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Top Girls

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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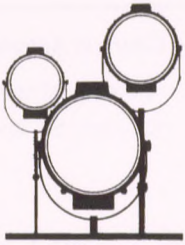
BY CARYL CHURCHILL

October 27 thru November 7, 1993

Original New York Production by
New York Shakespeare Festival
Produced by Joseph Papp



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The Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance has a three-fold mission. In its desire to develop theatre artists of the highest quality, it strives to provide a select number of undergraduate students with the training, education and experiences necessary for the successful pursuit of professional careers in theatre arts. In support of this mission and the liberal arts goals of the College, the department seeks to provide its students with the knowledge and skills necessary to live full, rewarding and productive lives. Offering the BFA and BA degree programs, the Department of Theatre and Dance undertakes to develop and graduate theatre artists who are sensitive, aware, and total human beings. Through its public performance programs, the Department endeavors to serve as a cultural resource for the College, the community and the central Ohio region.

In an attempt to provide our students with a competitive edge, we employ a faculty and staff of artist/teachers who work intensely with the students both in production and the classroom. In addition to our professional faculty and staff, guest artists are frequently brought to campus to work with us in production and in the classroom. Before graduation, BFA students are required to complete a professional internship thus providing them with a unique and invaluable introduction to the real world of theatre. In all that we do, we strive to create and maintain the professional environment necessary for the continued growth and development of our students, faculty and staff.

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1993-94 Season

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By Horton Foote
Three touching one-acts
September 8 - October 9

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PLAY FESTIVAL
By Various Playwrights
A variety of short contemporary African-American plays
October 20 - November 13

SEASON'S GREETINGS
By Alan Ayckbourn
A holiday farce
November 24 - January 1

ABUNDANCE
By Beth Henley
An epic story of the Old West
January 12 - February 12

Fourth Annual SHORTS FESTIVAL
A mix of mini-plays by Ohioans
March 23 - April 23

OLEANNA
By David Mamet (pending availability)
A controversial play tackling sexual harassment
May 18 - June 18

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OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS...

BY CARYL CHURCHILL

Original New York Production by

New York Shakespeare Festival

Produced by Joseph Papp

Director	John Stefano
Scenic Designer	Donna Williamson
Costume Designer	Lauren K. Lambie
Lighting Designer	Dana White
Technical Director	Rob Shaffer
Costume Shop Supervisor	Marcia L. Hain
Assistant Technical Director	Fred L. Smith
Production Assistant	Antonietta D'Agostino

Top Girls is produced through special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc., 45 W. 25th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

PRODUCTION STAFF & CREWS

Stage Manager ..... Jill Baird*
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Mike Marchal
Assistant Technical Director ..... Joshua C. Allen**
Master Carpenter ..... Robert Holland
Master Electrician ..... Susan Nicholson**
Wardrobe Master ..... Tamara Sommerfeld*
Properties Master ..... Mary Manson
Master Painter ..... Cynthia Kehr*
Sound Designer ..... Eric Nutter

Scene Shop Assistants
Jill Baird, Kathy Brandt, William Lee Cecil III*, Robert Holland, Pat Wallace, Kate Williams

Set Construction and Paint Crew
Robin Myers, Brett Santry

Costume Shop Assistants
Nomkita Chirunga, Antonietta D'Agostino, Laurie Green, Tamara Sommerfeld

Wardrobe Crew
Nomkita Chirunga, Chris Libby, Steven Lhamon, Jennifer Printz

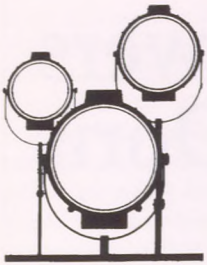
Properties Crew
Sarah Brown, Julie Laureano

Lighting Crew
Maya Gangadharan, Bridget McCracken, Pat Wallace, Kate Williams

Box Office Assistants
Julia Averill**, Laura Berlin, Jessica Buda, Tess Hartman, Jenny Keplar, Kristi Matson, J. W. Morissette, Karlie K. Mossman*, Kristin Reed, Jollina Walker*

*indicates membership in Cap & Dagger
**indicates membership in Theta Alpha Phi Theatre Honorary

THE CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Marlene	Tirzah Wise*
Waitress	Christine Oravec
Isabella Bird	Casey Weaver*
Lady Nijo	Yesenia Jimenez**
Dull Gret	Becca Blackwell*
Pope Joan	Julia Averill*
Patient Griselda	Laura Berlin
Jeanine	Marni Kuhn
Angie	Lisa Kneice*
Kit	Jollina Walker*
Joyce	Margenett Moore**
Nell	Janin Rhain Jones*
Win	Nicole A. Franklin**
Louise	Cara Miller
Mrs. Kidd	Sacha Vaughn
Shona	Tess Hartman

ACT ONE
Restaurant. Saturday night.

