

Otterbein University

## Digital Commons @ Otterbein

---

2007-2008 Season

Productions 2001-2010

---

5-1-2008

### Miss Witherspoon

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/production\\_2007-2008](https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/production_2007-2008)



Part of the [Acting Commons](#), [Dance Commons](#), and the [Theatre History Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department, "Miss Witherspoon" (2008). *2007-2008 Season*. 4.  
[https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/production\\_2007-2008/4](https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/production_2007-2008/4)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Productions 2001-2010 at Digital Commons @ Otterbein. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2007-2008 Season by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Otterbein. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons07@otterbein.edu](mailto:digitalcommons07@otterbein.edu).

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Presents

Christopher Durang's

# Miss Witherspoon

*Directed by*  
Ed Vaughan

*Scenic and Lighting Design*  
Rob Johnson

*Costume Design*  
Wes Jenkins

*Sound Design*  
Peter Sichko

May 1-3, 9&10, 2008  
Campus Center Theatre

# cast

---

Veronica .....	Caitlin Morris
Maryamma .....	Selina Verastigui
Mother 1& Mother 2 .....	Clare Schmidt
Father 1& Father 2, Sleazy Man, Dog Owner, Wise Man .....	Lucas Dixon
Teacher, Woman in Hat .....	Ayaunna Bibb

# production team

---

Audience Services Director .....	Elizabeth Saltzgiver
Production Manager .....	Becky Morrison
Movement Coach .....	Melinda Murphy
Speech & Dialects Coach .....	Melissa Bell
Stage Manager .....	Debbie Rutherford
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Julia Rice
Technical Director .....	Andy Baker
Scenic Studio Supervisor .....	Richard A. Uhrick
Costume Shop Supervisor .....	Marcia Hain
Assistant Director/Dramaturg .....	Brad Barnes
Assistant Technical Director .....	Dieter Willis
Master Carpenter/Deck Chief .....	Roger Payne
Master Painter .....	Sandy Vojta
Master Electrician .....	Renee Scott
Props Master .....	Lauren Williams
Assistant Props Master .....	Sara Robertson
Wardrobe Master .....	Alex Raabe
Sound Operator .....	Micah Harvey
Light Board Operator .....	Lauren Wertz
House Manager .....	Erik Christensen

## Scenic Studio Assistants & Construction Crew

Micah Harvey, Peter Sichko, Sarah Taylor, Colin Murray, Doug Sarmir, Jack Denzinger, Jon Seiler

## Scenic Studio Participation Students

Jordan Bartz, Abigail Berger, Kayla Hall, Dru Harwood, Daryl Kelley, Lee Kociela, Colin Murray, Doug Sarmir, Luke Scroggins, Jon Seiler, Jade Waters-Burch, Trenton Weaver

## Set and Props Crew

Abigail Berger, Daryl Kelley, Jade Waters-Burch, Lauren Williams, Sara Robertson, Roger Payne

## Electrics Crew

Dolan Bloom, Kyle Eberlein, Dan Glaser, Travis Harty, Sara King, Julia Oesch, Julia Rice, Sarah Robertson, Jon Seiler, Alisa Sugita, Lauren Wertz

## Wardrobe Crew

Derrick McPeak, Jack Denzinger, Alex Raabe

## Box Office Assistants

Meredith Holomuzki-Zgonc, Kendra Knight, Amber Lewandowski, Derrick McPeak, Liz Shivener, Maureen Strobel, Sarah Waits, Tanya Wilhite



# production note

## TIME & SETTING:

Recent past, foreseeable future

## PLACE:

Earth, and not Earth

\*There will be no intermission\*

The world is complicated; a simple statement, and yet, weighted. There is much in the world that we struggle to understand as human beings. When bad things happen to good people, when the world slowly crumbles underneath our human genius, and when death and destruction are celebrated by God-fearing folk from all walks of life, it is difficult to believe in the world, much less try to change it. Living is difficult; it means confronting our personal pain and sorrow, and striving to see our own existence as part of a greater whole. Durang issues us a challenge with *Miss Witherspoon*: to journey from the earth to the afterlife and back again, and to contemplate our own purpose. Perhaps at the end of the evening, we'll all retire to our homes, wake up the next morning, and prepare to change the world.

