

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

Department of Theatre & Dance

2014-2015 SEASON



OTTERBEIN
UNIVERSITY

Dear Subscribers,

I am so pleased to tell you that three new faculty members are joining us this year — TJ Gerckens, Lenny Leibowitz, and Patrick Stone. All three are immensely talented and were chosen after extensive national searches.

TJ grew up in Hilliard, graduated magna cum laude from Otterbein College in 1988 as one of our first BFA Design/Technology majors, and went on to complete an MFA in Lighting Design at Boston University. In the last 20 years, TJ has designed the lighting for dozens of productions all over the country, including *Circle in the Square* on Broadway, the *Goodman* in Chicago, La Jolla Playhouse, and Seattle Rep. His most recent work, with longtime collaborator and director Mary Zimmerman, was a production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* staged at The Met and at La Scala in Milan. His lighting design of *Metamorphoses* won nine awards, among them the Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk awards in New York and the Joseph Jefferson award in Chicago. TJ's wife, Stephanie, also an Otterbein and Boston University graduate, has done wonderful scene designs for us. They have two boys and live in Plain City. TJ will be designing this year's dance concert, *Tell Tale Poe*, this fall and *Into the Woods* next spring.

Lenny grew up in Philadelphia where he made his professional debut as a piano soloist at age 16 with the Philadelphia Symphony. Deciding not to pursue a solo career, he went to Columbia University where he majored in English and fell in love with theatre, creating pieces in alternative spaces with his friends. Continuing to use his musical skills after graduation, he conducted the European tours of *Grease* and *On the Town*. He then received his MFA in Directing from Boston University where he also taught acting, and became the Artistic Director of New Harmony Rep, a professional theatre in Evansville, Indiana. In 2001, he founded Marvell Rep, the only New York company devoted to the creation of new work in repertory, and simultaneously opened an acting studio in the city, where he did outstanding work with young actors. He still plays piano. Lenny will be directing Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* next spring.

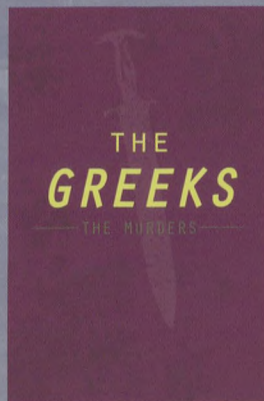
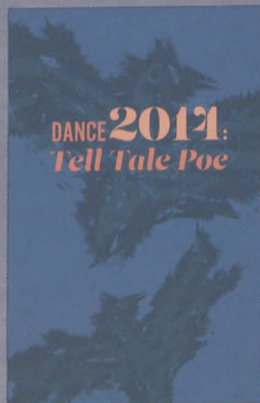
Patrick grew up in South Dakota and attended Doane College in Nebraska where he majored in Philosophy and German, graduating in 1998. He stayed on at Doane and taught Philosophy while simultaneously serving as their Technical Director. Wanting to teach at the university level, he did 50 hours towards a Ph.D. in Philosophy at Loyola University in Chicago before deciding that Theatre was his true calling. He completed an MFA in Technical Theatre at the University of South Dakota in 2007, and has been the Technical Director at the University of Arkansas since then.

We are thrilled to welcome these gifted artist/teachers to our family. Please join us for the season, and see their work and the work of their students!

John Stefano / Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance

Cover Image: *The Importance of Being Earnest* | Spring, 2014

BE A SUBSCRIBER! 2014-2015 Subscription Package



Subscriber Benefits

"Same Seats" Policy

As a subscriber, you have the unique opportunity of renewing your subscription prior to the opening of sales to the public. Should you choose to remain in the same series (A-G) year after year, you will be able to keep the same seats. You will also have the opportunity to request upgrades of seating in advance of individual ticket sales.

Free Ticket Exchanges

The right to exchange tickets is a benefit offered exclusively to Otterbein University Theatre season ticket holders. Tickets may be exchanged to another performance of the same production. To complete an exchange, tickets must be returned 24 hours in advance of the date indicated on them.

Additional Savings

Choosing to purchase season tickets already saves you more than five percent off the individual ticket price, but you save on additional tickets purchased throughout the year. Simply tell the Box Office when ordering that you are a subscriber, and receive any additional tickets at a \$2.00 discount off the regular price.



