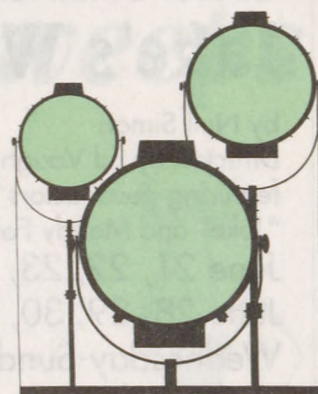


Stages

SPRING 1995 ▼ VOLUME VI, NUMBER 3

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE



Another Great Season Awaits Summer Offers Comedy, Music & Mystery

Pardon our enthusiasm, but we've put together one of the most entertaining summer seasons in recent memory. Our upcoming 29th season features all the trademarks that have made us popular over the years; high artistic quality, diverse theatrical literature, affordable pricing, and 100% pure fun!

We open the summer with the Central Ohio premiere of Neil Simon's *Jake's Women*. A Broadway hit in 1992, this semi-autobiographical romantic comedy tells the story of a novelist caught in a fantasy world of personal problems. Yearning for the intimacy enjoyed by the characters in his books, he escapes to his writing and loses himself in the labyrinth of his mind, within which he encounters all his women. Guest actor Scott Kloes (who last appeared at Otterbein in *The Boys Next Door*) will play Jake, the mixed-up, middle-aged author and Mandy Fox (an OC grad who is best remembered as Sister Mary Amnesia in *Nunsense I & II*) will play his workaholic second wife Maggie.

Next up is the Central Ohio premiere of *Sherlock's Last Case*, an award-winning comedy thriller from American-born playwright-director Charles Marowitz. Illuminating aspects of the master sleuth's

character heretofore ignored, the play is both true to the spirit of the original and a total fresh and absorbing theatrical excursion. A truly elementary entertainment, *Sherlock's Last Case* features Ron Thomas (Oscar in last summer's *The Odd Couple*) as Dr. Watson, Holmes' simple-minded sidekick.

We close our 29th season with 1990's Best Off-Broadway Musical, *Closer Than Ever*, written by David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. Four performers act, sing and dance their way through this simple, straightforward songfest in which each of the musical numbers is fashioned with as much care and skill as a good short story. The songs are about themes familiar to us all; parents and children, spouses and lovers, and family and friends.

So don't delay! Order your season tickets now and save both time and money. Please join us for what is certain to be another



▲ Guest actors Ellen Newman, Ed Vaughan and Mike Hartman in last year's *Luv*. "All three etch their stylized roles with bracing crispness and manic intensity under Dennis Romer's playful but precise direction," — Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*

memorable season full of laughter, romance, mystery and music!

In addition to our summer season, we're producing two great shows this spring. *Sweet Charity* opens April 27 and continues our long-standing tradition of spectacular musical entertainment. In late May we open the world premiere of Kia Corthron's *Catnap Allegiance*, a hard-hitting look at race relations and the Gulf War. For further details about all of our upcoming shows, please read on! ▼



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

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

Central Ohio Premiere Comedy!

Jake's Women

by Neil Simon

Directed by Ed Vaughan

featuring guest actors Scott Kloes as "Jake" and Mandy Fox as "Maggie"

June 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and

June 28, 29, 30, July 1, 2

Wednesday-Sunday Matinee, each week

"*Jake's Women* is fascinating! Neil Simon's most adventurous and engrossing play."—*WCBS-TV*. A Broadway hit in 1992, the show featured Alan Alda in the title role of a writer in the throes of midlife crisis facing the break-up of his second marriage and dealing with the death of his first wife. Largely autobiographical, the story takes place in Jake's mind where, through a series of flashbacks, fantasies and daydreams, he is visited by the all the women in his life, both past and present. Jake's women include a revered first wife, his daughter at age 12 and 21, his boisterous and bossy sister, an opinionated analyst, his current wife who is on the verge of leaving Jake for another man, and a prospective third wife. A hilarious foray into the world of modern relationships *Jake's Women* is simultaneously funny and heartbreaking. "One of Neil Simon's best!"—*LA Times*.

Central Ohio Premiere Comedy Thriller!

Sherlock's Last Case

by Charles Marowitz

featuring guest actor Ron Thomas as "Watson"

Directed by Ed Vaughan

July 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and July 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

Wednesday-Sunday Matinee, each week

Winner of the Louis B. Mayer Award, this diabolically clever play opened on Broadway in August of 1987 and starred Frank Langella as Holmes and Donal Donnelly as Watson. "Part spoof, part loving tribute and all fun..."—*The Register*, the play centers on a death threat against Sherlock Holmes by the supposed son of his late nemesis, Professor Moriarty. Oddly enough, however, Holmes is warned of the plot by Moriarty's daughter, to whom Holmes is strongly attracted. The plot then twists and turns until Holmes finds himself imprisoned in a dank cellar. The play mixes suspense and humor leading to a stunning final twist which will surely catch audiences by complete, and breath-stopping surprise. "*Sherlock's Last Case* is entertaining, pure and simple. The play is full of surprises and stunning theatricality."—*Daily News*.

Charming Musical Revue!

