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The Importance of Being Earnest (2014)

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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Otterbein University

Department of Theatre & Dance
presents

The Importance of Being **EARNEST** by OSCAR WILDE

Directed by
CHRISTINA KIRK

Scenic Design by
ROB JOHNSON

Lighting Design by
DANA L. WHITE

Costume Design by
REBECCA WHITE

Sound Design by
DANA L. WHITE &
THE SOUND DESIGN CLASS

Stage Managed by
REBECCA SCHAFER

March 6-9 & 13-15, 2014
Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall
30 S. Grove St., Westerville

CAST

John Worthing, J. P. (Jack).....James Sanders
 Algernon Moncrieff..... Jordan Donica
 Rev. Canon Chasuble, D. D. Kyle Hansen
 Merriman (Butler).....Evan Moore-Call
 Lane (Manservant)Peter Moses
 Lady Bracknell Melanie Sierra
 Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax Madison Tinder
 Cecily Cardew Haley Jones
 Miss Prism (Governess).....Afton Welch

SCENE SYNOPSIS

Time - 1890's
 Place - London

Act I: Algernon Moncrieff's Flat in Half Moon Street, W.

15- minute INTERMISSION

Act II: The Garden at the Manor House, Woolton

PAUSE for SCENIC SHIFT

Act III: Drawing-room of the Manor House, Woolton

HONORARY CAST LIST

Supporting Actor (\$50-\$99)

Lawrence Ackert	Delaware Electrical Contractor	Charles & Marion Rees
Harold & Esther Amspoker	Kelly Donica	Richard & Doris Reichert
Don & Marilyn Andersen	Deborah Forsblom	Bryan Ross
John & Nancy Anderson	Barbara George	Jill Schultz
Anonymous	Joanne Swank Gillum	John & Claire Shary
Richard Arndt & Karen Miller	Thomas Gilmartin	Larry & Laurie Shepherd
Elizabeth Arnold	Emily Gazerro Hall	Albert & Louise Siegel
Bill & Judyth Barr	Larry & Marty Hansgen	Rex & Jane Sprague
Fred & Patricia Baum	Norman Hosansky	Karen T. Susenna
Dan & Linda Bevan	Verne Hunter	William S. Stoddard
Carl & Carol Boehm	J. Thomas and Kathleen Jones	Stanislaw & Helene Szczerba
Len & Sharon Bussard	David Lilley	Chalice Ann Taylor
Kathleen A. Butler	Richard & Catherine Loveland	Larry & Connie Thaxton
Campus Development Partners	William & Judy McCartney	Cherise Tokarsky
Brian Carlisle	Mr. Joseph & Dr. Mary Wilder	Roger & Margaret Lloyd Trent
Barbara Cash	McKelvey	David & Pat Uhrick
Ted Chaney	David Mylander	Sylvia Phillips Vance
Leonard & Roberta Clark	Nationwide Foundation	Michael Vehonsky
Elizabeth Candler Cogley	Alan E. & Carol S. Norris	Ken & Lise Wadkins
Ms. Barbara Collins	John & Joan Olivieri	Jay & Barbara Wilcox
John & Barbara Condon	Neil & Connie Ostrove	Sara Willson
Clay Cormany & Rebecca	James E. & Linda Middaugh	Ann Ziegel
Coleman Princehorn	Paxton	
Jocelyn Fu Curry	Richard & Judith Peterson	

Extra (\$10-\$49)

