; Rusty and John-Phillip for the fun; the Brothers of Pi Beta Sigma, Luke, Mama, Papa, Michelle, Taylor; and Grandmaster Rangoon for all his guidance. "Thank yooooooooo."

Elliot France (Master Electrician and Stage Manager) is now a Senior Design/Technology major from Hilliard, OH. Over the past three years as an Otterbein student he has served as Stage Manager, Assistant Light Designer, Props Master, Master Carpenter, and Wardrobe Master. His work was seen most recently as Stage Manager for *The Music Man*. Lighting Design/Stage Management credits include *Nocturnal Holiday*, a dance workshop through Otterbein College Theatre and Dance, *Peter and the Wolf*, *The Nutcracker*, *Dancel*, and *First Night* through Columbus Dance Theatre; and also *Moues*, through the Collaborative Dance Project. Elliot is happy to return for this, his third Otterbein Summer Theatre season. He would like to thank his parents for their unending support and the Brethren of Pi Beta Sigma.

Rusty Harding (Sparky) is a Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Knoxville, TN and is thrilled to make his OST debut in *Forever Plaid*. You may have seen Rusty this past year at Otterbein in *The Music Man* (Whaddyatalk?), *A View From the Bridge* (Tony), and as the title role in *The Butter and Egg Man*. This show holds a special place in his heart since he directed and portrayed Francis in his hometown. Rusty enjoys *The Simpsons*, Stewart's Orange and Cream Soda, good books, and spicy foods. He would like to thank his parents for their undying love and support, his "originals"—Eli, Josh, and Aaron, the spectacular Junior class, Daniel and John-Phillip for hours upon hours of fun, David for entrusting him and embracing his "weirdness," and Abbie for loving him always. Rusty would like to dedicate his performance to his grandparents, who took him to see this show for the first time roughly seven years ago.

Christina Hodges (Stage Manager) is a Junior BFA Design/Technology student originally from Dublin, OH. Previously, Christina was Stage Manager for *The Butter and Egg Man*, as well as ASM for a number of shows at Otterbein, including *Music Man*, OST 2003 and others. She would like to thank her friends and family, especially her mom for her constant support.

Jessica Jackson (Light Board Operator) is a Design/Technology major and has just finished her first year at Otterbein. She has worked on *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Broadway Babies*, and *The Music Man*. She hails from Columbus, OH and has done other work for Enjoy Theater and Black Box Theater Company. She wants to make it to Hollywood to write and design horror films (no kidding). She'd like to thank her family, friends, Erik, O.G. (who you must always thank, or else) and Jesus. "What a cat, what a guy."

Nichole McClintock is serving as Props Master for a second summer at OST. She is a Junior Design/Technology Theatre major at Otterbein. She would like to thank her mom and Matt (times 4) for their love and support.

Alex Myers (ASM) is a Sophomore Design/Technology major from Maryland. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support and good times.

SPECIAL THANKS

Zach Reat
The Piano Gallery

Author's Note

When most of us think of the 1950s, we think of rock 'n' roll, greasers, hot rods, Elvis, Annette, Fabian, D.A., haircuts and teenage rebellion. But there was a flip side to this era—the side of harmony, innocence and the sincerity of dreams. It is the side that's been lost in the shuffle of progress. It was a time when most parents and kids listened and danced to the same music; when families partook of the ritual of gathering in front of the TV to watch their favorite variety shows, like the Ed Sullivan show or the Perry Como Show. It was a time when every family worked to fulfill the American Dream.

It was a period when four-part guy groups harmonized their way across the airwaves, jukeboxes and hi-fis of the country. Throughout the land they would stand at a quartet of microphones, crooning a multitude of chaperoned prom-goers into dreamy romance.

They wore dinner jackets and bow ties (or perhaps cardigans and white bucks). Each move was drilled to precision. Each vocal arrangement soared to stratospheric heights of harmony. This sound crested right before rock 'n' roll stole the heartbeat of music across the globe.

During this time, guys across the country banded together to sing in the basement for fun. If things worked out they might be hired to sing at weddings, conventions, proms and country club socials. Inspired by the success of the recording stars, they made plans to zoom into the careers of fame and fortune. But the musical taste of the U.S.A. was changing, and the country would not stop to listen to their dreams.

This is the story of such a group—FOREVER PLAID.

