

OTTERBEIN

C O L L E G E

Center for the Arts

Department of
Theatre and Dance

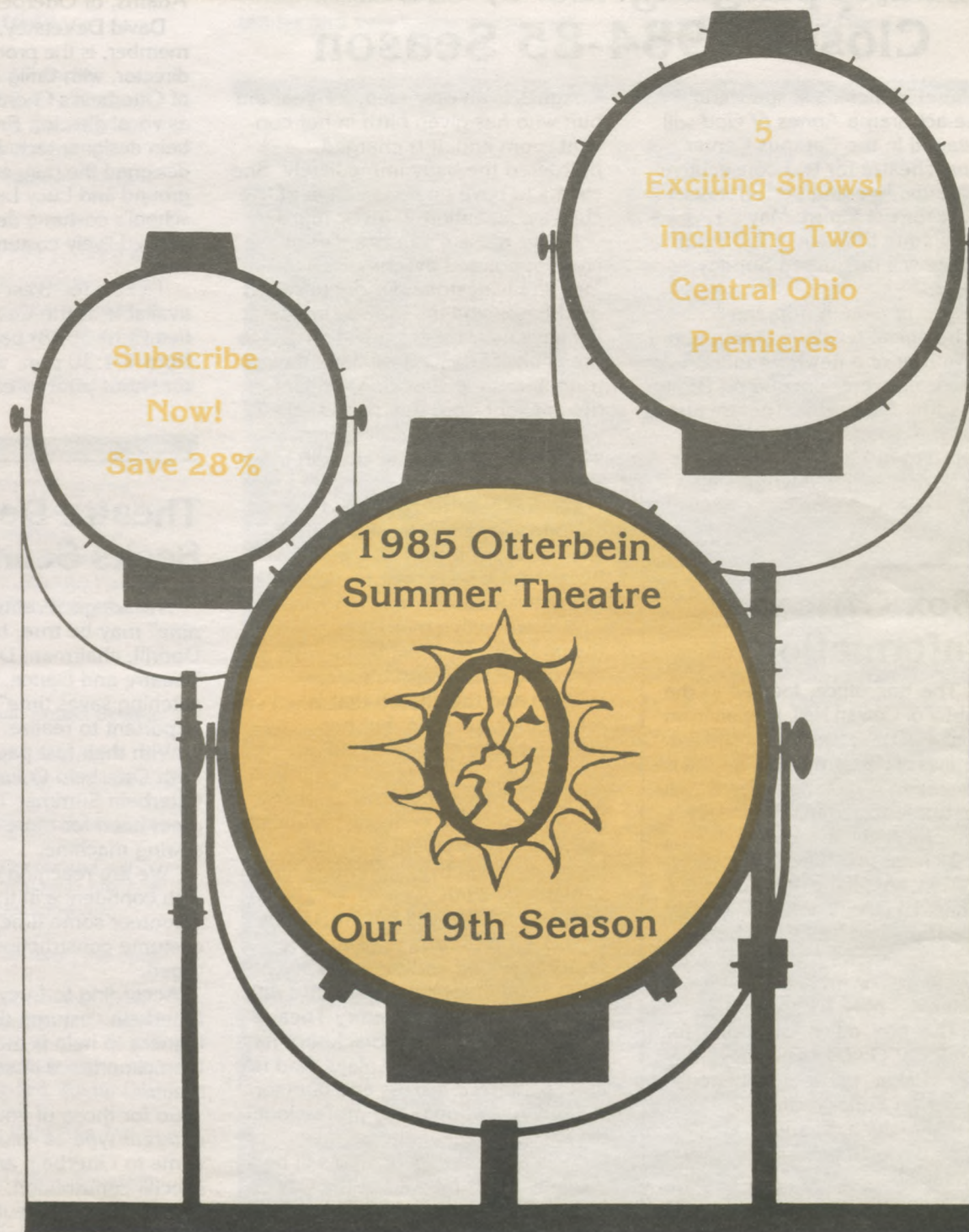
NEWSLETTER

Spring 1985

Volume 2, Number 2

This newsletter is published by the Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance as a means of informing theatre subscribers, alumni and friends of news of the department. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Contributing to the production of this issue were: Dr. Charles W. Dodrill and Ed Vaughan, Department of Theatre and Dance; and Andy Conrad, Susan Greiner and Ed Syguda, Office of College Relations.