SWEET CHARITY

SWEET CHARITY

Co-Produced with the Department of Music

September 25-28, October 2-4, 2014

Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

Book by Neil Simon

Music by Cy Coleman

Lyrics by Dorothy Fields

Directed by Christina Kirk

Musical Direction by Lori Kay Harvey

Choreography by Stella Hiatt Kane

Meet the ever-optimistic Charity, a hostess at a dance club, who wants to leave the world of raunchy, bump-and-grind nightclubs and start a more "respectable" life. She sings, dances, laughs, and cries her way through one misadventure after the next, searching for love. Based upon Federico Fellini's Oscar-winning masterpiece *Nights of Cabiria*, *Sweet Charity* is one of the all-time classics of modern musical theatre. Get ready for famous tunes and high-energy dance numbers that will make you glad you decided to "spend a little time" with Charity and her crazy, frenetic friends.

Based on an original screenplay by Federico Fellini, Tullio Pinelli and Ennio Plaiano.

Produced for the Broadway stage by Fryer, Carr and Harris.

Conceived, staged and choreographed by Bob Fosse.

DANCE 2014: TELL TALE POE

November 20-23, 2014

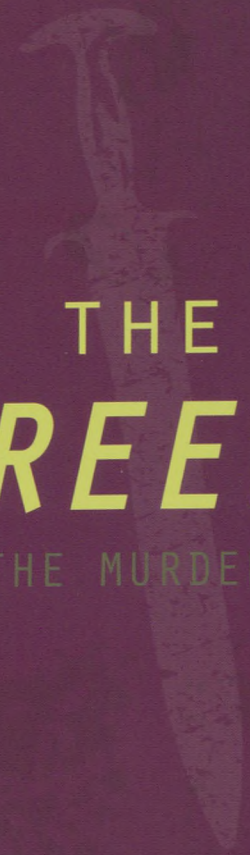
Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

Artistic Direction by Stella Hiatt Kane

In the words of one of America's most beloved actors, the late Robin Williams, "You're only given a little spark of madness, and if you lose that, you're nothing." This madness, a haunting voice unrelenting in pursuit, has tortured many an artist, and from that madness, we have had the honor of witnessing great beauty. Join us in this multi-media concert of dance, poetry, and music as we celebrate the mad-genius of another American icon, Edgar Allan Poe. Otterbein University dance faculty and students will set original choreography to some of Poe's most beloved masterpieces.



DANCE 2014:
Tell Tale Poe



THE GREEKS

— THE MURDERS —

THE GREEKS: THE MURDERS

February 19-22 & 26-28, 2015

Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

Three plays by Euripides, Aeschylus and Sophocles
Translated by John Barton and Kenneth Cavander

Directed by Melissa Lusher

"Sin leads to sorrow — And sorrow leads to sin." In this rare presentation of three stories of the House of Atreus, the strength and love of family are tested by temptations of power, honor, and revenge. The cry for war to rescue Helen from Troy traps Agamemnon, his wife, and children in a spinning wheel of destruction, where horrifying choices are made in the name of "Justice" and consequences reverberate through generations. With boldness and ingenuity, playwrights John Barton and Kenneth Cavander have combined three of the most celebrated plays of the greatest Ancient Greek tragedians in a fresh, electric new translation. The result is a searing look at timeless facets of human nature that speaks directly to even the most contemporary of audiences.

INTO THE WOODS

Co-Produced with the Department of Music

April 9-12 & 16-18, 2015

Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Directed by Lenny Leibowitz

Musical Direction by Lori Kay Harvey

How far would you go to make your wish come true? Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (of beanstalk fame), and a baker and his wife find out when they take a journey into the woods. It's a magical, bewildering place full of witches, wolves, giants, and mysterious strangers, where familiar fairy tales get tangled up together. Wishes come true here, but at a price. Even storybook characters must face the music — of which there is plenty — in Sondheim and Lapine's irreverent Tony Award-winner.