-Brad Barnes, Assistant Director/Dramaturg

## THE UPTOWN MARKET

### A New American Bistro

1 South State Street - Uptown Westerville

(614) 901-0334

[www.theuptownmarket.org](http://www.theuptownmarket.org)



migun

614-882-4133

se corner of schrock and Cleveland in the

Raisin Rack Plaza

next to subway

614-882-4133

[www.migunwesterville.com](http://www.migunwesterville.com)

## GIFT CERTIFICATE

ENTITLES: OTTERBEIN THEATER SUPPORTER

*3 FREE HOT STONE MASSAGES*

See what the buzz is all about...

The Migun Thermal Massage System uses warm jade stones to deliver far infra-red heat, acupressure massage and mild chiropractic elements. Take off your shoes, lie down and RELAX

more energy...better sleep...back pain relief,,,lower blood pressure



# profiles

---

**Ed Vaughan** (Director) has been a member of the Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance for twenty-five years. His directing work has encompassed the Greeks to Mamet and Durang, and he lists *Sweeney Todd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Medea* and *Boy Gets Girl* among his favorites.

**Rob Johnson** (Scenic & Lighting Designer) is a resident faculty scenic and lighting designer who joined the faculty in 1987. This season he designed the scenery for *Urinetown*, and also designed both scenery and lighting for *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. He also freelances and recently designed a very stylized and contemporary version of *Romeo & Juliet* (complete with projections, cell phones, and laptops!) at Denison University. Rob will also design lights and scenery this summer for *Indian Blood* and the scenery for *Proof*, working again with director Ed Vaughan. A full professor in the department, Rob teaches theatrical scenic design, scenic rendering, and computer graphics. He holds two masters degrees, one from West Virginia University where he studied scenic design, and the other from the Ohio State University where he earned his M.F.A. in lighting design. Rob has enjoyed exploring the issues raised by such a humorous and quirky play and has had great fun with the director and talented students on this production. He is a committed Christian who has enjoyed sharing the good news of the gospel with any and all who are interested. And whether God decides to communicate to us as a Jewish carpenter in the first century or someday as an African-American woman in a big hat, Rob rejoices in Christ as The Way, The Truth, and The Life. Thanks be to God! Enjoy the show!

**Wes Jenkins** (Costume Designer) is currently a junior BFA Design/Tech major here at Otterbein College. Last season, he designed costumes for *While We Were Bowling* and served as Wardrobe Master for *Hello Dolly!* Other costume design credits include *Brigadoon* and *High School Musical* (Music Theatre Louisville), and *Beauty and the Beast* and *Into the Woods* (New Albany High School, IN). He'd like to thank his friends, family and teachers for their support.

**Peter Sichko** (Sound Designer) is a junior Design/Tech major from Grandview Heights. He would like to thank the Design/Tech faculty for granting him this wonderful opportunity. His Otterbein credits include Sound Operator for *Urinetown*, *Hello, Dolly!*, and *While We Were Bowling*; Sound Assistant/Sound Board Operator for *Prelude To A Kiss*; Master Electrician for Dance Concert 2007: *Gotta, Dance!*; and Assistant Technical Director for *Poetic Pandemic*. Peter would like to thank Ed for being such a great director to work with, and Dana for all of his wisdom and guidance. Finally, he would like to thank his parents, both of his brothers, and all of his friends for their constant support.

**Melissa Bell** (Speech and Dialects Coach) teaches speech, dialects, and theatre history in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Otterbein College, where she is also the resident speech/dialects coach for all productions. In addition, she regularly serves as a guest dialect coach at area universities and theatre companies. Recent guest coaching posts include *Noises Off* at Ohio Wesleyan University, *Homebody/Kabul* at Denison University, and *Hay Fever* at the Dublin Abbey Theatre. 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 was 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. Melissa performs regularly with Actors' Theatre Company (Goneril in *King Lear*, Maria in *Twelfth Night*, and this summer will appear in *Measure for Measure*). Other 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).



**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 *Private Lives*, *Spitfire Grill*, *Urinetown*, Dance Concert 2007: *Gotta Dance*, *Hello Dolly!* 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 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. Since coming to Otterbein, she also trained to teach Fitzmaurice Voicework for its specialized tools for improving the voice and breath. Melinda 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.

