

OST to open June 22 with 'Harvey'

The whole family is expected to love "Harvey" — a 6 ft. 2 and one half inch invisible rabbit — and Otterbein Summer Theatre's (OST) season opener.

The Pulitzer Prize winning classic family comedy, a Broadway hit for several years running, will be presented by OST June 22-26 and June 29-July 3.

"Harvey" is "Superbly joyous, endearing entertainment," according to an Associated Press review. The giant hare is discovered and befriended by Elwood P. Dowd, a lovable but often inebriated bachelor who treads a fine line with reality.

While seemingly calm and reasonable, Dowd does carry around a hat punched with two holes for his friend's ears...but then again, perfect strangers like to sit and chat with the unlikely duo to unload their worries.

Dowd's berserk imagination (or is it insightful perception?) provides some embarrassing and hilarious social moments for his fussy sister — who suspects she might have glimpsed the mysterious hopper herself a time or two.

"The play's lasting

appeal," noted Time Magazine, "seems to suggest that many an American secretly yearns to shuck off the work ethic, drop every irksome responsibility and just frish about with some fabulous Harvey of his own."

STARRING AS Dowd will be Equity guest artist Michael Hartman, a 1970 Otterbein alumnus returning for a fourth season with the summer theatre. Last year he received critical acclaim as Sir in OST's "The Dresser."

Hartman made his Broadway debut in "Sherlock Holmes" and is active in regional theatres and national television commercials. He is currently the national TV and radio spokesperson for the Mr. Goodbar candy company.

Performances will be given, with the support of Bank One of Columbus/NA, in Otterbein's Campus Center Theatre, located in the lower level of the Campus Center. "Harvey" will open Wednesday, June 22, with a 7:30 p.m. performance.

All other performances will be at 8 p.m. with the exception of Sunday matinees which will be held at 2 p.m. For further information or tickets, contact the OST box office at 898-1109.

Performance of 'Harvey' set for visually-impaired

6/9/89 ~~5000~~-88 P.O.

Blind and visually-impaired theatergoers will be able to enjoy Otterbein College Theater's production of the family classic, *Harvey*, through audio description. The 8 p.m. July 1 show of-



fering the special closed broadcast system is presented with the support of the Ohio Theater Alliance, GTE and the Ohio Arts Council.

During the performance, a certified audio describer serves as a visual aid by telling the visually impaired about the program notes, costumes, scenery and non-verbal action. The description is communicated via radio transmission through small earphones provided to the visually impaired members of the audience.

Jim Fippin, a 1985 theater alumnus of Otterbein who is currently doing graduate work at the University of Akron, will serve as the evening's audio describer.

Although *Harvey* will be presented June 22-26 and June 29-July 3, the audio description will be available only for the 8 p.m. July 1 performance. Special arrangements must be made for equipment, and the theater department must have advance notice to make provision.

Contact the theater office at 898-1109 by June 24 to make reservations for those who will require audio description.

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Service helps audience 'see'

By Michael Grossberg
Dispatch Theater Critic

Central Ohio theater groups are presenting more performances enhanced for the visually impaired.

Groups scheduling these performances include Actors Summer Theatre, Otterbein College Theatre and Players TheatreColumbus.

You might have attended such a special performance without noticing it, according to Fran Bay of the Ohio Theatre Alliance. The audio description process is an unobtrusive addition to a regular performance.

Trained "describers" sit off-stage and describe non-verbal action, costumes and sets to blind or visually impaired audience members wearing small headphones. Those who don't use the closed broadcast system aren't disturbed by it. But to those who use it, the difference is significant.

Actors Summer Theatre will offer audio description for the visually impaired during the June 24 performance of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* in German Village's Schiller Park. The same service will be provided for the July 22 performance of *Kiss Me Kate*. Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m. For details, call 444-6888.

Otterbein College will offer audio description during the July 1 performance of *Harvey* at the Campus Center theater. Jim Fippin, a 1985 Otterbein graduate, will serve as audio describer for the 8 p.m. show. For reservations, call 898-1109 before June 24.

Players TheatreColumbus will offer audio description during the 8 p.m., June 15 performance of *Gypsy* at 549 Franklin Ave. For more information, call 224-6971.

Most groups recommend or require reservations.

Other central Ohio theater groups that offer audio description or sign language for some performances should send the performance times and dates at least one month in advance to the Ohio Theatre Alliance, 504 N. Park St., Columbus 43215. For more information, call 228-1998.



'Harvey' pops up at college

Dispatch photo by Cecilia Prestamo

Ralph Scott, left, and Joshua Wank rehearse a scene from the Otterbein Col-

lege production of *Harvey*. See theater listings on Page 11.



**Outerbein
Summer
Theatre**

and

Bank One, Columbus, NA

present



Michael Hartman

in

"Harvey"

classic family comedy

June 29 - July 3

898-1109



With the support of
the Ohio Arts Council