Once upon a time, there were four guys (Sparky, Smudge, Jinx, and Frankie) who loved to sing. They all met in high school, when they joined the audiovisual club (1956). Discovering they shared an affection for music and entertaining, they got together and dreamed of becoming like their idols—The Four Aces, The Four Lads, The Four Freshmen, The Hi-Los and The Crew Cuts. They rehearsed in the basement of Smudge's family's plumbing supply company. It was here they became Forever Plaid—a name that connects the continuation of traditional values of family, home and harmony. Although rock 'n' roll was racing down the fast lane like a candy apple "vette," they believed in their music. As their sound developed, they sang at family gatherings, fund-raisers, and eventually graduated to supermarket openings and proms. They had little time for romance or leisure for they supported their fantasy by holding down day jobs—Frankie was in dental supplies, Smudge was in bathroom fixtures, Sparky was in better dresses. They devoted themselves to singing at night and on weekends. Then, finally, they landed their first big gig at the Airport Hilton cocktail bar—The Fusel Lounge.

February 9, 1964

En route to pick up their custom-made, plaid tuxedos, they were slammed broadside by a school bus filled with eager Catholic teens. The teens were on their way to witness the Beatles make their U.S. television debut on the Ed Sullivan Show and miraculously escaped uninjured. The members of Forever Plaid were killed instantly. It is at that moment, when their careers and lives ended, that the story of *Forever Plaid* begins.

Through the Power of Harmony and the Expanding Holes in the Ozone Layer, in conjunction with the positions of the planets and all the astro-technical stuff, they are allowed to come back to perform the show they never got to do in life.

And having completed their Mission of Harmony, our men in plaid must return to the cosmos. Although they may be gone, through this production their dreams live on forever.

The Songs

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OTTERBEIN *Summer* THEATRE



Directed by Doreen Dunn

Hilarity reigned in London where this masterpiece of farce was recently paired with Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* and at New York's Roundabout Theatre where a revised version of *White Lies* provided the curtain raiser. In this one-act, action supposedly in the dark is illuminated, when the lights are supposed to be on, the stage is dark. An unscrupulous sculptor has embellished his apartment with furniture and objects d'arte "borrowed" from the absent antique dealer next door. Brindsley hopes to impress his fiancée's pompous father and a wealthy art buyer. The campy neighbor returns just as a blown fuse plunges the apartment into darkness and Brindsley is revealed teetering on the verge of very ripe farce.

Box Office: 614-823-1109

Otterbein Summer Theatre

Campus Center Theatre

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389 Actor-director understands fabric of 'Plaid'

David Caldwell never tires of participating in lighthearted revues.

The whimsical *Forever Plaid*, opening tonight in an Otterbein Summer Theatre production, is an example.

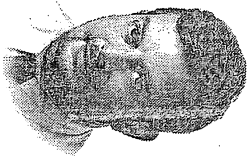
"The show is popular because it speaks to a simpler era in America, a time of proms, con-

vertibles, soda shops, white buck shoes and letter sweaters,"

said the actor, also the show's guest director.

The off-Broadway hit focuses on members of a 1960s-style male quartet who return from limbo to present a doo-wop concert.

MICHAEL GROSSBERG



The play was one of Contemporary American Theatre Company's biggest hits in 1997. It also was staged last month by Senior Repertory of Ohio Theatre Company.

The revue "pokes fun at the 'projector-sector,' the audio-visual-club kids who were the class geeks," Caldwell said.

Otterbein's geeks are Smudge (Caldwell), Francis (Daniel Everidge), Spanky (Rusty Harding) and Jim (John-Philip Bowen).

"We're four friends from high school who died in 1964 in a car accident," Caldwell said, "and we've come back 40 years later to do the show we were meant to do."

Double duty as a director-actor is difficult because it "splits my focus," he said, but "It's nice to be onstage with the students because it allows them to see

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JUL-08-2004



In the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of *Forever Plaid*, from left: David Caldwell, John-Philip Bowen, Rusty Harding and Daniel Everidge

FRED SQUILANTE | DISPATCH

where the energy should be."

Caldwell, who graduated from Otterbein in 1986, also directed and appeared in the colleges' *Smoke on the Mountain* (2002) and *Sanders Family Christmas: More Smoke on the Mountain* (2003). He has appeared several times in *Smoke* revivals.

"Like *Smoke* on the Mountain, ... (*Plaid*) is something I enjoy doing, often ended up putting myself into and had a lot of

great times," he said.

Caldwell has directed *Plaid* six times, including the Hawaiian premiere in 1994 at the Hula Hut in Waikiki, and performed in it twice.

All three revues are "put together well, don't talk down to or intimidate the audience" and are "actor-instrument" shows, Caldwell said, in which the actors double as the onstage orchestra.

