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Prelude to a Kiss

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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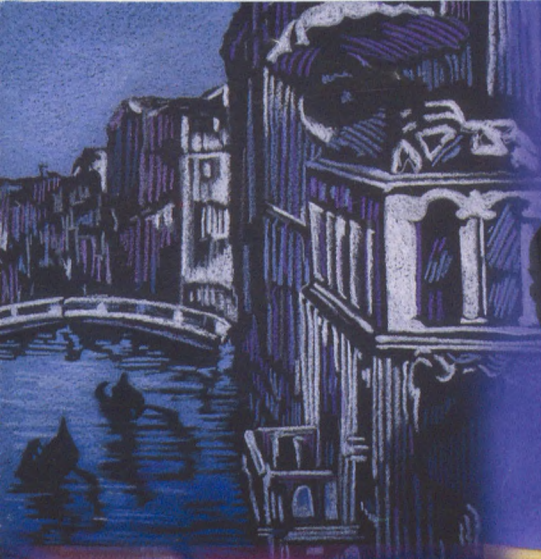


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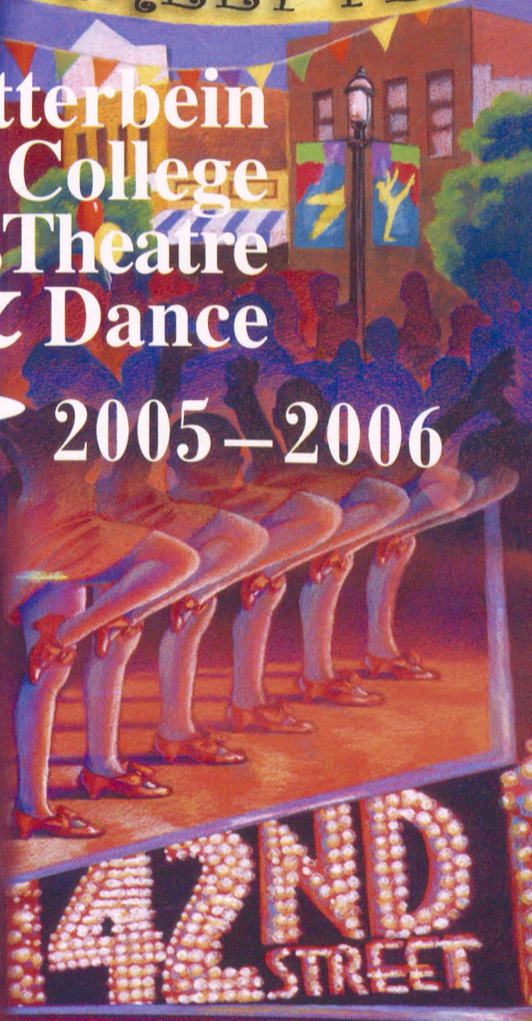


STREET FEST



Otterbein
College
& Theatre
& Dance

2005—2006



OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE
presents

Prelude to a Kiss

by Craig Lucas

featuring Guest Equity Actor David Q. Combs

Stage Direction by
DENNIS ROMER

Set Design
DAN GRAY

Costume Design
DONNA WILLIAMSON

Lighting Design
ROB JOHNSON

Sound Design
TRENT KUGLER

January 26-29 & February 2-4, 2006
The Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

cast

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| PETER | Drew Aber |
| TAYLOR | David R. Bahgat |
| RITA | Clare Schmidt |
| THE OLD MAN | David Q. Combs* |
| TOM | Chris Carter |
| MRS. BOYLE | Meg Ward |
| DR. BOYLE | Lucas Dixon |
| MINISTER | Sam Vestey |
| AUNT DOROTHY | Cassie Barker |
| UNCLE FRED | A.J. Smitrovich |
| JAMAICAN WAITER | Keeshon A. Morrow |
| LEAH | Elizabeth Daniels |
| ENSEMBLE | Emily Asbury, Jonelle Browne, Chris Carter, Steve Chazaro, Tess Emerson, Keeshon Morrow, Katelyn Rondinaro, Cory Smith, Kaitlin Winslow |

Prelude to a Kiss takes place in the present.
There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

