

'Evita' to feature largest cast ever at Otterbein

Otterbein College Theatre's upcoming production of "Evita" is literally festooned with extras—and that stretches beyond the confines of cast numbers—although the show boasting the largest cast ever (52) of any OCT show.

Extra is the by-word in all areas for this Andrew Lloyd Webber Blockbuster—special touches that range from a quartet of professional guest artists to countless extravagant costumes that are certain to create an unforgettable spectacle. The international musical hit will run May 2-6 in Cowan Hall.

Preparation for the production began months ago. Director Dennis Romer flew to New York early in the winter to audition guest artists for the weighty role of Juan Peron and chose well-known actor Charles Pistone of New York. "We were fortunate to find him," Romer said. "He's the type of actor we look for when seeking a guest artist. He has a strong desire to work with students, and in 'Evita,' will strike a wonderful balance with our two other principals. He played Javert in the first national tour of 'Les Miserables,' and has always wanted to play the role of Juan Peron."

Russell Hastings from the Ohio State University theatre department will lend his expertise as guest set designer and Doreen Dunn, executive director of OhioDance, will be guest choreographer. Otterbein faculty crucial to the production include musical di-

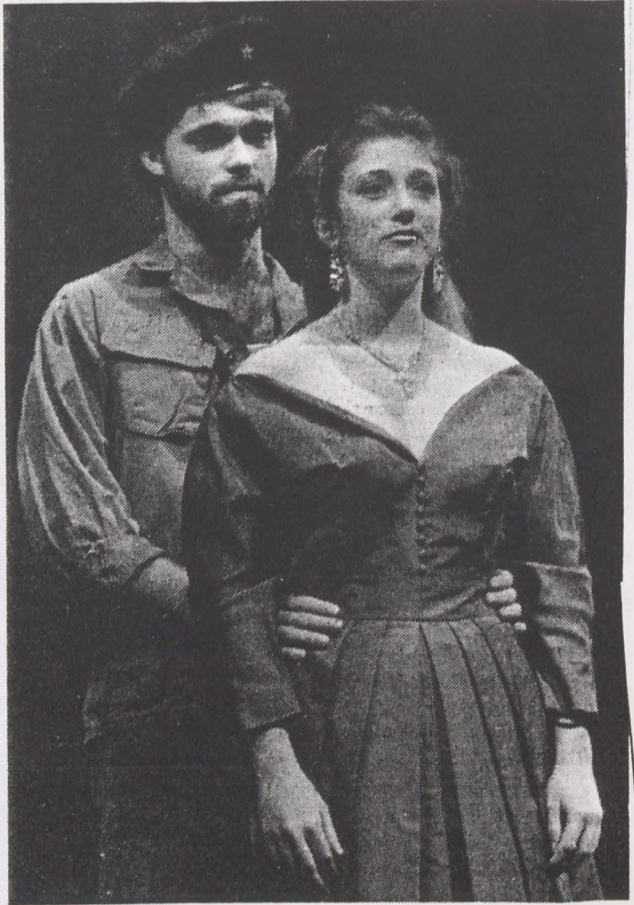
rector David DeVenney, vocal director Craig Johnson and lighting designer Rob Johnson.

The show presents a technical challenge which OCT is going to great lengths to meet in order to offer a top quality presentation. The department is spending \$2,000 on sound designed by David Mead (who also did sound for OCT's "Chorus Line" and "Sweeney Todd") from Stage Tech in Columbus.

The set, largely metal scaffold, features a custom-painted drop, and a rear projection screen that will magically "build" a multitude of settings from 150 different slides. Lighting alone is a major undertaking in "Evita." There will be several spotlight operators on stage and more than 200 light cues.

Lisa Walton, who is playing the lead role of Eva Peron will have 20 costume changes—and more than 200 total costumes have been assembled for the show. Guest professional Lauren Lambie, resident costume designer with Players Theatre Columbus traveled to New York to purchase approximately \$2,000 worth of special fabric and costumes are being borrowed and rented. "Evita" garnered seven Tony awards, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and six Drama Desk Awards during its Broadway run.