At Otterbein, Caldwell plays the piano, Bowen plays the accordion and Harding plays the Melodica minkeyboard.

With *Love Is a Many Splendored Thing*, *Perfidia* and other retro songs, *Plaid* pays homage to guy groups of the early 1960s: the Four Freshmen, the Crewcuts and the Lettermen.

"It celebrates the last music that parents and children enjoyed together before rock 'n'

roll split the Top 40 radio audience," Caldwell said.

Caldwell, 39, said it's "a little strange" to be so much older than the student actors but added that he still looks pretty much as he did at 20.

The New York-based artist, who directed Otterbein's *The Butler and Egg Man* last year, will return in the fall to Otterbein to direct the musical *Violet*.

Forever Plaid performances will be at 7:30 tonight, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday — and July 15-25 — in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Tickets cost \$22; call 614-823-1109.

Weathered musical

Weathered Playhouse is going crazy for Gershwin.

Crazy for You, the tap-dancing update of George and Ira Gershwin's *Girl Crazy*, is in its final week in Newark and still attracting crowds.

Among the Columbus cast members are David Shane, Andrea Shockey, Chris Storer and Dawn Farrell, who plays the supporting role of travel writer Patricia Fodor.

After a 1979 car accident, Farrell had to have her right leg reattached. She recovered and has regained about 85 percent use of her ankle and leg.

"The best part ... is I'm tapping with pros again, despite my handicap," she said, "but I'm told I don't miss a beat."

The run will continue at 8 to 10 p.m. through Saturday at 100 Price Rd., Newark. Tickets cost \$17 to \$20, or \$15 to \$18 for senior citizens, \$14 to \$18 for students and \$13 for children 12 and younger. Call 740-366-4616. mgrossberg@dispatch.com

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ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

I see dead people – and they're singing harmony

By DENNIS THOMPSON

Suburban News Theater Critic

Otterbein Summer Theatre brightens up the mid-summer with *Forever Plaid*, a fun time-traveling musical.

The Stuart Ross work has a simple premise. We're taken back to the early 1960s

– or rather, the early 1960s are brought to us.

Forever Plaid is the name of a singing group formed by four friends who met in the audio-visual club while attending high school in the 1950s. This is an ode to those pre-Beatles days when guys hung out in the basement perfecting four-part harmonies.

We learn that following high school the four held day jobs while trying to land bookings for their group. On the night of their first big break, on their way to a gig at the local airport Hilton lounge, they were killed when their car was broadsided by a busload of Catholic schoolgirls en route to see the Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

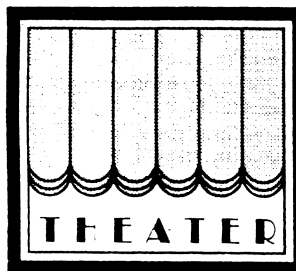
All this we are told at the beginning. What we see are four young men in white dinner jackets tentatively entering Rob Johnson's sparkly, blue-toned re-creation of the airport lounge. The boys have been brought back to the present for the chance to finally give that performance.