CLOSER THAN EVER

Music by David Shire

Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.

Directed and Choreographed by Doreen Dunn

featuring guest actor Mandy Fox

July 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and July 26, 27, 28, 29 30

Wednesday-Sunday Matinee, each week

This charming, tuneful revue opened Off-Broadway in November 1989 and won the 1990 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical. Expanding on the joyous theatricality of their first revue, *Starting Here, Starting Now*, Maltby (*Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Baby* and *Miss Saigon*) and Shire (*Baby*) bring their sensibility to the modern man and woman, aging, role reversals with parents, as well as wickedly satiric thrusts at Muzack, the two career family, and unrequited love. More than just a collection of pop tunes each song is a self-contained story with familiar characters and settings. A revue for the 90's and beyond, *Closer Than Ever* is "One of those rare moments in the theatre when one is not just momentarily excited or moved, but thoroughly exhilarated from beginning to end."—*Back Stage*.

Otterbein again closes with world premiere

For the second straight year, Otterbein College Theatre will end its season with the world premiere of an original play. On May 24, Otterbein will open *Catnap Allegiance* by noted New York playwright Kia Corthron. It will run May 24-28 and May 31-June 4.

Dennis Romer, Artistic Director, is pleased to have secured another quality playwright, Kia Corthron. "Kia brings passion and individuality to her work."

Set against the background of the Gulf War and its aftermath, Corthron focuses on the emotional journey of one young black soldier, Jeddie, through his relationships with fellow soldiers and his family. Taking a page out of recent history, Jeddie and the audience are forced to explore the meaning of allegiance in these modern times.

"One bomb and hundreds could die. We dropped thousands and thousands of bombs. But in a year it will all be blurred images of an American catnap. The American dream means that no matter what America has done, it can always wake up and forget it — like it was some sleep fantasy."

That passage from the play is at the heart of *Catnap Allegiance*. It is Corthron's call for people to study how easily issues, values, causes, and events are embraced and then abandoned when the next big thing comes along. She challenges the audience to question their own loyalties to their country, themselves, their families and their beliefs.

In the play, Jeddie is a young man searching for his identity — a difficult task when no one seems to show any allegiance to him. He went into the service to gain the approval of his father, a Vietnam War veteran, with the belief that he could stay out of combat by declaring himself a contentious objector. The military did not support that agreement when the Gulf War broke out and on his return his father offers only scorn for his fighting "that television war."

In the play, Jeddie and three other soldiers are given inadequately explained medicines and sketchy instructions before being dropped into the war. The men, two white and two black, must learn to transcend their stereotypes of each other to form a bond that will carry them through the brief war.

The play then follows Jeddie as he returns home and tries to forge a new relationship with his father, who refuses to discuss his experiences in the Vietnam War.

"It's a very human play and it does end on a

note of hope," explains Director Ed Vaughan.

Toward the end, one of the white soldiers admits Jeddie was right to question the medicine and chemicals they were exposed to. He returns to ask for Jeddie's help in finding out more about the chemicals that may have led to his wife's repeated miscarriages. Also, Jeddie does begin to connect with his father as they start to share their war experiences.

With language that is sparse and poetic, Corthron's plays are hard-hitting and unrelenting. Her plays address political issues, yet they also transcend the political to capture the essence of the human struggle.

Corthron, who was featured in the October 1994 issue of *American Theatre* magazine, is known for giving a voice to the voiceless. She writes about victims — of racism, of the military, of the government — who, for whatever reason, society would like to forget. She instead puts these characters on stage to tell their stories.

Corthron currently lives in New York City and has had plays commissioned by the Manhattan Theatre Club, the Long Wharf Theatre and Second Stage Theatre. Her other works include *Cage Rhythm*, *Come Down Burning* and *Wake Up Lou Riser*.

Her plays have been produced at Long Wharf Theatre, Circle Repertory Company, American Place Theatre and Columbia University. She has

also presented readings of her plays at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Philadelphia Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons and Voice and Vision, a women's theatre project.

Corthron has won the New Professional Theatre Screenplay/Playwriting Festival and in 1992 received the first Van Lier Playwriting Fellowship from the Manhattan Theatre Club. She is a member of The Women's Project Playwright Lab and The Dramatists Guild.

Vaughan, who directed last year's premiere of *The Brothers Karamazov*, says he enjoys the chance to again create a new work. "I love doing these, trying to find all the aspects and angles of a new play. I like to create. Art happens only the first time you do something new. After that all else is imitation and interpretation. I hope we can set a standard for others to compare against."

He adds that having the playwright immediately available is valuable experience for the students and himself. "It makes it a different process when the actors and the director can communicate directly with the playwright and tap into her experience as a resource."

This production is made possible in part by the Ohio Joint Program in the Arts and Humanities. ▼

Warning: This play contains adult language and mature subject matter.



