

Dispatch  
6/28/75



### *DUAL BILL AT COLLEGE*

Otterbein Summer Theater will be busy next week with two productions in Campus Center. From left are John Cain,, James St. Clair and Pam Hill in a scene from "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," to be staged under the direction of Lloyd Lewis at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday except for the holiday Friday, when the theater will be closed. Also being presented at 1:30 p.m. is "Hansel and Gretel" a childrens play directed by Petie Dodrill.



COLUMBUS EVENING  
DISPATCH  
COLUMBUS, O.  
P.M. - CIRC. 222,350

JUL - 1-75

## CAST EXCELLENT

# (89) Otterbein Production Excellent

By David Morgan  
Special to The Dispatch

With the exception of a few minor rough spots, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," at Otterbein Summer Theater, ran smoothly, worked well as an entity and captivated a capacity house.

The play is a series of short comedy vignettes between various characters selected from the comic strip "Peanuts." It is set on a very simple stage and backed by a light and charming musical score.

The play depends not on story line but on character portrayals which, for the most part, are excellently performed.

Foremost in the cast is, of course, the lovable Snoopy. Steven Black handles this difficult role with rare ability and his "Supertime" number is easily the high point of the show.

Pamela Hill is a marvelously nasty Lucy, whose "Crabbiness Survey" number was another highlight of the show.

Linus was portrayed by Joe Tribbie. His convincing physical appearance, agility and excellent voice quality made him, perhaps, the most believable member of the cast.

"Me and My Blanket" and "The Book Report" were exceptionally well done.

Dorothy Deitz played the daffy, vivacious Patty, handling the problem of portraying a young child with amazing effectiveness, although she was a bit hard to hear occasionally.

Guest actor Dennis Romer, in the role of Schroeder, had a problem with his large physique but dealt with it well, as only an experienced actor of his stature could do. At times his age was a detriment but not a major distraction.

James St. Clair played the grubby Pig-Pen with dust flying off him even when he simply stood and breathed.

He also had a moustache which was a most incongruous note. A child of elementary school age is seldom seen with a full frock of hair growing about his nose.

Then there was Charlie

Brown. John Cain played the fair-haired, sensitive and shy hero beautifully, complimenting his role with a superb tenor voice.

Musically, the ensemble numbers worked well enough, but some of the solos were slightly weak.

Orchestra members, who had to learn 16 numbers (in addition to intricate timing for special effects) contributed greatly to the success of the show.

Director Lloyd Lewis has put together a cohesive production full of laughter and a few tears here and there.

It was noticeable that, although the house was full, there were very few very young people, and that's too bad.

In a time when public entertainment offers little that is suitable for sub-teens, "Charlie Brown" is truly a show that youngsters as well as parents will enjoy.

The opportunity to expose children to a media other than movies and television is one that parents should not pass up, particularly when a production of this high quality is available.

"Charlie Brown" will con-

tinue its run Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at the Campus Center in Westerville. Curtain is at 8:15 p.m.



COLUMBUS CITIZEN JOURNAL  
COLUMBUS, O.  
A.M. - CIRC. 117,500.

JUN-27-75

## 'Peanuts' gang romps at Otterbein Summer Theatre

By ROSEMARY  
CURTIN HITE  
Citizen-Journal Music Critic

The best-loved "little people" in American entertainment are romping about the theatrical arena of Otterbein College's Campus Center this week and next.

Seven of the most familiar characters from Charles M. Schulz' comic strip "Peanuts" come to life in Clark Gesner's musical play, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." As always, their antics are charming and delightful.

ISAY "ALWAYS" because "Charlie Brown" has become one of the most popular and most frequently performed theatrical works of the last few decades. It is especially favored by community, amateur and high school groups, and has received several

showings in the Columbus area alone in the past year.

Such familiarity presents a problem for the performers. "Charlie Brown" has virtually no plot and consists of a series of brief vignettes, most of which culminate in a clever, surprising or incongruous "punch line." If one is even slightly familiar with these lines, the show loses its impact unless the characters are exceptionally well drawn.

AND THAT'S ABOUT where the Otterbein Summer Theatre found itself on Tuesday's opening night. The audience seemed familiar with the play and the young actors had to struggle pretty mightily to elicit the waves

of laughter which usually greet Schulz/Gesner's funny lines.

But their struggles were for the most part successful and the evening was light-hearted and diverting.

That the performance was not more than diverting, that it did not have the inspired perspective on childhood that marks Schulz' writing and cartooning must be laid to two factors: the direction and the casting.

DIRECTOR LLOYD K. Lewis has not paced the play well, and there are many moments which hang lifeless as the players move from one vignette to another. There are a thousand entrances and exits in the show and they

must be managed with speed and dispatch.

