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Rumors

Otterbein University Department of Theatre and Dance

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A vibrant, abstract collage of musical instruments and figures in a jazz style. The artwork features a dense arrangement of black, white, and colorful (yellow, green, purple, pink) shapes and lines. Instruments like a piano keyboard, saxophone, trumpet, and drums are integrated with stylized human figures. The overall composition is dynamic and energetic, with a strong emphasis on musical themes.

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OTTERBEIN THEATRE & DANCE
PRESENTS

Rumors

By NEIL SIMON

Directed by
MELISSA LUSHER

Scenic Design by
DAN GRAY

Costume Design by
JULIANNE D'ERRICO

Lighting Design by
TORI DEPROSPERO

Sound Design by
DOC DAVIS

Stage Managed by
ETHAN WINTGENS

September 21-24 & 28-30, 2017
Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall
30 S. Grove St., Westerville



"Rumors" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

CAST

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Gorman | Grace Hoover |
| Ken Gorman..... | Ben Folts |
| Claire Ganz | Daria Redus |
| Lenny Ganz | Christopher James Smith |
| Ernie Cusack | Chris Marth |
| Cookie Cusack | Tristan Gillia |
| Glenn Cooper..... | Maxwell Bartel |
| Cassie Cooper | Lauren DiMario |
| Officer Welch..... | Kyle Brace |
| Officer Pudney | Alissa Dellork |

PRODUCTION NOTES

Please be aware that live gun shots will be used during this performance

ACT I

A large Victorian home in Sneden's Landing, New York, 8:30pm.

15 - minute INTERMISSION

ACT II

Same location, one hour later.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre
The Point at Otterbein University

In loving memory
of

Betty Peters

Writer, Artist, Patron, and above all else,
Friend of Otterbein University Theatre & Dance.

PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance | Christina Kirk |
| Audience Services Director | Elizabeth Saltzgiver |
| Faculty Technical Director | Patrick Stone |
| Production Manager | Kristen Cooperkline |
| Costume Shop Supervisor | Julia Ferreri |
| Light & Sound Supervisor | Doc Davis |
| Movement Coach/Voice Coach | Melinda Murphy |
| Administrative Assistant | Matt Wolfe |
| Manager of Ticketing and On-Campus Promotion | Alexx Conrad |
| Assistant Directors | Mikayla Burr, Yinghao Lin |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Allison Mogle |
| Assistant Technical Director | Ben Eckert |
| Assistant Stage Managers | Marissa Brown, Alyssa Samuelson |
| Dramaturge | Emily Bubeck |
| Charge Artist | Alli Dembicki |
| Paint Assistants | Jalissa Frye, Riley Mankin, Hannah Pohlman |
| Properties Master | Miranda Cotman |
| Properties Assistant | Lindsay Cluckey |
| Properties Artisan | Logan Stump |
| Wardrobe Master | Allison Mogle |
| Wardrobe Assistant | Valerie Frizzell |
| Junior Drapers | Allison Mogle, Melissa Schlecht |
| Master Electrician | Jessica Palagano |
| Light Board Operator | Matt Gottlieb |
| Sound A1 | Kailey Miller |
| House Manager | Jessica Metcalf |

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Mikayla Burr | Zach Hubler |
| Ben Eckert | Natalie Love |
| Jalissa Frye | Braxton Maloney |
| Nick Hahn | Gunnar Schmidt |

SCENERY/PROPS CREW

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Emma Lou Andrews | Braxton Maloney |
| Noah Boger | Julia Sopher |
| Evan Kret | |
| Elena Iannucci | |

COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| RoRo Cheng | Riley Mankin |
| Miranda Cotman | Allison Mogle |
| Megan Gillespie | Hannah Pohlman |
| Julianne Graffeo | Melissa Schlecht |

WARDROBE CREW

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Audrey Blessing | Marley Runk |
| Destiny Mitchell | Anna Sheridan |

LIGHT & SOUND ASSISTANTS

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Ethan Brown | Jessica Palagano |
| Tori DeProspero | Isabel Billinghamurst |

ELECTRICS CREW

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kalin Bennington | Matt Gottlieb |
| Noah Boger | Lindsay Lisanti |
| Xavier Boyd | Shelby McSwords |
| Marissa Davis | Kailey Miller |
| Trevin Dutey | Haley Skinner |
| Desmond Fernandez | |

