

Otterbein College Theatre • 1996-97 Season



*Countdown to the
500th Production!
This Season Marks
Another Milestone!*

Dear Friend of the Theatre

Welcome to the 90th year of Otterbein College Theatre! We are very excited about the season we have selected for your **entertainment**. During the past twelve months we have enjoyed bringing you **top-quality productions** and together we have achieved our **most successful winter and summer seasons in our history**. Thank you.

This season marks a major milestone for us. The first full length stage production ever given at Otterbein was Shakespeare's *As You Like It* in 1907. This year finds us counting down towards our **500th production** and we will achieve that goal with our spring musical production of *Cabaret*, **one of the best book musicals of our time**.

Actually, all of our productions this season represent the **best of their genre**. Our season opener, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, is a wonderful adaptation of one of the finest novels ever written. This beautiful "coming of age" play is filled with **laughter, warmth and heartbreak**. This is a powerful work that will touch the entire family.

During the cold and often "bleak" days of winter we have scheduled the **hilarious farce** *Noises Off* to lift your spirits. This theatrical "play-within-a-play" is one of the liveliest farces of the century.

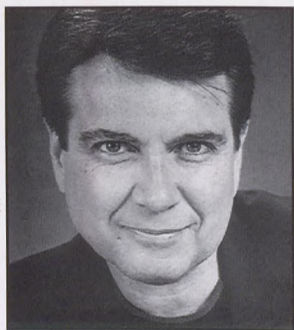
Next up is the **best known and most performed** Shakespearean tragedy, *Hamlet*. We plan to stage this non-traditionally so expect an **exciting, vibrant and accessible** presentation.

After *Cabaret* (the musical highlight of the year!) we have commissioned our **4th Annual New Play** for your **enjoyment**. Our playwright this season is Joan Ackermann. Joan has written plays for some of the most **prestigious theatres** in the country and recently completed her first television pilot for Steven Spielberg.

Our annual children's theatre production will be one of the great classics of children's literature, *The Wind in the Willows*. This musical stage adaptation promises to be **fun for the entire family** — so don't be shy about attending.

Finally, thank you for being a part of Otterbein College Theatre. This season offers you a rich tapestry of some of the greatest plays of our time and continues a tradition that began 90 years ago. So don't delay—subscribe now and join us as we **count down to 500!**

Dennis Romer, *Artistic Director*



With a Subscription You Get the Best...

❖ The Best Seats at the Best Price

Subscribers are guaranteed the "best seats in the house" at the best possible price. This season you'll see 5 shows for less than the price of 4!

❖ 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 and discount coupons for Opus Zero, Otterbein's singing and dancing ensemble. Also included are coupons for the annual Dance Concert on February 21, 1997.

❖ Special Children's Show Bonus

As a subscriber we'll allow you to order discount reserved seat tickets in advance to our annual children's theatre production. (Normal price is \$5.50—you pay only \$4.50.)

❖ A Free Subscription to "Stages"

Published quarterly, *Stages* features news and notes of Otterbein College Theatre.

Box Office: 614/823-1109

The box office, located in the lobby of Cowan Hall, is open from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performances. It is also open one hour prior to all scheduled performances. Box office opens for all sales on September 26 (*Mockingbird*), November 4 (*Wind in the Willows*), January 23 (*Noises Off*), February 20 (*Hamlet*), April 14 (*Cabaret*), and May 14 (*New Play*). Individual phone orders accepted with Visa, Mastercard or Discover. Season tickets will be mailed the week of September 23, 1996.



Fall

To Kill A Mockingbird

Based on the novel by Harper Lee
Dramatized by Christopher Sergel
Directed by Ed Vaughan



October 10-13 and 18, 19, 1996

(High School Performances are Wednesday, October 9 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m.)

Cowan Hall

In 1991 the Library of Congress and the Book of the Month Club asked people to name the books that had had the greatest impact on their lives. The number one book was the Bible and number two was this remarkable novel by Harper Lee first published in 1960. The novel (and the play) tells the story of a Southern lawyer and father of two who stands against his fellow townspeople by defending an innocent young black man accused of raping a white woman. Told from a young girl's perspective about growing up in a racially segregated small town in the 1930's, the novel went on to win the Pulitzer Prize and was later made into an Academy Award-winning movie starring Gregory Peck. This thoroughly engrossing stage adaptation breathes new life into this powerful and compassionate American tale of prejudice and fear.