In addition, the timing of many of the lines is too deliberate, with pointed reactions consuming over-long intervals. At times this imprecise timing kills some great lines. For example, Schroeder's premature departure in the "Moonlight Sonata" scene blows Lucy's wonderful "My Aunt Marian ..." punch line.

IN RESPECT TO the casting, the players are generally well suited to their roles. Schroeder, however, has been assigned to Dennis Romer, who is so mature and so physically imposing that he seems built to a larger scale than the rest of the cast.

Not for a moment do we believe he's a 7-year-old.

But there are some excellent characterizations. John Cain looks more like a Charlie Brown than anyone I have ever seen in the role, and he maintains the bewildered innocence of the character

brilliantly. And sings very well, to boot.

PAMELA HILL'S Lucy gets a little out of touch with the other characterizations but is very sharp and explicit. She delivers some of the best lines in the show with telling effect.

Dorothy Deitz as Patty overdoes the childish bit. She's as cute as a button, but works too hard for what should be an essentially simple character.

STEVEN BLACK is an appealing Snoopy, and Joseph Tribbie plays Linus with appropriate restraint. James

St. Clair is assigned the thankless role of Pigpen, a completely superfluous role which has been added to the original script.

"Charlie Brown" runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week, and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday next week.





## DOUBLE DUTY AT OTTERBEIN

Otterbein Summer Theater will be on double duty for the next two weeks. Pictured from left are Dennis Romer, Pam Hill, John Cain and Steve Black in a scene from "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," to be presented under the direction of Lloyd Lewis at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays except July 4. During the same period at 1:30 p.m. will

be Petie Dodrill's hour-long production of the children's classic, "Hansel and Gretel." Her cast includes Jim West, Sue Kocks, Beth Titus, Jamie St. Clair, Bob Kokai, Dale Lund, Barb Vogler and Mary Beth Watkins. Designer-technical director for both shows, to be presented in Campus Center, is D. Marty Bookwalter. Costumes are by Pam Simmons.



# 'Charlie Brown' winner

by Sarah Skaates

Over in the air conditioned depths of the Otterbein Campus Center for the next week the characters from the popular Charles M. Schult "Peanuts" comic strip will be romping through "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown."

At a dress rehearsal preview early this week, there was little doubt that Otterbein Summer Theatregoers for the next seven nights will be charmed and amused. In the dramatized version of the cartoon strip, they may also find cause to consider the adult world which children can mirror so aptly.

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" has been around for some little time now. It's quick-paced revue styling strings together loosely the various triumphs and trials (mostly trials) which make up a typical day in the life of Charlie Brown. It is a pretty busy day at that, with successive put-downs by Lucy, a brief but abortive kit-fly, a baseball strikeout which scotches a championship hope, a book report on Peter Rabbit and a choir rehearsal.

The OST company demonstrated Monday night that they definitely know what they're doing. As they relax into the fun of the show and react to the responsiveness of an audience they should be very entertaining indeed. In some cases, just a glance at the cast list can be an accurate forecast of the quality of the piece.

Pamela Hill has very predictably snatched up the character of Lucy with gusto and carries her scenes with flying colors. John Cain, too, was bound to be a perfect Charlie Brown, and lives up to all of Charlies' familiar and endearing frailties.

Newcomer Joseph Tribble is refreshingly boyish and appealing as the blanket-hugging Linus, while Dorothy Deitz fairly radiates child-like innocence as Patty. Steven Black as the incomparable Snoopy needs only a slightly more cavalier touch to steal the show.

James St. Clair handles easily what is required of Pigpen, one of the least dominant characters. And while Dennis Romer ruefully grins offstage that he's never played a six-year old before, he does so admirably as Schroeder, the Beethoven enthusiast.