Spotlighting the life of Eva Peron, second wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron, "Evita" meshes gripping, true life drama



Jess Hanks, left, and Lisa Walton portray Che and Evita in Otterbein College's production May 2-6.

with a remarkable musical score and zesty dance numbers.

Beginning life as a poor, illegitimate peasant, the determined ambitious Eva displayed a magnetic charisma and inherent savvy that thrust her to the top of the Argentinean political world and made her an international celebrity.

"'Evita' is a very timely production," Romer said. "This is a time when everyone is questioning new governments and we have a healthy skepticism concerning authority. It revives the whole question of

leadership and government—who are we to believe and follow. Also, the Peron government has regained control in Argentina. But what is fascinating about 'Evita' is that it deals with the overwhelming popularity of this woman."

All performances will be in Cowan Hall on campus. Opening night will begin at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, the matinee performance will be at 2 p.m. All other performances will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained beginning Wednesday from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109.

Guest artist to appear in 'Evita'

Westerville This week

April 30, 1990

Evita, the Otterbein Theatre Department's only musical presentation this year, runs Wednesday through Sunday of this week. The musical, based on the life of Eva Peron, wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron, includes several dance numbers. Todd Wilson, managing director, said a guest choreographer, Doreen Dunn, the executive director of Ohio Dance, is setting the choreography.

They are also featuring professional guest artist, Charles Pistone. A native of New York City, Pistone has just finished two years of the first national tour of *Les Miserables*.

Evita is one of six productions of the theatre department this year. The department has 135 majors, some of which are in the technical area. Wilson said each production is cast through very competitive auditions. "This is, perhaps, the largest cast we have ever had," he said. "There are over 50 in the cast."

Call the theatre box office (898-1109) for times and ticket info.

SAME PLACE DIFFERENT TIME.

Also taking place this Saturday at Otterbein is the college's Parents - May Day Celebration. Seventy to 100 parents are expected to participate. Joyce Jadwin, adviser to the campus programming board, said that while Parents' Day has been in existence for quite a few years, this is the first year it has been in conjunction with the May Day Festival. Previously, it took place during the winter months, which proved not to be a good time of year because of traveling difficulties.

The parents will have the opportunity to take several classes offered by Otterbein professors volunteering their time.

Parents are also invited to participate in the May Day festivities taking place behind the Campus Center at 11 a.m. The activities include: coronation of a junior court; choral music; a performance by the Otterbein Dance Company; induction of scholastic achievers into the college chapter of Mortar Board, and hopefully, a May Pole Dance.

The day will conclude with dinner at the Campus Center followed by attending the Theatre Department's production of *Evita*.

"The event is a celebration between the faculty, students and parents," Jadwin said. "Doing it at this time of year really offers the parents a great variety of activities."

A MASSAGING MESSAGE. The Westerville Parks and Recreation



Hear & There

DEBI
LEAKE
882-0626

Department is conducting the second of two massage clinics on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Ted Cobb, recreation supervisor, said this is the first year for the clinics in Westerville. However, he has been involved with the program in the past and found it to be very relaxing and therapeutic. "People come out feeling good and knowing what to do," he said.

Sue Leach, a licensed massage therapist, will instruct the clinic on two types of massage. The first, Swedish massage, manipulates muscles and is good for circulation. The other type is Shiatsu, a finger pressure technique. Leach said the same points are used in acupuncture and are pressed upon with a finger or thumb. "This balances the vital energy that runs through the body," she said. Leach has six years of experience and has worked on celebrities Carole King and Billy Idol through her association with the Hyatt on Capitol Square.

Participants may want to enroll with a massage partner at \$10 for the pair, or you can enroll individually for \$5. Call 890-8544 for more information.

THERE THEY GO AGAIN. "You can't be in middle school and not go on the trip to King's Island," said Ted Cobb, Recreation Supervisor. Billed as the "Teen Safari to King's Island", the popular event is for seventh- and eighth-graders living in the Westerville School District. Eleven buses will be rolling out on Saturday from Westerville South High School at 7:30 a.m. to return full of exhausted safari members, at 7:30 p.m. Cobb said they expect 500 kids to participate.