**Richard A. Uhrick** (Scene Shop Supervisor) is in his fourth season at Otterbein College. Before his return to his alma mater, 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.

**Brad Barnes** (Assistant Director/Dramaturg) is a senior with a double major in Theatre and Creative Writing. He has directed two workshops at Otterbein, *Same Time Next Year* and *Lot 13: The Bone Violin*. Brad served as Assistant Director for *Tartuffe* last fall and has been coordinator of the directing group, Director's Circle, for the past year. He has written two plays for the department's Instant Theatre event and has completed the first draft of his screenplay for the English department. He'd like to thank his family and his girlfriend, Cristina, for their wonderful support, and everyone involved with the production for making his last Otterbein theatre experience an amazing one.

**Ayaunna Bibb** (Teacher, Woman in Hat) is happy to have her last show EVER at Otterbein be *Miss Witherspoon*. She would like to thank the crew for all their hard work; Ed for casting me as a black woman, "YES!"; her lovely cast for their hard work, fun and crazy-ass-ness, "B.F.A class of 2008"; her wonderful family who upon hearing she was playing a black church women in a hat said they would pass on seeing the show; and lastly, she thanks herself for being AMAZING. "Blessed are the Meek for they shall inherit the earth." "Goodnight, Goodbye and Good Luck."



# profiles

**Lucas Dixon** (Father 1 & Father 2, Sleazy Man, Dog Owner, Wise Man) is a senior Musical Theater major from Huntsville, TX. Past Otterbein credits include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (George), *While We Were Bowling* (Melvin), *Company* (Larry), *1940's Radio Hour* (Clifton), *Father Joy* (Harry), *Harvey* (Dr. Chumley), *Leaving Iowa* (Male Utility), *Prelude to a Kiss* (Marshall Boyle), *Merchant of Venice* (Salerio), *Crimes of the Heart* (Barnette Lloyd), and *Because He Can* (Orin Slake). Lucas would like to thank the cast for their outstanding talent, as well as their constant support over the last four years. He couldn't have done this without them, and moves forward in the comfort that they, along with the rest of his incredible posse, will always be there. Special thanks to Ed as well for all of the opportunities, and for being you. "I've learned from the best!" Lucas will be relocating to New York City at the end of the summer following one final run in the Otterbein Summer Theater season playing Grandfather in *Indian Blood*, Robert in *Proof*, and one of the singers in *My Way*. "Love to all! LET'S SHAKE THESE PEOPLE UUUUUPPPP!!!"

**Caitlin Morris** (Veronica) is a junior BFA Acting major from St. Petersburg, FL. Other Otterbein Credits on the Campus Center stage include Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Ruth in *And Baby Makes Seven*, and Lydia in *While We Were Bowling*. She is thrilled to be working with the brilliant Ed Vaughan again and would like to thank him for his ultimate faith in her. Additional thanks go to Melinda, Melissa and her bizarre, yet wonderful castmates. Lastly, she would like to send thanks to her lovely and devoted family, her fantastic roommates at 59 Center, and the ridiculous class of '09.

**Alex Raabe** (Wardrobe Master) can't believe his sophomore year is almost finished here at Otterbein. Next, he will be Master Painter for Otterbein Summer Theatre, a position he is very excited to fill. Alex would like to thank Sandy for kicking him once in a while; Wes for being a brilliant designer; Kim and Bailey for their never ending supply of phone tag; his family for their support; and God for the opportunities in his life. "Enjoy the show!"

**Julia Rice** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman B.A. Theatre major from Coshocton, OH. This is her first major production assignment here at Otterbein College. Julia thanks Debbie for being such an amazing mentor and Ed and the cast for making this an enjoyable first experience as an ASM! She would also like to thank her family for all of their love and support. "Hope you enjoy the show!"

**Debbie Rutherford** (Stage Manager) is a junior working toward a BA in Theatre. Her most recent work was on *Caucasian Chalk Circle* as Assistant Stage Manager. Debbie is enjoying her Otterbein experience and the opportunities she has been given. This summer she will be working at Frenchwoods Summer Camp as Stage Manager and Camp Counselor. She would like to thank her parents for all they have done and for their support: Doug, for everything he has done for her; and all of her cast and crew members, especially Julia for being an amazing assistant. "I love you all."