ACT TWO
Scene One: Top Girls' Employment agency. Monday morning.
Scene Two: Joyce's back yard. Sunday afternoon.
Scene Three: Employment agency. Monday morning.

ACT THREE
Joyce's kitchen. Sunday evening, a year earlier.

There will be two ten minute intermissions.

A Note on the Characters:

ISABELLA BIRD (1931-1904) lived in Edinburgh, travelled extensively between the ages of 40 and 70.
LADY NIJO (b. 1258) Japanese, was an Emperor's courtesan and later a Buddhist nun who travelled on foot through Japan.
DULL GRET is the subject of the Brueghel painting, *Dulle Griet*, in which a woman in an apron and armour leads a crowd of women charging through hell and fighting the devils.
POPE JOAN, diguised as a man, is thought to have been Pope between 854-856.
PATIENT GRISELDA is the obedient wife whose story is told by Chaucer in "The Clerk's Tale" of *The Canterbury Tales.*

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Born in London in 1938, raised in Montreal, and educated at Oxford, where she received a B.A. in English in 1960, Caryl Churchill is regarded as one of the finest dramatists in England. Her first play was produced when she was still an undergraduate, and she continued to write while raising three children in the 1960's. In the 70's her husband gave up his legal career to support hers, and she linked up with Max Stafford-Clark, artistic director of the Joint Stock Company, who has directed the premieres of many of her plays, including *Cloud 9* (restaged on Broadway by Tommy Tune), *Top Girls, Serious Money,* and *Mad Forest.*

Top Girls was first produced in London in 1982. "The ideas came from all kinds of things," Churchill stated in an interview two years later. "The idea for Dull Gret I found in some old notebook from 1977 or 78. There'd been the idea of a play about a lot of dead women having coffee with someone from the present... It was also that Thatcher had just become prime minister; and also I had been to America... and had been talking to women there who were saying things were going very well: they were getting far more women executives, women vice-presidents and so on. And that was such a different attitude from anything I'd ever met here, where feminism tends to be much more connected with socialism and not so much to do with women succeeding on the sort of capitalist ladder. All those ideas fed into *Top Girls.* I wanted it to set off, with all those historical women celebrating Marlene's achievement, to look as if it were going to be a celebration of women achieving things, and then to put the other perspective on it, to show that just to achieve the same things that men had achieved in capitalist society wouldn't be a good object."

The protagonist is Marlene, 32 when we first see her, who has just been promoted (over three colleagues, including a man) to Managing Director of the Top Girls Employment Agency. The first act is Marlene's fantasy of a celebratory dinner at the best restaurant in London. The second act shows us the desperation of women clients looking for a way out, without much help from Marlene and her colleagues who are themselves engaged in a Darwinian struggle for survival. Act Two also introduces us to Angie, representative of a class left behind in the 80's. The final act, set in the poor country town which Marlene left at the age of 17, takes place a year earlier. Traditional playwriting moves forward in time and locates truth in the protagonist's final end. Churchill, in this play, looks first at her protagonist's fantasies, then at the conditions of her current life, then seeks to find explanations in her past. It may not be conventional dramaturgy, but it is just as powerful in its effect. Stay to the end: you will be rewarded with revelations among the best in contemporary drama. *John Stefano*

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival XXVI

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This production is an Associate entry in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in collge-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for adjudication by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Last year more than 800 productions and 17,000 students participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

FACULTY/STAFF SPOTLIGHT

John Stefano (Chair) is currently in his second year as Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. He comes to us from Illinois State University where he was chair of their Theatre Department from 1989 to 1992. He was educated in California, where he received a B.A. degree in Theatre from Pomona College, an M.F.A. degree in Directing from the University of California-Riverside and the Ph.D. from UCLA. John directed last year's enormously popular musical *Big River* starring Ron Richardson. In a twenty-year career, he's directed more than 40 productions including everything from Greek tragedy to Gilbert and Sullivan. As a teacher, he's taught acting, directing, dramatic literature and theatre history, arts administration and theatre criticism. John is married to Sally, a professional educator, and they have two sons, David, 13, and Andrew, 11.