Laura Tobias Adams	Gordon W. Hausser	Dennis B. & Marjorie H.
Shirley A. Baker	John & Alice Heller	Munger
Kay Atkinson Ball	John & Ann Hentz	Eleanor Murphy
Kay Ball	Elliot B. & Ruth Hodgdon	Carolyn Owens
Marilyn S. Bates	Kimberly Fippin Hoessly	Mildred Patience
George Benua	Ron & Mary Hooker	Doris Plaine
Linda J. Bixby	Linda Hughes	B.J. & M. Marie Poling
Ellery B. & Marsha Block	Ronald & Margaret Jewett	John & Ann Ressler
Marvin & Anne Bonowitz	Robert Jurgensen	John Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boyte	Phylis Keane	Jim & Sharon Roshon
Dan Brochetti	Ron & Beth Kenreich	Carolyn Swartz Royer
Ann Buchfinck	Michael J. Kirsch	David & Diane Russell
Emily A. Burk	Ginny Kline	Ronald & Joyce St. Pierre
Elizabeth A. Burrier	Martha Kober	Helen Samuels
Merrill Castle	Linda Kay Landis	Ms. Kathy Schutte
Michael & Judy Pohner	Chuck & Connie Layne	Joyce Selfman
Christian	Mary Lichtensteiger	Mr. & Mrs. Walt Sharp
Pat Currie	Richard & Gail Lyndes	Jack Sheppard
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Demlow	William Lyons	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald G. Simpson
Alyce Douce Elbert	Barbara Glor Martin	Ruth Anne Skidmore
Delores Evans	Laura Martin	Sandra K. Smith
Sarah Friedlander	William & Harriet Merriman	Dr. & Mrs. Larry Spees
Lawrence Friedman	C. Dan & Helen Wells Miller	Marilyn Hert Spires-Pierotti
Edwin A. Geer	David & Maria Miller	Jim & Sheila Stookey
Rita Gregorek	George P. Miller	Donald Swift
Kenneth P. Goodrich	Laurence E. Miller, Jr.	James Tarpoff
Meta Hahn	Tom & Mary Ellen Miller	Raymond Waggoner
Robert & Beth Hamilton	William K. Miller	Thomas & Susan White
Charles & Charlene Hammond	Herbert & June Mishler	

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HONORARY CAST LIST

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Thank you for contributing to the education of our students!

Director (\$1,000-\$4,999)

American Electric Power	Nevalyn Fritsche Nevil
William L. & Sonya Stauffer Evans	Mark N. & Betty Peters
Kathy A. Krendl & Richard S. Gilbert	Ruth E. Pifer*
Allen McCoy and Michelle McGee	Westerville Sertoma
Dimon & Darlene McPherson	Terry & Cynthia White
Albert R. & Louise Minor	

Designer (\$500-\$999)

Battelle Memorial Institute	Christine J. Lei
Mark & Martha Collins	Pamela Hill Lorr
Columbus Zoological Park Association	Nationwide Life Insurance Company

Diva (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous	Douglas R. & Mary Pat Knight
Paul & Carol Brody	Robert K. Redfield & Carolyn Merry
Ed & Terry Brown	Paul S. & Sheila Reiner
Petie Dodrill	Barbara M. Ruppel
Hank & Dorothy Cage Evans	Douglas R. Smeltz
John T. & Eileen Fagan Huston	Roger L. Wilson
Natalie Padula Jensen	

