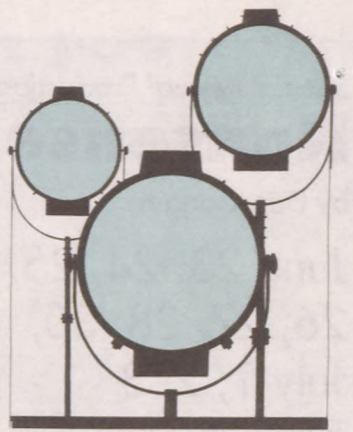


Stages

SPECIAL SUMMER THEATRE EDITION

SPRING 1992 ▼ VOLUME III, NUMBER 3

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE



Divine Inspiration

Summer season opens with "Nunsense" reprise

They're back! Just to show you we know a good thing when we see it, we're bringing back the hilarious musical *Nunsense* to open our 1992 summer theatre season. This show played to 100% capacity the first time around and with the entire original cast intact, we expect another sold-out run.

Opening in July is the classic romantic comedy *Play It Again Sam* by Woody Allen. Best known for his film work as an actor, writer and director, this neurotic, cinematic romp ranks as one of his most popular and successful stage ventures.

Next up is *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein, perhaps one of the most important and celebrated plays in recent New York theatre history. A Central Ohio premiere, this 1989 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play combines drama and humor to tell the story of one woman's journey from the turbulent sixties through the success-oriented eighties. Witty and moving, this is not just a woman's play but one that reaches out to all.



Finally we close the season with one of the silliest, scariest thrillers ever, *The Passion of Dracula*. This traditional gothic horror story with a tongue-in-cheek twist promises to both fright and delight. A chilling, thrilling evening of theatre.

Well there you have it. Start with a generous portion of comedy,

mix in a pinch of romance, a dash of music, a touch of drama and a hint of mystery. The perfect recipe for an outstanding summer season. So don't delay—order season tickets now and we'll see you in June as we celebrate yet another year of exhilarating, uplifting entertainment. ▼

▼ "Nunsense is habit-forming!" The Little Sisters of Hoboken return to open the 1992 summer season.

Inside:



Summer forecast:
mostly funny and
very entertaining
p. 2



Into the Woods is
onto the stage
p. 2



Talking With winds
up 91-92 season
p. 3

OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

Otterbein College
Department of Theatre & Dance
Westerville, OH 43081-2006

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Westerville, OH
Permit 177

If you receive more than one copy of this newsletter, please pass one along to a friend.

Special Revival Production **Nunsense**

by Dan Goggin

June 23, 24, 25,
26, 27, 28; 30,
July 1, 2, 3

Tues.-Sun. Mat.;
Tues.-Friday

Guest directed by
Doreen Dunn

This production was such an enormous hit this past winter we sold out before the show ever opened (an Otterbein first)! For those of you who missed it and those of you who saw it and loved it, we're bringing it back this summer (with the entire original cast intact) to open our season. Don't miss this second and last chance to witness one of the zaniest musical comedies ever written. The story is about the efforts of the Order of the Little Sisters of Hoboken (a nunnery, of course) to raise money to bury the remaining four of the fifty-two nuns who have died of botulism contracted by eating vichy-soise prepared by the convent chef, Sister Julia. Our five sisters have luckily been spared the fate of the other sisters, as they were playing bingo that night at another parish. *Nunsense*, then, is the fundraising show they are presenting to us in hopes we will help them with the necessary cash. "*Nunsense* is nonsense, but people seem to love it."—Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

Note: *Nunsense* is not part of the summer season ticket package. It is a bonus show and all tickets are \$12.00 each.