Rob Shaffer (Technical Director) is in his fourth year at Otterbein as a faculty member and technical director with the Department of Theatre and Dance. Rob received his MFA degree from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1990. Prior to graduate school, he worked semi-professionally for many years designing and building sets for community and high school theatre. Rob also spent a year as technical director with Reynsanda Productions at the Shady Lane Theatre in Northern Illinois. Rob recently designed the set for the summer production of *Pack of Lies*. His other set design credits at Otterbein include *The Tempest, The Passion of Dracula* and *All My Sons*.

GUEST BIOGRAPHY

Lauren K. Lambie (Guest Costume Designer) is currently living in New York State pursuing work as a fre-lance costume designer. She's held resident design positions at the Alley Theatre in Texas, Players Theatre in Columbus, and most recently at Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo. Her costume design credits include *A Midsummer-Night's Dream, The Waltz of the Toreadors, Richard II, Caesar and Cleopatra,* and the Otterbein productions of *Into The Woods, Evita,* and *Good.* Ms. Lambie has also designed for Interlochen Center for the Arts, American Players Theatre, S.U.N.Y. Geneseo, Downstairs Cabaret Theatre and the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

John Stefano *Chair*
Dennis Romer *Artistic Director*
Rob Johnson *Design faculty*
Christina Kirk *Performance faculty*
Katie Robbins *Design faculty*
Rob Shaffer *Design faculty and Technical Director*
Sharyllynn Shaw *Performance faculty and Director of Dance*
Ed Vaughan *Performance faculty*
Dana White *Design faculty*

Adjunct faculty:

George Boft *Dance*
Jon Devlin *Dance*
Troy Jansen *Dance*
Stella Kane *Dance*
Shirley McLain *Dance*
Tim Veach *Dance*
Linda Vaughan *Children's Theatre*

Staff:

Tod Wilson *Managing Director*
Jeanne Augustus *Administrative Assistant*
Marcia Hain *Costume Shop Supervisor*
Fred L. Smith *Assistant Technical Director*
Antonietta D'Agostino *Production Assistant*

Otterbein College Theatre is affiliated with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the Ohio Theatre Alliance, the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.

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Lecture, Nov. 1, 2 p.m., Room 201
Artist's Reception-Nov. 1, 3 p.m., Dunlap Gallery
Battelle Fine Arts Center

Artist Series

October 31 (Sunday)
The Metro Theater Company presents
The Yellow Boat, a special feature children's show.
2:00 p.m., *Cowan Hall*

November 11 (Thursday)
The Spice of Life–Six talented, energetic singers
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7:30 p.m., *Battelle Fine Arts Center*

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November 5 (Friday)
Opera Workshop–an evening of scenes from favorite operas.
8:00 p.m., *Battelle Fine Arts Center*

November 7 (Sunday)
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Directed by Pamela Hill
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WHO'S WHO ••• TOP GIRLS

Julia Averill (Pope Joan) is a senior BFA theatre major from Columbus. She was Kate Keller in last year's production of *All My Sons*, and just completed directing *Conduct of Life* for Otterbein's Workshop Theatre.

Jill Baird (stage manager) is a sophomore BFA design/tech major. Her credits include stage manager and properties master for OST's 1993 season, properties master for *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, and ass't. stage manager for *All My Sons*. She would like to thank her Mother for all her hard work and support.

Laura Berlin (Patient Griselda) is a sophomore BFA theatre major from Sidney, OH. Last year she was ass't. stage manager for *Big River* and the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of *Pack Of Lies*.

Becca Blackwell (Dulle Gret) is a junior performance major from Columbus. She's appeared in several Otterbein Workshop Theatre productions and is happy to be working on this show.

Nicole A. Franklin (Win) is a BFA musical theatre major from Marysville. She spent the summer at Enchanted Hills Summer Playhouse where she performed in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. *Top Girls* is her first mainstage production at Otterbein.

