

# '1776' focus is on human elements of history

By JULANNE HOHBACH

Suburban News Reporter

Our Founding Fathers, oft viewed as staunch, will shake the powder from their wigs and kick up their heels as Otterbein College turns back the clock to 1776. The college is opening its season with the musical, written by Sherman Edwards and published in 1970.

389  
Otterbein will begin its run of 1776 Oct. 16 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.

"I think it's very important to know that this is a very strong book musical," Director Ed Vaughan said.

"It really does focus on the story of the Declaration of Independence and the human dilemma."

The 14-song production takes a musical romp through the sweltering summer of 1776 and the creation of the Declaration of Independence.

Featured players include John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock.

John Stefano, chairman of the department of theater and dance, will star as Adams, the central figure in the saga of squabbles and insults. This will be his first acting appearance in an Otterbein production.

*"We encouraged everybody to grow their hair over the summer."*

—Ed Vaughan

director

Vaughan said some factual liberties were taken in terms of characters who are combinations of personalities or are new altogether.

"By and large it is based on some of the actual records of what happened at the time," he said.

When 1776 first opened, it won the Tony Award for best musical and the same award from the New York Drama Critic's Circle. The musical is now in a revival off Broadway, which will step up to Broadway in December, Vaughan said.

The Otterbein production

features a 26-member cast, 23 of whom are men.

"There are a lot of scenes where there are 24 people on-stage," Vaughan said. Such limited space leads often to limited movement.

"That's the most challenging aspect of this, is 'How do you tell the story when most of the people don't do a lot of moving around?'" the director said.

Costumes, including a half-dozen powdered wigs for the aristocrats, have been mostly rented from a cos-

tume shop — appropriately in Pennsylvania.

"They're more like clothes rather than costumes, per se," Vaughan said, meaning the glitz was kept to a minimum.

Those whose wigs do not merit powder will sport hair extensions, wigs or their own hair, lengthened since the spring casting.

"We encouraged everybody to grow their hair over the summer," Vaughan said.

The final piece of the production — the set — gives the events occurring the proper weight, according to

the director.

"When you walk into the theater — and this is exactly what we were after — it's like a monument," Vaughan said.

Otterbein will present 1776 Oct. 16-19 and 23-25 in Cowan Hall. The opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m. All other performances will begin at 8 p.m. The Oct. 19 matinee will begin at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursday and Sunday performances and \$14 for Friday and Saturday shows. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 823-1109 between 1-4:30 p.m.

OHIO  
NEWS BUREAU INC.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115  
216/241-0675

PUBLIC OPINION  
WESTERVILLE, OH.  
W. CIRC. 6,386

389

OCT-8-97



OHIO  
NEWS BUREAU INC.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115  
216/241-0675

MOUNT VERNON NEWS  
MOUNT VERNON, OH.  
FM CIRC. 11,090

OCT-21-97

# Declaration signed in '1776'

<sup>349</sup> WESTERVILLE — Otterbein College Theatre will present the musical "1776" Thursday through Saturday in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. in Westerville.

"1776" is described as a song-and-dance peek at the behind-the-scenes struggles through which the Declaration of Independence was created.

Guest Equity Actor John Stefano will portray John Adams. His wife, Abigail, will be played by Marianne Timmons.

Evening performances will begin at 8 p.m. Ticket prices vary between Thursday and Friday/Saturday programs.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.



John Stefano, left, as John Adams, shares his vision of the United States with his wife, Abigail, played by Marianne Timmons, in Otterbein's production of "1776." (Photo submitted)

OHIO  
NEWS BUREAU INC.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115  
216/241-0675

MOUNT VERNON NEWS  
MOUNT VERNON, OH.  
PM CIRC. 11,090

SEPT-27-97

Mamet, takes place in a Chicago

Thurrow said he chose the play

## Otterbein presents 'Revolutionary' play

389 WESTERVILLE — Otterbein College Theater opens the 1997-98 season with the musical "1776," a song-and-dance peek at the behind-the-scenes struggles through which the Declaration of Independence came into being.