Star (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous 1	Gary A. & Barbara J. McKenzie
Anonymous 2	Pearson McWane
Thomas M. Bay & Martha Dean Kerr	Michael & Nancy A. Miller
Robert L. Caldwell	William L. Miller & Madelon Timmons
Larry & Margaret Cepek	Jack & Peggy Moreland
David & Margaret Coffman	Moreland Funeral Home
Dick & Fran Compton	Samuel E. Murphy
Alan & Christy Coupland	Dennis & Sue Ann Norton
Edmund L. & Diane Daily Cox	Overbrook Clinic
Roy & Joy Croy	Jim & Martha Owens
Margaret Morgan Doone	William Persi
Margaret English Duffy	Van W. & Barbara Peterman
James & Sue Farmer	Nancy Jo Pifer
Beulah Rammelsberg Fritsche	Jeff & Veronica Reutter
Terry Geary	David & Anne Robinson
Donald Goldberg	Marvin D. & Juanita Walraven Rusk
Paul Hammock	Charles F. Salt*
Dean & Joyce Hearne	Frank Shyja
David & Karen Hedden	Alan & Linda Smith
Vince & Gayle Herried	David & Beckey Stamm
Mrs. Vinny Herwig	Jon & Joyce Stonebraker
David & Alma Nash Holl	Lois F. Szudy
Jane Morrison Horn	Ned & Marti Timmons
Myra Jamison	J. Mikal & Janice Townsley
Herbert & Jeanne Johnston	David B. & Joyce Shannon Warner
Thomas J. & Donna L. Kerr	Richard & Mary Jo Weaver
Thomas & Barbara Knight	Willis S. White
Bruce F. Landis	Laura Cean Wilson
Mary Lou Lawrence	Norma F. Worley
Bernard Losekamp	Duane A. & Diane M. Yothers
Mario & Cynthia Skunza Macioce	Jim & Marilyn Young
Cal McCall	Michael G. Ziegler

*Denotes deceased

PRODUCTION STAFF

Department Chair	John Stefano
Audience Services Director.....	Elizabeth Saltzgiver
Production Manager.....	Kristen Cooperkline
Administrative Assistant	Matt Wolfe
Technical Director	Greg Bell
Dialect Coach	Melissa Lusher
Movement Coach	Melinda Murphy
Scene Shop Supervisor	Richard Uhrick
Costume Shop Supervisor	Julia Ferreri
Assistant Director.....	Maggie Savoie
Assistant Lighting Designer	Kelly Ganley
Assistant Costume Designer/ Wardrobe Master	Zach Paugh
Assistant Stage Managers	Emily England & Ricci Mann
Production Assistant.....	Elizabeth Casto
Master Carpenter	Megan Lohner & Ashley Sattler
Deck Chief/ Scenic Carpenter.....	Kacey VanderMolen
Charge Artist.....	Edith Wadkins
Paint Assistant	Karen Crenshaw
Properties Master	Kate Bindus
Properties Assistant	Anna Mulhall
Master Electrician.....	Corey Farr
Assistant Master Electrician	Ariana Woods
Light Board Operator	Tara Smith
Wardrobe Assistant.....	Marley Masterson
Junior Drapers	Zach Paugh, Kate Yonkers & Ben Walsh
Sound A1	Karen Crenshaw
Box Office Managers.....	Rachael Bardnell & Clark Tieman
Dramaturg/Front of House Manager	Rachael Bardnell

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

Arianna Allen	Megan Lohner
Karen Crenshaw	Rebecca Schafer
Connor Dunn	Blake Talbott
Corey Farr	Rachel Widdowson
Brady Irwin	Austin Yelinek
Derek Koshol	

SET & PROPS RUNNING CREW

Grace Rinehart	Aubrey Tally
Sarah Simon	Tess Webster

LIGHT & SOUND ASSISTANTS

Kate Bindus	Kelly Ganley
Corey Farr	Ariana Woods

ELECTRICS CREW

Karen Crenshaw	Luke Stewart
Dana Cullinane	Natalie Szczerba
Madelyn Loehr	Kacey VanderMolen
Ashley Sattler*	
Tara Smith*	*denotes running crew

COSTUMES WORKSTUDY

Hannah Benson	Asel Swango
Kaila Hill	Kayla Walsh
Marley Masterson	Afton Welch
Emma Sicker	

WARDROBE RUNNING CREW

Arri Allen	Nicole Solomon
Michael Hofmann	Sarah Smith
Brady Irwin	Austin Yelinek
Megan Lohner	

BOX OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Sammie Becker	Erin McCoy
Rachael Bardnell	Casey O'Connor
Alexx Conrad	Heidi Olander
Jeff Gise	Alexis Roberts
Haley Jones	Clark Tieman

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"In matters of grave importance, style, not sincerity, is the vital thing."
Gwendolen, Act III

Oscar Wilde deftly and delightfully sends up the mores and sensibilities of Victorian England by trivializing serious matters and solemnizing trivial ones. In Wilde's play, society's rules for what one should do are at odds with the natural impulse for pleasure. Each of these characters has developed a unique method by which to maintain the tacit rule of polite society: to cover or hide these natural impulses while at the same time seeking any polite means by which to indulge freely in them. We have had a great deal of fun trying to find every conceivable way to break the rules, without ever losing our sense of style. We hope you enjoy yourselves as much as we have!