**Clare Schmidt** (Mother 1 & Mother 2) is a senior at Otterbein, and is thrilled to be a part of this show. Thanks to Ed for his direction, and the wonderful cast and crew for their support. She sends kisses to the class of '08, and a big thanks to her parents! "Tambien un grande beseo para mi bito!"



**Selina Verastigui** (Maryamma) is senior Musical Theatre major with a Dance concentration from San Antonio, TX, who is bittersweet to announce that this will be her last production at Otterbein College. Some of her favorite roles include Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street* and Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She would like to thank everyone she has worked with in her last four years at Otterbein especially her teachers who have helped her grow in art and in life. This performance is dedicated to her beautiful class of 08. She feels so blessed to have been given the opportunity to share her past four years with such amazing artists and strong individuals. She will never forget the laughter, the tears, and hard work that lead them to where they stand today. Selina would also like to thank her friends and family, especially her Mom and Dad, for supporting her in pursuing her dreams and whose love has only brought her closer to reaching them. "My time at Otterbein has truly been a gifted one. And I will miss you all very much. 'Doubt that the stars are on fire, Doubt that the sun doth move, Doubt truth to be a liar, But never doubt I love.'" Farewell my dear friends."

**Lauren Williams** (Props Master) is a sophomore Theater Design/Tech major here at Otterbein College. She was the Wardrobe Master during Otterbein Summer Theater 2007. Lauren was the Assistant Wardrobe Master for last fall's production of *Urinetown* and the Assistant Master Painter for the production of *Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Lauren would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love, support and patience with her crazy life. She also sends a special thanks to her sisters for always having her back.

## the playwright

**Christopher Durang** is a playwright whose plays include *A History of the American Film* (Tony nomination, Best Book of a Musical, 1978), *The Actor's Nightmare*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* (Obie award; off-Bway run 1981-83), *Beyond Therapy* (on Broadway in 1982, with Dianne Wiest and John Lithgow), *Baby with the Bathwater* (Playwrights Horizons, 1983), *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (Public Theatre, 1985; Obie award, Dramatists Guild Hull Warriner Award), *Laughing Wild* (Playwrights Horizons, 1987), *Durang/Durang* (an evening of six plays at Manhattan Theatre Club, 1994, including the Tennessee Williams' parody, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*), *Sex and Longing* (Lincoln Center Theatre production at the Cort Theatre, 1996, starring Sigourney Weaver), and *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Playwrights Horizons, 1999; Obie award). His most recent works are *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, which premiered at City Theatre in Pittsburgh in 2002 and the musical *Adrift in Macao*, with music by Peter Melnick and book and lyrics by Durang, which premiered at New York Stage and Film in summer 2002, and is under option for off-Broadway 2003-04.

Durang is also a performer, and acted with E. Katherine Kerr in the N.Y. premiere of *Laughing Wild*, and with Jean Smart in the L.A. production. He shared in an acting ensemble Obie for *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*; and with John Augustine and Sherry Anderson has performed his crackpot cabaret *Chris Durang and Dawne* at the Criterion Center, Caroline's Comedy Club, Williamstown Summer Cabaret, and the Triad, winning a 1996 Bistro Award. Since 1994 he has been co-chair with Marsha Norman of the Playwriting Program at the Juilliard School in Manhattan. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council.



HISTORIC DUBLIN  
♦ RESTAURANTS ♦

# LOVE FINE ART ON THE STAGE? TRY IT ON A PLATE.

As a person who appreciates great artistic performances,  
you'll want to visit Westerville's own  
barnum & tibbett's prime kitchen & wine bar.  
Enjoy our extensive wine list, private wine room and outdoor patio.  
Stop by and see us sometime.  
We're sure to deliver an experience that's nothing short of spectacular.

barnum  
& tibbetts  
PRIME KITCHEN & WINE BAR

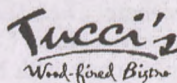
496 Polaris Pkwy • Westerville, OH 43082  
614.899.9720



56 North High Street  
Dublin, OH 43017  
614.792.3738



84 North High Street  
Dublin, OH 43017  
614.792.3424



35 North High Street  
Dublin, OH 43017  
614.792.3466



1027 West 5th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43212  
614.737.3728

[www.hdrestaurants.com](http://www.hdrestaurants.com)