Tess Hartman (Shona) is a sophomore BFA musical theatre major from Baltimore. Previous credits at Otterbein include Gwen in *The Royal Family* and Shirley in *The Fifth of July*. She is also a member of Opus Zero and Chorale.

Robert Holland (master carpenter) is a BFA design/tech major from Swannanoa, NC. This is his third crewhead position at Otterbein. He enjoys elipsoidals, waterfalls, and arc welders. He would like to thank Lisa for her tolerance and smiles.

Yesenia Jimenez (Lady Nijo) is a senior BFA performance major. Her Otterbein credits include *Talking With...*, *The Mask of Beauty and the Beast*, and *Why I am a Bachelor*. Next term she will travel to New York to complete her internship at McCorkle Casting, after which she will graduate.

Janin Rhain Jones (Nell) is a BFA theatre major from Grand Junction, CO. She was last seen as the Twirler in Otterbein's production of *Talking With....* Janin would like to thank her family and friends for their support.

Cynthia Kehr (master painter) last served as sound designer for *I Hate Hamlet* and Miami University Summer Theatre's *Lend Me A Tenor*. Cynthia is a second year design/tech student from Oxford.

Lisa Kneice (Angie) is a junior BA performance major from Columbus. This is her first mainstage production at Otterbein. She is a member of Cap & Dagger and Kappa Phi Omega. Love to all her sisters.

Marni Kuhn (Jeanine) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Southbend, IN. This is her first mainstage production at Otterbein. She would like to thank her family for their love and her friends for keeping her on her toes.

Mary Kathleen Manson (properties master) is a BA design/tech and visual arts major. She's originally from Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Mike Marchal (ass't. stage manager) is a freshman BFA design/tech major from Logansport, IN. This is his first crew assignment at Otterbein.

Cara Miller (Louise) is a sophomore BFA musical theatre major from Louisville. She appeared as Miss Peak in last year's production of *The Royal Family.* Cara is also a member of Concert Choir.

Margenett Moore (Joyce) is a senior BA theatre/education major from Columbus. Her Otterbein credits include *Nunsense, Nunsense II, Talking With..., Rumors, Lend Me a Tenor, Pack of Lies, and Big River* and *Stepping Out.* She was most recently seen in a staged reading of *Come Down Burning*, by Kia Corthron.

Susan Nicholson (master electrician) is a senior BFA design/tech major from Gambier, OH. Last year she served as master painter for *The Royal Family* and *Big River* and she stage managed *The Marriage of Bette and Boo.*

Eric Nutter (sound designer) served as sound designer for last year's *All My Sons*, and master electrician for *The Royal Family.* A junior BFA design/tech major from Ashland, he was also master carpenter and ass't. tech director for *The Marriage of Bette and Boo.*

Christine Oravec (Waitress) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Vermilion, OH. This is her first mainstage performance. Last year she served on set crew for *The Royal Family* and wardrobe crew for *Big River.*

Tamara Sommerfeld (wardrobe master) most recently served as master electrician for *I Hate Hamlet.* She is a sophomore design/tech major from Columbus.

Jollina Walker (Kit) is a junior BFA performance major. She was last seen in Otterbein's production of *Big River* and the Workshop production of *The Frog Prince.* She enjoys peanut M&M's and long walks. She would also like to thank her family for their love and support.

Casey Weaver (Isabella Bird) is a junior BFA performance major from Cincinnati. She last appeared in *All My Sons* as Lydia. Her Workshop Theatre credits include *Suppressed Desires* and *Tentatively Morning.* She would like to dedicate this performance to her Grandfather, Paul Goetz.

Donna Williamson (set designer) is a senior design/tech major from Delaware. This is her first set design, however, she's designed costumes for *The Boys Next Door* and *The Marriage of Bette and Boo.*

Tirzah Wise (Marlene) is a junior BFA performance major. Some of her most recent Otterbein credits include *The Marriage of Bette and Boo, All My Sons,* and *Lend Me A Tenor.* She dedicates this show to Casyle Wise.

Sacha Vaughn (Mrs. Kidd) is a sophomore BFA performance major from Tustin, CA. making her mainstage debut. She's appeared in the Workshop productions of *Suppressed Desires* and *15 Minute Hamlet.*