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Father Joy

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

SUMMER THEATRE

2006

*Celebrating
40 Years!*

- ✱ Harvey
- ✱ Father Joy
- ✱ The 1940's Radio Hour

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**OAKLAND
NURSERIES**

**"23 Acres of
Gardening Pleasure"**

Father Joy

By Sheri Wilner

Stage Direction by Dennis Romer

Scenic Design by Michael Slane

Costume Design by Donna Williamson

Lighting Design by Jayson Pritchard

Sound Design by Kim Killeya

CAST

Paul	*Steven Black
Abigail	Beth Triffon
Ruth	Cassie Barker
Harry	Luke Dixon

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

PRODUCTION STAFF

Co-Producer	John Stefano
Co-Producer/Audience Services Director	Elizabeth Saltzgiver
Production Manager	Rebecca Morrison
Movement Coach	Melinda Murphy
Assistant to the Director	Adam Humphrey
Stage Manager	Christine Nickel
Assistant Stage Managers	Deborah Rutherford
Technical Director	Rich Uhrick
Assistant Technical Director	Travis Gilmore
Costume Shop Supervisor	Marcia Hain
Master Carpenter	Roger Payne
Master Painter	Laura Prengaman
Master Electrician	Andy Baker
Props Master	Jessica Jackson
Wardrobe Master	Erik Christensen
Deck Chief	Alyssa Pence
Light Board Operator	Lauren Williams
Sound Board Operator	Douglas Sarmir
Front of House Manager	Tiffany Rollins
Assistant Front of House Manager	Kelley Monts de Oca
Box Office Assistants	Cassie Barker, Kate Murphy, Kari Ringer, Beth Triffon

Originally Produced at the Contemporary American Theater Festival,
Shepherdstown, West Virginia, Producing Director, Ed Herendeen.

SETTING

The action of the play alternates between a classroom, the Margolis' home, a restaurant, Paul's apartment, a park, and Abigail's art studio.

Time: The present

Please note: The play is one hour and 40 minutes in length.

There will not be an intermission.

A strobe lighting effect will be used during this performance.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dennis Romer (Director) has served Otterbein Summer Theatre in many capacities during 27 of the last 40 years, including apprentice, acting company member, director, assistant managing director, guest artist, co-producer, producer, associate artistic director, and artistic director from 1991-2005. He is enjoying working on this beautiful and insightful play, *Father Joy*, by Sheri Wilner, a play he first witnessed last summer at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. While many people have made invaluable contributions to OST over the years, Dennis would especially like to acknowledge and thank "Doc" Dodrill, "Pop" Thayer, Petie Dodrill, Carter Lewis and Ed Vaughan for their creativity, insight, and hard work in building and growing the professional atmosphere that has sustained OST during the first 40 years. Dennis would also like to thank all the students who have participated in OST, Paul and Sheila Reiner for their sponsorship, and the extremely loyal audience for their support.

Michael Slane (Scenic Designer) is a 1984 graduate of Otterbein College and is returning after a 21 year absence! He currently teaches at Westminster College in Western PA where he lives with his wife, Melodee and their three children. His last work here was also with Dennis, when he designed the set for *Murder on the Nile* in the summer of 1985. "Coming back has been a great experience. This is an incredibly talented, hardworking and FUN bunch!"

Donna Williamson (Costume Designer) is a free lance designer from Delaware, Ohio and a proud graduate of Otterbein College. Past productions here that she has costumed include *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Anton in Show Business* and *The Women of Lockerbie*. She would like to thank the actors and production staff for all of their hard work and dedication to this show.

Jayson Pritchard (Lighting Designer) is a native of Rochester, NY. He is pursuing dual degrees in Theatre Design & Technology and Physics. He has previously designed lights for *Harvey*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Crimes of the Heart*, the World Premiere of *Swamp Baby*, and a dance piece in *Passions* while here at Otterbein College. Last year, he worked with Westerville South High School during their productions of *Barnum* and *Cheaper By the Dozen*, and with Pickerington Central High School for the production of *The Secret Garden*. He wishes to thank his parents for their never-ending support. "OFA!"

BIOGRAPHIES

Kim Killeya (Sound Designer) is going to be a senior Design/Tech major here at Otterbein. Kim is the sound designer for all three shows this summer. She also designed sound for *The House of Bernarda Alba* this past winter. This is the first time that Kim has done summer theatre and she is having a great time. This fall, Kim is going on her Internship to Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. She would like to thank Mom, Dad, and Don for all their love and support.

