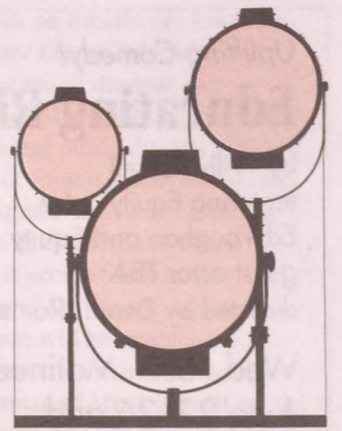


# Stages

SPRING 1994 ▼ VOLUME V, NUMBER 3

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE



## Summer Season Full of Laughs, Music, Thrills

### Oakland Nursery Sponsors 28th Summer Theatre Season

We're having a baby! That's right, Otterbein Summer Theatre with generous corporate support from Oakland Nursery is giving birth to quadruplets—four brand new productions each running two weeks. Like expectant parents, we're anxious about the labor but we're excited about the possibilities.

Our first delivery is *Educating Rita*, a warm and passionate tale about life and learning. Otterbein Professor Ed Vaughan, (last seen as *King Lear*) will star, along with another Equity guest actor to be announced.

In July, we'll deliver a brand-spanking new version of the musical *Baby*. First produced at Otterbein in 1985, the show is an overwhelming crowd favorite with universal appeal. A bundle of musical comedy joy, *Baby* will truly be a blessed event.



Our next conception is the mystery-thriller *Wait Until Dark*. This heart-stopping tale of suspense builds to a terrifying final confrontation between a spirited young housewife and her sinister pursuer. The climactic duel in the dark is guaranteed to get your pulse racing.

We close the summer with the return of one of America's best loved comedies, *The Odd Couple*. This Neil Simon classic tells the hilarious story of two mismatched roomies; Oscar the cigar-chomping slob and Felix the insanely neat neurotic. This is a marriage made in hell, played out on the stage. Uproariously funny, *The Odd Couple* is one of the world's most popular plays ever!

So don't delay. Order your season tickets now and save time and money. Please join us for what



▼ *Baby*, will you have a good time! The musical comedy *Baby* will highlight Otterbein Summer Theatre's 28th season. This season, sponsored by Oakland Nursery, is sure to provide you with laughs, suspense and, if you're not careful, a darn good time! Join us this summer.

is certain to be a memorable season filled with laughter, music and romance!

By the way, we've also got two great shows coming up this spring. On April 28 we open the musical comedy *Pippin*. As you know, we've earned tremendous acclaim for our musical productions and *Pippin* will definitely uphold this tradition. It promises to be an

enormously special event! Also due this spring is our production of a new play by Anthony Clarvoe based on the Dostoevsky novel *The Brothers Karamozov*. This will be the first performance of this show ever so you won't want to miss it. For further details on both these exciting shows, please read on! ▼



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lease on me by making him believe in himself once again. A hit in London and Off-Broadway, the 1983 film version earned Oscar nominations for its two co-stars, Michael Caine and Julie Walters. "A marvelous play, painfully funny and passionately serious; a hilarious social documentary; a fairy-tale with a quizzical, half-happy ending."—*Sunday Times*, London.



Danny, two college students, not married, he willing, she not; Pam and Nick, a couple in their

mid-30's, unable to have children because of his infertility; Arlene and Alan, a couple escaping parenthood with their last child in college—an anniversary night at the Plaza Hotel and the cycle begins again. A charming musical look at the beginnings of life. *Baby* is for everyone who ever was one!



## Showcase 94

The Otterbein College Theatre and Theatre Advisory Board present a "Theatre Alumni Benefit Performance"

on Friday, June 10, 1994 at the Villa Milano Party House. The evening begins with a social hour and silent auction, followed by dinner, a live auction and entertainment from a variety of famous theatre alumni. Among the many Otterbein grads on hand to share their talents will be Gordon Jump (*WKRP in Cincinnati*), David Graf (*Police Academy*), Susan Diol (*One Life to Live*), and Cabot Rea (TV Anchor). Proceeds from the event will benefit the Otterbein Theatre Endowment Fund and the Otterbein College Summer Theatre Patron Fund. This is a black tie optional event and seating is limited. If you're interested in attending or receiving more information, please call the Theatre Office at (614) 823-1657.

