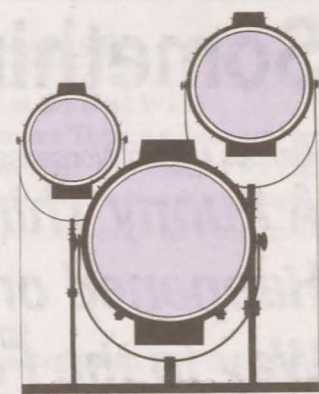


Stages



SPRING 1991 ▼ VOLUME II, NUMBER 3

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

A 25th Anniversary comes once in a lifetime *Otterbein Summer Theatre celebrates it with gusto*

Three words that best describe this year's 25th anniversary summer season are FUN, FUN and more FUN!

First up is the zany (clever adjective meaning fun) musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with Equity guest artist Ed Vaughan leading the onstage hijinx. This one has to be fun because it says so in the title. It's not *A Serious Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. And it is funny.

Show number two is *Blue Window*, a Central Ohio Premiere comedy written by award-winning playwright Craig Lucas and guest-directed by Carter Lewis. The best way to describe this one is clever, offbeat—a thinking person's comedy. Seven somewhat pretentious 30-something New Yorkers attend a dinner party where no one really knows anyone. Trust us, it's funny.

Charles W. Dodrill (the man who started it all 24 years ago) returns this summer to direct our final show *Not Now, Darling*, the sequel to last year's monster hit *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*. If you liked that show, and we know you did (many of you came back to see it again), you'll love this one. Be forewarned, *Not Now, Darling* is truly low comedy—no thinking allowed!

Okay, get the point? If you want to be where the fun is this summer,



come join us as we celebrate 25 years of laughter at Otterbein Summer Theatre. Also be sure to contribute a little extra this time to the Summer Theatre Patron Fund because this much fun isn't cheap and besides, we need the cash!

Finally and seriously, it's been our pleasure entertaining all of you over the past 24 summers. In fact,

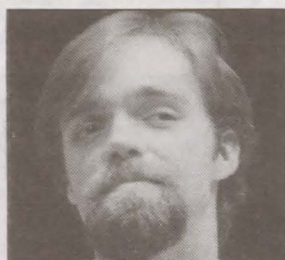
summer is our favorite time of the year. We'd much rather be onstage every night in the basement of the Campus Center than be anywhere else. Thank you for your continued generous support of our program and we hope to see you again this year as we celebrate the very special tradition that we call Otterbein Summer Theatre. ▼

▼ *Caught in the act!* Guest artists Dennis Romer and Ed Vaughan take to the floor in last year's record-breaking hit *Move Over Mrs. Markham*.

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Wasserstein at her cynical best in *Uncommon Women*
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Department of Theatre & Dance
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Something for everyone, a comedy tonight

Hilarious Musical Nonsense

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold S. Prince

June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30;

July 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Wed. - Sun. Matinee; Tues. - Sun. Matinee;
No show on July 4

Featuring Equity Guest Artist
Ed Vaughan* and
Guest Director/Choreographer
Doreen Dunn*

An American musical classic, *Forum* opened on Broadway in 1962 and immediately earned six Tony Awards for its creators and star performer (Zero Mostel). Since then, this outrageous musical farce was made into a major motion picture hit and has enjoyed numerous hysterical revivals worldwide. Blending the hilarious illogicalities of Latin comedy and the zany nonsense of vaudeville, the story of this musical concerns the connivings of a certain slave, Pseudolous (guest actor Ed Vaughan), to achieve his freedom. His young master, Hero, promises Pseudolous to grant him freedom if he can obtain for Hero the beautiful girl, Philia, whom he has seen from a window. Deliciously unsavory characters, parents, neighbors and even strangers, are involved in the mounting confusion as the side-splitting comedy unwinds. Featuring the merry musical numbers "Comedy Tonight," "Everybody Ought To Have A Maid," "Pretty Little Picture," and "Impossible," *Forum* has everything that's been making farces raucously comic for two thousand years—mistaken identities, masquerades, lecherous old duffers chasing pretty girls and young lovers panting to get married. ▼

Central Ohio Premiere Comedy

Blue Window

by Craig Lucas

July 10, 11, 12, 13, 14;