In its first season, "1776" was designated season's best musical by the New York Drama Critic's Circle and receiving a Tony Award for best musical. This musical brings recollection of early school lessons instilled by old

history books.

The story features historical figures John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock, but depicts them as flesh-and-blood men with a variety of strengths, quirks and weaknesses.

This musical, with 14 songs tells the story of that long, hot Philadelphia summer and how the delegates squabbled, fought and outrageously insulted each other until they agreed to found

the nation we are today.

Otterbein will present "1776" on Oct. 16 through 19 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., in Westerville.

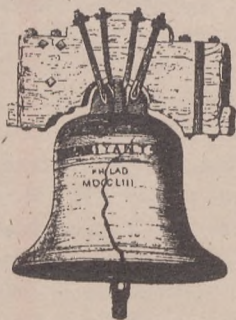
The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Oct. 19 matinee begins at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 823-1109 between 1 to 4:30 p.m. starting Monday.



## Song and Dance History

Otterbein College Theatre opens the 1997-98 season with the lively musical *1776*, a song-and-dance peek at the behind-the-scenes struggles through which the Declaration of Independence came into being. This production is co-presented by Otterbein's Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of Music.



In its first season *1776* won two of theatre's most coveted awards, being designated "Season's Best Musical" by the New York Drama Critic's Circle and receiving the Tony Award as "Best Musical." Recently it opened to great acclaim for a limited run on Broadway.

This delightful musical brings recollections of early school lessons instilled by old history books. But it does so with considerable ingenuity and in a way that actually finds dramatic suspense in a most familiar plot.

The story features historical figures John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock but depicts them as flesh-and-blood men with a variety of strengths, quirks and weaknesses. This appealing musical, with 14 songs, truly tells the story of that long, hot Philadelphia summer and how the delegates squabbled, fought and outrageously insulted each other till they agreed to found the nation we are today.

**John Stefano**, Department of Theatre and Dance chairperson, will star in this production as John Adams, the central figure of *1776*. This is his acting debut at Otterbein.

Associate Professor **Ed Vaughan** will direct *1776*.

Otterbein will present *1776* Oct. 16-19 and 23-25 in Cowan Hall. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Oct. 19 matinee begins at 2 p.m. Tickets for faculty and staff are free for Thursday and Sunday performances and \$7 for Friday and Saturday shows with I.D.. Reserve tickets by calling the box office at 823-1109 between 1-4:30 p.m.

A publication for the campus community of Otterbein College

# on campus

Vol. 13, No. 3 ■ October 14, 1997



## 8/ Night Life

The Call, maker of hits in the '80s, is responding to modern times with new tunes.

## 14/ Dining

New Asian and ragin' Cajun dishes spice up Short North fare.

## 20/ Kids

Harvest celebrations make for really gourd times.

# WEEKENDER

The Columbus Dispatch / OCTOBER 16, 1997



## national interest

'1776' brings  
Adams family values  
to Otterbein stage

Cover Story / 2



Marianne  
Timmons as  
Abigail Adams  
and John Stefano  
as John Adams



OHIO  
NEWS BUREAU INC.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115  
216/241-0675

MARION STAR  
MARION, OH.  
FM CIRC. 16,598

OCT-12-97

# RV grad Gilliam in '1776'

3<sup>49</sup> WESTERVILLE — Joshua Gilliam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gilliam, Lambert Road, St. Mary's, will appear in Otterbein College's first theater production of the 1997-98 season with the lively musical, "1776."

This song-and-dance peek at the behind-the-scenes struggles through which the Declaration of Independence came into being is sponsored by Otterbein's Department of Theater and Dance and the Department of Music.

"1776" features historical figures John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock, depicting them as flesh-and-blood men with a variety of strengths, quirks and weaknesses.

This appealing musical, with 14 songs, tells the story of a long, hot Philadelphia summer and how the delegates squabbled, fought and outrageously insulted each other till they agreed to found the nation we are today.

Otterbein will present "1776" Oct. 16-19 and 23-25 in Cowan Hall on Otterbein's campus. For ticket information, call the theater box office at (614) 823-1109 1-4:30 p.m.

