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Stepping Out

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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TheatreGoer

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

STEPPING OUT

BY RICHARD HARRIS



DIRECTED BY
DENNIS ROMER

CHOREOGRAPHER STELLA HIATT KANE

MUSICAL DIRECTOR EILEEN HUSTON

SCENIC AND LIGHTING DESIGNER ROBERT JOHNSON

COSTUME DESIGNER KATIE ROBBINS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR STEVE HALL

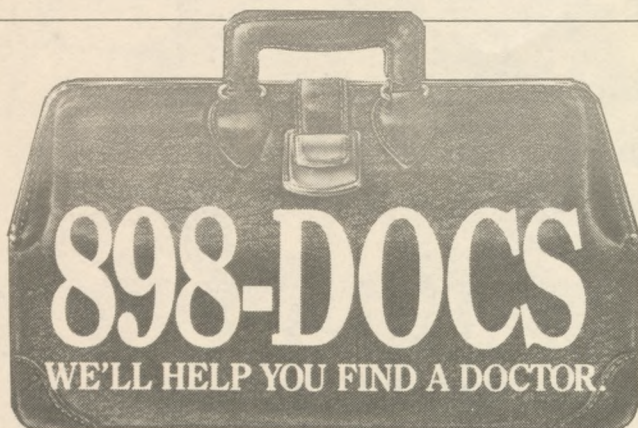
PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE ANNE WETHERBEE

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. 45 W. 25th St., New York, N. Y., 10010

January 25, 1990, 7:30 p.m., January 26, 27, 30, 31, February 1, 2, 3, 1990, 8:00 p.m.
January 28 and February 4, 1990, 2:00 p.m.

Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance

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About The Play

On tour abroad with the hit musical *My One and Only*, famed performer/director/choreographer Tommy Tune was sent a script of *Stepping Out*, "a play with dancing" in hopes that he would stage the Broadway production. Written by Richard Harris, *Stepping Out* had already won the London Standard *Best Comedy Award* and was playing to packed houses in London along with two other Harris plays, *The Business of Murder* and *The Maintenance Man*. Tune read the script and was immediately struck by the heroic nature of the characters as well as the dance subject matter. In an interview for *Playbill*, Tune asked and answered the fundamental question of the play. "Why do they go to tap class? There is a need in human beings to be part of something. *Stepping Out* spoke about that need...I loved it."

Tune hired on to direct the Broadway production although the producers insisted on Americanizing the play by having Harris rewrite the script and switch the setting to

Brooklyn. This new American version proved disappointing to both Tune and Harris and the project was eventually scrapped. Coincidence would intervene two years later, when on a trip to London, Tune happened upon a matinee performance of the play. Again, Tune found himself totally involved with the characters. "I was laughing and crying at the same time," Tune said. "laughing because they can't do it and crying because they can." Upon his return to New York, Tune was approached by a new set of producers to direct the original script. He agreed and immediately set about staging the New York production.

In January of 1987, *Stepping Out* opened on Broadway while the London production continued to run after two years of overwhelming success. The play has since enjoyed numerous productions regionally and was recently staged by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. The Otterbein College Theatre production marks the play's central Ohio premiere.

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About Us

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

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

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



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Otterbein Theatre Guild

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

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

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

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

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

Theatre Guild Officers

President: Susan Musick President-elect: Mike Edgar Vice President: Christine Diol
Secretary: Richard Corrigan Treasurer: Dennis Blank

Theatre Guild Board of Directors

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|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
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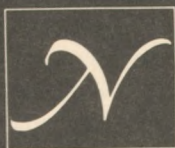


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Biographies

Dennis Romer (Director) is currently serving on the faculty of Otterbein's Department of Theatre and Dance. His professional directing credits include the Los Angeles productions of *Chinamen* and *Par La Fenetre* at Ensemble Studio Theatre and the world premiere of *Frontiers* at the Victory Theatre. In New York, Dennis was a staff director for the Raft Theatre Company on Theatre Row, and has also directed the world premiere of Joanna Glass' *Trying*. A 1971 Otterbein graduate, he received his M. F. A. from Wayne State University and was an acting and directing member of the Hilberry Rep Theatre. Favorite Otterbein directorial assignments include last season's *Romeo and Juliet*, and OST's *The Dresser*, *Terra Nova*, and *The Dining Room*.

As a professional actor, Dennis has appeared in such diverse productions as *Twelfth Night*, *Shenandoah*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Barefoot in the Park*, sharing the stage with stars including Melvyn Douglas, Jean Arthur, Ricardo Montalban, Selma Diamond, Howard Kiel and John Raitt. A soap opera veteran, Dennis has created several memorable lovers and villains, but was only officially killed off on camera in *Search for Tomorrow* (He has also appeared in over 70 TV commercials and numerous voice-overs). Also a prime time TV guest star, Dennis' favorite credits include *Hotel*, *Dynasty*, *Starman*, *Matt Houston* and *Love Sydney*.

