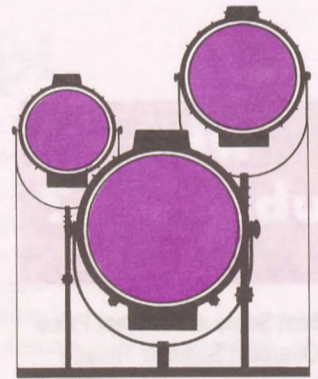


Stages

SPRING 1993 ▼ VOLUME IV, NUMBER 3

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE



Here We Go Again!

Get set for a second visit of those zany nuns

Okay, we really thought we'd kicked the *Nunsense* habit. As many of you know, we ran the show last January and resurrected it in June. Every performance was sold out. It was a wonderful experience for all and much as we hated to see it end, we knew it must. So we tore apart the set, took back the props, and even rented out the costumes. End of story, right? Not quite.

Imagine our surprise when we learned just months ago that a sequel had been written—*The Second Coming*.... At first we thought, "Impossible." "This is too good to be true." "Nah, we couldn't, could we?" Eventually, though, we read the script, listened to the music, and, most importantly, checked with the sisters and their director, and finally we decided "What the Heck!" So, here we go again and you're coming with us. And, although we've scheduled plenty of performances, we expect the demand to be enormous. Don't

wait until the last minute to get your tickets.

Lest you think all we do at Otterbein is dress up like nuns and sing, dance and tell jokes, we've got two more excellent shows to offer this summer. First is the comedy *The Boys Next Door* about the trials and triumphs of four mentally handicapped men living together in a group apartment. A joyful story of love and compassion, this play will move you.

We close our 27th summer season with an intriguing espionage thriller called (quite appropriately) *Pack of Lies*. A hit in New York and London, the main events of this story are true. Featuring Equity guest artists Dennis Romer and Ed Vaughan, *Pack of Lies* will surely be an evening of dynamic theatre.

So don't delay—order your season tickets today and we'll see you in June as we celebrate another



▼ Just when you thought it was safe to go back to church! The Little Sisters of Hoboken make their return in this summer's most highly anticipated sequel—*Nunsense II...The Second Coming!*

summer of exciting, uplifting entertainment.

Oh, by the way—we've also got two great shows just around the corner. *Big River: The Adventures of Huck Finn*, featuring Tony

Award winner Ron Richardson as Jim, opens April 29. In late May the satiric comedy *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* opens. Read on for details! ▼



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

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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.

Convenient Ticket Exchange

This is an exclusive benefit for subscribers only! All individual tickets 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* features news and notes of Otterbein College Theatre.



by Dan Goggin

June 22, 23, 24, 25,
26, 27; 29, 30
July 1, 2, 3, 4; 6, 7, 8,
9, 10, 11; 13, 14, 15,
16, 17, 18

Tues.-Sun. Matinee;
each week

Directed and choreographed
by Doreen Dunn
*Featuring the original
student cast*

"The sisters have done it again! *The Second Coming...* is everything you hoped it would be and more... a laugh riot from start to finish!"—*Waterbury Republican-American*. Last year our production of the original *Nunsense* sold out during both it's runs in January and June making it one of the most successful events in Otterbein College Theatre history. Consequently, when we learned of the sequel we knew we had to bring the sisters back for one final engagement. Again set in the Mount Saint Helen's School auditorium, *Nunsense II* involves a pair of Franciscan nuns (or are they?) arriving to reclaim Sister Mary Amnesia after she's won the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes. Just as zany and peppy as its first incarnation, don't miss this last opportunity to be a part of one of the funniest and funnest theatre experiences ever. Sure to be the highlight of the summer season "Nunsense II is heaven-sent!"—*WATR Radio*. Individual tickets for *Nunsense* go on sale May 17. ▼

▼ **With Child**—Guest artist Karen Radcliffe in last summer's *The Heidi Chronicles*.

JULY 21, 22, 23, 24, 25;
28, 29, 30, 31, August 1

Wed.-Sun. Matinee,
each week

Directed by Ed Vaughan

An off-Broadway success, this very funny yet very touching play focuses on the lives of four retarded men who live in a communal residence under the watchful eye of a sincere, but increasingly despairing social worker. "Griffin's play hits squarely on the truth of life with its constant interplays and shadings of triumphs and tears."—*NY Daily News*.