INTO THE WOODS

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684

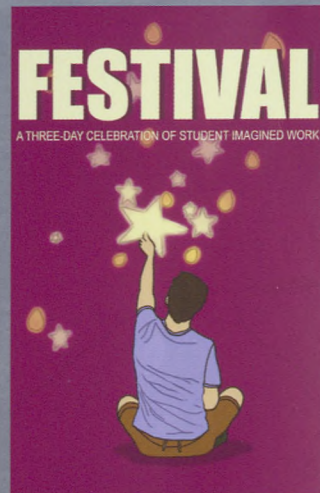
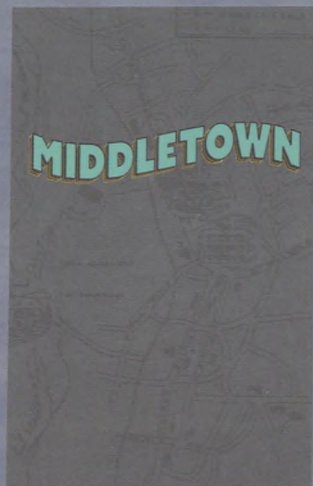
www.MTIShows.com



INTO THE
WOODS

JOIN US FOR MORE OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY THEATRE!

Please call the Box Office (614.823.1109) for more information.



MIDDLETOWN

October 23-25, October 30-November 1, 2014
Campus Center Theatre

By Will Eno

Directed by Jimmy Bohr

In his whimsical, contemporary spin on Thornton Wilder's classic comedy drama, *Our Town*, Will Eno brings neighbor and stranger together, mining the metaphysical and the mundane in the everyday lives of the citizens of Middletown, aka Everytown, USA. At the heart of this sweet, disturbing, and immensely moving journey beats the tender, tenacious human struggle for connection and meaning in this mystery we call life.



MIDDLETOWN

Add to your subscription
package for
\$15

THE YELLOW BOAT



2014 CLASSROOM PROJECT

The Classroom Project is a low-tech show that allows students to perform, design, choreograph, and direct a production for the 245-seat Campus Center Theatre. Shows chosen as Classroom Projects have smaller casts and deal with contemporary issues.

THE YELLOW BOAT

September 11, 12 & 13 / 8:00 p.m.

Campus Center Theatre

By David Saar

Directed by John Stefano

The story of *The Yellow Boat* is a glorious affirmation of a child's life and the strength and courage of all children. This dramatization is based on the true story of David and Sonja Saar's son, Benjamin, who was born with congenital hemophilia and died in 1987 at the age of 8 of AIDS-related complications. A uniquely gifted visual artist, Benjamin's buoyant imagination transformed his physical and emotional pain into a blaze of colors and shapes in his fanciful drawings and paintings. A Scandinavian folksong tells of three little boats: "One was blue, one was red and one was yellow as the sun. They sailed far out to sea. The blue one returned to the harbor. The red one sailed home, too. But the yellow boat sailed up to the sun." Benjamin always concluded his bedtime ritual by saying, "Mom, you can be the red boat or the blue boat, but I am the yellow boat." Benjamin's remarkable voyage continues to touch audiences around the world.

FREE!

Class of 2015

SHOWCASE FUNDRAISER

December 6, 2014 / 8:00 p.m.

Riley Auditorium (Battelle Fine Arts Center)

The Senior Showcase has become an important final step in the education of Otterbein University students and has been, for some, the beginning of promising performance careers. In April 2015, we will send our seniors to showcase in New York to audition for more than 150 casting directors and agents.

Join us for this very special performance as we celebrate four years of training culminating in the first of perhaps thousands of auditions that these young artists will undergo.

No admission will be charged for this event — donations will be collected following the performance. All proceeds from the event will go into the 2015 Senior Showcase fund. Any amount of financial support of the Senior Showcase, a vital part of the Otterbein University Theatre & Dance professional training program, is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing the success of the Class of 2015 with you soon!

Admission: donation only



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Donation

FESTIVAL

A THREE-DAY CELEBRATION OF STUDENT-IMAGINED WORK



FREE!

FESTIVAL

Titles TBA

January 29-31, 2015
Campus Center Theatre

Join us for the third annual *Festival*, a three-day celebration of student-imagined work. Produced, directed, designed, and acted by the majors in the Department of Theatre & Dance, *Festival* works may include plays, musicals, mime, monologues, songs, and dance. The possibilities are endless!