# Otterbein to stage original production

Otterbein College Theatre is proud to present this spring the very first staging of an original play. On May 25, Otterbein will open *The Brothers Karanazov*, a brand new, never-before-seen play by Anthony Clarvoe based on the novel by Dostoevsky.

Like the novel, this is set in Russia and focuses on four brothers who return home to face their cruel and hateful father after following widely divergent lifestyles. Each is searching for his individual place in the universe and, because they have never met before, the brothers are searching for their identity as a family.

The father, Fyodor, is an evil man who had four sons by three different women. He cast out his sons and they were raised in the stable yard, fed with scraps and dressed in rags. In time they scattered to the four winds. One became a soldier and a spendthrift. One became a scholar and cynic. One became a novice monk and an innocent. One stayed in his father's house as the lowest of the servants.

In time, they all return for different reasons to face their father. Each has a motive for hatred and revenge. When Fyodor is killed, they are all suspect. They all then struggle with their consciences and with each other to unravel the mystery and forge their own fate. The action of the play carries the characters toward a trial and eventual solution to the murder.

hidden (unbeknownst to her) somewhere in her home. They'll do anything to recover the doll including torture and murder. We shan't spoil the ending for you however, it should be enough to say that she must fend off the mysterious scoundrels in total darkness. A bountiful serving of spine-tingling and blood-curdling suspense, *Wail Until Dark* promises to leave you breathless and terrified.

Staging a new play brings inherent challenges to Director Ed Vaughan. The final version has not yet been written and quite likely changes will occur right up until the dress rehearsal. Vaughan has heard readings at Otterbein, Minneapolis and Cincinnati and each has been different with scenes added and deleted and dialogue revised.

"It truly is a play in progress," Vaughan explains. "As an artist there is nothing more exciting than doing something for the first time. It is truly art."

Vaughan, an associate professor, has acted in and directed numerous plays during his 12 years at the College. His directing credits include *A Chorus Line*, *Noises Off*, *Runners, Lend Me a Tenor* and *The Boys Next Door*.

Guest actor Geoff Nelson, artistic director and founder of Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO), will take on the role of Fyodor. Nelson has directed at Otterbein in the past but this is his first time to take on an acting role at the College.

Nelson holds a graduate degree in theatre from The Ohio State University, an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in Maine and is currently pursuing his Ph.D.

His acting credits at CATCO include roles in *Ten Little Indians*, *Dial "M" for Murder*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *Speed-the-Plow* which also starred Ed Vaughan.

just as the play began. So he invites Felix to share his lonely apartment and the hilarity ensues as we witness an astute study in incompatibility. Joining in the comic invention are four poker-playing chums and the two flirty, vivacious Pigeon sisters. From America's most prolific playwright, this theatrical classic is bellyachingly funny from start to finish!

All the actors will have to deal with constant and late revisions as the play evolves during rehearsals. "The key is to be flexible and not panic," Vaughan says. "The pay off is being the first to ever perform this piece. I've been thinking about this play for about nine months and I'm still going into it knowing less than any other show I've directed. But it's fun to watch it grow and develop."

While the story is Dostoevsky's, this is Clarvoe's play. The language and words are his. "He used the story as a springboard to bring his own point of view to the situation," Vaughan says. "This is Dostoevsky speaking through Clarvoe."

Clarvoe is a playwright on the rise. He is sought after in almost every market and recently completed his first screenplay for Universal Studios. A resident of Gambier, Ohio, Clarvoe chose to work with Otterbein because of its proximity and strong reputation. Clarvoe has won nearly every play-writing award in the country and Artistic Director Dennis Romer says it is an "honor to work with someone of his stature."

Anthony Clarvoe's *The Brothers Karanazov* will be performed May 25-29 and June 1-5 in the Campus Center Theatre. This play is expected to bring theatre critics and representatives from regional theatres around the county. Following its run at Otterbein, *The Brothers Karanazov* will be performed at St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, and the Mark Taper Forum.

This program is made possible in part by the Ohio Joint Program in the Arts and Humanities. ▶



## Spring Musical: Pippin

One of the longest-running musicals in the history of Broadway comes to Otterbein this spring with the musical comedy *Pippin*.

*Pippin* premiered on Broadway in 1972 and ran for more than four years. No American musical ever had so immediate and extensive international success as *Pippin*, possibly because the subject of Charlemagne

and his son is part of world history and partly because of its philosophical guidance for finding a happy life in the disjointed world of the 1970s.