Romantic Comedy **Play It Again Sam**

by Woody Allen

July 8, 9, 10, 11,
12; 15, 16, 17,
18, 19

Wed.-Sun. Matinee,
each week

Directed by Ed Vaughan

One of America's best loved comedies from one of today's funniest writers, *Play It Again Sam* is "A hilarious evening. A cheerful romp. Not only are Mr. Allen's jokes—with their follow-ups, asides and twists—audaciously brilliant, but he has a great sense of character."—*N. Y. Times*. The amiable but homely hero of the play has this thing about Humphrey Bogart. If only he had some of Bogart's technique! His friends try to fix him up with beautiful dates, but he's so gauche they always end miserably—even though Bogart is there, urging him on. More like a friendly dog than a hero, this is what charms his best friend's wife—to the point they spend the night together. Now our hero is in a real mess! Mixing fantasy, romance and hilarity, *Play It Again Sam* is "a funny, likeable comedy that has a surprising amount of wistful appeal."—*N. Y. Post*.

A Central Ohio Premiere **The Heidi Chronicles**

by Wendy Wasserstein

July 22, 23, 24,
25, 26; 29, 30, 31

Aug. 1, 2
Wed.-Sun. Matinee,
each week

Featuring Equity
Guest Artist TBA
Guest Director
Ellen Newman

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony Award, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award, this significant and celebrated show was described by critics as "the play of the season" during its recent hugely successful Broadway run. Composed of a series of interrelated scenes, the play traces the coming of age of Heidi Holland, a successful art historian, as she tries to find her bearings in a rapidly changing world. Funny, touching, and written with rare grace and sensitivity, the play is a moving examination of the progress of a generation, from the socially and politically activist sixties to the success-oriented eighties—a time in which the status of American women underwent profound, and sometimes unsettling change. Guest artist Ellen Newman returns to direct *Heidi Chronicles* after staging last spring's popular *Uncommon Women and Others*. "...witty, hilarious...not just a funny play, but a wise one."—Howard Kissel, *N. Y. Daily News*.

Warning: This play contains graphic language.

Hilarious Thriller **The Passion of Dracula**

by Bob Hall and
David Richmond

August 5, 6, 7, 8,
9; 12, 13, 14, 15,
16

Wed.-Sun. Matinee,
each week

Featuring Equity
Guest Artist David Combs
Guest Director TBA

Based the 1897 Bram Stoker novel, this version of the great Dracula legend is set in the English countryside in 1911 where several local village girls have died under mysterious circumstances. Dr. Seward presides over a nearby mental hospital and the locality also has acquired a new resident—Count Dracula! A trio of doctors, a young reporter and a stouthearted English lord fight the Count for possession of the lovely heroine. With a dash of Holmesian sleuthing in this Baskerville-hound country setting, our heroes save the heroine and dispatch the Count in the traditional manner. "...funny, serious, scary, hilarious...bloody enjoyable. cross my heart."—WABC-TV.

*All shows and guests
subject to change pending
final availability.

Musical explores "happily ever after" and beyond *Otterbein's "Woods" will bring fairy tales to life this spring*

Fairy tales provide the background for the musical Otterbein College Theatre will present this spring. *Into The Woods* by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine will be performed April 30-May 3 and May 7-9. The musical, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, merges *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Rapunzel* with a newly-created tale of a childless couple—the baker and his wife. The couple is willing to steal Cinderella's slipper, Jack's cow, a lock of Rapunzel's golden tresses and Red Riding Hood's hood for the chance to have a baby promised them by a witch, who needs the items to regain her youth and beauty.

The first act ends with everyone headed toward a happily ever after ending but the second act reveals the down side of getting what you wish for. Cinderella's prince turns out to be a hopeless philanderer while she finds idle solitude in the palace as bad as poverty and abuse. The baker

and his wife, now proud parents, bicker and wind up in family therapy. Rapunzel, a chronic neurotic, races around during the action while the widow of the giant Jack killed threatens to squash them all. Through its fractured fairy tales, *Into The Woods* offers insight on growing up and taking responsibility for the choices made.

Into The Woods won the 1988 N.Y. Drama Critics Circle Award and the 1988 Drama Desk Award for Best Musical as well as earning Tony Awards for Best Score and Best Book.

The play, with its familiar fairy tale characters, will appeal to children while adults will appreciate the underlying truths accompanying the varied stories in the musical. This is a production for the entire family to enjoy and for the first time, Otterbein's spring musical will be performed over two weekends.