Theatre and Music Departments Pool Efforts in *West Side Story*



Members of the Jets gang dance in their coffee shop hang-out in Otterbein's Spring 1977 production of West Side Story.

The Sharks and the Jets will rumble in Cowan Hall when Otterbein College Theatre, in cooperation with the College's Department of Music, produces the ever-popular *West Side Story* May 9-12. Evening performances are May 9-11 at 8:15 p.m.; a Sunday matinee will be performed at 2:30 p.m. May 12.

A timeless musical drama about Puerto Rican-American feuds in New York slums, *West Side Story* has shocked and delighted audiences for nearly 30 years.

With a script by Arthur Laurents that tells of love and warfare between youthful Puerto Rican and American gangs on the streets of New York, *West Side Story* boasts a musical score by Leonard Bernstein

and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

Ever since its opening in New York in the fall of 1957, the play has been regarded as having opened up new horizons for stage musical presentations. *Time* magazine called it "a milestone in musical-drama history."

West Side Story deliberately follows the plot pattern of *Romeo and Juliet* in telling of a star-crossed love between an American boy and a Puerto Rican girl, which brings with it all the heartbreak, feuding and death that plagued the families in Shakespeare's tragedy.

In this modern version of the tale, a tenement fire escape takes the place of Juliet's balcony, switchblade knives are the dueling weapons, and the rival factions are

"cool" young gangsters instead of gentlemen of Verona.

The musical score has been described by critics as the career masterpiece of Leonard Bernstein. Music ranges from the thrill violence of the dance-accompaniments and the terror and suspense of "Something's Coming" and "Cool," to the lilting melodies of "Maria," "Tonight, Tonight" and "I Have a Love."

The leading roles of the large cast will be played by Sherri Puderbaugh (Maria) as the Puerto Rican heroine, and Tim Gregory (Tony) as her American sweetheart.

Ed Vaughan, of the theatre faculty at Otterbein, is general director of *West Side Story*. Joanne VanSant, Otterbein's vice president of student affairs and dean of students, is

Gripping *Agnes of God* Closes 1984-85 Season

John Pielmeier's suspenseful, three-act drama *Agnes of God* will be staged in the Campus Center Arena Theatre for two consecutive weekends. Evening performances are set for 8:15 p.m. May 31, June 1, and June 5-8, and a 2:30 p.m. matinee will be offered Sunday, June 2.

Agnes of God, a gripping psychological-religious drama about the murder of a newborn infant in a Catholic convent, opened on Broadway at the Music Box Theatre just three years ago. The play was referred to in *Variety* magazine as "the work of a gifted writer with a keen sense of drama."

Agnes is an obsessed, 21-year-old nun who has given birth in her convent room and, it is charged, murdered the baby immediately. She claims to have no recollection of the child's conception, birth or murder.

Under those circumstances, a court-appointed psychiatrist, Dr. Martha Livingstone, is sent to report on the girl, and the play is, in effect, the psychiatrist's story. The challenge the analyst faces is to unlock the truth about the shocking incident in the convent from the frightened, waifish novitiate, and determine whether Agnes is sane enough to stand trial.

But the psychiatrist is also a strange woman. A lapsed Catholic, she has a grudge against nuns because she feels their neglect killed her sister while she was a novitiate.

The protective mother superior of the convent, Mother Miriam Ruth, demonstrates an approach to religion and the church that is refreshingly realistic, but her religious beliefs are scorned one by one by Dr. Livingstone.

In Pielmeier's spellbinding play, the three women convene on a stark stage and slowly peel away the layers of protective subterfuge and explore the truth.

Agnes of God will be directed by Suzanne Blackburn, assistant professor of acting and directing at The Ohio State University. Formerly with the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, Ms. Blackburn has directed more than 80 plays, and is an experienced actress and director in both educational and professional theatre.