-Christina Kirk, Director

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

The Importance of Being Earnest is regarded as Wilde's masterpiece: a self parody and commentary on the life Wilde knew best. His genre of choice was Victorian melodrama or "Sentimental Comedy". Part satire, part comedy of manners, and part intellectual farce, this play seems to have nothing at stake because of the artificial world it presents. Below the surface, however, is a subtext that takes aim at self-righteous moralism and hypocrisy, the very aspects of Victorian society that would bring about Wilde's downfall.

-Rachael Bardnell, Dramaturg

PLAYWRIGHT BIOGRAPHY

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland on October 16, 1854. As a child, he was incredibly gifted in school. In 1878, after graduating from Magdalen College in Oxford, he wrote a poem entitled "Ravenna" which won the Newdigate Prize for the best English verse by an Oxford Graduate. He wrote his first collection of poems in 1881 and then traveled to New York to be on a lecture tour. During his touring years (1881-1884), Wilde helped establish a movement for art and literature that focused on beauty, not politics. In 1884, Wilde married Constance Lloyd and they had two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan. The next two years, he wrote for *The Lady's World*, a magazine. In this publication, Wilde expressed his ideas that men should be able to read and think the way women do when it comes to art, literature, and other aspects of life. Wilde hit his biggest burst of creativity in 1888 and continued to write nonstop for the next seven years. His first and only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was published in 1891. His first play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, opened in 1892. Because of the play's popularity, Wilde decided to focus on playwriting, mainly satirical comedies that had serious undertones. His most famous works include *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Wilde was at his peak of success when he began an affair with Lord Alfred Douglas. Douglas's father left a note at Wilde's home calling him a "Posing Sodomite." Wilde sued him for libel. Once the trial began, lawyers gave evidence of Wilde's homosexuality, including passages from his work and letters to Douglas. These letters led to Wilde's arrest for gross indecency. He served two years in prison. After his release, he was exiled and moved to France. Oscar Wilde died from meningitis at the age of 46 on November 30, 1900.

BIOGRAPHIES

James Sanders (Jack) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Fort Worth, TX. Otterbein credits include Marius in *Les Misérables*, Book Voice/Davis in *How to Succeed in Business...*, Company member in Dance Concert: *Pulse*, and Sir Christopher in *King Richard III*. This summer, he is thrilled to say that he will be playing the role of Jack in *Into the Woods* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, UT. Thanks to his friends, family, and class for their constant love and support.

Ashley Sattler (Co-Master Carpenter) is a freshman BFA Design/Technology major from Beavercreek, OH. She was also the Deck Chief for the fall production of *Les Misérables*. Enjoy the show!

Maggie Savoie (Assistant Director) is a junior BA Theatre major/ Dance minor from Richwood, OH. Previous credits include Festival 2014 (Production Manager), Dance 2013: *Once Again* (Choreographer/Dancer), *Les Misérables* (Asst. Choreographer), *Almost, Maine* (ASM), Dance Concert: *Pulse* (Asst. Choreographer/Dancer), Festival 2013 (Choreographer/performer), and Dance 2012: *Spotlight* (Dancer). Maggie would like to thank this cast, crew and SM team for all of their hard work, a special thank you to Chris for being so understanding throughout the process and for giving me this wonderful opportunity. Thank you also to Rebecca for all the talks and awkward eye contact, and to Kyle for making me laugh when I wanted to sleep. Enjoy the show!