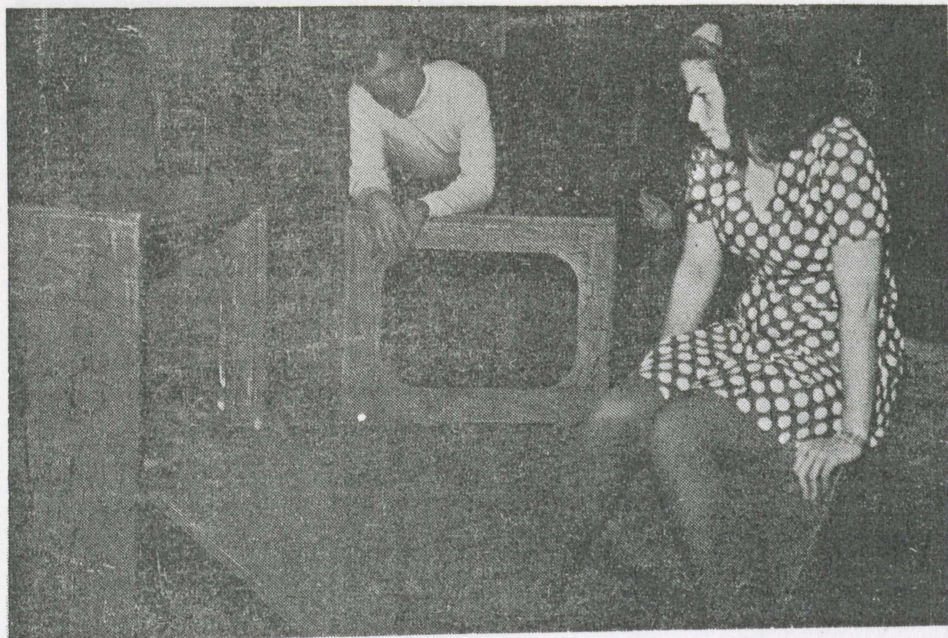
Marty Bookwalter's set is almost like a member of the cast. It is cleverly designed

and imaginatively used. Providing accompaniment for the vocal work as well as setting the mood and tempo of the action was a small but effective orchestra of Lyle Barkhymer, Margaret Fagerberg, Julie Kinney and Steve Mitrione.

Overall direction is the responsibility of Lloyd Lewis, himself a product of the Otterbein Theatre department

and now Executive Director of the Columbus Junior Theatre of the Arts.

Were I a betting person, I'd be willing to wager that on the basis of the Monday night trials and the track records of those involved, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" will be a definite winner by opening night. Let me know if I'm right, won't you?



## Trying it out

Pamela Hill (right) as Lucy sits on her chair and watches television as Steve Black (left) as Snoopy looks on in a scene from the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "You're A good Man, Charlie Brown." The television, dog house and chair are three pieces of the 10-part set designed by Marty Bookwalter which forms a rectangle in jigsaw fashion in the beginning and end of the show.





### **Lucy laughs again**

Lucy and Pigpen (left) have done it again. They've beaten Charlie Brown in the annual contest over who gets the most Valentines. Showing his usual chagrin is Charlie Brown himself (John Cain). Thursday and Saturday, 8:30 performances of this popular musical play mark the halfway point in the local summer season. The theatre will not be open, however, on July 4. Tickets are now available both for the evening productions of "Charlie Brown" and also for the special hour-long matinee performances of "Hansel and Gretel" on the same dates, from Campus Center box office, 12:30 to 9 p.m.

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### **'Earnest' stars**

Beth Titus and Jim West provide only part of the romantic interest in "The Importance of Being Earnest," witty comedy of manners now playing at the air-conditioned Campus Center arena theatre. (Dave Bradford Photos)



### **Musical scheduled**

Dennis Romer, Pam Hill, John Cain and Steve Black invite audiences out to one of those famous "Charlie Brown" ballgames in Otterbein's musical offering for the summer season.



## ENTERTAINMENT

 ✓ FILM  
 ✓ THEATRE  
 ✓ RESTAURANTS

# Snoopy And Pals Give Simplistic Amusement

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," a very amusing musical adaptation of the Charles Schultz comic strip "Peanuts," is the cur-

rent attraction at Otterbein Summer Theatre. Here is a simplistic amusement that will please the whole family. Charlie Brown and friends

have become somewhat of an American institution. Over the years Schultz has managed to gently poke fun at just about every foible and idiosyncrasy that besets members of our fair race and, surprisingly, we've all enjoyed it. And, we've all fallen in love with his warmly enchanting characters.

Schultz's characters are just as lovable on stage as on paper, particularly when they are brought to life by seven very talented members of the Otterbein Summer Theatre company.

This is not to imply that the Otterbein production is outstanding. It suffers from what appears to be a combination of insufficient rehearsal and lack of directorial imagination in developing stage business. Still, the cast is so spirited in its presentation that the production's weak points don't seem to matter so very much.

Steven Black's interpretation of Snoopy is the production's greatest asset. While his version of "The Red Baron" was disappointing on opening night, he managed to capture an extended applause from the audience with his rendition of "Supper-time," a happy little tune about the joyous occasion of --you guessed it--supper-time. Director Lloyd Lewis is to be praised for the delightful way he choreographed this scene.

Dorothy Deitz played little Patty with all the innocence and sweetness that Schultz has built up over the years. Miss Deitz's exceptionally expressive facial expressions contributed greatly to her characterization.

The other cast members faithfully portrayed our other cartoon friends, Linus, Charlie Brown, Schroeder, Lucy, and Pigpen.