BOX OFFICE ASSISTANTS

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Marissa Brown | Grace Hoover |
| Jessica Fannin | Emily Maddox |
| Tristan Gillia | Carly Salyer |
| Julianne Graffeo | Chris Smith |

USHERS

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Xavier Boyd | Christian Heinemann |
| Connor Cook | Shelby McSwords |
| Trevin Dutey | Madeleine Norton |
| Desmond Fernandez | Alexander Smith-Fields |

BIOGRAPHIES

Julia Ferreri (Costume Shop Supervisor) has been building and designing costumes for over fifteen years. Favorite Otterbein designs include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Crucible*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Full Monty*. Around Columbus, she has designed for Actors Theatre: *Winter's Tale*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Beaux Stratagem*. Available Light: *She Kills Monsters* and *Cymbeline*. Columbus Opera: *Il Tabarro* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Julia has also worked at Glimmerglass Opera, The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Berkshire Theatre Festival. Julia received her MFA in Costume Technology from Ohio University-Athens. She sends her love to Zak John for all his love and support over the years.

Melinda Murphy (Movement/Voice 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.

Patrick Stone (Assistant Professor/Technical Director) began his tenure as the Technical Director at Otterbein in the Fall of 2014. He spent the previous seven years at the University of Arkansas as the Faculty Technical Director. He holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and a Bachelors of Arts from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. He teaches classes in stage-craft, properties design and construction, metal working, technical direction, wood working, and motion scenery. Patrick also enjoys consulting with local and regional theatres ranging from professional through junior high school. When not in the Scenic Studio or backstage Patrick enjoys any activity that gets him outdoors. Lately, he has been exploring the use of blacksmithing in props construction. Patrick fears neither doors nor clowns, but please do not ask him about mimes.

Maxwell Bartel (Glenn Cooper) is a junior BFA Acting major from Cincinnati, OH. Previous credits include Otterbein Summer Theatre's *They're Playing Our Song* (Vernon Gersch) and *My Fair Lady* (Doolittle), as well as last year's production of *The Crucible* (Thomas Putnam). Maxwell would like to thank his family, friends, and Trey Plutnicki for all of their love and support.

Kyle Brace (Officer Welch) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Erie, PA. Previously, he has performed in *A Kid Like Jake* (Greg) and *Stop Kiss* (George). He has also appeared at The Station Dinner Theatre in *Here Comes the Brides* (Jimmy Took) and will perform in *Meet Me in Saint Louis* at Weathervane Playhouse this winter. Kyle would like to thank Melissa and the rest of the cast for making *Rumors* such a wonderful experience. He would also like to thank his family and friends for their endless love and support.

Emily Bubeck (Dramaturge) is a senior BA Theatre major with a Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies minor from Fairfax, VA. Her previous credits include Director

BIOGRAPHIES

for *Reap the Grove*, Assistant Director for *Top Girls*, and Dramaturge for *The Crucible*. Emily has had such a wonderful time working as the dramaturge on *Rumors*. Break a leg to the cast and crew of this hilarious show!

Mikayla Burr (Assistant Director and Carpenter) is a junior BA Theatre major from Dayton, OH. Her previous credits include Props Master for *Top Girls*, *My Fair Lady*, and *They're Playing Our Song*. Much love and many thanks always to my family both by blood and by sawdust.

Lindsay Cluckey (Props Assistant) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major and Arts Administration minor from Toledo, OH. Her previous credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *Damn Yankees*, *Top Girls*, and *The Crucible*.

Miranda Cotman (Properties Master) is a junior BA Theatre major and Studio Art Minor from Westerville. Recently, Miranda was the Properties Master for *Damn Yankees* and Wardrobe Master for the 2017 Otterbein Summer Theatre season. She is currently working as Assistant Costume Designer for *Adding Machine: A Musical* and Dance 2017: *Move Me*.

Alissa Dellork (Officer Pudney) is a junior BFA Acting major from Aldie, VA. Previously, she has performed in *The Crucible* (Sarah Good), *Ivanov* (Borkin), and *Stop Kiss* (Sara). "Much love to the cast and crew! Special thanks to our Director, Melissa Lusher, and my supportive family!

