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Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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# TheatreGoer

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

## PRESENT LAUGHTER BY SIR NOEL COWARD



Director **Dr. Charles W. Dodrill**

Scenic Designer **John R. Gutknecht**    Costume Designer **Katie Robbins**

Lighting Designer **Richard Uhrick**    Technical Director **Steve Hall**

Production Manager **Anne Alexander**

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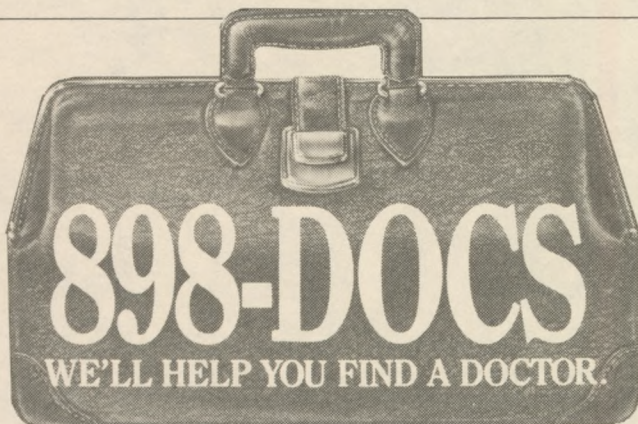
October 5, 1989-7:30 p.m.    October 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 1989-8:00 p.m.  
October 8, 1989-2:00 p.m.

**Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance**

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# About Us

The mission of the Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance is to prepare selected undergraduate students, in a nationally recognized theatre training program, for professional careers in acting, musical theatre, design/technology and stage management through the BFA degree. The BA degree will train students for careers in arts management, education, musical theatre, children's theatre, and dance. All programs are created within the liberal arts framework which is designed to prepare students to become productive and effective members of society.

The goals of the Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance are:

- To provide extensive practical production experiences that offer students the opportunity to develop production skills in acting, musical theatre, design/technology, stage management and arts management.
- To provide intensive classroom work for theory and personal development consistent with the liberal arts philosophy.
- To develop high artistic standards in production and class work through the use of Equity guest actors, professional teachers, directors and designers.
- To provide and sustain an atmosphere in which professional artist/teachers may have the opportunity to teach as well as practice their craft professionally.
- To "bridge the gap" between college and professional theatre through summer theatre or professional summer theatre apprenticeships and senior year professional internships.
- To develop and maintain a national profile through professional production, organization membership, newsletter publication, national advertisement, production showcases, and nationwide recruiting.
- To provide entertainment, education, and cultural enrichment for both the college and the Central Ohio community through winter and summer theatre productions that range from the classical to the contemporary.



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# Otterbein Theatre Guild

The Otterbein Theatre Guild was organized as a volunteer support organization in May of 1988 to:

- (1) expand community outreach.
- (2) provide feedback on projects and activities for theatre faculty.
- (3) support theatre students and activities.
- (4) support efforts to reach a minimum \$250,000 Theatre Endowment Fund.

The Board of Directors for the Guild decided to offer membership in the Guild to individuals who contributed \$25 or more annually to the Patron or Endowment funds. Other categories of membership include organizations and businesses

and a lifetime membership for contributions of \$1000 or more to the Endowment Fund. Those members who wish to participate actively are invited to attend annual meetings and are encouraged to volunteer for service on the Guild Board of Directors.

Major activities include: raising Theatre Endowment funds (nearly \$100,000), donor receptions, "meet the guest artist" receptions, greeters, the *Quilters* exhibition, mailing list expansion, support for students in need, and "feedback" to the Theatre. For information about Guild activities please contact the Theatre office at 898-1657.