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

production team

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Artistic Advisor | Ed Vaughan |
| Audience Services Director | Elizabeth Saltzgiver |
| Production Manager | Becky Morrison |
| Assistant to the Director | Lauren Baker |
| Movement Coach | Melinda Murphy |
| Speech & Dialects Coach | Melissa Nutting |
| Technical Director/Scenic Studio Supervisor | Richard Uhrick |
| Assistant Lighting Designer | Jayson Pritchard |
| Assistant Technical Director | Emily Buch |
| Costume Shop Supervisor | Marcia Hain |
| Stage Manager | Kelley Monts de Oca |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Lizzy Couture, Corey VerduSCO |
| Master Carpenter | Roger Payne |
| Deck Chief | Maureen Strobel |
| Master Painter | Chase Molden |
| Master Electrician | Marybeth Cave |
| Assistant Master Electrician | Alex Myers |
| Light Board Operator | Tyler Stratton |
| Props Master | Kim Killeya |
| Wardrobe Master | Travis Gilmore |
| Assistant Wardrobe Master | Dieter Willis |
| Sound Consultant | Dave Mead |
| Sound Operator | Peter Sichko |
| House Manager | Meredith Holomuzki-Zgonc |
| Box Office Manager | Tiffany Rollins |

Scenic Studio Assistants

Travis Gilmore, Chase Molden, Jake Widman, Dieter Willis, Sarah Taylor, Renee Scott,
Peter Sichko, Andy Baker, Richard Dwyer, Matt Buettner, Trent Kugler

Electrics Crew

Tori Alexander, Jonelle Browne, Nick Caruso, Lizzy Couture, Steve Czarnecki, Matt Johnson,
Liz Shivener, Peter Sichko, A.J. Smitrovich, Ian Stillman, Tyler Stratton, Corey VerduSCO,
Jake Widman

Wardrobe Crew

Andy Baker, Alyssa Pence, Thurayya UmBayemake

Scenic Studio Participation Students

Robert Hartwell, Sarah Hiance, Claire Longest, Kari Ringer, Cory Smith, Cesar Villavicencio,
Wes Jenkins, Katelyn Rondinaro, Debbie Rutherford, Sarah Taylor, Matthew Hager, Emily Asbury,
Kaitlyn Winslow

Box Office Crew

Abi Baxendale, Megan Bruno, Jessica A. Jackson, Nicole Lehman, Kelley Monts de Oca,
Rachel Wulber

profiles

Dennis Romer (Director) has directed many productions for the Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance. His favorite projects include last season's *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Rounding Third* (both were top-ten productions in The Columbus Dispatch), *Death of A Salesman*, *Stop Kiss*, *A Little Night Music*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Phantom*, and *The Laramie Project*. Dennis is happy to once again be working with Guest Equity Artist and close friend, David Combs, and the entire *Prelude* collaborative team of actors, designers, staff and crew. Many thanks to close friend and colleague, Ed Vaughan, for his passionate support of this project. He sends a special "shout out" to his multi-talented Assistant Director, Lauren Baker.

Dan Gray (Scenic Designer) happily returns to Otterbein for this production of *Prelude to a Kiss*. Recent Otterbein credits include *Black Comedy*, *Hayfever*, *Blithe Spirit* and the award-winning *Phantom*. Regional theatre credits include designs for The George Street Playhouse, Capital Rep, Players Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company and The Human Race Theatre. Dan also designs for many Central Ohio companies including CATCO, BalletMet, Opera Columbus, Dayton Ballet, Red Herring, Columbus Symphony & Pro Musica. Dan is the Resident Scenic Designer, Associate Professor and Head of Design/Tech at The OSU Dept. of Theatre.

Donna Williamson (Costume Designer) is a free lance costumer working in the Columbus area. As an Otterbein graduate she always enjoys getting a chance to work with these talented students and faculty. Most recently her work was seen here in *The Women of Lockerbie* and *Anton in Show Business*. She'd like to thank the person she swapped souls with forty years ago for his patience and sense of humor.

