

'Midsummer' designer sets his sights on future

Looking toward the future while working on a classic from the past is a challenge for one Otterbein College theater student.

Mike Slane, a senior from Chardon, is set designer for the upcoming production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," March 8-11 in Cowan Hall. Performances are set for 8:15 p.m. Thursday through Saturday with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

"We've decided to set the production sometime in the future," Slane said. "We experimented with an underwater feel at first, but it became too literal. Now I've decided I want a forest-like atmosphere, so I am designing a free-form acting area with some stylized trees to

climb in. The set will have a light, fun feel to it."

Slane is working closely with the costume designer and lighting director for the production. "The sets, costumes, and lighting have to integrate well, especially in a play like this, where there will be such an emphasis on color," he said.

A design-technical major, Slane has been involved in all facets of design during his years at Otterbein. He tried his hand at period costumes in "Private Lives" and "The Elephant Man," was responsible for both costumes and set in the Otterbein Children's Theatre production of "Gollwhippers," and did the lighting for this season's pro-

duction of "Deathtrap."

Slane won the 1982 Otterbein student set design competition with his set for the Children's Theatre production of "Beauty and the Beast." His renderings and floor plans were exhibited at the 1983 American College Theatre Festival regional competition.

"It was pretty exciting," said Slane. "It was a good chance to have other people see my work and comment on it."

When he entered Otterbein, Slane intended to be a performance major. "I began to be involved in the theater during my freshman year in high school and by my senior year was seriously thinking of acting as a career," he said. "A very special teacher

steered me towards Otterbein, where I was assured I would be able to do both acting and technical work.

"I appeared in several plays at Otterbein, but in my sophomore year I realized that the technical and design stuff was where I was finding the most enjoyment. I began taking lots of technical courses to catch up, and I haven't acted in a show since. The interest is still there but I don't have the time right now," he said.

Slane especially enjoys his costuming duties. "I really get into the research," he said. "I go to the library, look at films, and haunt the antique clothing stores. I like working with the different fabrics."



Marriage plans

Tracy Jones, playing Hippolyta/Titania, and guest professional actor Marcus Smythe, playing Theseus/Oberon, make plans for their marriage ceremony in the Otterbein College Theatre production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," set for March 8-11 in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Performance times are 8:15 p.m. Thursday through Saturday with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Smythe, an Otterbein alumnus, played the role of Dane Taylor for two years on the daytime drama "Search for Tomorrow." Tickets to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are available by calling or visiting the Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

'Midsummer Night's Dream' will have look of the future

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will have a different look when it is presented by Otterbein College March 8-11 in Cowan Hall.

"Since the play is timeless, we are going to set it sometime in the future," said Ed Vaughan, theatre faculty member at Otterbein and director of the production. "We didn't want to convey the idea of a specific location or time, but rather a feeling of fantasy."

Vaughan plans to tie in the Shakespeare comedy with this spring's Otterbein Integrative Studies Festival,

the theme of which is "Futurism."

"Through this production, we are offering our prediction and hope that the need for love and man's ability to recognize and laugh at his own folly will still be present in the future," Vaughan said. "The beauty of Shakespeare's work is that the plays can be placed anywhere."

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is one of Shakespeare's early works, first appearing in 1600. According to Vaughan, the play was probably written to be produced at court or at a country home with the queen in attendance. "There are several topical references in the play which we can't understand," he explained.

"One of Shakespeare's main contributions to literature through this play is his treatment of the fairies," said

Vaughan. "Before this time, fairies were thought of as grotesque hobgoblins. Shakespeare's concept of them as tiny, airy, dreamlike creatures became the norm."

Although the play will be

set in a future world, Vaughan will maintain the Elizabethan language. "The language doesn't matter because the thoughts are so universal," he said. "Language is constantly evolving. Who's to say we won't talk like that again?"

Professional guest artist Marcus Smythe will play the role of Oberon/Theseus. A 1972 graduate of Otterbein, Smythe now works in New

York City and until recently had the continuing role of Dance on "Search for Tomorrow."

The roles of Lysander and Demetrius will be played by Tim Gregory and Craig Icsman. Hermia and Helena will be played by Charlotte Dougherty and Susan Diol. Tracy Jones will have the role of Titania/Hippolyta, while Charlie Daruda will

play Puck/Philstrate.

Other cast members are Don Ervin as Egeus/Peter Quince, Mike Blankenship as Nick Bottom, Steve Salyer as Francis Flute, Gary Scott as Tom Snout, Roger Tackette as Snug, and Todd Reagan as Robin Starveling. Tackette will also understudy Oberon's role.

Fairies and attendants will be played by Nancy Fox, Melanie Scott, Maria Magi-

sano, Joanna Fabian, Craig Summers, Jim Fippin, Jeff Kin, and Todd Freeman.

Tickets to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are available at the Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour preceding the performance.

Performances are set for 8:15 p.m. March 8-10, with a matinee at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 11.