Gilliam, a 1995 graduate of River Valley High School, is a junior at Otterbein majoring in musical theater. He last performed in Otterbein's production of "Cabaret."

Otterbein College, an independent, liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church, is located in Westerville.



THIS WEEK - WESTERVILLE  
WORTHINGTON, OH.  
W. CIRC. 24/253

SEPT-29-97

(389)

## Otterbein

### '1776' kicks off theatre season

Otterbein College Theatre opens its 1997-98 season Oct. 16 with the lively musical "1776," a song-and-dance look behind the scenes at the struggle that brought the Declaration of Independence into being.

The production is co-sponsored by Otterbein's Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of Music.

In its first season, "1776" won two of theatre's most coveted awards, being designated "Season's Best Musical" by the New York Drama Critic's Circle and receiving the Tony Award as "Best Musical." It recently opened again to great acclaim for a limited run on Broadway.

The story features historical figures John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock, but depicts them as flesh-and-blood men with a variety of strengths, quirks, and weaknesses. With 14 songs, the musical tells the story of that long, hot Philadelphia summer and how the delegates squabbled, fought, and insulted each other until they reached agreement.

John Stefano, chairman of Otterbein's Department of Theatre and Dance, will star as John Adams, the central figure of "1776." Adams is depicted as a man of cold exterior and stuffy personality who was detested by most of the other delegates. He was the backbone of the fight for the Declaration, however, and a courageous supporter of independence.

Stefano, a member of Actors Equity, appeared in the 1987 CBS miniseries, "Murder Ordained." Other acting jobs have included roles in "Falcade," "Our Town," "The Soldier's Tale" and "Carnival of the Animals." An Otterbein faculty member since 1992, he has directed several shows

at the college, but this will be the first time he acts in a college production.

Associate Professor Ed Vaughan will direct "1776."

The Otterbein production will be staged Oct. 16-19 and 23-25 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. Opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m., with all other evening performances set to begin at 8 p.m. The Oct. 19 matinee is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursday and Sunday performances and \$14 for Friday and Saturday shows, and may be reserved by calling the box office, 823-1109, between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

### OC Thrift Shop has a new look

The Otterbein College Women's Thrift Shop, 177 W. Park St., opens this fall with a new look after a summer of redecorating.

Over the summer, the Women's Club took on the task of packing up the contents of the shop so that the walls could be painted and new carpeting installed.

The Thrift Shop is now open for business from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Shoppers can find clothing, household items, costume jewelry, shoes, popular fiction, collectibles and decorator items.

Donations of usable items can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop any time. The Women's Club asks that donations be in good condition.

For more than 40 years, the Thrift Shop has been the principal fundraiser of the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club, with all proceeds funding scholarships at the college.

### African art to be exhibited

Otterbein College's Department of Art will sponsor an exhibit of African art from the collection of Rita and Al Germanson, a former Otterbein art professor, Oct. 6 through Jan. 30 in Fisher Gallery of Roush Hall, 27 S. Grove St.

There is no admission charge.

The art work reflects the spirituality and creativity of African tribes. The pieces show how Africans celebrate all aspects of life: fertility, birth, death and initiations into adulthood.

The Germansons began collecting about 10 years ago and now estimate there are 120 pieces in their collection. Many of them will be on display at Otterbein. They come from Nigeria, Cameroon, West Africa, Mali, the Ivory Coast and Zaire.

During the three decades Germanson taught at Otterbein, he and other professors used objects from his collection in their classes. With this exhibition, he continues to share his collection with the campus and surrounding community. "We enjoy collecting, and we like to share our collection," Germanson said. "This is an opportunity to share it in a significant way."



COLUMBUS DISPATCH  
COLUMBUS, OH.  
EUN CIRC. 402,193

389  
OCT-12-97

## THIS WEEK IN THE ARTS

**Museum mouse.** Mickey Mouse, Bugs Bunny, Popeye and Daffy Duck take center stage at the Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E. Broad St., when "Animation! A Celebration of Cartoon Magic" opens today. The exhibit of more than 60 original animation drawings is from the collection of Steve and Marie Pollack, who have donated the works to the museum. Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday and until 8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Call 221-6801.