Tickets for *Agnes of God* will be available from May 23 at the Cowan Hall box office (890-3028) 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Box Office Information

The box office, located in the lobby of Cowan Hall, is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performance weeks. It is also open beginning at 7 p.m. on performance evenings and at 1 p.m. for matinee shows.

Tickets for *West Side Story* will go on sale at the box office Thursday, April 25. Tickets for the Thursday, May 9 and Sunday, May 12 shows are \$5.00. Performances on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 are \$6.00.

The box office will open for *Agnes of God* on Thursday, May 23. Ticket prices for performances on Sunday, June 2, Wednesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 6 are \$3.50. Tickets for the Friday shows (May 31 and June 8) and Saturday shows (June 1 and June 8) are \$4.50.

Faculty Profile

Lucy Lee Reuther

It's Been a Busy Year for Otterbein's Talented Costume Designer



It has been a busy year for Lucy Lee Reuther, member of the Otterbein theatre faculty for nearly four years. In November, *The Wizard of Oz*, under her direction, broke all previous Cowan Hall box office records, with 5,498 in attendance.

She directed Dorothy and her friends—a task which included managing a temperamental Scottish terrier and some 30 wriggling chickens—with her typical aplomb.

Reuther, Otterbein costume designer, capably tackles a giant share of projects, and says she is then too busy for any undue worrying about them. In fact, on opening night of *The Wizard of Oz*, she had to leave Cowan Hall so that she and her husband of eight years, Robert Fox, could compete in a mixed doubles tennis tournament at a local athletic club.

Working with a small group of work study students and sophomore practicum students, Reuther created the contemporary costumes for *Equus*, the 1984-85 season opener, then after *The Wizard of Oz*, put together a double wardrobe for the mid-seventies and the mid-fifties flashbacks of *Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*.

Most recently, *The Imaginary Invalid* provided Reuther her biggest challenge this year. "It was tedious, but I loved it," she said.

Depending on the play, she may choose to haunt local thrift shops for castaway clothing that has just the look she needs. She may be charged with the task of altering costumes used in another play, as was the case when she painstakingly changed the wardrobes used in *Tartuffe* to the perfect dressings for *The Imaginary Invalid*, or she may create original costumes, which is her favorite alternative.

Dressing hoods and nuns are projects next on tap for the versatile Reuther as she designs and contracts costumes for *West Side Story* and *Agnes of God*.

Reuther attended the University of Dayton and holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from the College of Dayton Art Institute, with a double major in printmaking and ceramics. She went to graduate school planning to become a set designer, but instead earned a master of fine arts degree at the California Institute of the Arts, in Valencia, where she majored in design with an emphasis in costume.

Prior to coming to Otterbein, Reuther spent nine years directing the community theatre program for the city of Dayton Recreation Department, where she directed both adult and children's groups. Her background also includes being employed by the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia's *Magic Mountain*, and the University of Montana Department of Drama/Dance.

Theatre Department Seeks Seamstresses

The adage "A stitch in time saves nine" may be true, but Dr. Charles Dodrill, chairman, Department of Theatre and Dance, feels "Nine stitching saves time" is just as important to realize.

With their fast-paced schedules, both Otterbein College Theatre and Otterbein Summer Theatre have a great need for more hands at the sewing machine.

"We are reaching out to anyone with confidence in this area to please volunteer some time to assist with costume construction," Dr. Dodrill urged.

According to Lucy Lee Reuther, Otterbein costume designer, a willingness to help is more important than experience in sewing for the theatre.

So for those of you looking for a different type of volunteer work, come to Otterbein and make a very special contribution. For more information, call Ms. Reuther at 890-3000, extension 1203.

The 1985 Otterbein Summer Theatre Season with Guest Artist Dennis Romer and Ed Vaughan

Comedy

Arsenic and Old Lace

June 25, 26, 27,
28, 29, 30

Tues.-Sun. Matinee
(Note the special matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 30.)

This Joseph Kesselring classic comedy promises to start our 19th season on a high note of hilarity.