17, 18, 19, 20, 21

Wed. - Sun. Matinee, each week

Directed by Guest Professional
Carter W. Lewis*

An Off-Broadway hit and winner of the prestigious George and Elisabeth Marton playwriting award, as well as the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award, *Blue Window* is a funny, inventive account of the lives of seven New Yorkers gathered together for a Sunday evening dinner party. During the course of the play we get an intimate glimpse of the before, during and after of the party and its wonderfully bizarre party guests; most of whom are artists of various kinds. There's a narcissistic actor, an aspiring musician, a noted writer, a family therapist, a secretary and a parachuting instructor; all of whom come to life in this truly original ensemble comedy. Written by relative newcomer Craig Lucas (whose other plays include *Reckless* and the current Broadway smash *Prelude to a Kiss*), "*Blue Window* is a joy! A terrific new play . . ."—Michael Feingold, *The Village Voice*. ▼

Note: *Blue Window* is a sophisticated work intended for mature audiences only.



Uproarious Farce

Not Now, Darling

by Ray Cooney and John Chapman

July 24, 25, 26, 27, 28; 31,

Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4; 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Wed. - Sun. Matinee, each week

Directed by Charles W. Dodrill
Featuring Equity Guest Artist
Marcus Smythe

Written by the same scandalous pair that authored last year's all-time biggest summer theatre hit *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*, this year's offering is merely a variation on that same hilarious theme. The scene is the exclusive London fur salon of Bodley and Crouch, where Crouch (the well-meaning innocent) struggles to keep things on an even keel despite the energetic philanderings of his partner. At the moment Bodley is trying to secure the affections of his latest would-be mistress by "selling" her husband an expensive mink coat for a fraction of its real worth, and the stammering Crouch is saddled with the task of consummating the sale with a straight face. But, as luck would have it, the husband seizes the bargain coat as the perfect gift for his own mistress—whereupon the complications burgeon uproariously, with poor Crouch caught in the middle. Suspicious wives, mistaken identities, scantily clad girls clapped hurriedly into closets and a barrage of rapid fire jokes all become part of the riotous doings in this evening of " . . . non-stop laughter. The most uninhibited belly laugh in town."—*The London Sunday Express*. ▼

* All guest artists subject to change pending final availability.

La Mancha will parade student talent May 1-5

Otterbein College Theatre this year offers *Man of La Mancha* as the spring musical spectacular which will be performed May 1 through 5.

This internationally-acclaimed musical play combines the madly comic eccentricities of the immortal fictional figure Don Quixote with a moving account of the adversities that beset his creator Miguel de Cervantes. The show opens with Cervantes in prison trying to save his manuscript from destruction. To do so, he acts out scenes from his tales of Don Quixote beginning with the famous episode of the knight tilting windmills.

Junior Jess Hanks fills the dual role of Cervantes and Quixote and with an amazingly quick make-up job transforms himself on stage before the audience's eyes from the broken prisoner to the eccentric knight as the Spanish author becomes his hero.

"I think the appeal of this play to the audience is that it speaks to the dreamer in all of us, particularly with the character of Cervantes. His dreams bring hope to the prisoners who have none," says Director

Dennis Romer, who will again be directing the spring musical. Romer last year directed the very popular and successful *Evita*.

In the two-hour parade of characters on the stage and more than 20 rousing songs, the show crystallizes the thousand episode-crammed pages in which Cervantes exposed the absurdities of his day. He created an inept hero who is steeped in the exaggerated romances of knight-errant that had been the popular literature of previous times.

Don Quixote is the errant knight who believes the long dead age of chivalry is still alive. With his faithful servant Sancho Panza by his side, Quixote goes forth in his tarnished armor in quest of adventure, determined to redress all grievances, right wrongs and champion lost causes in the pursuit of honor and renown.

Under the delusion that he is a courtly knight, he tilts with a windmill that he takes to be a giant in disguise, and embarks on countless equally ridiculous forays, mistaking the coarse, mocking peasants he encounters for gentle lords and ladies. Quixote's gallantry is ex-

tended to a slatternly tavern wench whom he sees only as a fair maid in distress; to a ruffianly innkeeper who to him is lord of a castle, to a coarsely impish barber who becomes to him a courtly sorcerer. The sober-faced Don pursues his lunatic career with fanatical zeal, completely oblivious of the mockery he receives from those around him.

Despite setbacks, beatings, scorn and disillusion, the Don

keeps on tilting at real and metaphorical windmills, an invincible idealist. Eventually the pathetic but noble-hearted creature returns home to regain his sanity and die quietly in bed.