Otterbein College Theatre Artistic

Director Dennis Romer will again direct the spring musical. Professor Craig Johnson will serve as music director and music faculty member Stephen Monroe is the vocal director. "The music is delightful, magical," says Johnson. "It adds a new dimension to familiar characters. It is very challenging to the performers but Sondheim also challenges the audience to listen. It really is a wonderful show and keeps the audience guessing."

Lauren Lambie, who created costumes for the Otterbein production of *Evita* in 1990, will design the costumes for this play. Previously Lambie was the resident costumer for Players Theatre and now is the resident costumer for the Studio Arena Theatre of Buffalo. Otterbein expects to spend \$7,000 on the lavish costumes for this spectacular production.

The performance is being choreographed by Patricia Hiatt. She was

responsible for the choreography in the very successful *Man of La Mancha* produced last year.

Set designer Rob Johnson will be responsible for bringing the woods into Cowan Hall for this production. "There will be lots of magic and special effects," he promises, "but we don't want to give too much away." Johnson will create layers of woods on stage as a metaphor for the complicated world the characters must walk through to find their dreams and solve their problems. "It will all have a sense of mystery and fantasy," Johnson explains. "It's a very challenging show but I think it will be another success for Otterbein theatre."

Tickets are \$10 and \$11 and can be reserved by calling 898-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. ▼



Season's finale imparts poignant humor

Talking With will end this year's Otterbein College Theatre season and will be performed May 27-31 and June 3-7. *Talking With* is a collection of 11 short theatre pieces presented in the form of tightly constructed monologues. The play projects the hopes, fears, dreams, dismay and fantasies of eleven uniquely different women who are bonded by their desire to survive the world in which they live on their own terms.

The series of vignettes include a retired rodeo rider discussing her feelings about being put out of work because of changing times, an evangelical snake handler exploring the human relationship to God and a humorous piece about a homeless woman who dreams of living in McDonalds. In another scene a bored housewife escapes her daily drudgery by pretending she's in the land of Oz. This monologue deals with fantasy and the choice to face life in a make believe world rather than a real one. Women of all ages and conditions are drawn together in this production. While the subjects of some of the monologues may at

first seem outlandish, each holds an underlying truth relative to the common human experience. Some subjects are incredibly poignant such as the one woman recounting the death of her mother or another portraying the birth labors of a woman who knows her child is going to be born abnormal and her struggle to accept this fact.

"The play is about self-exposure and projects an effort not only to understand but also to deal with and transcend the rigors of the human experience," explains Director Ed Vaughan. "The play has a mystical atmosphere and exposes various ways that humans look outside themselves for some type of divine guidance."

This remarkable play first emerged in 1982 at the Humana Festival of New American Plays presented at Actors Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. The author of *Talking With* is known only as Jane Martin and remains anonymous while her work continues to collect accolades. "Undeniably a writer of talent...the production is excellent," reported the *New York Daily News*. ▼

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.

PRIORITY RENEWAL: 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.

CONVENIENT TICKET EXCHANGE: Let's face it, conflicts do come up. If that ever happens to you, simply give us 24 hours notice and we'll gladly exchange your tickets to another performance of that same production. This is an exclusive benefit for subscribers only! All individual ticket sales are final and may not be exchanged.

DISCOUNT COUPONS: 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. ▼

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

Fred J. Thayer
Chairperson
Dennis Romer
Artistic Director
Tod Wilson
Managing Director
Jeanne Augustus
Administrative Assistant
Patricia Kessler
Director of College Relations
Patrice M. Etter
Director of Publications
Patti Kennedy
Staff Writer
Ed Syguda
Photographer

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please call 614/898-1657 or write to:
Tod Wilson
Managing Director
Department of Theatre and Dance
Otterbein College
Westerville, Ohio 43081

PATRON FUND DRIVE CATEGORIES ESTABLISHED

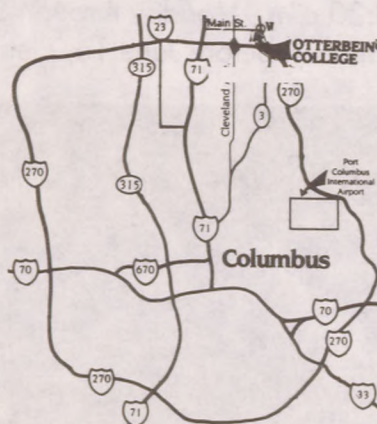
To help support our ambitious 26th summer season, the following categories have been established for our 1992 Patron Fund Drive.