The story revolves around the Brewster sisters, two charming and lovable ladies, who populate their cellar with the remains of "acceptable" victims and the zany antics of their family: a brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, a fugitive nephew whose recent plastic surgery has backfired and another nephew who is having difficulty accepting his Aunties' unique "hobby." Join us for one of the most popular comedies of all time.

Musical

Central Ohio Premiere

Baby

July 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Fri.-Sun. Mat.;

Tues.-Sat.

(Note the special matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 7.)

Central Ohio will have its first opportunity to experience this delightful Broadway musical, which explores the joys, pains and comedies of three very different couples and their journey to parenthood. The Tony award-nominated score with music by David Shire and lyrics by Richard Maltby Jr. includes "At Night She Comes Home to Me," "Fatherhood Blues," and "Two People in Love." *Baby* promises to be an intimate and humorous evening of musical theatre.

returned. This is the story of the Englishmen. Blending historical fact drawn from the journals of Antarctic explorer Captain Scott with brilliantly devised fantasy scenes, author Ted Tally has crafted a compelling study of heroism in the face of bitter defeat. Managing Director Ed Vaughan will portray Captain Scott and guest artist Dennis Romer will direct the production.

theatre. The play is a series of nine vignettes linked together by The Writer (played by guest artist Dennis Romer), who offers wise and droll comment on the characters he has created. The sketches offer an appealing balance of hilarious and poignant moments.

Comedy

The Good Doctor

July 23, 24, 25,
26, 27

Tuesday-Saturday

"...he (Mr. Simon) has never provided anything more delightful than *The Good Doctor*." —**Richard Watts, New York Post.**
"It is a lovely show." —**Marilyn Stasio, Cue.**

"A comedy that should appeal to your head, your heart and your funnybone." —**George Oppenheimer, Newsday.**

Neil Simon has collaborated with Anton Chekhov to produce a warm, tender and very funny evening of

Mystery

Murder on the Nile

July 30, 31, Aug.
1, 2, 3

Tuesday-Saturday

(Note the addition of a special Saturday matinee at 2:30 p.m. on August 3.)

Take heart mystery buffs, once again we close our season with our old friend Agatha Christie. This time we find ourselves on a paddle steamer on the Nile River with the usual collection of intriguing characters and enough twists and turns in the plot to keep us on the edge of our seats. Make your plans early as the last two summer mysteries have played to 100 percent audience capacity. If you love a mystery, don't miss *Murder on the Nile*.

Drama

Central Ohio Premiere

Terra Nova

July 16, 17, 18,
19, 20

Tuesday-Saturday

"Mr. Tally is a most literate writer." —**Richard Eder, N.Y. Times.** "...explores the heart of courage in a white hell of adversity." —**T.E. Kalem, Time Magazine.**

In the winter of 1911-1912 five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the earth. Only the five Norwegians

The Summer Theatre box office is located in the Campus Center and will open on Monday, June 17. Regular box office hours are from 12:30 to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The box office is closed on Sunday. The box office phone is 890-3028. For information before June 17, please call 890-3000, ext. 1657. The air-conditioned Campus Center arena seats 287. Reduced rates are available for groups of 25 or more.

Company

Approximately 20 students comprise the Summer Theatre acting and technical company. Actors include Jodie Silk, Steve Salyer, Laura Stitt, Tim Gregory, Liana Peters, Jeff Kin, Allison Dixon and David Caldwell. The acting-apprentices are Catherine Randazzo, Marc Foster and Roy Woods. Tod Wilson will serve as assistant to the managing director. Joanna Fabian and Todd Freeman will function as properties masters, and the box office manager will be Chris Cox.

Directors and Designers

Ed Vaughan, Otterbein theatre faculty member, will portray Captain Robert Scott in *Terra Nova* as well as serve as managing director.

Lucy Lee Reuther, Otterbein theatre faculty member, will serve as a costume designer for the summer and will direct the children's theatre production of *Androcles and the Lion*.

Michael Slane returns for his third summer season and will function as technical director as well as scenic designer for *Murder on the Nile*.

Dennis Romer, guest professional artist, will appear in *The Good Doctor* and will direct *Terra Nova*. Last summer, Mr. Romer played Ken Harrison in *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* and directed the critically-acclaimed production of *The Dining Room*.