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REVIEW

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See HARMONY, Page 7B



Postmortem melodies

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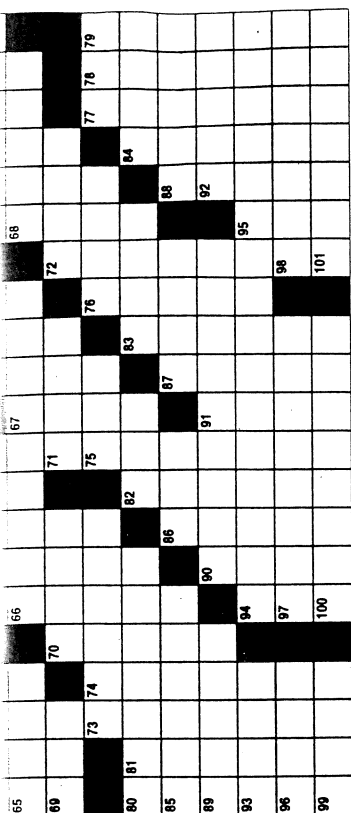
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- 24 Unattained
28 Partner of Evans in journalism
32 Plastic for beer bottles?
34 Response to an awful pun made by actress York?
35 Gymnastics coach Karolyi
36 Talked up
38 Relish
39 Dallas five
40 Ones doing art finishing
41 "Blondie" dog and others
42 Repaired, as roads
45 Monopoly purchases
46 University associated with the Carter Center
47 2001 Economics Nobel Michael
94 Pac 10 gossip column?
96 Cookie holders
97 "On the house"
98 Deep
99 Verb with thou
100 More highfalutin
101 Pests
DOWN
1 Long time
2 Property seller
3 Goes ahead
4 Like some biology majors
5 Pulitzer Prize dramatist Tad
6 Buckeye sch.
7 It's licked on a stick
8 "Everything's under control"
9 Holes in the head
10 "___ well"
80 Cold-blooded ones
55 Prefix with plasm
56 Dense fog
58 Important, in a way
60 Tennis champion Roddick
61 Teams
63 Taper, for short
64 Wicked
65 Closely monitored hosp. areas
66 Slightly sour
68 ___ Field, where the Rockies play
69 IBM competitor
70 1.35 kilometers/hour
71 Mad ones are bad
72 Weapon handle
73 News subjects
75 Puts down, in brief
76 ___ Hari
77 Result of a certain sacrifice, for short
80 Cold-blooded ones
27 Growing old
28 Young and Simon
29 Shooter Adams
30 2001 film for which Jim Broadbent was named Best Supporting Actor
31 U.S.N. clerk: Abbr.
32 Auto introduced in 1928
33 In bounds
34 One ___ (kids' game)
35 Do some restaurant work
36 Used as sustenance
37 West ender?
38 Deceive
39 Fathers and grandfathers
40 Serving from a garçon

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 each minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
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HARMONY

Continued from Page 6B

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I'm not sure what is gained by Ross having them dead and coming back in some other worldly cosmos to deliver the performance. Why couldn't we have just seen the guys giving their first big show at that airport lounge?

It sounds silly, but the more you get to know and like them, the sadder you get knowing they're dead. It leads to a melancholy moment at the end when it's

MUSIC NOTES

The Wittenberg University Chamber Singers and Hand-

lightly harmonic musical. *Otterbein Summer Theater*



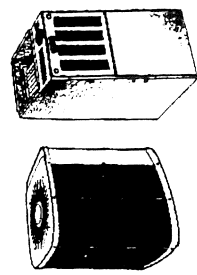
Image-preening raptor

How the *Chicken Hawk Won the West*, a family-oriented musical about a bird of prey who attempts to improve his image, will be presented Friday through Aug. 1 at Curtain Players Theatre, 5691 Harlem Road, Galena. Cast members include (from left): Claire Schechinger, Alora Slak, Olivia Crago, Michael Thorsen; row two-Allison Thorsen, Andrea Crago, Brandon

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ARTS BRIEFS

Women, flowers are focus of exhibit

"Buds, Blossoms and Babes," an exhibition of works by Jerry and the late Jennine Dill Tollifson, will be on display through Aug. 26 at the Shremshock Gallery, 6130 Sunbury Road, Suite 100.

An opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Collectors' inquiries are invited.

For more information call 614-475-0470.

DARDEN MEMORIALS

— Established 1934 —

atre's Forever Plaid continues at 8 p.m. today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Tickets are \$22. For more information call 614-823-1109.

THEATER REVIEW | FOREVER PLAID

Otterbein's musical comedy provides a pleasant piece of nostalgia

By Margaret Quamme
OR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Forever Plaid is a wispy little musical that could wallow in slapstick or sink in seriousness. Otterbein Summer Theatre's production finds a nice balance between the two, resulting in an evening of effortless laughter.

The one-act takes off from the premise that in 1964 a quartet of innocent and sweetly harmonizing young men, en route to pick up plaid tuxedos for their first big gig, are killed when a school bus full of teenagers on the way to see the Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show* runs into their car.

Miraculously, they're brought

► Otterbein Summer Theatre will present *Forever Plaid* at 8 tonight and 2 p.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. Wednesday through next Saturday, 2 p.m. July 18, 8 p.m. July 21-24 and 2 p.m. July 25 in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Tickets cost \$22. Call 614-823-1109.

back to life in 2004, just long enough to perform the show they were intending to put on at the Airport Hilton lounge.

Backed up by a deadpan, beer-sporting string-bass player (Eric Van Wagner) and a haughty pianist (Eileen Huston) — "She came with the room," the Plaids explain — the quartet swings through its thoroughly

choreographed and sweetly awkward numbers.

Highlights include a piece in which the four substitute plumbers' helpers, borrowed from a day job, for microphones and an earnest calypso number in which, while palm trees tenuously rise from the stage, the singers implore audience members to beat their drums and shake their marimbas.