Rob Johnson (Lighting Designer) has designed sets and lights since 1987 for Otterbein College and continues to freelance professionally. Recently, he designed the lighting for *You're My Boy*, an acclaimed world premier produced this past fall by the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) and is currently hard at work designing sets for our upcoming spring musical, *42nd Street*. Rob designed the set for Otterbein's recent production of *The Merchant of Venice* and also lit *Dracula: The Musical* for Central High School in Westerville. This spring, he will be reworking his set design for *A Tuna Christmas* and turning it into the setting for *Greater Tuna*, a revival of the huge comedy hit being produced downtown by CATCO. 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 freelance occasionally as a computer artist and animator.

Trent Kugler (Sound Designer) is a Senior Design/Tech major from Cincinnati. He has just returned from his internship at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, where he was the Technical Administration and Lighting Design intern. His previous credits at Otterbein include Assistant Technical Director for *Music Man*, Sound Operator for *Violet* and Master Electrician for *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Trent would like to thank God, his family, Mayme, Dave and Peter, as well as his brothers of Sigma Delta Phi, for all their love and support.

profiles

David Q. Combs (Old Man) has been a professional actor for 35 years. His career includes movies, episodic television, sitcoms, commercials, Broadway, Off-Broadway, National Tours, and regional theatre. David has performed at Otterbein College in *Good as John Halder* and *Passion of Dracula* as The Count. Columbus audiences will remember him from the CATCO production of *The Grapes of Wrath* as the Reverend Jim Casey. David has appeared on such TV shows as *West Wing*, *JAG*, *NYPD Blue*, *The Handler*, and over one hundred commercials. To see an example of his work and to check out his resume, please go to www.speedreels.com/talent/dcombs. David is thrilled to be working again with the extraordinary young talent of the Otterbein Theatre Department and Dennis Romer, one of the finest directors he has ever worked with.

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 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 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 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.

Melissa Nutting (Speech and Dialects Coach) teaches speech, dialects, and theatre history in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Otterbein College. She also serves as the resident speech and dialects coach for all productions including last season's *Violet* and *The Women of Lockerbie*, this season's *The Merchant of Venice*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Necessary Targets*, and the Otterbein Summer Theatre 2005 production of *Crimes of the Heart*. Melissa holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the combined program of Carnegie Mellon University and the Moscow Art Theatre in Russia and a B.F.A. in Acting from Carnegie Mellon. She is a founding company member of the American Studio Theatre in New York City and also served as the company's resident voice and speech coach. Favorite roles include Marina in *Volodya* (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). Melissa is a member of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA).

profiles

Richard Uhrick (Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor) is enjoying his third full season since returning to his alma mater. 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, Kansas City Repertory Theatre (at UMKC), and The Court Theatre in Chicago. He received his Master's in Theatre Technology from UMKC in 1997. It has been his pleasure to fill in for Greg Bell as he explores his sabbatical experience. He now lives in Columbus with his wife Lisa. They work with Ohio Pug Rescue to provide abandoned or surrendered Pugs [dogs] foster homes.

Drew Aber (Peter) is a Musical Theatre junior here at Otterbein. You may have seen him in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* playing Schroeder or *The Pavilion* playing Peter. Drew thanks Dennis, Donna and everyone involved with this marvelous production. He is blessed to have such a great opportunity to learn, especially from David and Clare. Drew also thanks his family for their understandfulness, his girl, and to all the "cute little richie-pies."

Emily Asbury (Ensemble) is a freshman Acting major from Huntington, WV. This is her Otterbein College Theatre debut. She would like to thank her mom and dad for always driving her to rehearsals and painting scenery way back when, and her freshman classmates for being fabulous in every way.

David R. Bahgat (Taylor McGowen) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Columbus. This is David's third main stage appearance at Otterbein. Past credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Herod) and *The Merchant of Venice* (Aragon). Other credits include *West Side Story* (Bernardo), *H2\$* (Bratt) and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Frank Butler). This February, you can catch David in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Gallery Players. David sends love to family, friends, the Crazy P, Meg, Beth, Ayaunna Bibb (PJ) and Pi Sig. "OFA!"