Geoffrey Nelson, who last summer directed the highly successful production of *Witness for the Prosecution*, will return this summer to direct the opening production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Robert Hetherington, an accomplished director from the Dayton, Ohio area, joins Otterbein Summer Theatre for the first time. Mr. Hetherington will direct the Central Ohio premiere of the musical *Baby* and *The Good Doctor*.

Dr. Roy Bowen, professor emeritus of The Ohio State University, will direct the closing production of *Murder on the Nile*. Dr. Bowen most recently directed *Jimmy Dean* for the Otterbein winter season.

Fred J. Thayer, Otterbein scenic designer, will design the sets for *Baby* and *The Good Doctor*.

David Hammond, who last summer designed *The Fantasticks*, will return to design the sets for *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Terra Nova*.

Lynn Roseberry, who two summers ago served as musical director for *I Do! I Do!*, returns this summer to be musical director for *Baby*.

Summer Theatre 1984 A Smashing Success



The *Fantasticks* broke all attendance records for Summer Theatre musicals.



The *Dining Room* was critically acclaimed by the *Columbus Citizen-Journal*.

Patrons

Summer Theatre patron memberships (tax deductible) are available for \$10 or more per couple or individual. Patron receipts are used to pay small stipends to qualified company members and to meet any deficit at the end of the season.

During the past 18 seasons more than 150 families, groups, businesses, and individuals have contributed \$10 or more to help establish the Otterbein Summer Theatre program. A minimum of \$2,000 is needed to support the activities and personnel currently planned for the 1985 Summer Theatre.

Current theatre patrons will be listed in the program, and those who are season ticket holders will have the option of purchasing four extra tickets for each production at the reduced season ticket rates.

Subscriber Benefits

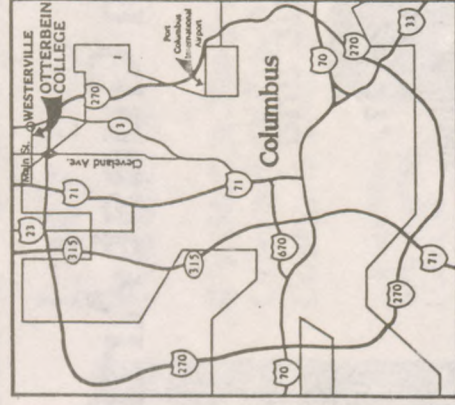
Season ticket subscribers enjoy these benefits:

- Savings of 28% over the cost of individual tickets.
- Choice of seats in advance.
- Free parking.
- Priority renewal in subsequent seasons, ensuring the best seats available.
- Quarterly newsletters—News of Otterbein College Theatre, including ticket order forms and updates on alumni in the business.



Last year's mystery thriller, *Witness for the Prosecution*, starring Ed Vaughan, played to 100 percent capacity during its five-day run.

Easy to Reach



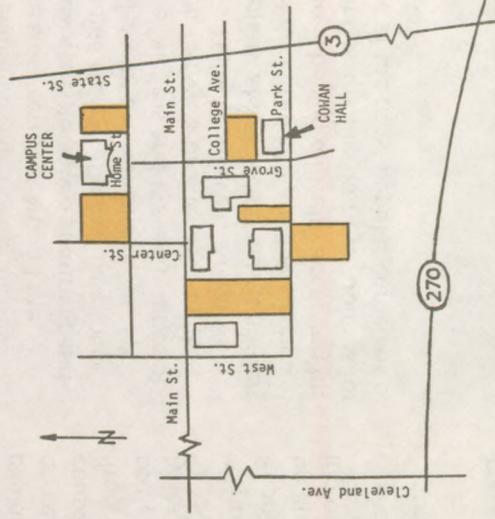
Special!
Children's Theatre

Androcles and the Lion

July 18, 19, 20
Thursday-Saturday

Based on an old Aesop's fable, Aurand Harris' *Androcles and the Lion* is the story of a good-natured Roman slave who befriends a hurt lion while trying to win his freedom from a miserly master. The play is a comedy with plenty of action guaranteed to provide an entertaining afternoon for the young and old alike. Performance dates are: Thurs., Fri., and Sat. July 18, 19, 20 with two performances daily at 1:15 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. General admission is \$2.50; groups over 25—\$2.00. Make your plans early; last year's children's show played to 95 percent capacity.