Oscar, Felix and the gang from last season's classic comedy, *The Odd Couple*. "A good cast, an expert director and a sure-fire script have dealt Otterbein a winning hand for the finale of its 28th summer season." — Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

characters that cross the stage in *Sweet Charity*. The play is punctuated by such well-known tunes as *Big Spender*, *If My Friends Could See Me Now*, *There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This*, *Rhythm of Life* and *I Always Cry at Weddings*. "I'm sure the audience will recognize and enjoy these familiar tunes," says Musical Director Craig Johnson. "The show is 30 years old but the music is still fresh and delightful. It

wears her heart on her sleeve with a heart tattooed on her upper arm, dreams of being a suburban housewife. In an attempt to change her luck, she goes looking for culture at the 92nd Street Y and ends up stuck in an elevator with a claustrophobic. But he may be just the man she's looking for. She calms his panic and later he returns the favor when her fear of heights is revealed as they get

triumphing is turned on its ear in this ironic slice of life that is also a bright and festive musical extravaganza. "Through it all, this upbeat musical presents us with a feeling of hope," Stefano says. "You know that Charity is going to persevere." ▼



▲ A sinister moment from last summer's *Wait Until Dark*. "A strong cast and intimate staging allows Otterbein Summer Theatre to capture and hold its audience through a classic thriller." — Dennis Thompson, SNP.

summer box office
823-1109

The Summer Theatre Box Office is located in the Campus Center and will open on Tuesday, June 13. 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 823-1109. For more information before June 13, please call 823-1209 or 823-1657.



▲ "The Ladies Singing Their Song" — the hilarious second act opener from *Baby*, last season's charming look at parenthood.

Patron Fund Drive Categories Established

To help support our ambitious 29th summer season, the following categories have been established for our 1995 Patron Fund Drive.

- ▼ DIRECTOR

\$150 or more

▼ STAR

\$100 to \$149
- ▼ FEATURED PLAYER

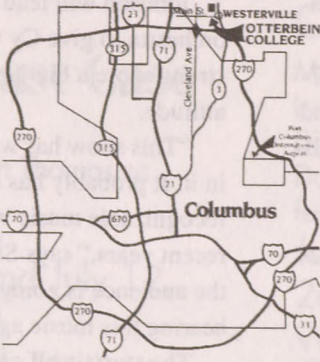
\$50 to \$99

▼ CAMEO

\$10 to \$49

Current theatre patrons will be listed in the program by category and all contributions are tax deductible. During the past 29 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.

Easy to Reach



Free Parking



Season Ticket Tips

We've devised a list of suggestions to help you in ordering your season tickets. While we can't make any guarantees, following these steps should insure that you get the best possible seating.

- 1) Send in your order as soon as possible. This is the best way to get good seats. We receive 75% of our orders within three weeks of this first mailing so don't delay.

2) Fill out the order form completely. Be sure to read the instructions carefully, circle all your dates, and enclose payment for the proper amount. Failure to do so may cause delays in processing and jeopardize your seating.

- 3) Don't be afraid to write us a note. If there is something about your seating you like or dislike, or if you wish to be seated with a friend, let us know. And please be specific.

4) To make it easier to assign good seats for you and everybody else, please pick a night and stay consistent. For example, if you wish to attend on the 1st Saturdays, you must choose all first Saturdays for all three shows. Shifting nights and weeks causes great difficulty in seating. Remember you can always exchange your tickets at a later date. This is our number one seating problem!

5) Finally, if you have questions about the order form, call Tod Wilson at 823-1209.

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.

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 receive additional complimentary tickets. It's a perfect way to introduce your friends to Otterbein Summer Theatre!

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.

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

1995 Summer Theatre Season Ticket Order Form

Individual Ticket Prices (Save 15-23%)

	Option #1 Fri/Sat	Option #2 Wed/Thurs	Option #3 Sunday Matinees	Option #4 Opening Night Club
Jake's Women <i>Romantic Comedy</i>	\$12.50	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$10.50
Sherlock's Last Case <i>Comedy Thriller</i>	\$12.50	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$10.50
Closer Than Ever <i>Charming Musical Revue</i>	\$12.50	\$11.00	\$9.50	\$10.50
Single Ticket Total	\$37.50	\$33.00	\$28.50	\$31.50
Season Ticket Cost	\$32.00 (save 15%)	\$27.00 (save 18%)	\$22.00 (save 23%)	\$25.00 (save 21%)

Season Ticket Availability Dates

Please circle desired date for each play. Opening Nite Club must circle the first performance for all shows. If you choose a particular night, you must be consistent. For example, if you choose a first Thursday, you must choose the first Thursday for each show.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun. Mat.
Jake's Women <i>June/July</i>	21 28	22 29	23 30	24 1	25 2
Sherlock's Last Case <i>July</i>	5 12	6 13	7 14	8 15	9 16
Closer Than Ever <i>July</i>	19 26	20 27	21 28	22 29	23 30

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 \$32.00 each (save 15%) \$ _____

I wish to order _____ Option #2 season tickets at \$27.00 each (save 18%) \$ _____

I wish to order _____ Option #3 season tickets at \$22.00 each (save 23%) \$ _____

I wish to order _____ Option #4 season tickets at \$25.00 each (save 21%) \$ _____

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 12-16.

Make check payable to Otterbein Summer Theatre or charge to:

MasterCard # _____ Visa # _____ Discover # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Signature (for charge card) _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

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



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