Steven Black (Paul), a 1977 graduate of Otterbein, spent fifteen years working and living in NYC. Steve's NY acting credits include recurring roles on "As The World Turns" and "The Guiding Light" as well as regional tours of *Barefoot in the Park*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and several failed musicals. Steve spent over two years with a motivational industrial for Pepsi Co where he traveled through 38 states of the US. Since returning to Columbus over ten years ago, Steve has performed with CATCO, Red Herring and Reality Theatres and directed *Forever Plaid* for CATCO. Mr. "B" is entering his eighth year as director of the Fort Hayes Career Center Theatre Program.

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 *Harvey*, *Dance 2006: Street Fest*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Dance 2005: Passions*, *The Ugly Duckling + 2*, *The Music Man*, *Schoolhouse Rock, Live!*, *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 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.

Melinda Murphy (Movement Coach) teaches Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais Method® in the Otterbein Theater 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 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.

Rich Uhrick (Technical Director) enjoyed reprising HARVEY and looks forward to the new challenges that lie ahead as he begins his fourth season since returning to his alma mater. Previously, he worked in Regional Theatres across the Midwest and New England including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, New American Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre (at UMKC), and The Court Theatre in Chicago. He received his Master's in Theatre Technology from UMKC in 1997. He now lives in Columbus with his wife Lisa. They work with Ohio Pug Rescue to provide abandoned or surrendered Pugs [dogs] foster homes.

BIOGRAPHIES

Andy Baker (Master Electrician) is a sophomore/junior at Otterbein College and is enjoying his first summer with the Summer Theatre company. Previous Otterbein productions include *42nd Street*, *Leaving Iowa* and *Watchdog*. Andy would like to thank his friends, family and Jen for their support.

Cassie Barker (Ruth) is a senior Musical Theatre major from South Carolina. She was last seen in *Harvey*. Other credits include *Prelude to a Kiss*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. You can next see her in the opening fall show, *Company*. She thanks Beth for being good to her through this; Bubble Dean for the laughs; and the cast and crew for being awesome. She also credits Chan, Pi Sig, and Kappa for the fun they've brought her this summer. "Peace on Earth."

Erik M. Christensen (Wardrobe Master) is a junior BA Theatre major from Groveport. He is excited to expand his technical theatre skills with this summer's season. He was recently seen as Abner Dillon in *42nd Street*, his first production at Otterbein, and will be seen in this fall's production of *Company* as Paul. Past productions include *Peter Pan* (Smee), *Guys & Dolls* (Nathan), and *Rumors* (Ken). Erik would like to thank all his friends, family, Mom, Dad, Heidi, and Kari; and Nick, David & James, his future roomies of IIC!

Luke Dixon (Harry) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Huntsville, TX and is thrilled to be a part of the Otterbein Summer Theater season once again. Past Otterbein Credits include *Leaving Iowa*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Swamp Baby* and *BecauseHeCan*. He would like to thank Chris, Dennis and David for entrusting him with such wonderful roles, as well as the fantastic cast and crew for their hard work and talent.

Jessica Jackson (Props Master) will be a senior this fall, majoring in Design/Technology. She was recently seen onstage as Miss Johnson in *Harvey*. Her previous show credits include Sound Operator for *Leaving Iowa*, Associate Scenic Designer for *Street Fest*, Wardrobe Master for *The Merchant of Venice*, and Scenic Coordinator/Props Master for *Swamp Baby*. She will be interning at Pittsburgh Public Theater this fall, and designing two productions for next year. She would like to thank the cast and crew, her parents, the gang at the Crazy P, Erik and Erik, and as always O.G.

Christine Nickel (Stage Manager) is a sophomore design/technology major from Groveport OH. She is excited to be doing her second summer of Otterbein Summer Theatre and to be stage managing her first show at the college level. Her past Otterbein credits include Light Board Operator for *Watchdog* and *Jump*, Assistant Stage Manager for Dance Concert 2006: *Street Fest*, and Stage Management Apprentice for OST 2005. She would like to thank the cast and crew, especially Deb, for all of their hard work to put this show together.

BIOGRAPHIES

Roger Payne (Master Carpenter) is happy to be working his third season with OST. His previous credits include Assistant Master Electrician for *42nd Street*, Sound Designer for *Dance 2006: Streetfest*, and Master Carpenter for *Prelude to a Kiss*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support and Travis, Pele *wiggle finger*, Cassie "Eagle Claw" Barker, Regis, Cory, Dick Sanders, and of course, all his brothers in Pi Beta Sigma for making this a wonderful summer to remember. "OFA"

Laura Prengaman (Master Painter) is working as Master Painter for her first year of Otterbein Summer Theatre. Some of her previous shows include *42nd Street* (ASM), *Streetfest* (Wardrobe Master), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Master Painter), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ASM).