Midsummer Night's Dream has futuristic set

Otterbein College's upcoming production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be a futuristic flight of fancy.

The magical comedy will be staged March 8-11 at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus in Westerville.

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lins. Shakespeare's concept of them as tiny, airy, dreamlike creatures became the norm."

Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of fairies, hold court in a forest through which pass four mismatched lovers and a band of workingmen on their way to the palace in Athens to perform a play for the mortal king and his bride.

It is Oberon's servant Robin Goodfellow, or Puck, who utters the line "What fools these mortals be" as he dispenses a magic love potion to the sleeping Titania and the lovers. Confusion and hilarity ensue and all ends well.

Although the play will be set in a future world, Vaughan will maintain the Elizabethan language. "The language doesn't matter because the thoughts are so universal," said Vaughan. "Language is constantly evolving and who's to say we won't talk like that again?"

Professional guest artist Marcus Smythe will play the role of Oberon/Theseus. A 1972 graduate of Otterbein, Smythe now works in New York City and until recently had the continuing role of Dane on "Search for Tomorrow."

The roles of Lysander and Demetrius will be played by Tim Gregory and Craig Icsman. Hermia and Helena will be played by Charlotte Dougherty and Susan Diol. Tracy Jones will have the role of Titania/Hippolyta while Charlie Daruda will play Puck/Philstrate.

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Maria Magisano, Joanna Fabian, Craig Summers, Jim Fippin, Jeff Kin and Todd Freeman.

Tickets to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are available beginning Feb. 23, at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour preceding the performance.

Student photo display has depth



Photo by Dave Tanner

Plants, self-portraits, gutters, trash cans, and a statue are all featured at the most recent LRC student photography display located in the basement of the library.

The photographs on display represent the work of four fall term photographers. Pictured above is one of the four images submitted by Lisa Cunningham, a junior from Reynoldsburg, Ohio.



Dispatch photo Fred Shannon

'Dream' role

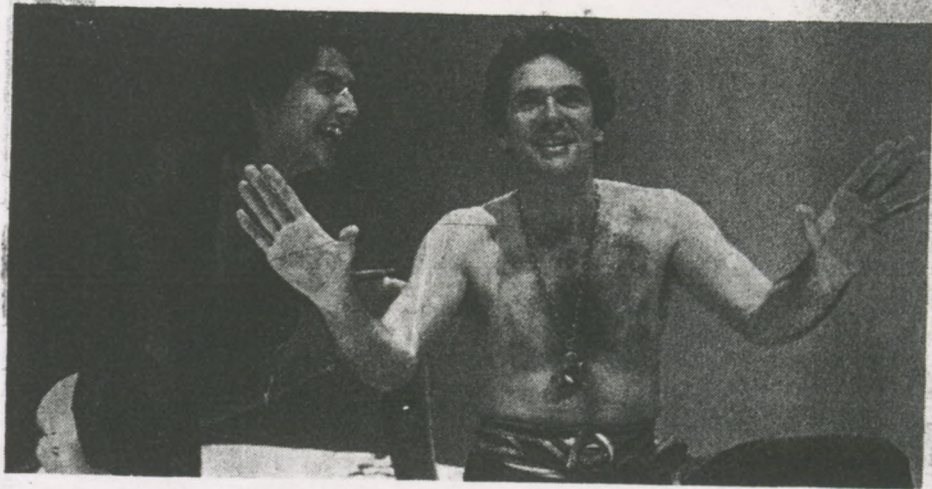
Television star Marcus Smythe has been a busy man. The former soap opera actor and 1972 graduate of Otterbein College returned to his alma mater last month to prepare for a guest role in the school's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which runs Thursday through next Sunday. At top, Smythe signs an autograph for student Brian Grigsby; left, Smythe rehearses a tender moment with Tracy Jones; below, he studies his lines in his dressing room.





Search to stage

Marcus Smythe, who plays the role of Dane Taylor on television's soap opera "Search for Tomorrow," will star in Otterbein College's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," March 8-11. Smythe, a 1972 Otterbein graduate, will play the part of Oberon/Theseus. He has appeared on television, in regional theater, film and Off-Broadway.



A Puckish plot

Charlie Daruda, left, as Puck, makes mischievous plans with guest professional actor Marcus Smythe, who plays Oberon, in the upcoming Otterbein College Theatre production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," March 8-11 at Cowan Hall. Smythe, a 1972 Otterbein graduate, has appeared on the daytime serial "Search for Tomorrow." Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances begin at 8:15 p.m. The Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office, open weekdays from 1 to 4:30 p.m.



PR photo

Midsummer Night in '73

Shown above are Dick Miller and Beth Machlan, who portrayed Oberon and Titania in the 1973 production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Dr. Charles Dodrill. The same parts will be filled by Tracy Jones and guest artist Marcus Smythe in the upcoming production, directed by Mr. Edward Vaughan.