## Theatre Guild Officers

President: Susan Musick

President-elect: Mike Edgar

Vice President: Christine Diol

Secretary: Richard Corrigan

Treasurer: Dennis Blank

## Theatre Guild Board of Directors

Liz Allen

Warren Ernsberger

Mary Lou Lawrence

George Baughman

Neva Fritsche

Fred Landig

John Bowers

Henry Grotta

Clark Lord

Edmund Cox

Pamela Hill

Peggy Moreland

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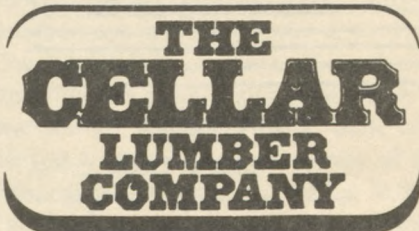
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# Director's Corner

## About the Author

Sir Noel Coward (1899-1973) is frequently called one of the most "complete men of the theatre," and with good justification; for beginning in the 1920's he established himself as the most versatile, most sophisticated theatre craftsmen of the modern theatre. He wrote plays and musicals, sang, danced, acted and directed many of them, turning out 31 successful plays, eleven splendid musicals, a handful of movies, two novels and nine other books. . . and he astounded the television world with a ninety minute musical duet with Mary Martin.

Some of his best known plays during this exciting 40 year period include; *Blithe Spirit*, *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*,

*Tonight at 8:30*, *Quadrille*, *Nude with Violin*, *Sail Away* (musical), *Suite in Three Keys* and, of course, *Present Laughter*. Two very successful musicals of his best known songs are *Oh, Coward!* and *Cowardy Custard*.

As a playwright/actor/director, Coward reminds us of earlier complete men of theatre, including Shakespeare, Molière and some of the great actor-manager figures of the 18th and 19th century theatre. At the height of his career, his name on a marquee meant instant success and his three month run meant an early sell-out. Revivals constantly grace the great stages and cities of the world and his work still has instant appeal to theatregoers.

## A Personal Note

While traveling in London in the summer of 1966 (thanks to an anonymous gift to the college providing funds for travel abroad) I had the incredible opportunity to see Noel Coward in *Suite in Three Keys*. I was completely enchanted and would have to describe the experience as a "thrill of a lifetime," for the complete artistry of the director/performer was astounding! In fact, I arrived just as the curtain rose and kept wondering when Noel Coward was going to appear when I finally glanced at the program to discover that the person on stage with an enormous Texan accent and hat was Noel Coward. His work in the 1960 movie *Our Man in Havana* is still a classic.

On a more personal note, I am delighted to be directing again after a two year hiatus because of heart surgery. Many people have asked "How's retirement?" because they thought when I resigned as chairman that I was not teaching. But I still teach acting,

directing and management, and I function as Director of the Professional Actor Training program and Director of Theatre Admissions (recruiting outstanding students from all over the country is an exciting challenge). I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years because I rediscovered the joys of the classroom and felt like I had "moved up to teaching." and I can contribute to this program (after 32 years) which means so much to me. The program is in good hands with a strong faculty and new chairman/artistic director Dr. Donald W. Seay. It has been a great joy to get back to directing and I am thankful that good health makes it possible. What fun it has been to direct students I have helped train as actors! We have had a great time doing this show and hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed the rehearsal process.

Dr. Charles W. Dodrill





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# Cast List

(in order of appearance)

Daphne Stillington .....	Gretchen Hall*
Miss Erikson .....	Cheryl Gaysunas**
Fred .....	Matthew J. Bartholomew*
Monica Reed .....	Rachael Harris**
Garry Essendine .....	Joshua Alan Wank**
Liz Essendine .....	Jean C. Childers**
Roland Maule .....	Alan W. Ellerbrock
Morris Dixon .....	Bill D. Timmins III
Hugo Lyppiatt .....	Dennis M. Rapp**
Joanna Lyppiatt .....	Patricia Lynn Cockburn**
Lady Saltburn .....	Meg Chamberlain

## Scene Synopsis

The action passes in Garry Essendine's studio in London.

Time: Spring, 1939.

Act I Morning.

*Twelve minute intermission*

Act II

Scene 1 Evening. Three days later.

Scene 2 The next morning.

*Ten minute intermission*

Act III

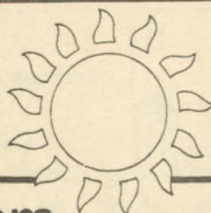
Evening. A week later.

Incidental music from the musical *Cowardy Custard*.