Mingled with scenes from the daily lives of these four men, where "little things" sometimes become momentous (and often very funny) are moments of great poignance when, with touching effectiveness, we are reminded that the handicapped, like the rest of us, want only to love and laugh and find some meaning and purpose in the brief time which they, like their fortunate brothers, are allotted on this earth. "*The Boys Next Door* is one of the most unusual... and one of the most rewarding plays in town."—*Back Stage*. ▼

Wed.-Sun. Matinee,
each week

Guest Director TBA
Featuring Equity Guest Artists
Dennis Romer and Ed Vaughan

"I won't forget this one! Watching *Pack of Lies* is like reading a terrific thriller or seeing an undiscovered early Hitchcock..."—Joel Siegel, *WABC-TV*. Based on an actual event known in Britain as the Portsmouth Naval Secrets Case, this gripping drama drew raves from critics during its highly successful runs in London's West End and in New York on Broadway in the mid-80's. Also the subject of a 1987 Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation on television, this engrossing cold war spy tale is set in Ruislip, a quiet, unassuming suburb of London in 1960. The story is about two couples, the Jacksons and the Krogers, best friends and neighbors, whose loyalty to one another is severely tested by the unexpected arrival of an English intelligence agent from Scotland Yard. A dynamic evening of theatre, "*Pack of Lies* is a play about the morality of lying, not the theatrics of espionage, and in Mr. Whitmore's view, lying is a virulent disease that saps patriots and traitors alike of their humanity."—*NY Times*. ▼

summer theatre box office
898-1109

The Summer Theatre Box Office is located in the Campus Center and will open on Tuesday, June 15. Regular summer box office hours are from 1:00 to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The box office phone number is 898-1109. For more information before June 15, please call 898-1209 or 898-1657.

Tony Award-winner Ron Richardson reprises role of Jim Join Huck Finn for a ride on the 'ole Mississippi

The mighty Mississippi will roll into Cowan Hall when Otterbein College Theatre and the Department of Music present *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* this spring. The musical won seven Tony Awards and seven Drama Desk Awards in 1985.

Otterbein is excited to welcome guest actor Ron Richardson, who won a Tony Award for his work in the original Broadway musical. Richardson will reprise his role of Jim, the slave who is rescued by Huck and eventually allowed his freedom.

This musical is a slice of Americana with a cornucopia of old-fashioned pleasures. This rousing good show with a fairly faithful adaptation of the book is certainly an event for the whole family. The play cast includes 28 actors playing 65 characters in 45 scenes and 88 different costumes have been prepared for the production.

Department of Theatre Chairperson John Stefano will make his directing debut at Otterbein with this musical. In fact, Stefano got into theatre through his own musical

theatre experiences.

He entered Pomona College as a physics major but after his performance in a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, the head of the theatre program convinced him to try acting. After graduating from Pomona, he received an M.F.A. in directing from the University of California, Riverside. This was followed by several years as an equity actor in Los Angeles and a Ph.D. in teaching from UCLA.

Other musicals he has directed include *Oliver*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Hello Dolly*. "I had heard wonderful things about *Big River* and the more I've learned about it, the more I've fallen in love with it," he says.

Although there have been many, many adaptations of Huckleberry Finn for film and stage (in fact, Walt Disney has released a new version this spring), Stefano points out that most have not been very successful. He said this musical succeeds because rather than focusing on the adventures of Huck, it is really about his spiritual journey into manhood. The play is not just a recitation of boyhood

adventures but rather a tale of how Huck and Jim achieve personal freedom.

Stefano says the music in particular brings that feeling to the production. The music, composed by country music star Roger Miller, ranges from gospel and spiritual to folk and blues. Miller, who died in 1992, is probably best known for his hit "King of the Road" and several novelty songs including "Dang Me," "Chug-A-Lug" and "Can't Roller in a Buffalo Herd." *Big River* is the only musical Miller wrote in his lifetime and Stefano is sure it will stand the test of time.

"Miller captured something no one else had," Stefano explains. In addition to looking at Huck's growth, Stefano says the play also will emphasize the contrast between nature and civilization. Every form of civilization Huck encounters is flawed as people try to exploit him or tell him how to live.

The set will also reflect this contrast. Set Designer Rob Johnson explains the set will show a very romanticized view of nature versus an unflattering look at civilization. "In contrast to the beautiful natural

scenery of the river, everything associated with civilizations sticks out like a sore thumb," he says. "It's a good analogy because Huck and Jim want to go back to nature and are in constant conflict with civilization."

The scenery will be enhanced



Photo by: Martha Swope

▼ **Tony Award-winner Ron Richardson in the original Broadway production of *Big River*. Richardson will reprise his role as Jim at Otterbein this spring.**

with lighting and special effects provided by Associate Professor Fred Thayer, who is retiring this spring. While Otterbein College Theatre sincerely hopes "Pop," as Thayer is affectionately known, will return during his retirement to help with future productions, *Big River* is his last as a full-time faculty member.