Tiffany Rollins (Front of House Manager) recently graduated with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Arts Administration. This is her fourth and last summer here as Front of House Manager. Other Otterbein credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *A Guy, A Girl, and Gershwin* and for *The Butter and Egg Man*. She will be moving to California in September to pursue a career in Arts Administration. She would like to thank Elizabeth Saltzgiver for all her support over the past four years. She would also like to thank her mom and Plank for all of their love and support.

Debbie Rutherford (Stage Management Apprentice) is currently a sophomore here at Otterbein College, and is a Design/Tech Major. This is her first year in summer theatre. Previous Otterbein credits include: *Harvey* (ASM) *42nd Street* (Costume Crew), *Prelude to a Kiss* (Set Crew); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Follow Spot Operator), and *The Merchant of Venice* (ASM). Debbie would like to thank her family, friends, and all involved with the show. Debbie also thanks Dad and Sue – "I love you and my baby too. Thanks again, I wouldn't be here without you all!"

Douglas Sarmir (Technical Apprentice) will be a senior at Pickerington High School Central. Some of the past shows he has worked on are *Oklahoma!*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Secret Garden*. He would like to thank his family and Eric Womack for all of their help and support.

Beth Triffon (Abigail) is an upcoming senior Acting major from Bexley. Past Otterbein credits include *Medea*, *The Ugly Duckling* +2, *The Women of Lockerbie*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Crimes of the Heart* and *Leaving Iowa*. She sends thanks to the hardworking crew; Dennis and Melinda for their guidance; Steve for his years of friendship; Cassie for just being herself; and Luke for being a fabulous "Diddy Joy."

Lauren Williams (Technical Apprentice) graduated from Dublin Coffman High School class of 2006. She is an incoming Design/Tech freshman this fall at Otterbein College. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and Otterbein College for this chance to work in the Theatre Department this summer.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Sheri Wilner (*Bake Off*, *The Bushesteia*, *Hell and Back*, *Joan of Arkansas*, *Moving Shortly*, *Relative Strangers*, *The Unknown Part of the Ocean*, *Father Joy*) has twice been a co-winner of the Heideman Award granted by the Actors Theatre of Louisville: in 1998 for *Labor Day*, which premiered at the 1999 Humana Festival, and in 2001 for *Bake Off*, which premiered at the 2002 Humana Festival. Her other plays include: *Father Joy*, which was produced at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and read at the Old Vic Theatre in London, the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Primary Stages, The Philadelphia Theatre Company, New Georges, and Rattlestick Theatre; *Moving Shortly*, produced by Naked Angels (NYC); *Relative Strangers*, produced by City Theatre (Miami and Ft. Lauderdale), New Georges, the Organic Theater Company (Chicago), the 2001 Boston Women on Top Festival, and the Pittsburgh New Works Festival; *Hunger*, produced by CATF and the Epiphany Theatre Company in New York; *Joan of Arkansas*, produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville and New Georges; *Little Death of a Salesman*, produced at New Georges and the 2000 Boston Women On Top Festival; *The Unknown Part of the Ocean*, produced at the 2002 Boston WOT Festival; *Hell and Back*, produced by New Georges; and *The Bushesteia*, produced by the Hourglass Group in New York, and The Drilling Company in Los Angeles. Her plays have been published in numerous anthologies, including *Labor Day* in *Ten-Minute Plays: Volume 5 from Actors Theatre of Louisville* (Samuel French), *Relative Strangers* in *The Best American Short Plays 2000-2001* (Applause Books) and *Hunger* in *New Playwrights: The Best New Plays of 1999* (Smith & Kraus). She received her M.F.A. in Playwriting from Columbia University in 1999 and was named a 2000-2001 Dramatists Guild Playwriting Fellow. She recently completed Jerome Fellowship at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis.

Join us for

The 1940's Radio Hour

by Walton Jones

Directed by David Caldwell

July 27-30, August 3-5, August 10-12

A different time is evoked in this marvelously theatrical and winning show, a live broadcast of a The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade from the Hotel Astor's Algonquin Room on December 21, 1942. The spirit of that bygone era when the world was at war and pop music meant "Strike Up the Band" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (both are in this show) is accurately captured as the harassed producer copes with a drunk lead singer, the delivery boy who wants a chance in front of the mike, the second banana who dreams of singing a ballad, and the trumpet playing sound effects man.

Box Office: 614-823-1109

Otterbein Summer Theatre

Campus Center Theatre

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Fire Notice – The exit indicated by a red light nearest to your seat is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency please do not run – walk to that exit.

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