Alli Dembicki (Charge Artist) is a senior BFA Design/Technology major from Pemberville, OH. Her previous credits include Charge Artist for *Damn Yankees* and Props Master for *The Addams Family*. Alli would like to thank her fantastic paints team for all their hard work in putting up with her.

Lauren DiMario (Cassie Cooper) is a senior BFA Acting major from Dayton, OH. Previous Otterbein credits include *Top Girls* (Griselda/Kit/Shona), *Is He Dead?* (Marie Leroux), and *The Crucible* (Mercy Lewis). She would like to thank her family, the Class of Twenty-ATeen, and the cast and crew for all their support! Much love.

Ben Folts (Ken Gorman) is a senior BFA Acting major from Hershey, PA. Previous credits include *The Crucible* (Rev. Hale) and the Otterbein Summer Theatre productions of *The Nerd* (Rick Steadman) and *Invention of Theater* (Kevin). This is Ben's final mainstage performance at Otterbein before he begins an internship in New York next semester. He would like to thank everyone involved in *Rumors* for making it such an enjoyable project, and his entire Otterbein family for making his time here so wonderful. He is also, in fact, not a meerkat.

Valerie Frizzell (Wardrobe Assistant) is a freshman BFA Design/Technology major from Dallas, TX. Her previous credits include Dresser for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* and Costume Designer for *The Great Gatsby*.

Tristan Rose Gillia (Cookie) is a junior BFA Acting major from Brooklyn, NY. Previously, she has performed in *The Crucible* (Francis Nurse) and *Is He Dead?* (Madame Caron/Emperor of Russia). Outside credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mrs. Van

BIOGRAPHIES

Dann) and *Clue* (Mrs. Peacock). She is thrilled to bring one of her favorite characters to life and wants to thank the entire cast and crew, her family, friends, Melissa Lusher and YOU!

Grace Hoover (Chris) is a senior BFA Acting major from Carlisle, PA. Previously, she has performed in *The Invention of Theater* (Elizabeth), *Top Girls* (Jeanine/Win) and *The Crucible* (Rebecca Nurse). From the depths of her heart, Grace would like to thank her Mom, Dad, Will, and Victoria for their constant support; the cast and crew of *Rumors*; and especially Melissa Lusher for the opportunity. This has been a ride of laughter and discovery. #JustLiveLife

Yinghao Lin (Assistant Director) is a junior BA Theatre and Philosophy double major from Fuzhou, Fujian, China. His previous credits include Wardrobe Assistant for *Top Girls*.

Riley Mankin (Paint Assistant) is a junior BFA Design/Technology and Studio Art double major from Hilliard, OH. Her previous credits include Charge Artist for *My Fair Lady* and Paint Assistant for *Damn Yankees*. I would like to thank my family for their constant support and encouragement.

Chris Marth (Ernie Cusack) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Carlisle, PA. Previous credits include Otterbein's *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester), as well as *The 21st Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Barfee) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Constable). Special thanks to the cast and crew for a wonderful final show!

Jessica Metcalf (House Manager) is a junior BA Theatre and Public Relations double major and Dance minor from New Albany, OH. Previously, she has performed in Dance 2016: *The Goddess* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Allison Mogle (Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe Master) is a junior BA Theatre major from Liberty Township, OH. Previous credits include Wardrobe Assistant for *The Crucible*, *The Addams Family* and *My Fair Lady*. Thank you to my family for always coming to support me!

Jessica Palagano (Master Electrician) is a junior BFA Design/Technology major from Hilliard, OH. Her previous credits include Master Electrician for Dance 2016: *The Goddess* and *My Fair Lady*, Assistant Set Designer for *Damn Yankees*, and Lighting Designer for *Festival 2017*.

Daria Redus (Claire) is a senior BFA Acting major from Cleveland, OH. Previously, she has performed in *Top Girls* (Marlene), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Blanche), *A Grand Night for Singing* (Mezzo Soprano) and *The Addams Family* (Ancestor). Great big thanks to my wonderful friends and family! This show has been an absolute blast!

Alyssa Samuelson (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore BA Theatre major with Dance and Arts Administration minors from Russell, PA. Her previous credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *My Fair Lady*, Assistant Production Manager for Otterbein Summer Theatre 2017, and Props Assistant for *Top Girls*. Thank you to my family for their love and support!