A member of the audience is also hauled in to help perform the classic *Heart and Soul* on piano when the pianist sashays offstage, wine bottle in hand, to take her break. A medley of work songs, including *Sixteen Tons* and *Chain Gang*, reaches the fizzy heights of *A Mighty Wind*.

At Thursday's opening night, the four singers played off one another convincingly, and their voices were strong enough to be pleasing without being overly sophisticated. Daniel Everidge's asthmatic Frankie is youthfully enthusiastic; Rusty Harding's Sparky sweeps across the floor with the flair of someone who has just realized he might be a ladies' man after all, and John-Philip Bowen's Jinx moves credibly in the course of a single song from sad to soulful.

Director David Caldwell, who plays the fourth singer — and who has appeared in "Sanders Family" shows at Otterbein Summer Theatre the past two summers — is, at 39, considera-

bly older than the three others, but he blends into the group flawlessly. His Smudge is a perkier pleasure, and he effortlessly supports the three students rather than trying to outshine them.

Rob Johnson's playful light design features appropriately glaring, and occasionally misplaced, spotlights, which cause the singers to squint and hustle for their positions, while his scenic design, including a baby-blue backdrop with silvery highlights, fits the era. A hyperactive bubble machine and the world's small-

est disco ball add to the fun. Stuart Ross' script isn't the strongest: Interludes when the characters sit and talk make a long for more music, and an especially sappy and extended monologue near the end almost brings the show to a screeching halt.

One could also fret that this nostalgic view of the pre-rock sugarcats any possible problems. But when the boys take center stage to sing *Lone, Many Splendored Thing* or *The Coins in the Fountain*, complaints dissolve.

Continued from Page 6B

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It sounds silly, but the more you get to know and like them, the sadder you get knowing they're dead. It leads to a melancholy moment at the end when it's

time to go.

But this is good fun, working both as comedy and a de-

lightfully harmonic musical.

Otterbein Summer The-

atre's *Forever Plaid* continues at 8 p.m. today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Campus Center The-

atre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Tickets are \$22. For more information call 614-823-1109.

Westerville News & P.O.

7-21-04

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

I see dead people — and they're singing harmony

By DENNIS THOMPSON

Suburban-News Theater Critic

Otterbein Summer Theatre brightens up the mid-summer with *Forever Plaid*, a fun time-traveling musical.

The Stuart Ross work has a simple premise. We're taken back to the early 1960s

— or rather, the early 1960s are brought to us.

Forever Plaid is the name of a singing group formed by four friends who met in the audio-visual club while attending high school in the 1950s. This is an ode to those pre-Beatles days when guys hung out in the basement perfecting four-part harmonies.

We learn that following high school the four held day jobs while trying to land bookings for their group. On the night of their first big break, on their way to a gig at the local airport Hilton lounge, they were killed when their car was broadsided by a busload of Catholic schoolgirls en route to see the Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

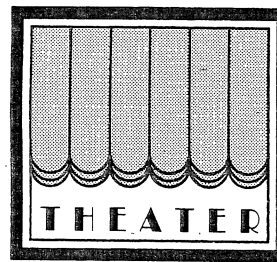
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See HARMONY, Page 7B



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A musical that is more about humor than music

Forever Plaid is an odd little musical. It's also a rather perverse one, given that musicals usually attempt to appeal to people who like music.

Written by Stuart Ross, the show gives viewers a chance to reacquire themselves with nearly 30 songs that were popular before the Beatles made their mark on American music. But as often as not, the song renditions are muddled by weak attempts at humor.

The plot is thin but ingenious, consisting mostly of events that transpired before the show begins.

It centers on four friends who met in high school in 1956 and formed a quartet called Forever Plaid. Eight years later, they had just landed a semi-big gig when tragedy struck.

The four were on their way to pick up their new plaid tuxedos when their car was struck broadside by a busload of Catholic teenagers. Ironically, the teens were going to see the Beatles appear on *The Ed Sullivan Show*—a performance that would dry up the market for the kind of music the Plaids played.

The Plaids would never know this, as they didn't survive the crash. As the musical opens, however, they find themselves mysteriously returned to a semblance of existence. Somehow they understand that they've been given one more chance to perform the perfect concert that eluded them in real life.

While this sounds like a setup for a wistful nostalgia trip, both productions of *Forever Plaid* I've seen put more emphasis on the humor. That's no surprise in the case of the current Otterbein production, which is directed by David Caldwell.

Whether he's onstage or behind the scenes, the Equity performer generally favors humor over emotion. And he's in both places in this show.