Lauren Baker (Assistant Director) is, surprisingly, a Senior BA Theatre/Art double major from Worthington. This marks Lauren's fourth show working with Dennis Romer, the last being *Jesus Christ Superstar* for which she was Assistant Director. She has also ventured into the director's chair with *An Actor's Nightmare* (Otterbein) and *Beyond Therapy* (Thomas Worthington High School). Lauren has recently returned from London, England where she had the chance to asst. direct *A Christmas Carol* for Alistar Green and the amazing Horla Theatre Company at Trafalgar Studios in the West End. Next, Lauren is directing her senior Director's Circle production of *Jump* by Jess Lacher later on in the quarter. Lauren would like to thank Dennis for everything, the cast for endless laughs, the amazing SM crew for being awesome and all her friends, family and all the cute little richie-pies for all their love and support.

Cassie Barker (Aunt Dorothy) is a Musical Theatre major from South Carolina. Previous credits include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Violet*, and *Medea*. She is also an active member of Kappa Phi Omega. Thanks to Dennis Romer for putting up with her, and to the crew for being so helpful. More thanks go to her Chan, Mel and Mr. Bigstuff for being just fabulous.

profiles

Jonelle Browne (Ensemble/ Party Guest) is so happy to be making her first appearance at Otterbein College. She is a freshman BFA Acting major from Louisville, KY. Her favorite roles include Madge (*Picnic*), and Helena (*All's Well that Ends Well*). She would like to thank her family, the cast and crew, the fabulous class of '09, and everyone else that makes up this amazing department!

Chris Carter (Tom) is a junior Musical Theater major from West Carrollton, OH. This past summer, Chris performed at the Timbers Dinner Theater, which is located near Hershey, PA. He was given the opportunity to put his foot in the door of the professional world. He had a great time and made some great contacts. Some previous Otterbein credits include *Duck Variations* (Emil), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (apostle, guard), *BecauseHeCan* (Dennis McAlvane), and he portrayed the role of Monty Harrill last year in the fall musical, *Violet*. Chris would like to thank his bro's at Pi Sig, his roommates at 40 for putting up with him, and God for His many blessings.

Marybeth Cave (Master Electrician) is a Senior BFA Design/Tech major from North Olmsted, OH. She is returning from a six month internship at Goodspeed Musicals where she worked as an electrician and spot light operator at the Goodspeed Opera House and the Norma-Terris Theatre. While there, she worked on Julie Andrew's directorial debut of *The Boyfriend*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support, especially her mother.

Steve Chazaro (Ensemble/Cabana Boy) is delighted to be in his third show here at Otterbein College. Previous credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Peter), *The Merchant of Venice* (Man from Bassanio/Leonard). He would like to thank the cast, his wonderful roommate, Clare, in her debut role, "Mi Familia por su Apollo y fe en mi," and God. "Enjoy the Show!"

Lizzy Couture (Assistant Stage Manager) is a BA Theatre major from St. Paul, MN. Her first major project with Otterbein Theatre has been an exciting learning and bonding experience. Thank you to family, friends, Dennis, Lauren (big me), and the entire, hilarious cast. Most of all... "I love Kelley, the calmest stage manager ever."

Elizabeth Daniels (Leah) is a sophomore BFA acting major from Hillsboro, OR. Previous Otterbein credits include *Swamp Baby*, *The Merchant of Venice* and Summer Theatre's *Crimes of the Heart*. She would like to send some love to the lovely ladies of the white house and the kickin' class of '08. She would also like to thank her father for teaching her excellent phone manners.

Lucas Dixon (Dr. Boyle) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Huntsville, TX. Past Otterbein credits include *The Merchant of Venice* (Salerio), *Crimes of the Heart* (Barnette Lloyd), *Swamp Baby* (Doctor), and *Becausehecan* (Orin Slake). He would like to thank Dennis for a good time as well as the awesome cast, especially Meg for never knowing what's going on. Also much love to his friends, family, God and Valerie Cherish.

profiles

Tess Emerson (Ensemble/Party Guest) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major from Plain City, OH. She was last seen in the classroom project *Necessary Targets* (Jelena). Tess was also in the Otterbein Production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ensemble). She would like to thank everyone in the cast and crew. "You guys have made this an experience I'll never forget."