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" doesn't really have a plot. Rather, it's a loosely strung sequence of incidents that supposedly occur on an average day in the life of Charlie Brown. The incidents are as predictable as Charlie Brown is.



## It's Bewitching

Jim West, Sue Kocks, and Beth Titus head the cast of "Hansel and Gretel," a special children's production of the Otterbein Summer Theater. The Play will run thru Sunday, except for Friday, with a daily matinee at 1:30 p.m.

A tight four-piece orchestra provides the musical accompaniment from an off-stage corner of the arena theatre. Designer Marty Bookwalter's well-executed setting consists of a number of oddly shaped blocks that are moved around the stage by cast members and used as desks, benches, a dog house and numerous other things, including a baseball field.

"You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" is pleasant summer fare. Bring your children to this one. They'll really enjoy it.

The production plays nightly through Saturday except Friday when the theatre will be dark due to the holiday. Budget conscious families can smile because tickets are cheap.

C-8 Columbus Dispatch c TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1975

### CAST EXCELLENT

## Otterbein Production

By David Morgan  
Special to The Dispatch

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"Me and My Blanket" and "The Book Report" were exceptionally well done.

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Musically numbers enough, but were slight.

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Director put together production full of tears h

It was no though there were young people bad.

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"Charlie



## Fred Thayer to direct church dinner theater



Fred Thayer

Prof. Fred Thayer, designer and technical director at Otterbein College, will be managing director for a new dinner theatre offering religious drama this summer. Under auspices of the regional camping committee of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, three productions will be offered in repertory style, June 27-Aug. 8, at Sabina Barn Theatre, in Sabina, Ohio.

Playing on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the season, the company opens with "Our Town," June 27 and 28. The Thornton Wilder classic will also be offered July 25 and Aug. 2. "You Can't Take It With You" opens July 4 and 5 and will be presented again

July 18 and Aug. 1. "Two by Two," the popular musical based on the story of Noah, open July 11 and 12 and will be repeated July 19 and Aug. 8 and 9.

William Brewer, Toledoan and Otterbein graduate, will serve as assistant director for the new venture. Otterbein students Terrence Espenschied and Beth Kendig will handle technical, design and costume duties.

Other Otterbein students in the acting and technical company include Randy Adams, Jenny Herron, Dan Hawk, Tom Downard, Cabot Rea and Julie Sickles. Westerville High School graduate Tracy Dodrill will also be a member of the company.

Smorgasbord dinner will be served in the theatre at 6:30 p.m. with curtain time set for 8:15 p.m. Advance reservations are required for dinner with tickets available at the door for theatre only.

Thayer, who directs and tours the Otterbein Chancel Drama group will be in residence at Sabina Barn Theatre beginning June 16. Information about the season and about the chancel drama workshop, set for July 28, 29 and 30, may be obtained by writing Prof. Fred Thayer, Box 96, Sabina, Oh 45169.

## Dinner Theater Set for Sab

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# Otterbein summer theatre

AIR CONDITIONED ARENA THEATRE in CAMPUS CENTER

*Presents . . . .*

**"The Importance of Being Earnest"** Comedy June 18-21  
TICKETS TUESDAY NIGHT ONLY \$1.25

**"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"** Musical June 25-July 5

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE**

**"Hansel and Gretel"** June 25-28, July 1-5  
1:30 P.M. Children 75¢, Adults \$1.00



P.O. 6-19-75

## Busy season set for theatre group

Otterbein Summer Theatre is akin to a three-ring circus this week with the company offering "The Importance of Being Earnest" nightly through Saturday and at the same time rehearsing for next week's dual bill, "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" and a special children's production of "Hansel and Gretel."

Curtaintime is 8:30 p.m. for evening performances of "Charlie Brown," June 25-28 and again July 1, 2, 3 and 5. "Hansel and Gretel" will be presented in hour-long matinee performances the same dates. The theatre is closed July 4.

Lloyd Lewis, director of the Columbus Junior Theatre of the Arts, returns to Otterbein Summer Theatre where he directed "The Fantasticks" last year to again be in charge of the summer

musical production. He will be assisted by Lyle Barkhymer as musical director.

Discussing the play, drawn from the popular "Peanuts" cartoons conceived by Charles Schultz, Lewis says the characters "become like all of us and remind us of children we know. . . they seem to be real people."

John Cain is in the title role with Dennis Romer playing Schroeder, Pam Hill as Lucy, Joe Tribbie as Linus, Dorothy Deitz as Patty, Steve Black as Snoopy. Bob Kokai is assistant to the director, and Dale Lund serves as stage manager.

"Hansel and Gretel," an all-time children's favorite brings the tale of the woodman's children who manage to thwart the wicked witch to life under direction of Petie Dodrill.