Caldwell plays quartet member Smudge. Though he looks out of place, being a generation or so older than the other actors, he sings well enough to fit in vocally.

The other quartet members—Frankie, Sparky and Jinx—are given likable portrayals by Daniel Everidge, Rusty Harding and John-Philip Bowen, respectively.

One weakness of this production is that the four characters have interchangeable personalities, the most obvious distinction being that Jinx gets nosebleeds when he's nervous.

Theater

RICHARD ADES



with the best voice. This becomes apparent when he gives it free rein on the Ray Charles song "Cry."

But the actors all sound pretty good singing, especially when they're harmonizing. That makes it all the more disappointing when their decent voices and the great songs they're performing are made subservient to silly jokes and sight gags.

Whether they're doing the songs straight or cockeyed, at least the performers get



They should've called themselves the B Sharps: *From Forever Plaid*

good accompaniment from pianist Eileen Huston and stand-up bass player Eric Van Wagner. The set is equally impressive, being a sparkly mixture of class and kitsch designed by Rob Johnson.

So if you're a fan of such golden oldies as "Moments to Remember," "Three Coins in the Fountain" and "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing," you may find *Forever Plaid* worthwhile. Just keep your fingers crossed that the songs you like the best are performed between the comedy routines, not as part of them.

INFO:

Otterbein Summer Theatre will present *Forever Plaid* through July 25 at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. in Westerville. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Running time: 1 hour, 30 minutes. Tickets are \$22. 823-1109.



NEWS

Office of College Relations • One Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio 43081
(614) 823-1600 • Patricia Kessler, Director
(614) 823-1360 (FAX) • www.otterbein.edu

Contact: Elizabeth Saltzgiver, 614-823-1239

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2004

General Entertainment

OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE SEASON PRESENTS *FOREVER PLAID*

Otterbein Summer Theatre continues its 2004 season in July with *Forever Plaid*, a musical written and originally directed and choreographed by Stuart Ross.

One of the most popular and successful musicals in recent memory, this deliciously goofy revue centers on four young, eager male singers, killed in a car crash in the 1950s on the way to their first big concert, and now miraculously revived for the posthumous chance to fulfill their dreams and perform the show that never was. *Forever Plaid* features Guest Equity Actor David Caldwell Otterbein class of 1986.

David Caldwell also directs Otterbein's production of *Forever Plaid*, which runs July 8 - 25, 2004 in the Campus Center Theatre, located at 100 W. Home St., Westerville. The opening night performance on Thursday, July 8 begins at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinee performances on June 11, 18 and 25 are at 2:00 p.m. All other performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets cost \$22 each. They can be reserved by calling the Otterbein Summer Theatre Box Office at (614) 823-1109. The box office is located at 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays from noon-4 p.m. and one hour prior to all performances. The box office will be closed on Mondays and on July 4.

For more information about Otterbein Summer Theatre and the 2004 Season, please call 614-823-1109.

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NEWS

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Otterbein Summer Theatre 2004: In the Spotlight
Contact: Elizabeth Saltzgiver, (614) 823-1239

Forever Plaid July 8-25, 2004

Written & Originally Directed and Choreographed by: Stuart Ross
Musical Continuity Supervision and Arrangements by James Raitt
Originally Produced by Gene Wolsk
Guest Directed by David Caldwell

Dates, times and location of performances are as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
***Thursday, July 8	7:30 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
***Opening Night. Reception to Follow.		
Friday, July 9	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Saturday, July 10	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Sunday, July 11	2:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Wednesday, July 14	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Thursday, July 15	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Friday, July 16	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Saturday, July 17	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Sunday, July 18	2:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Wednesday, July 21	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Thursday, July 22	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Friday, July 23	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Saturday, July 24	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Sunday, July 25	2:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

Individual tickets for *Forever Plaid* cost \$22 each. The box office is open 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 12 noon-4:00 p.m. Saturday and one hour prior to performances. The box office will be closed on Mondays and on July 4th. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at (614) 823-1109. The Otterbein Summer Theatre Box Office is located in the lower level of the Campus Center, 100 W. Home St. in Westerville.

Forever Plaid Cast List

Jinx John-Philip Bowen
Smudge David Caldwell (1986 graduate, Equity Actor)
Francis Daniel Everidge
Sparky Rusty Harding

Design Team

Rob Johnson Scenic Designer
Marcia Hain Costume Designer
Rob Johnson Light Designer
Matt Christian Student Sound Designer