Free Parking



----- Cut Out and Mail to Otterbein College Summer Theatre, Westerville, Ohio 43081 -----

1985 SUMMER THEATRE SEASON TICKET ORDER

Save 28%

See 5 Shows for the Price of 4!!!

Individual Ticket Prices

	Option 1 Fri.-Sat.	Option 2 Wed.-Thur.	Option 3 Opening Night Club Tues. 6/25 musical date of your choice Tues. 7/16 Tues. 7/23 Tues. 7/30
ARSENIC AND OLD LACE	\$5.50	\$4.50	
BABY	\$6.50	\$5.50	
TERRA NOVA (with guest artist Ed Vaughan)	\$6.00	\$5.00	
THE GOOD DOCTOR (with guest artist Dennis Romer)	\$6.00	\$5.00	
MURDER ON THE NILE	\$5.50	\$4.50	

SEASON TICKET COST	\$21.00 (save 28%)	\$18.00 (save 28%)	\$16.00 (see five shows at less than \$3.25 per show)
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Circle desired first choice date for each play and underline your second choice in case the first is not available. (Opening Nite Club must circle all Tuesdays plus musical date of your choice)

	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
				MAT.		MAT.
ARSENIC	(June)	25	26	27	28	29
BABY	(July)	9	10	11	12	13
TERRA NOVA	(July)	16	17	18	19	20
GOOD DOCTOR	(July)	23	24	25	26	27
MURDER (July-August)	30	31	1	2	3	3

All performances take place in the 287-seat Arena Theatre in the Otterbein College Campus Center. Matinee performances on Sunday, June 30, Sunday, July 7 and Saturday, August 3 are at 2:30 p.m. All other performances are at 8:30 p.m.

I wish to order _____
I wish to order _____
I wish to order _____
I wish to order _____

Option 1 season tickets at \$21.00 each (Save 28%)
Option 2 season tickets at \$18.00 each (Save 28%)
Option 3 opening nite club tickets at \$16.00 each
tickets for "Androcles and the Lion" at \$2.50 each

Circle Desired Date for "Androcles and the Lion"

(July 18 1:15 p.m.)(July 19 1:15 p.m.)(July 20 1:15 p.m.)
(July 18 2:45 p.m.)(July 19 2:45 p.m.)(July 20 2:45 p.m.)

Theatre Patron \$10.00 (minimum)
Total Enclosed \$

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your tickets will be mailed to you the week of June 17-21.

Make check payable to Otterbein College Summer Theatre or charge to:

Master Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Visa Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Name _____ Signature (for charge card) _____ Zip Code _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____
Phone (Daytime) _____ I am a _____ new subscriber.
_____ former subscriber.

Ticket requests will be filled in the order that they arrive at the Box Office.

Center for the Arts Spring Term Calendar

ART

April 1-May 12 Classicism; a didactic exhibition, Battelle Fine Arts Center
May 19-June 16 Otterbein Alumni Exhibition and Senior Show-Campus Center

MUSIC

April 19-21 Opus Zero "Pizazz '85," Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 7:00 p.m. Sun.
May 8 Louise Earhart, Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m.

May 17

May 19

May 22

June 1

June 2

Early Music Ensemble, Philomathean Room, Towers Hall, 8:15 p.m.
Westerville Civic Symphony and Concert Choir, Cowan Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Percussion Ensemble, Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m.
Combined Choirs, Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m.
Concert Band, Cowan Hall, 7:00 p.m.

June 5

June 15

June 16

POETRY

May 6

Morton Achter and Michael Haberkorn duo pianos, Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m.
Alumni Choir, Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m.
Alumni Band Commencement Concert, Rike Center, 11:00 a.m.
Bobbie Ann Mason, Battelle Fine Arts Center, 8:15 p.m.