\* Indicates membership in Cap and Dagger

\*\* Indicates membership in Theta Alpha Phi Theatre Honorary

# SunLight



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## Production Staff

*Artistic Director* Dr. Donald W. Seay  
*Managing Director* Tod Wilson  
*Technical Director* Steve Hall  
*Costume Shop Supervisor* Marcia Hain  
*Production Manager* Anne Alexander\*\*  
*Stage Manager* Alexander Chatfield\*\*  
*Assistant Stage Manager* Demita L. Davis  
*Assistant Technical Director* Bryan Campbell\*  
*Wardrobe Mistress* Lisa J. Snodgrass\*\*  
*Properties Mistress* Janet E. Brown\*  
*Master Electrician* Paul T. Kavicky\*\*  
*Master Carpenter* John Barrett  
*Master Painter* Gregory Owen-Houck\*\*  
*Sound Engineer* Julie L. Oberholtzer\*\*  
*Box Office Manager* Kristen L. Gregerson\*\*  
*House Manager* Michael C. Moser\*

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## Acknowledgements

Otterbein College Theatre would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions to our production of *Present Laughter*.

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# Production Crews

## *Set Construction Crew*

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## *Paint Crew*

Susan Dickerson, Mandy Fox, Doug Geib, James Minter, Juliann Rubijono, Ian Short, Zelalem Worku

## *Costume Shop Assistants*

Gwen Aubrey, Chris Jones\*, Nancy Martin\*, Gretchen Perault, Brad Wees

## *Costume Crew*

Missy Barber\*, Eva Bevans\*, Melanie Bruno\*, Kim Butterweck, Tom Cardinal\*, Chris Ferree\*, Ben Hodges\*\*, Anastasia Klimaszewski, Laurie Kubicki, Stephanie Lane, Ginger McDermott\*, Cheryl Martin, Colby Paul\*\*, Bill Robinson, David Steinmetz, Carolyn Valentine\*, Christine Vislosky, Brad Wees

## *Properties Crew*

Craig Barnes\*, Katy Bowers\*, Art Drauglis, Jim Hixson, Nancy Martin\*, Mary Randle, Jason Podplesky, Chris Wojcieszyn\*

## *Lighting Crew*

Julie Cremean\*, Jess Hanks, Mark Merriman\*, Chris Sanford, Sherry Schweinforth, Sonda Staley\*, Shana Stover

## *Hair and Makeup*

Ginger McDermott\*, Anastasia Klimaszewski, Christine Vislosky

## *Sound Crew*

Stacey Ferguson\*, Chris Sanford

## *Box Office Assistants*

Matthew J. Bartholomew\*, Keith Berkes\*\*, Patricia Lynn Cockburn\*\*, Cheryl Gaysunas\*\*, Juliann Rubijono, Lisa J. Snodgrass\*\*, Carolyn Valentine\*, Phil Wolfe

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Uptown lots off College Avenue, the Cowan Hall lot, and the three lots off Park Street just west of the theatre.

**Cameras and Recording Devices:** The use of recording equipment and taking photographs during a performance are strictly prohibited.

**Mailing List:** If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive announcements of college cultural activities, please fill out a card at the Box Office.

**Refreshments:** The refreshment stand is located in the lobby for your convenience. We would appreciate your cooperation in not bringing cups into the theatre. *Thank You.*

**Restrooms and Telephones:** The restrooms and telephones are located off the corridor, immediately beneath the lobby.

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## American College Theater Festival

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This production is an associate entry in the American College Theater Festival. The aims of this national program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production is eligible for adjudication by a regional ACTF representative and certain students are elected to participate in ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Last year more than 650 productions and 15,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the ACTF goals to help college theater grow and focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.






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*Director of Professional Actor Training* Dr. Charles W. Dodrill

*Director of Design Technology* Prof. Fred J. Thayer

*Teacher/Director* Ed Vaughan

*Teacher/Director* Dennis Romer

*Scenic Designer* Rob Johnson

*Costume Designer* Katie Robbins

*Technical Director* Steve Hall

*Costume Shop Supervisor* Marcia Hain

*Director of Dance* Denise David

*Adjunct Dance Faculty*

Denise Celestin, Jon Devlin, Cathy Duke, Stella Kane,

Shirley McClain, Joan Moos

*Managing Director* Tod Wilson

*Administrative Assistant* Jeanne Augustus

*Director of College Relations* Patricia Kessler

Otterbein College Theatre is affiliated with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the American College Theatre Festival, the Ohio Theatre Alliance, the Columbus Theatre Roundtable, and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.