Melanie Sierra (Lady Bracknell) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Delray Beach, FL. Previously seen in *How to Succeed...* and *Les Misérables*, this is Melanie's third production at Otterbein. Melanie is thrilled to be a part of the *Earnest* experience and would like to thank Chris for giving her such an incredible opportunity, and helping her understand the incredible authority of feminine power.

Madison Tinder (Gwendolen) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major with a Dance concentration from San Antonio, TX. Otterbein credits include Rosemary in *How to Succeed in Business...*, Brooke in *Noises Off*, and Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Maddy would like to thank everyone involved in this production, her family and friends for always supporting and loving her and God for blessing her with the opportunity to perform with such amazing people! Congrats everyone!!

Afton Welch (Miss Prism) is a sophomore BFA Acting major with an Arts Administration minor from Dallas, TX. She was last seen as Louise in *After the Fall*. Afton would like to thank Chris Kirk for teaching her so much about the importance of being Miss Prism, and her mom for teaching her the importance of being herself. She would also like to thank Razel for his unconditional friendship and loyal support.

Ariana Woods (Assistant Master Electrician) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major from Gahanna, OH. Previous credits include Master Electrician for Dance 2013: *Once Again!*, Properties Assistant for *Les Misérables*, and Master Carpenter for *After the Fall*. Break a leg everyone!

BIOGRAPHIES

Emily England (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior BA Theatre major from Cincinnati, OH. Since 2011, Emily has interned with Ensemble Theatre in Cincinnati during the summer working with new script submissions. Otterbein credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *Speed the Plow* and *Spring Awakening*, Director of *Fu-neral of the Martyr* for the 2013 Festival, and Assistant Director for the fall Classroom Project, *No Exit*. Thanks to the SM team and cast for the fun filled ride. Thanks to my family for their love. For Gretchen. Never settle.

Corey Farr (Master Electrician) is a Sophomore BFA Design/Technology from Lakewood, OH. Otterbein credits include Master Carpenter/Deck Chief for *After The Fall*; Assistant Master Electrician for *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, *Les Misérables*, and Dance 2013: *Once Again*; and Master Carpenter for *Speed-The-Plow*. I want to thank all my family and friends for their support and I am looking forward to building *The Full Monty*!!

Kelly Ganley (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major. Otterbein credits include Assistant Lighting Designer for Dance 2013: *Once Again*, *Les Misérables* (also Master Electrician), *Spring Awakening*, and Dance Concert: *Pulse*; Master Electrician for Otterbein Summer Theatre 2013, and Assistant Technical Director for *Noises Off*. I would like to thank Mom and everyone for all of their help. DT Class 2015 - "Can't Stop. Won't Stop".

Kyle Hansen (Dr. Chasuble) is a junior BFA Acting major from Centerville, OH. Otterbein credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mr. Mushnik), *After the Fall* (Father/Ike), *Something's Afoot* (Dr. Greyburn), *Gypsy* (Pop/Kringelein/Cigar), and *Les Misérables* (Chorus). Thank you to my wonderful family, including the new addition, my nephew Wesley. Thanks to my loving girlfriend Maggie and my awesome classmates: Misfit Toys for life.

Haley Jones (Cecily Cardew) is a junior BFA Acting major/ Dance minor from Burlington, KY. She was most recently seen at Otterbein in Dance 2013: *Once Again* (Dancer) and *Les Misérables* (Ensemble). Professional credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ronette), *Boeing Boeing* (Berthe), and *A.Lincoln:A Pioneer Tale*. Haley would like to thank her beautiful director, Chris Kirk, for giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her cast for always being earnestly silly and wonderful to work with!

Evan Moore-Coll (Merriman) is a freshman BFA Acting major from Charlottesville, VA. I'm so excited for this production! And I'd like to thank the cast and crew of Earnest, my classmates, and friends Steven Meeker and Kayla Walsh.