Jim West and Sue Kocks will play title roles with Beth Titus cast as the witch. Others in the cast are Jamie St. Clair, Bob Kokai, Dale Lund, Barb Vogler, Mary Beth Watkins and Tricia Dodrill. Stage manager is Barb Vogler.

Designer-technical director for both shows is D. Marty Bookwalter with costumes for the two productions by Pam Simmons.

## Ushers needed

Ushers are needed for Otterbein Summer Theatre, and interested persons are invited to contact the box-office. Ushers work one night each week for the six-week season, and of course, are admitted at no charge for the performance. Box-



## Musical scheduled

Dennis Romer, Pam Hill, John Cain and Steve Black invite audiences out to one of those famous "Charlie Brown" ballgames in Otterbein's musical offering for the summer season.



## Otterbein alumni honor friends

With more than 400 alumni in attendance, the Otterbein College Alumni Association honored two people with Distinguished Service Awards and named two others as honorary alumni of the college, Saturday.

Named an honorary alumnus was Dr. James A. Grissinger, Central-av, longtime faculty member and chairman of the speech department. Grissinger, who came to Otterbein in 1950, is a graduate of the Ohio State University where he also obtained his masters and doctoral degrees. His areas of specialization include speech communication, group discussion, broadcasting and audio-visual education.

A member for 12 years of Westerville City Council, two years as chairman, Grissinger is an elder in the Westerville First Presbyterian Church, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve and several professional organizations. He and his wife, Jodi, have two daughters, Lynnan and Beth.

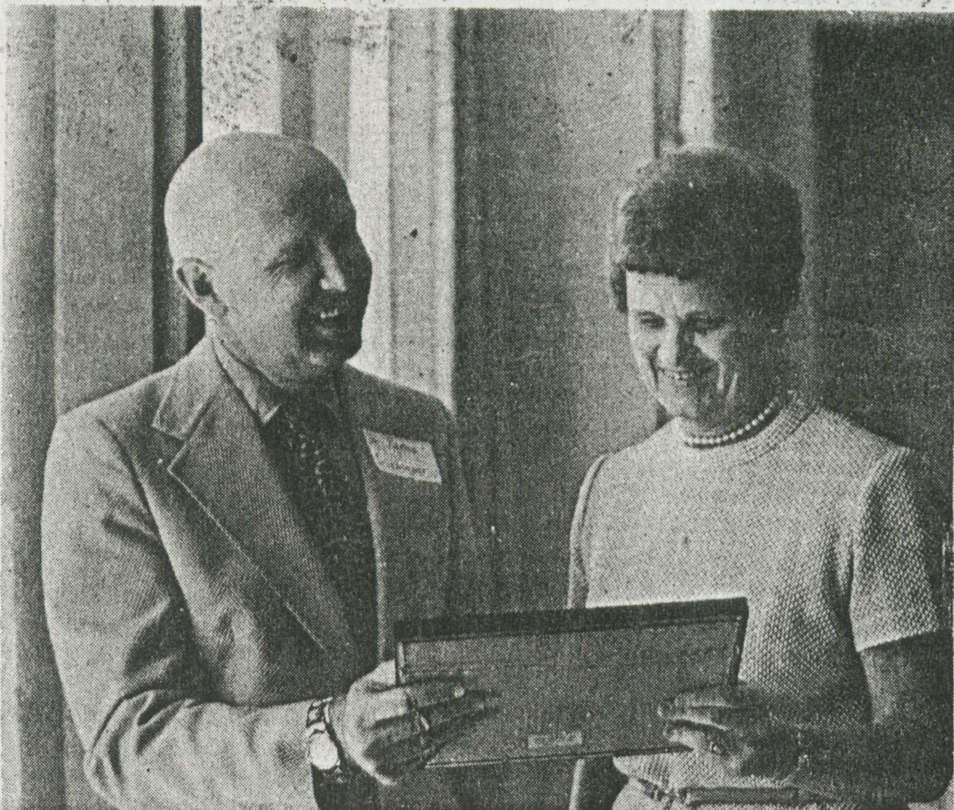
Mrs. J. Balmer Showers, Dayton, had been given her award earlier by Alumni Director Chester Turner during a visit with the former bishop's widow at the Otterbein Home. Mrs. Showers was honored because of her continuing and constant interest and support in the college.

Receiving Distinguished Service Awards were Melvin Moody, director of camping and outdoor Christian education for the United Methodist Church, and William Moffit, band direc-

tor from the University of Houston.

Moody, a 1936 Otterbein graduate has been active in camping programs for the church for the last 25 years in numerous capacities. He and his wife, the former Sarah Roby, now live in Hashville where he is director of consultant services for camping and outdoor Christian education. Their daughters are Mrs. Gilbert Bikel and Mrs. William McDonald.