SPECIAL! CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Wind in the Willows

by John Morley
Adapted from the novel by Kenneth Grahame
Guest Directed by Pamela Hill



November 22-24, 1996

Cowan Hall

John Morley has taken the well-loved characters of Toad, Mole, Ratty and Badger from Kenneth Grahame's classic children's book and woven their exploits into an exciting adventure story for the entire family. Set alongside the River Bank, the play charts the friendships of four variously furry and scaly creatures whose lessons for humanity are clear. Toad, the mansion-owning braggart, learns modesty as Rat and Mole cross social and class barriers to strike up an enduring friendship. The play ends with a garden party celebrating the best English traits of restraint, humility and gentility. This is a charming tale that promises to entertain children and adults of all ages.

(Special elementary school matinees November 20 and 21—teachers should contact Otterbein College Theatre directly at 614/823-1209 for more information and reservations.)

Winter

by Michael Frayn
Guest Directed by Doreen Dunn

February 6-9 and 13-15,
1997
Cowan Hall

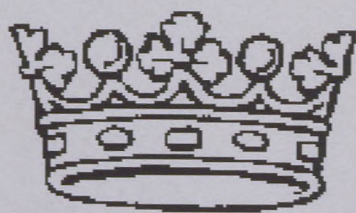
NOISES OFF



This is the farce which all other farces are measured against! Three acts of slapstick hilarity, the play opens with a touring company dress-rehearsing *Nothing On*, a conventional farce set to tour the provinces. Mixing mockery and homage, Frayn heaps into this play-within-a-play a wonderful melee of stock characters and situations. Each of the play's three acts gives us a different view of the outrageous onstage and backstage calamity. "One of the great pleasures of *Noises Off* is the sheer ingenuity of its craftsmanship: Mr Frayn works out the interlocking mathematical equations of two farcical narratives even as he keeps his witty lines flying high."—Frank Rich, *NY Times*. "*Noises Off* is a cascade of falling-in-the-aisle laughter...A head-on, slam bang splendid uproar, wonderfully funny!"—WCBS-TV

Hamlet

by William Shakespeare
Guest Directed by Robert Behrens



March 6-9 and 13-16, 1997
(High School Performances are
Wednesday, March 5 at 10:00
a.m. and Thursday, March 13
at 10:00 a.m.)
Campus Center Theatre

One of the most famous and universally appealing of Shakespeare's plays, this dramatic classic has been produced worldwide and has been the subject of many successful films. Set in Denmark around 1600, Hamlet the Danish Prince returns home to find his father dead and his mother, Gertrude, hastily remarried to his uncle, Claudius, the new King of Denmark. Soon afterward Hamlet is visited upon by the ghost of his late father who reveals that it is Claudius who is responsible for his death. The ghost implores Hamlet to avenge his murder and thereupon the melancholy tragedy is inevitably set in motion. Our production, to be staged in our smaller Campus Center Theatre, promises to be more intimate and accessible than most other versions of this play.

Spring



Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play by John Van Druten

and stories by Christopher Isherwood

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Broadway production directed by Harold Prince, Produced for the
Broadway Stage by Harold Prince

Directed by Dennis Romer

Music Direction by Craig R. Johnson

Choreography by Stella Hiatt Kane

Co-sponsored by the Department of Music



May 1-4 and 8-10, 1997

(High School Performance is Wed., April 30 at 10:00 a.m.)

Cowan Hall

1930. There was a Master of Ceremonies...in a city called Berlin...in a country called Germany. It was the end of the world. And life was a...CABARET!

This dazzling musical, first produced in 1966, earned the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, the Outer Critics' Circle Award, and the Tony Award, all for being the season's best musical. *Cabaret* begins at the Kit Kat Club, a garish little Berlin night-club, where we meet Sally Bowles, an English girl who has fled her family's stuffiness to become a chanteuse. The Kit Kat is a brassy pleasure-haunt of pre-Hitler Berlin where anxiety-ridden Germans sought to blur their vision of impending disaster with wild night life and joyous sin. At the club Sally meets and falls in love with a young American writer Cliff Bradshaw. Their love affair is doomed from the beginning in this unconventional musical tale of tarnished innocents abroad in a land with no time for innocence. This brilliantly wicked musical play, featuring such recognizable standards as *Tomorrow Belongs to Me*, *The Money Song* and *Cabaret*, promises to be the theatrical highlight of the year!