Stella Hiatt Kane (Choreographer) is a free-lance choreographer affiliated with such organizations as the Worthington Civic Ballet, the Wharton School and Neoteric Dance Theatre. Ms. Kane returned to the central Ohio area three years ago after living and working in New York for 10 years. While in New York, she studied dance and was with the American Dance Machine. A member of Actors' Equity, she performed in the national company of Bob Fosse's *Dancin'* and *Sugar*. Currently she is a teacher and choreographer of jazz at BalletMet and has started a group called JazzMet, an offshoot

of the ballet academy. She is also an adjunct teacher of dance at Otterbein and continues to free-lance locally, last fall choreographing *1940's Radio Hour* for Gallery Players. Ms. Kane lives in Columbus with husband Kip and her 18 month-old daughter, Eryn.

Eileen Huston (Musical Director), an Otterbein graduate, is an adjunct teacher of piano in the Music Department. She is involved in various fields of musical performance including church music and public school music. She is a member of the Columbus Symphony Chorus and piano accompanist for soloists and musical groups in the central Ohio area.

Robert Johnson (Scenic and Lighting Designer, Sound Engineer), who joined the Otterbein College Theatre faculty in 1987, holds a Master of Arts degree from West Virginia University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from The Ohio State University, both in design. Rob's work as a scenic and lighting designer includes past notable Otterbein productions such as *Sweeney Todd*, *Camille*, and *A Chorus Line*. Recently he served as a guest artist for the Bowling Green State University production of *Kismet*.

Katie Robbins (Costume Designer), holds a B. A. degree in Drama from San Jose State University and an M. F. A. in Theatre Design from Humboldt State University in California. Prior to joining the Otterbein College Theatre faculty, Katie worked as a free-lance designer and as resident designer at East Texas State University and Stephen F. Austin State University. Although Katie has more than fifty productions to her credit, Otterbein audiences may recall some of her more recent work in *A Chorus Line*, *Quilters*, or *Romeo and Juliet*. Katie is a member of USITT, IATSE, and has been recognized for her work by both ACTF and the International Thespian Society. Katie, a native of Colorado, enjoys, skiing, sailing, motorcycling and is an avid Denver Bronco's fan.



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Cast List

(in order of appearance)

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Mavis | Ginger Lee McDermott * |
| Mrs. Fraser | Lisa Walton ** |
| Lynne | Carolyn Valentine * |
| Dorothy | Nicole Rabel |
| Maxine | Colby Anne Paul ** |
| Andy | Kathryn Barnhardt ** |
| Geoffrey | Mark Merriman * |
| Sylvia | Mary Christine Randle |
| Rose | Margenett Moore |
| Vera | Anastasia L. Klimaszewski |

The part of the unseen Stage Manager is played by Bill Yarbrough*. Other parts are played by Kelly M. Knowles** and Amy Patten. Understudies are Melanie Bruno, Kelly M. Knowles**, Amy Patten and Bill Yarbrough*.

All recorded piano interludes performed by Eileen Huston.

The action of the play takes place in a North London church hall.
Time-the present.

ACT I

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| Scene 1 | Evening. Around 8 p.m. |
| Scene 2 | A month later. 7:45 p.m. |
| Scene 3 | A month later. Around 9 p.m. |
| Scene 4 | A month later. 7:40 p.m. |

ACT II

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Scene 1 | A week later. Around 8 p.m. |
| Scene 2 | Two weeks later. Around 9 p.m. |
| Scene 3 | Two weeks later. Around 8 p.m. |
| Scene 4 | Three weeks later. Around 8 p.m. |
| Scene 5 | Two-Three weeks later. Evening. |

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

* Indicates membership in Cap and Dagger

** Indicates membership in Theta Alpha Phi Theatre Honorary

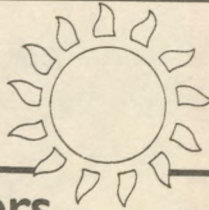
Production Staff

Artistic Director Dr. Donald W. Seay
Managing Director Tod Wilson
Technical Director Steve Hall
Costume Shop Supervisor Marcia Hain
Production Manager Julie Anne Wetherbee**
Stage Manager Demita L. Davis
Assistant Stage Manager Shana A. Stover
Assistant to the Choreographer Kelly M. Knowles**
Dialect Coach Tony Oldham
Sound Engineer Robert Johnson
Sound Technician Art Drauglis
Wardrobe Master J. Christopher Wojcieszyn*
Properties Mistress Lisa J. Snodgrass**
Master Electrician Bryan E. Campbell*
Master Carpenter Pamela L. Bloom**
Master Painter Janet E. Brown*
Light Board Operator Jason Gay
Follow Spot Operator Joyce Peralta
Box Office Manager Kristen L. Gregerson**
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Production Crews