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# Otterbein College Arts Calendar



## Art

**Through October 15**

Art Department Faculty Exhibit, *Battelle Fine Arts Center*

## Artist Series

**October 19 (Thursday)**

The Kleveland Klezmerim

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7:30 p.m., *Cowan Hall*.

## Music

**October 21 (Saturday)**

Westerville Civic Symphony

The Homecoming Concert, with music by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Schubert.

8:00 p.m., *Cowan Hall*.

**October 29 (Sunday)**

Marching Band In Concert.

7:00 p.m., *Cowan Hall*

**November 3 (Friday)**

Opus Zero.

Otterbein's noted show choir, co-sponsored by Otterbein College Theatre,  
in *Fancies, Flights and Fairy Tales*.

7:00 & 9:00 p.m., *Battelle Fine Arts Center*.

## Theatre

### Cinderella

One of the favorite children's stories of all time will come to life on the Cowan Hall stage in November. Complete with music and dancing, this classic rags-to-riches tale of a beautiful and mistreated young woman features a fantasy cast of unforgettable characters such as the evil step-sisters, fairy godmother, wicked step-mother and the handsome prince. A theatrical event sure to delight the entire family!

**November 17, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.; November 19, 1:30 p.m.**



## Who's Who - Otterbein College Theatre's Production of Present Laughter

**Anne Alexander** (Production Stage Manager) is a senior BFA Design/Tech major from Peninsula, Ohio. Her past credits include Production Stage Manager for *Children of a Lesser God* and Stage Manager for *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Anne will be interning at Arena Stage in Washington D.C. this winter.

**John Barrett** (Master Carpenter) is a sophomore BFA Performance major from Pensacola, Florida. He has worked with the technical aspect of several productions in the past year and was a carpenter for Otterbein Summer Theatre this past season.

**Matthew J. Bartholomew** (Fred) is a junior BFA Performance major from Mt. Gilead, Ohio. He was most recently seen in several roles with Otterbein Summer Theatre, appearing as Angell in *The Unexpected Guest*, as the Cowboy in *I'm Not Rappaport*, and as Eugene in *Biloxi Blues*. Last winter, he also appeared as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Janet E. Brown** (Properties Mistress) is a sophomore BFA Design/Tech major from Salinville, Ohio. Her past credits include Costume Mistress for *Children of a Lesser God*, Light Board Operator for *Quilters*, and Assistant Scenic Artist for *Alice in Wonderland*.

**Bryan Campbell** (Assistant Technical Director) is a junior BFA Design/Tech major from Columbus, Ohio. He most recently served as Properties Master for *Children of a Lesser God*. He was also Master Electrician for *Sweeney Todd* and *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

**Meg Chamberlain** (Lady Saltburn) is a sophomore BFA Performance major from Vermilion, Ohio. Her past credits include Lady Montague in *Romeo and Juliet* and Jinx in the Otterbein Workshop production of *Life Under Water*.

**Alexander Chatfield** (Stage Manager) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Middlefield, Ohio. His past credits include Balthazar in *Romeo and Juliet*, The King of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and a member of the company in *Sweeney Todd*. Alex also served as Assistant Stage Manager for *Quilters*.

**Jean C. Childers** (Liz Essendine) is a senior BFA Performance major from Indianapolis, Indiana. She appeared as Nikki in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and as Val in *A Chorus Line*. She was a member of the company in *Sweeney Todd*. Jean also appeared in the Otterbein Faculty Dance Concert last winter. This winter, Jean will be interning at Johnson, Liff & Zerman in New York City.

**Patricia Lynn Cockburn** (Joanna Lyppiatt) is a senior BFA Performance major from Gahanna, Ohio. She most recently played Jody in *Quilters*. Her past credits include Bernice Roth in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and Cindy in *To Gillian on Her 37<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. This fall she is directing a workshop production of *The Actor's Nightmare*. She will be interning this winter with McCorkle Casting Agency in New York City.

**Demita L. Davis** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre/Speech Education major from Grove City, Ohio. Her past credits include properties crews for both *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Demita also served on costume crew for *Quilters*.