Peter Moses (Lane) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Fairfax, VA. Peter appeared in last year's production of *After the Fall* (Ensemble) and the play about hell, *No Exit* (Bellboy). And you may have seen his first original play, *My Cousin Stanley is Dead*, during Festival. He will appear in the next classroom project, *God of Carnage*, this coming May and in the future, he hopes to become an actor/screenwriter/playwright. He thanks his friends and family for all their support!

BIOGRAPHIES

Christina Kirk (Director) is a full professor of theatre at Otterbein University where she has taught since 1992. Directing credits include *The Living Theatre*, *New Dramatists*, and assisting Liviu Ciulei at Arena Stage. Favorite directing projects at Otterbein include *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *King Richard III* and *Nine*. She has performed at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, the Illinois Repertory Theatre, CATCO, and in the Joseph Jefferson award winning *Kabuki Medea*. Favorite roles include "B" in *Three Tall Women* at CATCO, Violet in *August: Osage County* at Otterbein and, most recently, the title roles in *Cleopatra* and *Claudiel* at Columbus Dance Theatre. Her one woman show, which premiered at Columbus Dance Theatre, was featured in the March 2006 Theatre Journal. She has an M.F.A. in Directing from Columbia University and a B.F.A. in acting from the University of Illinois. She has also trained extensively with Shakespeare & Company. In addition, she is a certified yoga instructor.

Rob Johnson (Scenic Designer) is a resident faculty scenic and lighting designer who joined the faculty in 1987. 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 recently wrote, performed, and recorded the musical composition "Pulse" for the recent Otterbein dance concert of the same name while on his sabbatical. He also designed the lighting for the *The Fairy Queen* at Ohio Wesleyan University and scenery for *Chicago*, produced by Shadowbox Live in German Village. He designed the scenery for all three Otterbein Summer Theatre productions: *Almost Maine*, *Boeing Boeing*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*, as well as the Westerville community theatre project, *The Wizard of Oz*. He gives thanks to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for all of his many opportunities and blessings.

Rebecca White (Costume Designer) joined the Theatre & Dance faculty as the resident Costume Designer in 2007 and teaches courses in costume history, costume design, costume technology, and makeup. Some of Rebecca's previous designs at Otterbein include *Pippin*, *Gypsy*, and *How to Succeed in Business...Without Really Trying*. Rebecca's work has been on stage at the Santa Fe Opera, The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Park Square Theatre, St. Cloud State University, and Theatre l'Homme Dieu. Rebecca holds an MFA from The University of Minnesota and a BS from The University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse. Rebecca would like to congratulate and thank the three student drapers who patterned and built the majority of the gowns in this production, as well as Julia and the whole costume shop staff, for all their hard work making this show come to life. Rebecca's master's thesis was a production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat in 2005. She dedicates this production to her mother and sister who traveled all the way from Wisconsin to see Otterbein's production

Dana L. White (Lighting Designer) is a professor at Otterbein University teaching courses in Lighting and Sound. Recent work here includes, *How to Succeed in Business...*, *Noises Off*, *The Wild Party* and *Pippin*, and more than 50 other projects in the last 20 years. He is a Resident Artist for the Purple Rose Theatre Company where he designed lighting for several World Premier productions including *Raindance* and *Book of Days*, both by Pulitzer Prize-Winner Lanford Wilson, *Gravity* (Pulitzer

BIOGRAPHIES

Nomination by David MacGregor, and *Guest Artist* (1st Runner-up Best New Play 2006) by Jeff Daniels. He lit *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, *Norma and Wanda* and *All Night Strut!* at the Gem Theatre in Detroit, MI. Local credits include: Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO); and Columbus Dance Theatre. His work has also been seen at the Williamston Theatre Company and the Contemporary American Theatre Festival. Mr. White is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Rebecca Schafer (Stage Manager) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major from Cincinnati, OH. Previous credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *Little Shop of Horrors*, Assistant Master Electrician/Automations Operator for *Les Misérables*, and Master Electrician for *Speed the Plow*. After *Earnest*, Rebecca will be the Stage Manager the spring Classroom Project, *God of Carnage*. Rebecca would like to thank her mother, Rachel, Wookie/Linzie, Lighting World, and her theatre family as always for their love and support.