Senior Colby Anne Paul will portray Aldonza, the raucous bar maid who appears in the Don's deluded eyes as the fair Dulcinea, a maid of delicate beauty. In the end, when Quixote is lying on his death

(continued on next page)



▼ Jess Hanks as Cervantes/Quixote and Colby Anne Paul as the beautiful tavern wench Aldonza/Dulcinea who captures his heart and imagination in the upcoming musical *Man of La Mancha*.



Why Subscribe?

▼ The Best Seats at the Best Price

Only Otterbein Summer Theatre subscribers are guaranteed the "best seats in the house" for each and every production. And subscribers always receive the lowest possible price for their priority seating.

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Once you subscribe, those seats are yours each year unless you tell us otherwise. You'll also have the first chance to improve your seating in subsequent seasons as special consideration is always given to former subscribers.

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Along with your season tickets you'll receive our "Bring-a-Friend" coupons which allow you to purchase additional tickets at a reduced rate. It's a perfect solution when friends drop in suddenly!

▼ Sold Out

Over the past few summers, most of our best shows have sold out forcing a lot of disappointed folks to stay home. When you subscribe you'll never miss a show because you couldn't get tickets.

▼ A Free Subscription to *Stages*

Published quarterly, *Stages* is the Otterbein College Theatre newsletter that features discount ticket order forms as well as updates on alumni in the business.



▼ Clockwise from left: The Talley family portrait from last year's 5th of July featuring guest artist Dennis Romer. *Whodunnit?* Alex Chatfield, Anastasia Klimaszewski and Colby Anne Paul in a mysterious moment from the thriller *Night Watch*. It can't be a bedroom farce without a bed! Meg Chamberlain, Bill Timmins, Cheryl Gaysunas and Mike Warren in *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*.

**SUMMER THEATRE
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(continued from preceding page)

bed, a feeble old man who has forgotten his days of knighthood, Dulcinea comes to his bedside to whisper the words of the song he once sang, *To Dream the Impossible Dream*. The memory of Quixote floods the old man's conscience. He rouses himself, stands up and for a last precious moment is Don Quixote again.

At Otterbein, *Man of La Mancha* is co-sponsored by the Department of Music with Craig Johnson acting as music director and David DeVenney acting as vocal director.

Romer and Johnson agree that it was Johnson's enthusiasm about *Man of La Mancha* that initially lead the theatre department to consider this play for the spring musical. "This is one of my favorite shows," Johnson says. "It's challenging but the cast is up to it. It's a highly emotional musical. It is a gripping show both musically and dramatically."

While billed as a drama, Romer points out that comedy, especially physical comedy, is also a component of the play. Much of that comedy, in fact most of the movement and dance in the musical, has been choreographed by Patricia Hiatt, who is a newcomer to Otterbein

College Theatre.

Since Cervantes' death in 1616, more than 200 theatrical adaptations of his novel have been made including operas, plays, films, ballets and television shows but none of these matched the popularity of the musical. This musical first opened in 1965 and won all major theatre awards that season being named as best musical by N.Y. Drama Critics Circle, The Outer Circle, The *Variety* Poll and *Saturday Review*. It is one of the longest running hits in Broadway history with 2,328 performances over five years. *Man of La Mancha* is indeed one of the great musical classics of the modern theatre.

"*Man of La Mancha* has much to recommend it," wrote John McCarten of The New Yorker. "including a characterization of the knight that is at once lunatic and pathetic, of Cervantes himself that is grave and compelling." ▼

Wasserstein's *Women* mirrors modern society

Uncommon Women and Others, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein, revolves around the reunion and reminiscences of five Mount Holyoke graduates. The friends meet for lunch six years after graduation and through a series of flashbacks reveal how their hopes and dreams have been attained, changed or cast aside. Wasserstein's play is a look at how this group of women deals with the conflicting signals of being educated for careers while also being socially groomed to be perfect wives and mothers.

Otterbein is pleased to welcome Ellen Newman, an assistant professor from The Ohio State University Department of Theatre, as guest director for this final play of the season which will be performed May 29-31, June 1-2 and 4-9. Newman has studied theatre and acting at OSU, the State University of New York and The Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She has taught at Cornell University, Ithaca College, Baruch College, American Musical and Dramatic Academy as well as currently teaching at OSU. Newman has performed in four Broadway productions, including *84, Charing Cross Road*, *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, as well as several plays off-Broadway and in London. In regional theatres, she has captured parts in *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Private Lives* and several others. She has also done a stint on the soap opera circuit with parts on *Ryan's Hope* and *All My Children*.