*Please note, these productions may contain adult language and themes.
Not all material may be suitable for children.*

Contacting the Box Office

Tickets may be purchased for all shows during regular Box Office hours at any time during the year. Due to the nature of the college calendar, please note dates of operation below.

Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(and one hour prior to performances)

Fall Semester: September 2–December 5 (Closed October 13–14, November 26–28)

Spring Semester: January 14 – April 24 (Closed March 2–6, April 3)

Box Office:

614.823.1109



**Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Westerville, OH 43081**




Buy online!




www.otterbein.edu/drama

Any time of the day, any day of the week.
(after September 2, 2014)

Individual Ticket Prices:

Sweet Charity & Into the Woods: \$25 each  

Dance 2014: Tell Tale Poe, The Greeks: The Murders, Middletown:
\$18 each   

The Classroom Project, 2015 Showcase Class Fundraiser, Festival:
FREE   

Student Rush Tickets:

Tickets are available for all performances one hour prior to curtain (pending availability).
Please phone the Box Office for Student Rush pricing.

Join the Cast!

Costs of equipment and materials continue to rise. It is because of your assistance with these expenses and more that we are able to provide our students with the experiences of working with world-renowned directors, designers, and choreographers.

Again this year, Otterbein University Theatre will spend \$25,000 in costumes, \$40,000 in scenery, and more than \$29,000 in scripts and royalties. This does not include sound, light, ticket, publicity, and guest expenses. We appreciate your many contributions and your continued presence in our theatres. Please, join the Cast by contributing to the 2014-15 Otterbein University Theatre season.

The Cast List

\$5000+	Producer	\$100–249	Star
\$1000–4999	Director	\$50–99	Supporting Actor
\$500–999	Designer	\$10–49	Extra
\$250–499	Diva		

Show Times

Opening Nights 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Matinees 2:00 p.m.

All other performances 8:00 p.m.

Traditional Season

SUBSCRIPTION PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Series	Day	Time	<i>Sweet Charity</i>	<i>Dance 2014: Tell Tale Poe</i>	<i>The Greeks</i>	<i>Into the Woods</i>
A	Opening Nights (Thursday)	7:30	September 25	November 20	February 19	April 9
B	1 st Fridays	8:00	September 26	November 21	February 20	April 10
C	1 st Saturdays	8:00	September 27	November 22	February 21	April 11
D	Sunday Matinees	2:00	September 28	November 23	February 22	April 12
E	2 nd Thursdays	8:00	October 2	November 20	February 26	April 16
F	2 nd Fridays	8:00	October 3	November 21	February 27	April 17
G	2 nd Saturdays	8:00	October 4	November 22	February 28	April 18

Add Middletown for just \$15 more!
(You choose your preferred dates)

Thursday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 24, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 25, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 31, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 1, 8:00 p.m.

Subscription Order Form

Please send this form, with payment, to:

Otterbein University Theatre Box Office

1 S. Grove St.

Westerville, Ohio 43081

Call the Box Office at 614.823.1109 with questions.

Send me season tickets!

Traditional Series _____ x \$82 = \$ _____
(choose A-G)

AND ADD

Middletown _____ x \$15 = \$ _____
(check preferred dates below) (when combined with a subscription package)

- ☐ Thursday, October 23 ☐ Friday, October 24 ☐ Saturday, October 25
☐ Thursday, October 30 ☐ Friday, October 31 ☐ Saturday, November 1

**Become an Otterbein University
Theatre Contributor and join the Cast!**

(Individual tickets can be purchased by calling
the Box Office at 614.823.1109 or visiting
www.otterbein.edu/drama after September 2.)

Postage & Handling \$ \$4.00
TOTAL \$ _____

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EXP. DATE

CV3

SIGNATURE

Disclaimer: 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 unless time does not allow prior to the first scheduled performance. Seating WILL vary for *Dance 2014: Tell Tale Poe* and *Middletown*. Subscription seats in Cowan Hall will be moved back two rows during most musicals in order to accommodate the orchestra.



Department of Theatre & Dance
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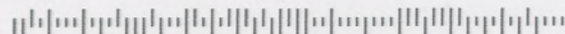


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