

Former theater director

Dodrill back to direct fall play

By ALAN FROMAN

ThisWeek Staff Writer

The man who retired in 1991 after directing Otterbein College's Department of Theatre for nearly 30 years has returned to direct the school's upcoming play.

Charles Dodrill is guest director of "Cat Among the Pigeons," a French farce by Georges Feydeau. The play will be performed Oct. 5-9.

"It's a typical French farce with all kinds of secrets and people getting caught and slamming of doors and all of those things," Dodrill said. "It's great fun, great fun. You can look forward to having a good laugh."

Feydeau is known as the originator of the French farce. His most famous play is "A Flea in Her Ear," but Dodrill said "Cat Among the Pigeons" is even better.

"This play is funnier," he said. "I'm not sure why this play is not revived

more often."

Dodrill, who lives in Westerville, said he jumped at the chance to direct the play when Otterbein asked.

"It's great fun to come back and work with students on a challenging and fun play," he said. "To go into that atmosphere without the pressure of teaching and running a department is nice."

Several of the students Dodrill is directing in the play are seniors, and were the last group of students he recruited before retiring.

"This is a wonderful group of students. They are very dedicated and it's been fun working with them," Dodrill said.

Instruction is part of the job for a director of a college play, he said.

"Any time you're directing in college, it means you're also teaching," Dodrill said. "For most of the students, it's the first time they are working in the genre you're doing. So teaching,

you expect to do that.

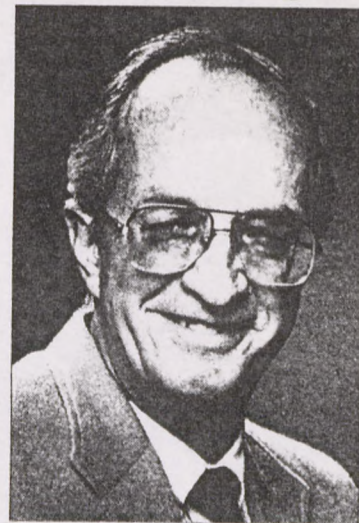
"It's fun because you get the chance to see people grow and develop and you know you're helping them develop toward their career goals," he said. "Occasionally it's frustrating for them and occasionally it's frustrating for you. But it's always rewarding."

The actors held the first full run-through of the play last week, Dodrill said, and there remains plenty to do before opening night.

"It's a very intense process, but most of the students thrive on it because it's what they want to do," he said. "They're rehearsing three or four hours a day on top of their regular classes. It's very demanding."

The Oct. 5 opening night performance of "Cat Among the Pigeons" begins at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances will begin at 8 p.m. and the matinee starts at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$9.50 for the Oct. 7 and 8 shows and \$8 for the Oct. 5, 6 and



Charles Dodrill makes a special guest appearance at Otterbein.

9 shows. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at 823-1109 between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

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OCT-6-94



Things look bad for the "cat" in Otterbein College Theatre's production of **Cat Among the Pigeons**, running through Sunday at Otterbein College in Westerville. The classic French farce by Georges Feydeau follows the misadventures of a man trying to hide his impending marriage from his girlfriend. Performances are held at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are \$9.50 on Friday and Saturday, \$8 on Thursday and Sunday. 823-1109.

Live at Otterbein

Otterbein College Theatre presents

Cat Among the Pigeons

by Georges Feydeau

October 5-9
times vary
Cowan Hall



From the master of the "French Farce" comes
"A triumph of ingenuity, gaiety, absurdity and laughter."

Coming Up

Opera Theatre

Oct. 14 & 15, 8 p.m./Battelle

Dept. of Music

Dallas Brass

Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m./Cowan Hall

Artist Series

Westerville Civic Symphony

Oct. 29, 8 p.m./Cowan Hall

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Theatre
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Music
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