Since joining the OSU faculty, Newman's directing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed at that university and her acting credits include a part in *Broadway Bound* and the lead role in *Driving Miss Daisy*, both performed at Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, NY. She has also served as speech and voice coach for the OSU productions of *The School for Scandal*, *Twelfth Night*, *Detective Story*, *Inherit the Wind* and *Please Don't Hold the Dog Up to the Casket: An Evening with Mike Harden*. This is the first time Newman has directed at Otterbein. ▼

Patron Fund Drive
Categories
Established

To help support our ambitious 25th anniversary summer season, the following categories have been established for our 1991 Patron Fund Drive.

- Director: \$150.00 or more
- Star: \$100.00 to \$149.00
- Featured Player: \$50.00 to \$99.00
- Cameo: \$10.00 to \$49.00

Current theatre patrons will be listed in the program by category and all contributions are tax deductible. During the past 25 years, almost 200 families, groups, businesses and individuals have contributed each season to the Summer Theatre Patron Fund. Without this support, Otterbein Summer Theatre would not exist. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Note: Any contribution of \$25.00 or more automatically entitles you to membership in the Theatre Guild, a volunteer support organization affiliated with Otterbein College Theatre. For those wishing to participate in future Guild activities, please contact the Theatre Office at (614) 898-1657. ▼

Stages is the free behind-the-scenes newsletter of Otterbein College Theatre. Contributing to this issue were:

Dr. Donald W. Seay
Chairman/Artistic Director

Dennis Romer
Associate Artistic Director/Summer

Tod Wilson
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Jeanne Augustus
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Patricia Kessler
Director of College Relations

Patrice M. Etter
Director of Publications

Patti Kennedy
Staff Writer

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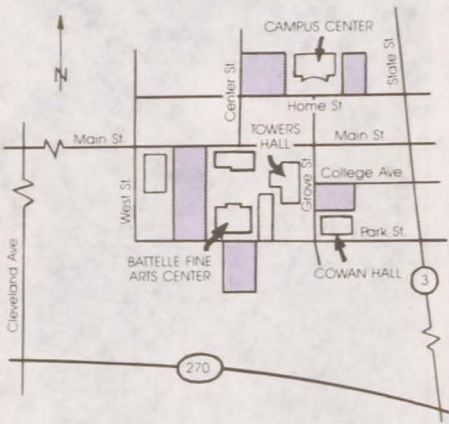
The Summer Theatre Box Office is located in the Campus Center and will open on Monday, June 17. Regular summer box office hours are from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The box office phone number is 898-1109. For more information before June 17, please call 898-1209 or 898-1657.

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▼ And yet another ridiculous moment from last year's Move Over, Mrs. Markham with Cheryl Gaysunas, Bill Timmins and Mary Randle.

----- Cut here and mail to Otterbein College Summer Theatre, Westerville, Ohio 43081 -----

1991 Summer Theatre Season Ticket Order Form

Individual Ticket Prices (Save 14-29%)

	Option #1 Fri-Sat	Option #2 Tues.-Wed. Thurs.	Option #3 Opening Nite Club	Option #4 Sunday Matinees
FORUM <i>Hilarious Musical Nonsense</i>	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$9.25	\$8.50
BLUE WINDOW <i>Central Ohio Premiere Comedy</i>	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$9.25	\$8.50
NOT NOW, DARLING <i>Uproarious Farce</i>	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$9.25	\$8.50
Single Ticket Total	\$31.50	\$28.50	\$27.75	\$25.50
Season Ticket Cost	\$27.00 (Save 14%)	\$24.00 (Save 16%)	\$22.00 (Save 21%)	\$18.00 (Save 29%)

Season Ticket Availability Dates

Season tickets are available only for the dates listed below. Please circle desired date for each play and underline your second choice in case the first is not available. Note: Opening Nite Club must circle the first Wednesday performance for all shows.

	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mat.
FORUM June/July	2	26 3	27 No Show	28 5	29 6	30 7	
BLUE WINDOW July		10 17	11 18	12 19	13 20	14 21	
NOT NOW, DARLING July/August		24 31	25 1	26 2	27 3	28 4	

All performances take place in the intimate Campus Center Theatre located in the lower level of the Otterbein College Campus Center. Performance times: Opening night - 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees - 2:00 p.m.; All other performances - 8:00 p.m.

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All sales are final--ticket requests will be filled in the order that they arrive at the box office.

Your tickets will be mailed to you the week of June 17-21.