**Founding fathers.** Otterbein College Theatre will present John Stefano as John Adams in 1776 — author Peter Stone and composer-lyricist Sherman Edwards' Tony-winning musical about the events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence — at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. next Sunday —

and Oct. 23-25 — at Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville. Tickets cost \$12 and \$14. Call 823-1109.

**Eccentric family.** Curtain Players will present Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's comedy, *You Can't Take It With You*, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. next Sunday — through Nov. 2 — at 5691 Harlem Rd., north of Westerville and east of Hoover Dam. Tickets cost \$8, or \$6 for children, students and senior citizens. Call 885-7000.

**Pipes and winds.** The Heisey Wind

Ensemble will open its season at 7:30 p.m. next Sunday in Swasey Chapel of Denison University in Granville with "Pipes & Winds Through the Ages." Admission is \$7, or \$5 for senior citizens and students, free for children younger than 12. Call Don Workman, 763-4243.

**Cantari opener.** Cantari Singers of Columbus will open their season at 7:30 p.m. next Sunday at the Pontifical College Josephinum Chapel, 7625 N. High St., with "Motets for Double Chorus." Tickets cost \$15. Call 777-7664.

**Hopes and sorrows.** Arden

Shakespeare Company will present *The Glass Menagerie*, with Jacqueline Bates as Amanda, Danielle Karshner as Laura and Robert Behrens as Tom, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday — and Oct. 24-26 and Oct. 31-Nov. 2 — in Columbus State Community College's Nestor Auditorium, 550 E. Spring St. Tickets cost \$8.50, or \$6 for senior citizens and students. Call 274-8807.

**Chamber music.** The Covenant Presbyterian Church music committee will open its first chamber music concert series at 1 today at the church, 2070

Ridgecliff Rd. in Upper Arlington. Mark Morton, principal bass of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and his wife, Wendy, assistant principal cellist of the symphony, will team up with the Covenant Presbyterian organist for a recital of string music. Call Weldon Adams, 451-6677.

**Celtic duo.** Scottish singer Andy M. Stewart and guitarist Gerry O'Bierne will perform Wednesday in Little Brother's, 1100 N. High St. Doors open at 7 p.m. The pair teamed for 1994's critically acclaimed album *Man in the Moon*. Tickets cost \$12 at Used Kid's Records,

Singing Dog Records, Aardvark Video, Monkeys Retreat and the club; \$14 at the door.

**The return of a bluesman.** PromoWest Productions will present "The Return of . . . Richard P. Boals & the Soals" Friday in the Newport Music Hall, 1722 N. High St. Doors open at 7 p.m. Boals was a local guitar-slinger of note (and organizer of the Monday blues jams at the Dolphin Lounge) before moving to Denver. Tickets cost \$8 at Ticketmaster outlets (431-3600) and the Newport box office; \$9 day of show.



# **Otterbein College**

*All events listed are held on the Otterbein campus, for directions or additional information contact Patti Kennedy, 823-1605, or Patricia Kessler, 823-1600.*

**Nicholas Hill-Intaglio Prints**, now through Nov. 7 - A lecture will be held Monday, Oct. 20, 2 p.m. Room 242 of Battelle Fine Arts Center. A reception will follow.

**Musical: 1776**, 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Cowan Hall, co-sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Dance.

**Faculty Recital Series**: 7 p.m. Sunday in Cowan Hall featuring organist Terry McCandless.

---

This week in Westerville Oct. 20, 1997



OHIO  
NEWS BUREAU INC.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115  
216/241-0675

PUBLIC OPINION  
WESTERVILLE, OH.  
CIRC. 6,386

389

OCT-15-97

Otterbein College to host '1776'

89 Otterbein College Theatre will open the 1997-98 season with the musical 1776 Thursday through Sunday and Oct. 23-25 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.  
Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and Oct. 23-25, and 2 p.m. Sunday.  
For tickets; \$12 for Thursdays and Sundays and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays, call 823-1109.  
Westerville residents Daniel Koscielak and Brent Tomer will appear in the production.