Artistic Director Dennis Romer will direct *Pippin*. "When it was originally done on Broadway, it had a very tongue-in-cheek, light attitude," he explains. "The style was more frivolous then. I want to keep the fun and lightness but also explore the dark side of the story. I want to emphasize the journey he has to take and the choices he has

to make as others try to extinguish his hope and goodness."

There will be no intermission during this play. Romer hopes to weave a spell around the audience and keep them entranced until Pippin's journey of self-discovery is complete. There will be other spells as illusionist Drew Thomas adds to the production's magic.

Thomas will exhibit his talents in the opening number and finale to add to the magical atmosphere.

The musical relies heavily on dance to build that atmosphere.

This is the biggest dance musical Otterbein has produced since *A Chorus Line* in 1988. Romer says every scene involves some element of dance. With such an emphasis on dance, he and choreographer Stella Hiatt Kane, an instructor at the College since 1989, have worked closely to create the final product. Kane is making her debut as choreographer for Otterbein's spring musical.

Kane has been a member of the BalletMet Dance Academy faculty for the past eight years and is the founding artistic director of JazzMet.

Bob Fosse was the original director and choreographer of *Pippin* and Kane says audiences can expect to see his influence. "We've tried to be true to what he created for the show," Kane states. "It's a classical, Broadway musical theatre style of dance."

The music written for *Pippin* was one of the first appearances of

soft rock on Broadway. Associate Professor David DeVenney will serve as music director and Professor Michael Haberkorn will be assistant music director. "The music of *Pippin* is well known and very popular largely because it is written in a rock idiom which makes it accessible to a wide audience," DeVenney explains.

*Pippin* will be produced in conjunction with the Otterbein Department of Music. It will be performed April 28 through May 1 and May 5 through 7. ▼

### Thank You to Oakland Nursery: Corporate Sponsor a True Life-Saver

We would like to publicly say the first many "thank yous" to Paul Reiner and Oakland Nursery for their overwhelming support of our upcoming summer season. Their contribution has enabled us to accomplish two goals this summer: number one, to bring in two professional guest actors to star in our season opener, *Educating Rita*—our first-ever all Equity show! And, number two, their gift will help us pay for the higher cost associated with producing the musical *Baby*. For both of these reasons we say "Thank You." Your support of Oakland Nursery is appreciated.



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From last season's espionage thriller Pack of Lies, Equity actor Dennis Romer is "masterfully ambivalent... cogily reserved and authoritarian"—Richard Ades, The Other Paper.

**Discount Coupons**  
Along with your season tickets, you'll

news and notes of Otterbein College Theatre.

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

# 1994 Summer Theatre Season Ticket Order Form

### Individual Ticket Prices (Save 13-22%)

	Option #1 Fri-Sat	Option #2 Tue/Wed/Thurs	Option #3 Opening Nite Club	Option #4 Sunday Matinees
<b>Educating Rita</b>	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Uplifting Comedy</i>				
<b>Baby</b>	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Romantic Musical Comedy</i>				
<b>Wait Until Dark</b>	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>Terrifying Thriller</i>				
<b>The Odd Couple</b>	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$9.00
<i>American Comedy Classic</i>				
Single Ticket Total	\$48.00	\$44.00	\$38.00	\$36.00
<b>Season Ticket Cost</b>	<b>\$42.00</b>	<b>\$37.00</b>	<b>\$31.00</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>
	(save 13%)	(save 16%)	(save 18%)	(save 22%)

### 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.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun. Mat.
<b>Educating Rita</b>	22	23	24	25	26
<i>June/July</i>	29	30	1	2	3
<b>Baby</b>	6	7	8	9	10
<i>July</i>	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Wait Until Dark</b>	20	21	22	23	24
<i>July</i>	27	28	29	30	31
<b>The Odd Couple</b>	3	4	5	6	7
<i>August</i>	10	11	12	13	14

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 \$42.00 each (save 13%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Option #2 season tickets at \$37.00 each (save 16%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Option #3 season tickets at \$31.00 each (save 18%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Option #4 season tickets at \$28.00 each (save 22%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a Summer Theatre Patron (\$10 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 13-17.**

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (for charge card) \_\_\_\_\_

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



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