Kristen Cooperkline (Production Manager) Raised in Columbus, Kristen earned her Bachelor of Arts in History/Theatre from the College of Wooster and her Master of Arts in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University. She then received her MFA in Stage Management from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2012. Her Illinois credits include *Macbeth*, *La Calisto*, *Battle of Angels*, *February Dance*, and *Our Town*. Following her graduation, Kristen served as the Event Coordinator for the first-ever American College Dance Festival Association South Regional Conference as well as a stage manager for Bebe Miller Company. She's thrilled to join the Otterbein Theatre family.

Julia Ferreri (Costume Shop Supervisor) worked for The State University of New York at Potsdam as the Costume Shop Manager before joining the Otterbein University staff. She has also worked at Glimmerglass Opera, The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Heritage Theatre, and Berkshire Theatre Festival. Julia received her MFA in Costume Technology from Ohio University-Athens.

Melissa Lusher (Dialect Coach) is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Otterbein University where she teaches speech, dialects, acting, and also serves as 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 *The Irish Curse* at Short North Stage, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at Actors' Theatre, *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. Favorite roles include Barbara in *August: Osage County* (Otterbein Theatre), Goneril in *King Lear* (Actors' Theatre), Marina in *Volodya* (LaMaMa E.T.C.), Margaret in *King 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). She recently directed *Spring*

BIOGRAPHIES

Awakening at Otterbein which was named one of the Best 10 Shows of 2012 by the Columbus Dispatch, and *No Exit*, the Fall 2013 Classroom Project.

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 Voice work 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 Uhrick (Scenic Studio Supervisor) Before his return to his alma mater, he worked in Regional Theatres across the Midwest and New England. He received his Master's in Theatre Technology from UMKC in 1997. He now lives in Columbus with his wife, Lisa, and their son Michael and daughter Emma. They work with Ohio Pug Rescue, to provide abandoned or surrendered dogs foster homes. In addition, they are active foster parents. Rich is also a published poet and newsletter editor for the Columbus Bonsai Society and the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America, a German Genealogy Society.

Edith Dinger Wadkins (Scenic Charge Artist) is happy to be welcomed to her alma mater. She is an Otterbein graduate from the class of 2002. Since graduating, she has painted and designed scenery in almost every professional theatre in Columbus and in many colleges and universities. She is currently painting her tenth season at CATCO.

Kate Bindus (Properties Master) is a sophomore BFA Design/Technology major from Chagrin Falls, OH. Previous credits include Production Assistant for Dance Concert: *Pulse*, ASM for *After the Fall* and *Les Misérables*, and Design/Tech representative for the Festival committee. Kate would like to thank all her friends and family for all their wonderful support. Break a leg to the cast and crew.

Karen Crenshaw (Paint Assistant/Sound Board Operator) is a freshman BFA Design/Technology major from Smyrna, GA. Previous credits include Production Assistant for Dance 2013: *Once Again!* and Dresser/Costume Crew for *Les Misérables*. Karen looks forward to being the ASM for the spring classroom project, *God of Carnage*, and would like to thank Edie for a wonderful experience. For Mom. Enjoy the show!

Jordan Donica (Algernon Moncrieff) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Indianapolis, IN. Otterbein University: *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean), *How to Succeed...* (J.P. Finch), Dance Concert: *Pulse*, Dance Concert: *Once Again!* Jordan received a "Mittie Award" for Best Actor in a Larger Role for the role of "Romeo" in the 2013 Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Much love to the Otterbein community and to my family for all of the love and support.