BIOGRAPHIES

Melissa Schlecht (Draper) is a senior BFA Design/Technology major from Potsdam, OH. Her previous credits include Wardrobe Master for *Damn Yankees* and Assistant Costume Designer for Dance 2016: *The Goddess*. She also worked as the Production Intern at Totem Pole Playhouse. I am excited for my senior year at Otterbein. Much love and thanks to my family, friends, and the Theatre Fam!

Christopher James Smith (Lenny Ganz) is a junior BFA Acting major from Toledo, OH. He was last seen on the Otterbein stage as Giles Corey in *The Crucible*. Thank you, Mom, Dad, Grams, Nana, Derek, Sarah, Sean, Emily, Kelsey, Hunter, Reuben, Melissa and Elise, for your love and support. I love you all.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Neil Simon (Playwright) American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon is widely regarded as one of the most successful prolific and performed playwrights in the world. In addition to *Lost In Yonkers*, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *London Suite*, *Proposals*, *Hotel Suite*, *The Dinner Party*, *45 Seconds from Broadway*, *Oscar and Felix*, and *Rose's Dilemma*. Mr. Simon has received more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer. Awards he has received include the Pulitzer Prize for *Lost In Yonkers*, Emmy Awards for *The Sid Caesar Show* and *The Phil Silvers Show*, Tony Awards for and a special Tony Award For Overall Contribution To The Theatre. His nominations include Tony Award Nominations for *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*, *Lost in Yonkers* and *The Goodbye Girl* (musical).

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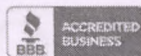
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Photo Jordan Donica '16 (Hamilton National Tour/
Phantom of the Opera Broadway)



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For more information:

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Otterbein University Department of Theatre & Dance honors those who have given so generously during the 2017-18 Academic Year.

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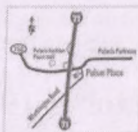
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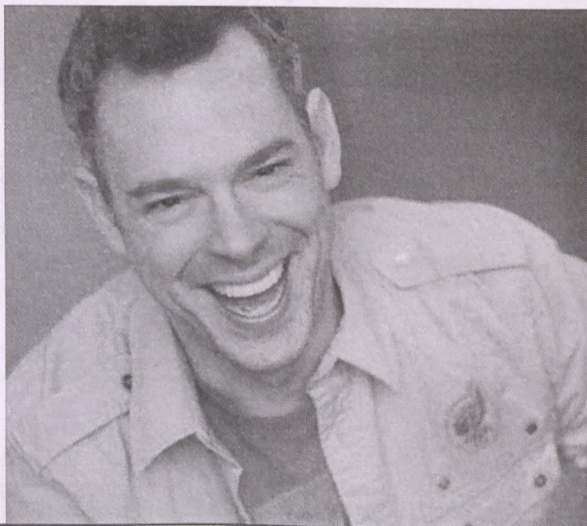
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Otterbein University Theatre and Dance

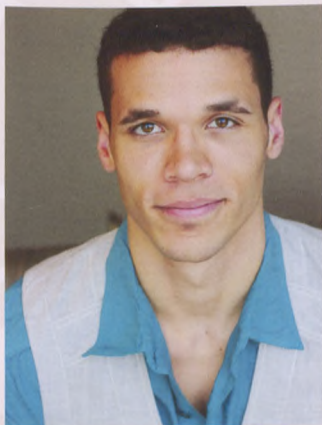
August 30 at 6:45pm

Meet Thom Christopher Warren, our newest member of the #Otterbein Theatre and Dance faculty! Thom comes to us straight from his 15 year run with "The Lion King" on Broadway! This year, Thom is teaching our Senior Showcase and Internship class, Junior MT Studio, American Musical Theatre History, and will be directing "Thoroughly Modern Millie" in the Spring. Welcome to the family, Thom!



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The exits are indicated by red lights. In the event of fire or any other emergency, please do not run — walk to the exit as directed by theatre management.

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The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs during the performance are strictly prohibited.

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Cowan Hall: Restrooms are available on the first floor of Cowan Hall and in the basement. A handicapped accessible platform lift is located at the north stairwell in Cowan Hall. Please see a front of house attendant for assistance with the lift. Additional restrooms are located across the street in Roush Hall on the north side of each floor.

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