Travis Gilmore (Wardrobe Master) is a senior BFA Design./Tech major from Weybridge, VT. He came to Otterbein from the University of Vermont's Royal Tyler Stage in 2003. Scenic Carpentry & Technical Direction have become his main concentration. Previous credits include Master Carpenter for *Jesus Christ Superstar* & *Broadway Babies*, Assistant Technical Director for Otterbein Summer Theatre 2004 and scenic studio assistant on all other Otterbein College productions. Other positions held include Assistant Master Electrician for *Violet*, Props Master for *Passions* (Dance Concert 2005) and Master Electrician for *The Merchant of Venice*. He would like to thank the men of PI SIG and his family for all their love and support. He would also like to thank his beautiful girl, Meg, for being the wonderful person she is.

Kelley Monts de Oca (Stage Manager) is a sophomore BA from Reynoldsburg. Otterbein credits include House Manager for *The Merchant of Venice*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Becausebecan*, *Rounding Third* and *The Pavilion* and Stage Manager for *Swamp Baby* and *Crimes of the Heart*. She would like to thank everyone involved in the show for their hard work and commitment, especially Dennis and the cast for all the laughs, and Lizzy and Corey for their constant support, knowledge and willingness.

Keeshon A. Morrow (Jamaican Waiter) is proud to make his third main-stage appearance at Otterbein College. His credits include *The Merchant of Venice* (Stefano) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ensemble), and student directed workshops (*The Deserter*, *Definitely Eric Geddes*, and *Daniel on a Thursday*). He would like to thank his family for their love and support, the BFA class of '08, Coop, and the cast of his great show, "MON."

Alex Myers (AME) is a junior Design/Tech major from Maryland. She would like to thank the electrics crew for being totally awesome, her friends and family for all of their love and support, and her fabulous roommates for being fabulous.

Katelyn Rondinaro (Ensemble) is a freshman at Otterbein College, having graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts High School program. She is excited to have been given the opportunity to work with Otterbein's pool of talent.

Clare Schmidt (Rita) hails from Bellingham, WA and is thrilled to be making her main stage debut. She was last seen in Otterbein's classroom project, *Necessary Targets*, and several other student directed workshops. She would like to thank her parents for their support, the wonderful house of 153!, Dennis for giving her this opportunity, and David for his wisdom and guidance.

profiles

Peter Sichko (Sound Assistant/Sound Board Operator) is a freshman Design/Tech major from Grandview Heights, OH. His Otterbein College Theatre credits include Set Crew Member for *The Merchant of Venice* and Assistant Master Electrician/Light Board Operator for the classroom workshop production of *Necessary Targets*. Peter would like to thank his parents, both of his brothers, and all of his friends for their constant support.

Cory Smith (Ensemble/Party Guest) is a freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Columbus. This is his main stage debut at Otterbein College. During his first quarter at Otterbein, Cory was in *Duck Variations* (George). He would like to thank Dennis Romer for the opportunity, his family for their sanity, his class for their awesomeness, the partiers for their exuberance, and Caitlin Morris for calling him in the morning to wake him up. "WORLD PEACE!"

A.J. Smitrovich (Uncle Fred) is a BFA Acting major from Los Angeles, CA. He is happy and honored to be in his first main-stage production here at Otterbein College. A.J. has trained with California Institute of the Arts and UCLA in summer sessions over the past four years and was named a California Arts Scholar in 2005. Previous high school credits include *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Mame!*. He would like to thank his parents for their continuous love and support, specifically his father for being there for him, both as an acting coach and a dad.