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Set Crew

Tom Cardinal *, Vicki Christian, Art Drauglis, Stacey Ferguson *, Jason Gay,
Jim Hixson, Gregory Owen-Houck **, Paul T. Kavicky**, Nancy Martin*,
Mary Christine Randle, Bill Robinson, Vicki Sherer, Kelly Stein, David Steinmetz,
Shana A. Stover, Brad Wees

Costume Shop Assistants

Gwyneth Aubrey, Janet E. Brown*, Nancy Martin*, Gretchen Peralta, Brad Wees

Costume Crew

Katy Bowers*, Vicki Christian, Julie Cremean*, Susan Dickerson,
Matt Hodges, Todd Lucht, Laurie McCloskey*, Mark Merriman*, Juliann Rubijono,
Sonda Staley*, Bill Yarbrough *

Properties Crew

Missy Barber*, Eva Bevans*, Kim Clay, Peyton Dixon, Allan Ellerbrock,
Chris Jones*, Laurie Kubicki, Kim Kefgen, Anastasia L. Klimaszewski,
Ginger Lee McDermott*, Scott Mulligan, Kelleyanne Pearman, Jason Podplesky,
Ian Short, Joshua Wank**, Phil Wolfe

Lighting Crew

Kent Benedict, Melanie Bruno, Jason Gay, Daryl Lozupone,
Joyce Peralta, Bill Robinson

Box Office Assistants

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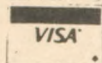
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Director of Design Technology Prof. Fred J. Thayer
Teacher/Director Ed Vaughan
Teacher/Director Dennis Romer
Scenic Designer Robert Johnson
Costume Designer Katie Robbins
Technical Director Steve Hall
Costume Shop Supervisor Marcia Hain
Director of Dance Denise T. David
Adjunct Dance Faculty
Denise Celestin, Jon Devlin, Cathy Duke, Stella Hiatt Kane,
Shirley McClain, Joan Moos
Managing Director Tod Wilson
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Artist Series

February 15 (Thursday)

The Guarneri String Quartet

One of America's finest chamber ensembles returns to Otterbein after 18 years.

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

Music

February 10 (Saturday)

Westerville Civic Symphony

With Michael Haberkorn, piano, performing Ravel's *Concerto in G Major*.

Also works by Beethoven and Mozart.

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

February 16 (Friday)

Choirs with Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra

Verdi's magnificent *Requiem*.

8:00 p.m., *Gray Chapel*, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware.

February 18 (Sunday)

Choirs with Ashland Symphony Orchestra

Verdi's *Requiem*.

3:00 p.m., *Convocation Center*, Ashland College, Ashland.

February 23 & 24 (Friday & Saturday)

Opera Theatre

An evening of scenes from popular operas, with a Guest Artist.

8:00 p.m., *Battelle Fine Arts Center*.

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She Stoops To Conquer

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March 7, 7:30 p.m.; March 8-10, 8:00 p.m.; March 11, 2:00 p.m.

Who's Who Stepping Out

Kathryn Barnhardt (Andy), a senior BFA Theatre major from Springfield, Virginia, returns to Otterbein after completing an internship at Stuart Howard Casting in New York. Kathryn appeared in last year's *Alice in Wonderland* as well as both the student and faculty dance concerts. She looks forward to directing a workshop this spring and graduating in June.

Pamela L. Bloom (Master Carpenter) last served as master electrician for *Cinderella* and assistant stage manager for *Sweeney Todd*. A junior Design/Tech major from Johnstown, Ohio, Pamela has chaired numerous crews and was the costume shop assistant for Summer Theatre '89.

Janet E. Brown (Master Painter), a sophomore BFA Design/Tech major from Salineville, Ohio, recently served as properties mistress for *Present Laughter* and assistant stage manager for the 1990 Dance Concert. Last year Janet was the wardrobe mistress for *Children of a Lesser God*.

Melanie Bruno (Understudy), a member of Otterbein's Concert Choir, is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Toledo. Last year Melanie appeared in *Sweeney Todd* and the Opera Theatre production of *The Magic Flute*. Later this quarter she will appear as Mrs. Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Bryan E. Campbell (Master Electrician) is a junior BFA Design/Tech major from Columbus. Most recently he served as one of several student lighting designers for the 1990 Dance Concert. Last quarter Bryan was assistant technical director for *Present Laughter* and *Cinderella*.

Demita L. Davis (Stage Manager) was the assistant stage manager for last quarter's *Present Laughter*. A senior Theatre/Speech Education major from Grove City, Demita has worked on various crews for *Cinderella*, *Quilters*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

Art Drauglis (Sound Technician), a BFA Design/Tech major, served on the properties crew for *Present Laughter* and was the follow spot operator for *Cinderella*. Art is a freshman from Upper Arlington.