4TH ANNUAL NEW PLAY

by Joan Ackermann

Directed by Christina Kirk

May 29-June 1 and June 4-8, 1997

Campus Center Theatre

This will be the fourth consecutive season we've closed the year with a new commissioned work. Two of the previous three plays that premiered at Otterbein earned the Central Ohio Critics' Award for Best New Play. Joan Ackermann has been commissioned to write this year's original script and based on her track record we're certain that this will be an especially off-beat comedy. Her previous work includes *The Batting Cage*, *Zara Spook and Other Lures* and *Stanton's Garage*, all three of which premiered at the Humana Festival of New Plays at Actor's Theatre of Louisville. Ms. Ackermann has also written for *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Audubon* and *The New Yorker*. We're extremely excited to be working with a writer of Ms. Ackermann's standing and we can't wait to produce her new work.

1996-97 Subscription Order Form

Please check the option/series you desire from the choices below. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. for opening nights, 2:00 p.m. for all Sunday shows and 8:00 p.m. for all other performances.

☐ Option #1 (\$50)-Series A

Mockingbird—Friday, October 11
Noises Off—Friday, February 7
Hamlet—Friday, March 7
Cabaret—Friday, May 2
New Play—Friday, May 30

☐ Option #1 (\$50)-Series B

Mockingbird—Friday, October 18
Noise Off—Friday, February 14
Hamlet—Friday, March 14
Cabaret—Friday, May 9
New Play—Friday, June 6

☐ Option #1 (\$50)-Series C

Mockingbird—Saturday, October 12
Noises Off—Saturday, February 8
Hamlet—Saturday, March 8
Cabaret—Saturday, May 3
New Play—Saturday, May 31

☐ Option #1 (\$50)-Series D

Mockingbird—Saturday, October 19
Noises Off—Saturday, February 15
Hamlet—Saturday, March 15
Cabaret—Saturday, May 10
New Play—Saturday, June 7

☐ Option #2 (\$39)-Series E

Mockingbird—Sunday, October 13
Noises Off—Sunday, February 9
Hamlet—Sunday, March 9
Cabaret—Sunday, May 4
New Play—Sunday, June 1

☐ Option #2 (\$39)-Series F

Mockingbird—Sunday, October 13
Noises Off—Sunday, February 9
Hamlet—Sunday, March 16
Cabaret—Sunday, May 4
New Play—Sunday, June 8

☐ Option #2 (\$39)-Series G

Mockingbird—Friday, October 18
Noises Off—Thursday, February 13
Hamlet—Thursday, March 13
Cabaret—Thursday, May 8
New Play—Thursday, June 5

☐ Option #3 (\$35)-Series H

Mockingbird—Thursday, October 10
Noises Off—Thursday, February 6
Hamlet—Thursday, March 6
Cabaret—Thursday, May 1
New Play—Thursday, May 29

Special Children's Theatre: *Wind in the Willows*

(As a bonus to subscribers you may order advance tickets to go along with your season tickets at \$1.00 off the normal price. Please check your desired performance below.)

- ☐ Friday, November 22, 7:30 p.m.
☐ Saturday, November 23, 10:30 a.m.
☐ Saturday, November 23, 1:30 p.m.
☐ Sunday, November 24, 1:30 p.m.

I wish to order _____ Option #1 season tickets at \$50.00 each \$ _____
I wish to order _____ Option #2 season tickets at \$39.00 each \$ _____
I wish to order _____ Option #3 season tickets at \$35.00 each \$ _____
I wish to order _____ *Wind in the Willows* tickets (optional) at \$4.50 each \$ _____

Enclose \$1.50 for Postage/Handling \$ _____ 1.50

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution—any amount would be appreciated.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Otterbein College Theatre or charge to:

☐ Mastercard, Exp. Date _____ ☐ Visa, Exp. Date _____ ☐ Discover, Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (home), (work) _____

Signature (if using charge card) _____

☐ I am a new subscriber

☐ I was a subscriber last year

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 September 23, 1996.



OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

Department of Theatre and Dance
Westerville, OH 43081

*This Season Marks a
Milestone with the
Countdown to the
500th Production!*

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

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