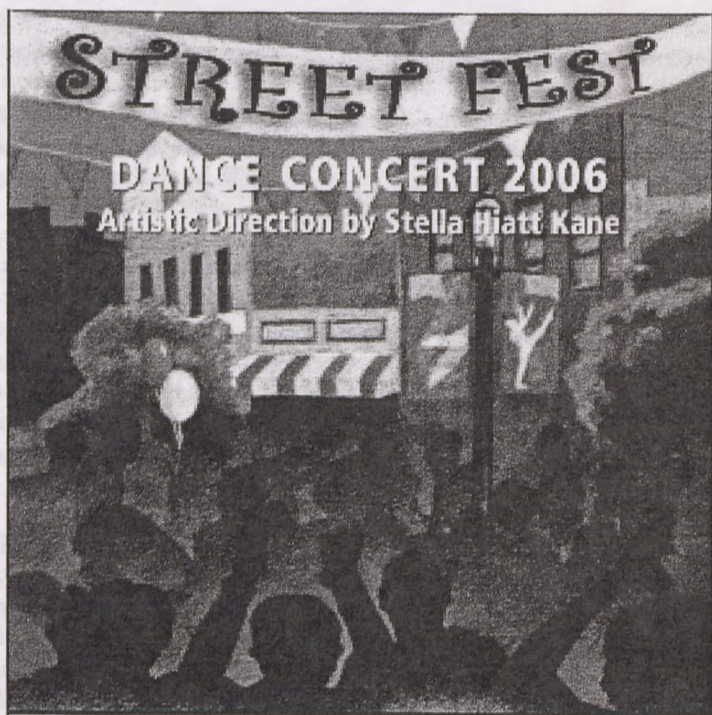
Corey Verduusco (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman BFA Design/Tech student. His work has included touring with Ringling Brothers Circus and ESPN 50/50 tour. His design credits have included Gin Blossom at DTE Energy Theatre, Boxing for Fox Net sports, and other regional events. Corey has helped to lead his high school to two state competitions in One-Act theatre and continues to help them as a consultant. He recently transferred here after attending Purchase College in New York and is extremely happy to continue his education and contribute his current skills at Otterbein College.

Sam Vestey (Minister/Party Guest), a freshman, is the son of Charlie and Michelle Vestey. He is happy to be making his Otterbein Stage debut in *Prelude to a Kiss*. Despite being a music major, his focus in high school was primarily in theatre. In his four years of high school he played over 35 characters in 12 musicals and 9 plays. Some of his favorites include Norman Bulanski in *Boys Next Door* (which was also performed at the International Thespian Conference), *Lend me a Tenor* (Tito Merelli), Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (Stefano), and *Les Miserable* (Therardres). "I would like to thank the cast and directorial staff for making me feel like a part of this production. And yes, Julia, I will go to sweethearts with you."

profiles

Meg Ward (Mrs. Boyle) is a BFA Acting major from Gahanna. Her Otterbein credits include *The Merchant of Venice* (Launcelot), *Crimes of the Heart* (Chick), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Black Comedy* (Carol), *Anton in Show Business* (Actress #2) and *The Music Man* (Maud). She has also appeared in shows at Columbus Children's Theatre, Phoenix Theatre Circle, Weathervane Playhouse and Uncle Dan's Playhouse. Meg would like to thank her very fabulous family, her amazing Junior Class, Dennis and David for being so much fun, the White House, the incredibly funny cast, Valerie Cherish, and Mr. Gilmore who she loves so much!

Kaitlin Winslow (Ensemble) is a freshman BFA Acting student from South Carolina. She is thrilled to be making her Otterbein College Theatre debut as a party guest in *Prelude to a Kiss*. Kaitlin would like to thank her fellow partiers for sharing their expertise in the area with her. "Party on."



March 2-5

Otterbein College Theatre & Dance

(614) 823-1109

Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove Street, Westerville





2006 Theatre Showcase Gala

A benefit for the 2006 April Actor Presentation in New York, including a special preview performance by the senior Acting and Musical Theatre majors.

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.
Campus Center Theatre
100 W Home St.

Reception immediately following at the home of
Otterbein College President
Dr. Brent DeVore
111 N West St.

Ticket cost of \$75 per person includes a light dinner buffet.

Call the Otterbein College Theatre Box Office for ticket information:
614-823-1109


*Proceeds help to defray the cost of travel, preparation and logistics for the
2006 April Actor Presentation.*

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Otterbein College Theatre

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Cameras and Recording Devices – The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs during the performance are strictly prohibited.

Restrooms and Telephones – The restrooms and telephones are located underneath the lobby.

Assisted Hearing Devices are available at the Box Office upon request.

Administrative Office

(614) 823-1657
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Box Office

(614) 823-1109
Monday – Friday
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