Anastasia L. Klimaszewski (Vera), a member of the Otterbein Dance Company and last year's Opus Zero, is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Aurora, Ohio. Anastasia has performed in the last two major dance concerts and this fall she appeared as the Queen in *Cinderella*.

Kelly M. Knowles (Assistant to the Choreographer/Understudy-Mavis/Ensemble) is a senior BFA Theatre Performance/Directing major from Gahanna. Kelly was the stage manager for *Cinderella* and *Children of a Lesser God*. Onstage, she appeared in *Romeo and Juliet* and as Rachel in *To Gillian On Her 37th Birthday*. Kelly just completed an educational film entitled *Healthy Babies* that will be shown for the next three years in Ohio.

Ginger Lee McDermott (Mavis), a sophomore BFA Performance major from Longwood, Florida, appeared in the fall Workshop Theatre production of *Present Tense* and the 1990 Dance Concert. She choreographed and performed in last spring's dance concert and was Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*. Ginger has also worked summer stock with the Pendragon Theatre in Saranac Lake, New York and danced with the Southern Ballet Theatre in Florida.

Mark Merriman (Geoffrey), a member of Otterbein's Concert Choir, is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Marysville. Mark was a member of the Company for *Sweeney Todd* and he also appeared as Pozzo in the Workshop Theatre production of *Waiting for Godot*.

Margenett Moore (Rose) is a freshman making her Otterbein College Theatre debut. A theatre education major from Columbus, Margenett is deeply committed to the theatre program at Columbus South High School.

Amy Patten (Understudy/Ensemble) is a freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Harlan, Iowa. Amy is a member of Otterbein's Concert Choir and Opus Zero and last fall she appeared as the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*.

Colby Anne Paul (Maxine) last appeared as Esmerelda, one of the wicked stepsisters, in *Cinderella*. Other Otterbein credits include Laurie in the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of *I'm Not Rappaport*, Lisa in *Quilters* and Sheila in *A Chorus Line*. Colby, a junior, is a BFA Musical Theatre major from Worthington.

Nicole Rabel (Dorothy), a member of Opus Zero and the Otterbein Chorale, is a freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Atlanta, Georgia. Nicole has appeared in various shows in Atlanta and last fall she was one of the wicked stepsisters in *Cinderella*.

Mary Christine Randle (Sylvia), a sophomore BFA Performance major from Hilliard, is making her first mainstage appearance at Otterbein. Mary was a dresser for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Sweeney Todd* and last fall she appeared in Workshop Theatre production of *The Actor's Nightmare*.

Lisa J. Snodgrass (Properties Mistress), from Barnesville, Ohio, is a junior BFA Design/Tech major. Her previous Otterbein credits include stage manager for *Sweeney Todd*, properties mistress and assistant to the lighting designer for *Quilters* and wardrobe mistress for *Present Laughter*.

Shana A. Stover (Assistant Stage Manager), a member of the Otterbein Chorale and last year's Jazz Lab Band, is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Waterville, Ohio. Shana last appeared in the Workshop Theatre production of *The Apple Tree*.

Carolyn Valentine (Lynne) recently competed in the Irene Ryan Scholarship Competition at the American College Theatre Festival. A junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Sidney, Ohio, Carolyn was nominated for her performance as Cinderella in last quarter's Children's Theatre production. A member of the Otterbein Dance Company and Concert Choir, she was the understudy for Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and a member of the Company for *Sweeney Todd*.

Lisa Walton (Mrs. Fraser), a senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Stow, Ohio, returns to Otterbein after completing an internship with the McCorkle Casting Agency in New York. Lisa's Otterbein credits include Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Jenny in *Quilters*, Maggie in *A Chorus Line* and Hope in the summer theatre production of *Something's Afoot*.

Julie Anne Wetherbee (Production Manager), a senior from Parma, Ohio, is a BFA Design/Tech major. Her recent assignments include production manager for *Romeo and Juliet*, associate costume designer for *Sweeney Todd* and assistant set designer for *Quilters*. Julie returns to Otterbein after spending the fall quarter with Arena Stage in Washington, D. C. as a stage management intern.

J. Christopher Wojcieszyn (Wardrobe Master) recently served as one of several student lighting designers for the 1990 Dance Concert. A sophomore Design/Tech major from Buffalo, New York, Chris served as sound designer/engineer for Summer Theatre '89 and sound engineer for *Children of a Lesser God*.

Bill Yarbrough (Understudy-Geoffrey/Ensemble), a member of Opus Zero, is a sophomore BA Musical Theatre and Speech Communications major from Medina. Bill's Otterbein appearances include understudy and member of the Company for *Sweeney Todd*, the Knave in *Alice in Wonderland* and Harlequin in last year's Opera Theatre.