**Alan W. Ellerbrock** (Roland Maule) is a sophomore BFA Performance major from Glandorf, Ohio. A transfer student from Heidelberg College, Alan is making his Otterbein debut in this production. At Heidelberg, Alan appeared in several roles including Charlie in *The Foreigner*, Peter in *Zoo Story*, Steven in *Line*, and Pablo in *Suicide in B<sup>b</sup>*.

**Cheryl Gaysunas** (Miss Erikson) is a senior BFA Performance major from Columbus, Ohio. Cheryl's most recent credits include Laura in *The Unexpected Guest*, Clara in *I'm Not Rappaport*, and Daisy in *Biloxi Blues*, all with Otterbein Summer Theatre. Previous winter roles include Edna Klein in *Children of a Lesser God* and Helsa in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Cheryl will be interning this winter with Simon & Kumin Casting Agency in New York City.



**John R. Gutknecht** (Scenic Designer) is a senior BFA Design/Tech major from Barrington, Illinois. John designed sets for several productions for Otterbein Summer Theatre including *Quilters* and *I'm Not Rappaport*. He also designed costumes for *Sweeney Todd*, *Biloxi Blues* and *The Unexpected Guest*. John will be interning next fall quarter.

**Gretchen Hall** (Daphne Stillington) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Bay Village, Ohio. She most recently appeared as a member of the company in *Sweeney Todd*. Other credits include Eve in the Otterbein Workshop production of *The Apple Tree* and understudy for the roles of Lady Capulet and Lady Montague in *Romeo and Juliet*. She served as Properties Supervisor for this past season of Otterbein Summer Theatre.

**Rachael Harris** (Monica Reed) is a senior BFA Performance major from Worthington, Ohio. Rachael most recently appeared as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*. She also appeared as Rowena in *Biloxi Blues* and as Margaret in *Quilters* with Otterbein Summer Theatre, and as Lucienne in *A Flea in Her Ear*.

**Paul T. Kavicky** (Master Electrician) is a junior BFA Design/Tech major from Grove City, Ohio. Most recently, he has served as Assistant Technical Director for *Children of a Lesser God* and as Special Effects Coordinator for *Sweeney Todd*. Paul is also a professional magician.

**Julie L. Oberholtzer** (Sound Engineer) is a senior Musical Performance major from Medina, Ohio. She has appeared in Otterbein Opera Theatre's *Little Harlequinade* as Columbine and as a member of the company in *Sweeney Todd*. She also served as Sound Engineer for *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Gregory Owen-Houck** (Master Painter) is a junior BFA Design/Tech major from Youngstown, Ohio. His past credits include Master Electrician for the Winter Dance Concert and Shop Assistant for Otterbein Summer Theatre. He has also worked on light crews for *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

**Dennis M. Rapp** (Hugo Lyppiatt) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Delaware, Ohio. He most recently appeared with Otterbein Summer Theatre as Carney in *Biloxi Blues*. Other credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, and in Otterbein Opera Theatre.

**Lisa J. Snodgrass** (Costume Mistress) is a junior BFA Design/Tech major from Barnesville, Ohio. She most recently served as Master Electrician for Otterbein Summer Theatre. She was also Stage Manager for *Sweeney Todd* and Properties Mistress/Assistant Lighting Designer for *Quilters*.

**Bill D. Timmins III** (Morris Dixon) is a sophomore BFA Performance major from Westerville, Ohio. His last appearance at Otterbein was as Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*. He also appeared as Roderigo in Actors' Summer Theatre's *Othello*.

**Richard Uhrick** (Lighting Designer) is a senior BFA Design/Tech major from Columbus, Ohio. His past credits include Assistant Lighting Designer for *Sweeney Todd* and *Children of a Lesser God*. He recently returned from a summer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he worked as a carpenter. He will be interning at Arena Stage in Washington D.C. this winter.

**Joshua Alan Wank** (Gary Essendine) is a senior BFA Acting/Directing major from St. Joseph, Michigan. His credits include roles with Otterbein Summer Theatre in *Biloxi Blues*, *I'm Not Rappaport* and *The Unexpected Guest*. Last year he appeared in *Sweeney Todd*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. He will be interning with McCorkle Casting Agency in New York City this spring.

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