Director: \$150 or more
Star: \$100 to \$149
Featured Player: \$50 to \$149
Cameo: \$10 to \$49

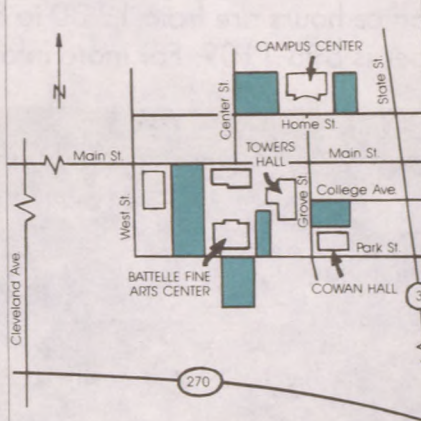
Current theatre patrons will be listed in the program by category and all contributions are tax deductible. During the past 26 years, almost 200 families, groups, businesses and individuals have contributed each season to the Summer Theatre Patron Fund. Without this support, Otterbein Summer Theatre would not exist. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Note: Any contribution of \$25 or more and the purchase of season tickets 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. ▼

Easy to Reach



Free Parking



▼ Mandy Fox will resurrect her role as Sister Mary Amnesia in the Summer Theatre production of *Nunsense*.

SUMMER THEATRE BOX OFFICE: 898-1109

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

1992 Summer Theatre Ticket Order Form

Individual Ticket Prices (save 15-26%)

	Option #1 Fri-Sat	Option #2 Tues.-Wed. Thurs.	Option #3 Opening Nite Club	Option #4 Sunday Matinees
<i>Play it Again Sam</i> Romantic Comedy	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Heidi Chronicles</i> Central Ohio Premiere	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Passion of Dracula</i> Hilarious Thriller	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
Single Ticket Total	\$33.00	\$30.00	\$28.50	\$27.00
Season Ticket Cost	\$28.00 (Save 15%)	\$25.00 (Save 17%)	\$23.00 (Save 19%)	\$20.00 (Save 26%)

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 for all shows. **Note:** *Nunsense* is not included in the season ticket package, however, you may order tickets with this form.

	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun. Mat.
<i>Nunsense</i> June/July	23 30	24 1	25 2	26 3	27	28
<i>Play it Again Sam</i> July		8 15	9 16	10 17	11 18	12 19
<i>Heidi Chronicles</i> July/August		22 29	23 30	24 31	25 1	26 2
<i>Passion of Dracula</i> August		5 12	6 13	7 14	8 15	9 16

All performances take place in the air-conditioned 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.

I wish to order _____ Option #1 season tickets at \$28.00 each (save 15%) \$ _____
I wish to order _____ Option #2 season tickets at \$25.00 each (save 17%) \$ _____
I wish to order _____ Option #3 season tickets at \$23.00 each (save 19%) \$ _____
I wish to order _____ Option #4 season tickets at \$20.00 each (save 26%) \$ _____
I wish to order _____ Nunsense tickets at \$12.00 each \$ _____
I wish to become a Summer Theatre Patron (\$10.00 minimum contribution). \$ _____
Enclose \$1.50 for Postage/Handling \$ 1.50
Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

Your tickets will be mailed to you the week of June 15-19

Make check payable to Otterbein Summer Theatre or charge to:

MasterCard # _____ or Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____
Name _____ Signature (for charge card) _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

I am a new subscriber ☐ Yes ☐ No I am a former summer/winter season subscriber (circle one or both).