For this musical there are more than 180 light cues to be programmed into the computer and Thayer will make the stars appear and clouds roll by over the Mississippi. "I'm excited to be doing the lights for a musical as an ending to my time here," Thayer says.

Plan now to bring the whole family to see *Big River* which runs April 29 through May 2 and May 6 through 8. ▼

Bette and Boo: Screams from a Marriage

Otterbein College Theatre will close this year's season with the comedy *The Marriage of Bette & Boo* by contemporary playwright and sometime actor Christopher Durang. Known for tackling touchy subjects with his own peculiar brand of dark humor, Durang also wrote *Beyond Therapy* and *Sister Mary Ignatious*.

The Marriage of Bette and Boo in 1985 won 13 Obie Awards including an award for writing. The *New Yorker* said of the play and Durang, "Christopher Durang has rarely written anything funnier or more serious. He has perfected the art of turning bitterness into comedy without losing its edge. A brimming cornucopia of brilliant lines."

In addition to finding black comedy in the medical profession and family relations, Durang takes special aim at one of his favorite

In his view, and in his own life apparently as much of the play is autobiographical, virginal brides and grooms were required to enter indissoluble unions with reproduction being the goal of marriage and contraception being banned. When marital problems arose, the couple sought counseling from a celibate priest; and when those problems proved beyond counsel, as they frequently did, true believers prayed for a miracle. It was a recipe for disaster for many couples and Durang shows several of the shapes that disaster could take.

He is looking at the truly terrible things people do to one another in marriage and at their inability to change destructive patterns as

▼ A climactic moment from last summers *The Passion of Dracula* with Guest Artists David Combs and Ed Vaughan.

Patron Fund Drive Categories Established

To help support our ambitious 27th summer season, the following categories have been established for our 1993 Patron Fund Drive.

- ▼ DIRECTOR \$150 or more
- ▼ STAR \$100 or more
- ▼ FEATURED PLAYER \$50 to \$99
- ▼ CAMEO \$10 to \$49

Current theatre patrons will be listed in the program by category and all contributions are tax deductible. During the past 27 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.

1993 Summer Theatre Season Ticket Order Form

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

Individual Ticket Prices (Save 15-22%)

	Option #1 Fri-Sat	Option #2 Tue/Wed/Thurs	Option #3 Opening Nite Club	Option #4 Sunday Matinees
Nunsense II	\$11.50	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Central Ohio Premiere Musical</i>				
Boys Next Door	\$11.50	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Heartwarming Comedy</i>				
Pack of Lies	\$11.50	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Central Ohio Premiere Drama</i>				
Single Ticket Total	\$34.50	\$31.50	\$28.50	\$27.00
Season Ticket Cost	\$30.00 <i>(save 15%)</i>	\$26.00 <i>(save 17%)</i>	\$23.00 <i>(save 19%)</i>	\$21.00 <i>(save 22%)</i>

I wish to order _____ Option #1 season tickets at \$30.00 each (save 15%) \$ _____
 I wish to order _____ Option #2 season tickets at \$26.00 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 \$21.00 each (save 22%) \$ _____

I wish to become a Summer Theatre Patron (\$10 minimum contribution) \$ _____
 Enclose \$1.50 for postage/handling \$ 1.50

Make check payable to _____

Otterbein Summer Theatre or charge to:

MasterCard # _____ Visa # _____

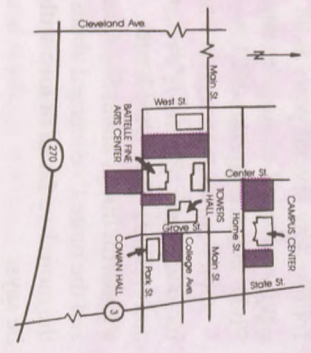
Name _____ Signature (for charge card) _____ Discover # _____ Exp. Date _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

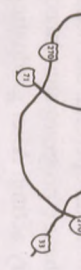
Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Please check one: I am a new subscriber I was a subscriber last summer

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Easy



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 performance for all shows.

	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Nunsense II	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>June/July</i>	29	30	1	2	3	4
Boys Next Door	21	22	22	23	24	25
<i>July/August</i>	28	29	29	30	31	1
Pack of Lies	4	5	5	6	7	8
<i>August</i>	11	12	12	13	14	15

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.

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 14-18.

▼ "Kiss her. Go ahead, kiss her!" Jess Hanks as Bogie with Daryl Lozumone and Mandy Fox in last season's hilarious *Play It Again, Sam*.