Mrs. William Skaates was named president of the Otterbein Alumni Association for the coming year, and James Sheridan, local banker, was tapped for the president-elect post. Other Westerville residents assuming leadership positions following balloting were Waid Vance, council-at-large, and Mrs. Alan Norris, secretary. H. Wendell King, Akron, was also named an alumni trustee, and William Case, Dayton, became vice president of the association.



**Receives award**

Dr. James Grissinger, chairman of the Otterbein speech and theatre department, receives an honorary alumnus award during alumni day activities from Joanne VanSant, vice president for student affairs at Otterbein.



### DOUBLE DUTY AT OTTERBEIN

Otterbein Summer Theater will be on double duty for the next two weeks. Pictured from left are Dennis Romer, Pam Hill, John Cain and Steve Black in a scene from "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," to be presented under the direction of Lloyd Lewis at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays except July 4. During the same period at 1:30 p.m. will

be Petie Dorrill's hour-long production of the children's classic, "Hansel and Gretel." Her cast includes Jim West, Sue Kocks, Beth Titus, Jamie St. Clair, Bob Kokai, Dale Lund, Barb Vogler and Mary Beth Watkins. Designer-technical director for both shows, to be presented in Campus Center, is D. Marty Bookwalter. Costumes are by Pam Simmons.

Col. Dispatch 6-22-75 p. 31

D-10 Columbus Dispatch FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1975



### COMEDY OPENS SEASON

Dennis Romer, left, and James West consider "The Importance of Being Earnest" in the Oscar Wilde comedy of manners opening Otterbein Summer Theater at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in air-conditioned Campus Center. Directed by Dr. Charles Dorrill, design and technical direction is by D. Marty Bookwalter.

### OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE

Air Conditioned Arena

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN"  
(Musical) Wed.-Sat., June 25th-July 5th

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Matinee's 1:30 p.m.

"HANSEL & GRETEL"

Wed.-Sat., June 25-28; July 1, 2, 3, & 5

Box Office Open 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. 891-3331

Col. Dispatch 6-22-75 p. 5



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by Sarah Skaates

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James St. Clair handles easily what is required of Pigpen, one of the least dominant characters. And while Dennis Romer ruefully grins offstage that he's never played a six-year old before, he does so admirably as Schroeder, the Beethoven enthusiast.

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Overall direction is the responsibility of Lloyd Lewis, himself a product of the Otterbein Theatre department

and now Executive Director of the Columbus Junior Theatre of the Arts.

Were I a betting person, I'd be willing to wager that on the basis of the Monday night trials and the track records of those involved, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" will be a definite winner by opening night. Let me know if I'm right, won't you?



Schroeder (Dennis Romer) is definitely playing Lucy's song in this scene from "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" (above), current offering at the Otterbein Summer Theatre in the Campus Center. Played by Pam Hill, Lucy's fabled "crabby genes" make life miserable for Schroeder, as well as for John Cain in the title role of "Charlie Brown". Others in the cast are James St. Clair, Joe Tribble, Dorothy Deitz and Steve Black. The theatre continues its dual bill with "Hansel and Gretel" the

1:30 p.m. matinee daily through 8:30 p.m. on the same date. "Brown." The box office. A special feature of the child of ten young ballerinas from Joan-Moos. Dancing to Hummel and Gretel. (Jim West and corps de ballet are (left Ginter, Amy Spicer and Nancy Reiter, Kelly Castle, Claudia

# 'Hansel' good kids' opener

By Sarah Skaates

(To Be Read By Children Only)

Remember the story about Hansel and Gretel who got lost in the woods and found a house made of gingerbread? Well, over in the Campus Center the Otterbein Summer Theatre people are acting out this story every afternoon from now until July 5 (except for July 4 - that's a holiday).

The people who act out Hansel and Gretel are really grown-ups but they do such a good job of pretending to be children that you forget about how big they are. If you have been to other plays at Otterbein College, you might recognize them.

Hansel is acted by Jim West. He was the Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard of Oz" and was the scary Count Dracula in another play. Sue

Kocks plays the part of Gretel that you want to help them get away from the wicked witch.

At the beginning of the play, the children's step-mother plans for the children to get lost in the woods so that she will have more food for herself. She is not a nice person at all. The children's father tries to help them, but the step-mother is too bossy.

The witch who lives in the gingerbread house is a real nasty one, and very ugly. You should see the wart on her nose and her pointed chin! She has a cat who used to be a little girl named Trudi. The cat tries to help Hansel and Gretel and they help her to break a magic spell and become a girl again.