Sign-up for the trip was this past weekend, but if the buses aren't full you can still purchase a ticket for \$25. Call the Westerville Parks and Recreation (890-8544) to see if any openings are available. Only adults may purchase tickets.

The kids will have a "Beast" of a time. ♦

Debi Leake is a regular Westerville **THISWEEK** contributor. If you have any items you would like her to add to *Hear and There*, please call the office at 882-0626.



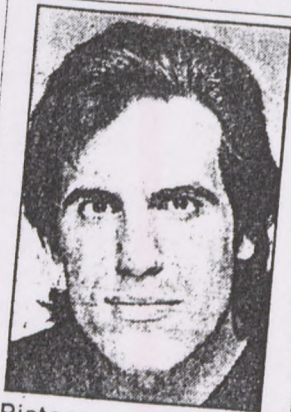
'Evita' at Otterbein

Evita, winner of seven Tony awards, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and six Drama Desk Awards will be presented by Otterbein College Theatre and the Department of Music May 2-6. Lisa Walton (left) will play Eva Peron, and Jess Hanks of Columbus, Che. Performances will be on Cowan Hall. Opening night will be at 7:30 p.m., a matinee performance at 2 p.m. Sunday and other performances at 8 p.m. For tickets call 898-1109.

ENTERTAINMENT

CD

5-2-90



Pistone

Actor eager to play Juan Peron in 'Evita'

- Guest actor Charles Pistone is well-equipped to portray Argentinian dictator Juan Peron in Otterbein College's production of *Evita*. One thing they have in common is their Sicilian background. **6G**
- A TV researcher has raised questions about the use of beepers in a study linking television viewing to negative feelings. Study participants recorded their moods when a beeper sounded at regular intervals. **7G**

ENTERTAINMENT



Walton

Otterbein's 'Evita' looks like a winner

• Otterbein College's production of the musical *Evita*, starring Lisa Walton as the wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron, is a stunning spectacle, says *Dispatch* critic Michael Grossberg.

Weekender

• The rarely seen works of Chilean filmmaker Raul Ruiz, who is unconventional even among the avant-garde, are featured this month in a series at the Columbus Museum of Art.

Weekender

p.m. matinee Saturday. Tickets \$10.
Otterbein College, Cowan Hall, Westerville —
Evita, through Sunday. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2
p.m. Sunday. Call 898-1109.

Park Playhouse Teen Community Theatre, 549

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2-6 MAY

389

Evita. Otterbein College produces this musical play about the life of Eva Peron, second wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron, who proved herself both ruthless and irresistible as she rose from the ranks of Argentina's poor to the rank of first lady. Wed., 7:30 pm; Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St., Westerville, 898-1109.

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The Otterbein Theatre
production of "Evita" was
sold out most of the time.
This intense musical was
masterfully performed by a

huge cast of very talented
singers / actors / dancers.
Miller Paul Road's Rob

Hayes was the trombone
player in the orchestra and
played a very demanding
score. In attendance were
Rob's parents, Bob and
Willie Hayes, Enid Ihle
Horn, Ruthie Hoover, Elo-
ise Collier, Beth and Chris-
tina Hahn, Mary Jane
Fisher, Juanita and Jim
Parady and all the others at
the Sunday matinee.

Public Opinion

5-17-90

Columbus Catalog

April 30, 1990

Otterbein College Theatre, Cowan Hall
presents *Evita*, Directed by Dennis Romer.
Wednesday, May 2-6, Opening night 7:30 p.m.;
All other performances begin at 8:00 p.m.;
Sunday matinee, 2 p.m. Admission. For more
information call 898-1109.

The Columbus Dispatch

4-29-90

PHONE 898-1109.

Don't cry for Otterbein. Otterbein College Theatre will present *Evita* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. next Sunday in Cowan Hall on the Westerville campus. Call 898-1109.

→ talk: back talk Whoa Nellie The Ohio State University