

Otterbein opens summer theatre season

The Otterbein Summer Theatre will welcome audiences to the world of James Thurber in "A Thurber Carnival," the first production of the summer season.

The play will be staged June 21-25 at 8:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre on the Otterbein campus.

"We selected this play because of the recent resurgence of interest in Thurber and because the works of America's great humorist will get the summer season off in the proper atmosphere—that of fun," said Ed Vaughan, Otterbein theatre faculty member who is serving as managing director for the Otterbein Summer Theatre.

"We will also be able to introduce our entire summer

company of 12 members to audiences with this production. It will be an ensemble effort with all the cast members playing several roles," said Vaughan. The play will be a series of Thurber sketches including such favorites as "If Grant Had Been Drinking at Appomattox," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," "The Night the Bed Fell," and "File and Forget."

The sketches will be accompanied by music faculty member Lynn Hurstad on piano.

Otterbein alumna Julie Sickles, a 1975 graduate, will direct "A Thurber Carnival." Currently a member of the Miami University (Ohio) theatre faculty, she holds a master's degree in fine arts degree from the University

of Nebraska and is the former associate director of theatre at Fort Hayes Career Center in Columbus.

Members of the Otterbein Summer Theatre Company are Brent Erdy, Susan Diol, Juli Armentrout, Roger Tackette, Carol Giffen, Giovanni Moscardino, Steve Salyer, A. Victor Jones, Allison Dixon, Jim Fippin, Liana Peters, and Beth Deiley.

Season ticket order forms

Otterbein alumni to perform

Alumni from Otterbein College choirs through the years will present the sixth annual Alumni Choir Concert on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the Riley Auditorium of the Battelle Fine Arts Center.

More than 40 choir alumni will perform under the principal direction of Lynn Hurstad, Otterbein's director of choral and vocal activities. Alumni will also share some of the conducting duties.

A varied program will be offered, including such

for the entire summer program of five plays: "A Thurber Carnival," "I Do! I Do!," "The Elephant Man," "God's Favorite," and "Ten Little Indians" are available at the Cowan Hall box office window. These forms should be mailed to Otterbein Summer Theatre, Westerville, Ohio 43081. Individual and season tickets are available beginning June 13 at the Campus Center box office from 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays.

works as Britten's "Balulabow," selections from Vivaldi's "Gloria," Ringwald's "Deep River," and Pelz's "Peace I Leave With You."

The concert is open to the public free of charge.

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The entire company of the Otterbein College Summer Theatre will appear in the season's first production, "A Thurber Carnival," set for June 21-25 at 8:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre. Cast members include Allison Dixon (left), Steve Salyer, Roger Tackette, and Juli Armentrout (seated). In the rear, Giovanni Moscardino stands behind Carol Giffen and Brent Erdy. In the right foreground, A. Victor Jones stands behind Susan Diol and Jim Fippin.

Alumnus to direct 'Thurber'

A 1975 Otterbein College theatre graduate will return

to her alma mater this week as director of "A Thurber Carnival," the opening production of the Otterbein Summer Theatre season.

The play is set for June 21-25 at 8:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre.

"The first time I directed a play, I received immediate gratification," recalled Julie Sickles. "It was my junior year at Otterbein and I directed a workshop production of Kipit's 'Chamber Music' for which I won the Directing Award. I'd found what I wanted to do."

After graduation, Ms. Sickles studied voice and movement at the State University of New York at Binghamton and spent a year in the Ohio State University theatre program be-

fore working on her masters degree in directing from the University program before working on her masters degree in directing from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

A job teaching theatre to high school students at Fort Hayes Career Center in Columbus followed from 1978 to 1980, and then Ms. Sickles became a member of the theatre faculty at Miami University in Oxford, Oh. "I'm sort of a rare bird—schooled in voice, acting, and direction—so I am able to serve in a variety of capacities," Sickles said.

She especially enjoys teaching a theatre appreciation course at Miami. "I can get my hands on a future theatre audience through the course and I hope I can turn them into a more discriminating audience. Good theatre depends very much on having an appreciative audience," she said.

Sickles plans to continue teaching during the school year and then use her summers to do free-lance directing for regional theatres. She has been involved with the Nettle Creek Players in Hagerstown, Ind., in casting and teaching classes in musical theatre for their productions of "Sugar" and "Camelot."

Since embarking on her professional career, Sickles has never experienced any lack of encouragement from those around her, despite the fact that directing still largely remains a male profession. "The fact that the director is an authority figure can be hard for some women to deal with," she admitted. "The job takes a degree of self-confidence that some women may not have or may have to learn. I was fortunate to have a strong father who taught me to read novels, to use my imagination, and to be aggressive about what I believed in."

However, women have a distinct advantage over men in certain aspects of the directorial art, she believes. "Women are used to approaching things instinctively first. Then they break it down into its intellectual components. I am drawn to a script because of the way it makes me feel. Then I go back and figure out why it makes me feel that way. I think this is what theatre should do—create passion and be an experience, not a lesson."

Sickles is excited at the prospect of directing a play by James Thurber. "It's something very different for me. Thurber's humor is deceptively easy-going. His sketches are very funny but there's a little stab at human nature in there. I hope as the director that I can capture the essence behind the laughter. It's a wonderful challenge."

Future plans for Sickles include a dream of being the first woman to direct a major Broadway production. "But right now I am thrilled with the opportunities I do have to direct and I am delighted to be back at Otterbein!"

Tickets to "A Thurber Carnival" are available at the Campus Center box office from 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays. Season tickets to the entire summer season of five plays are also available.



Summer Theatre recalls Thurber

The Otterbein Summer Theatre company will appear in the season's first production *A Thurber Carnival*, set for Tuesday-Saturday, June 21-25, 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Arena Theatre. Cast members include, from the left, row one, Allison Dixon, Susan Diol, Carol Giffen and Juli Armentrout; row two, Brent Erdy, A. Victor Jones and Roger Tackette; row three, Steve Salyer, Jim Flippin and Giovanni Moscardino. Tickets to *A Thurber Carnival* as well as season tickets for the Otterbein Summer Theatre, are available at the Campus Summer Center box office, 890-3028, 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays.



'Carnival' this week at OST

Susan Diol removes a wrench from Giovanni Moscardino's grasp in a scene from the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "A Thurber Carnival," which will run through Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre on the Otterbein campus. Tickets to the production are available at the Campus Center Box Office from 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays and for one hour preceding each performance at the door.



Summer theater

The Otterbein Summer Theatre company is a rambunctious group that will appear in the season's first production, "A Thurber Carnival," June 21-25. Performances will be 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Arena Theatre at Otterbein College. The company is, Allison Dixon, left, Brent Erdy, Steve Salyer (back), Susan Diol, A. Victor Jones (front), Jim Fippin, Carol Giffen, Giovanni Moscardino (back), Juli Armentrout and Roger Tackette.



Otterbein
theatre

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"A THURBER CARNIVAL"

Tues.-Sat. June 21-25

8:30 p.m. Air Conditioned Arena

Opening Night: All Seats \$2.50

Wed.-Sat. \$4.00

SEASON TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE
\$15 Tues.-Wed. \$17 Thurs.-Sat.

For reservations phone 890-3028, 12:30-9 p.m. weekdays.