Another person who tries to help the children is the Forest Fairy. She is a pretty girl who wears thin,

floaty fairy clothes. She gives the children some ideas about escaping from the witch.

Grownups who go with you may get fidgety before the end of the play, but do not worry about them. You will like seeing the witch change Hansel and Gretel's friends into gingerbread men. You will like all the ways the children and the cat try to trick the witch so they can escape. You will also like the dancing angels that the children see in a dream.

Of course the ending is a happy one for Hansel and Gretel as well as for their friends and the cat. It is not so happy for the witch!

Here are the names of the actors and actresses in "Hansel and Gretel": Hansel- Jim West; Gretel- Sue Ann Kocks; their father- James St. Clair; their step-mother - Barbara Vogler;

their friends- Robert Kokai, Dale Lund and Cheryl Sterle; the Witch- Beth Titus; the Forest Fairy- Mary Beth Watkins; Trudi the cat- Trisha Dodrill.

Mrs. Petie Dodrill is the person who told everyone how to do the play so well, and Mr. Marty Bookwalter helped make the gingerbread house, the cage and the oven.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Special Matinee

OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE

presents

HANSEL and GRETEL

tterbein





### She's A 'Star' Grad!

Whitehall-Yearling graduate Sue Ann Kocks plays the role of "Gretel" in Otterbein Summer Theatre's special children's theatre production of "Hansel and Gretel" at 1:30 p.m., July 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Miss Kocks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Kocks, 790 Bernhard Rd., will be a senior theatre major at Otterbein this fall. During the regular college season this year, she has carried major roles in "Scpain" and also in "Count Dracula." In addition she was stage manager for the college's guest star production, "A Streetcar Named Desire," featuring television and film star Robert Forster.

Now in its 9th season Otterbein Summer Theatre is presenting a dual bill currently with "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" offered at 8:15 p.m. on the same dates as "Hansel and Gretel."

The box office is open in the Campus Center from 12:30 to 9 p.m. daily with telephone reservation service available at 891-3331.



### DUAL BILL AT COLLEGE

Otterbein Summer Theater will be busy next week with two productions in Campus Center. From left are John Cain, James St. Clair and Pam Hill in a scene from "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," to be staged under the direction of Lloyd Lewis at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday except for the holiday Friday, when the theater will be closed. Also being presented at 1:30 p.m. is "Hansel and Gretel" a childrens play directed by Petie Dodrill.

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## Comedy Next at Sabina

George S. Kaufman's classic, "You Can't Take It With You," will open Friday, Saturday at Sabina Barn Theater.

Now in its third week of production, the theater opened the season with Wild-wood's "Out Town," which will be performed in repertory July 25 and Aug. 2.

Otterbein College The-

ater's Cabot Rea and Jenny Herron are featured company members, with Randy Adams, Bill Brewer, Julie Sickles, Mike Hull, Tracy Dodrill, Steve Finn, Marty Johnson and Jane Patterson.

"Two by Two," Richard Rogers' musical, will open July 11-12 and also will be performed in repertory through the eight-week season.

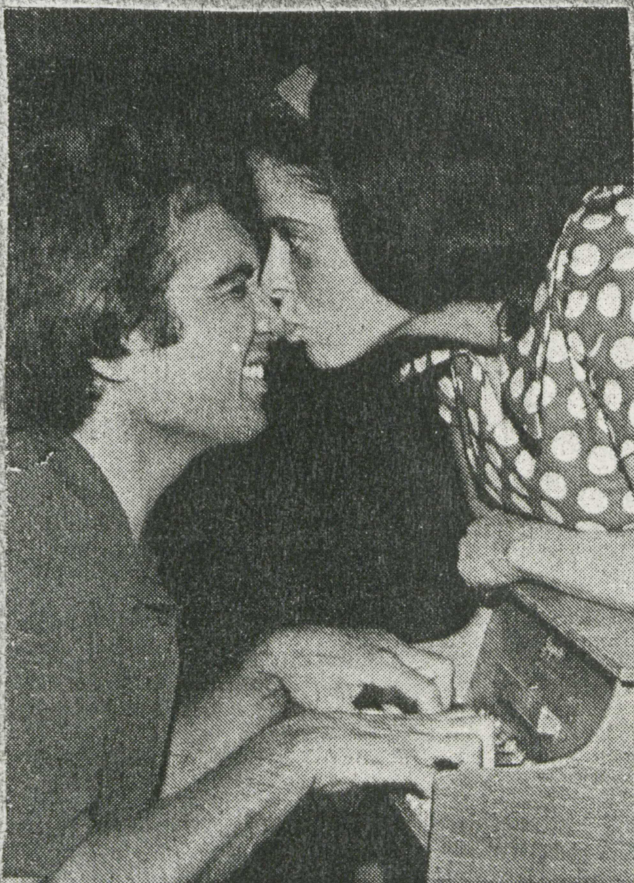
The theater is located eight miles from the Sabina exit I-71.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

Campus Center, Otterbein College, Westerville — "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," 8:15 nightly through Saturday and July 1 through 5. Also "Hansel and Gretel" at 1:30 p.m.



### Local Girl Plays Lucy

Pamela Hill, a graduate of Eastmoor High School, is appearing as Lucy in "Your A Good Man Charlie Brown" at Otterbein College. Pictured with her is Dennis Romer as Schroeder. The musical, based on the popular Charles Schultz comic strip, will run through Sunday.



# And Pals Give Amusement

attraction at Otterbein  
mer Theatre. Here is a  
listic amusement that  
please the whole family.  
Charlie Brown and friends

have become somewhat of an American institution. Over the years Schultz has managed to gently poke fun at just about every foible and idiosyncrasy that besets members of our fair race and, surprisingly, we've all enjoyed it. And, we've all fallen in love with his warmly enchanting characters.

Schultz's characters are just as lovable on stage as on paper, particularly when they are brought to life by seven very talented members of the Otterbein Summer Theatre company.

This is not to imply that the Otterbein production is outstanding. It suffers from what appears to be a combination of insufficient rehearsal and lack of directorial imagination in developing stage business. Still, the cast is so spirited in its presentation that the production's weak points don't seem to matter so very much.

Steven Black's interpretation of Snoopy is the production's greatest asset. While his version of "The Red Baron" was disappointing on opening night, he managed to capture an extended applause from the audience with his rendition of "Supper-time," a happy little tune about the joyous occasion of --you guessed it--supper-time. Director Lloyd Lewis is to be praised for the delightful way he choreographed this scene.

Dorothy Deitz played little Patty with all the innocence and sweetness that Schultz has built up over the years. Miss Deitz's exceptionally expressive facial expressions contributed greatly to her characterization.

The other cast members faithfully portrayed our other cartoon friends, Linus, Charlie Brown, Schroeder, Lucy, and Pigpen.

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" doesn't really have a plot. Rather, it's a loosely strung sequence of incidents that supposedly occur on an average day in the life of Charlie Brown. The incidents are as predictable as Charlie Brown is.



## It's Bewitching

Jim West, Sue Kocks, and Beth Titus head the cast of "Hansel and Gretel," a special children's production of the Otterbein Summer Theater. The Play will run thru Sunday, except for Friday, with a daily matinee at 1:30 p.m.

A tight four-piece orchestra provides the musical accompaniment from an off-stage corner of the arena theatre. Designer Marty Bookwalter's well-executed setting consists of a number of oddly shaped blocks that are moved around the stage by cast members and used as desks, benches, a dog house and numerous other things, including a baseball field.

"You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" is pleasant summer fare. Bring your children to this one. They'll really enjoy it.

The production plays nightly through Saturday except Friday when the theatre will be dark due to the holiday. Budget conscious families can smile because tickets are cheap.

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### CAST EXCELLENT

## Otterbein Production Excellent

By David Morgan  
Special to The Dispatch

With the exception of a few minor rough spots, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," at Otterbein Summer Theater, ran smoothly, worked well as an entity and captivated a capacity house.

The play is a series of short comedy vignettes between various characters selected from the comic strip "Peanuts." It is set on a very simple stage and backed by a light and charming musical score.

The play depends not on story line but on character portrayals which, for the most part, are excellently performed.

Foremost in the cast is, of course, the lovable Snoopy. Steven Black handles this difficult role with rare ability and his "Supper-time" number is easily the high point of the show.

Pamela Hill is a marvelously nasty Lucy, whose "Crabbiness Survey" number was another highlight of the show.

Linus was portrayed by Joe Tribbie. His convincing physical appearance, agility and excellent voice quality made him, perhaps, the most believable member of the cast.

"Me and My Blanket" and "The Book Report" were exceptionally well done.

Dorothy Deitz played the daffy, vivacious Patty, handling the problem of portraying a young child with amazing effectiveness, although she was a bit hard to hear occasionally.

Guest actor Dennis Romer, in the role of Schroeder, had a problem with his large physique but dealt with it well, as only an experienced actor of his stature could do. At times his age was a detriment but not a major distraction.

James St. Clair played the grubby Pig-Pen with dust flying off him even when he simply stood and breathed.

He also had a moustache which was a most incongruous note. A child of elementary school age is seldom seen with a full frock of hair growing about his nose.

Then there was Charlie

Brown. John Cain played the fair-haired, sensitive and shy hero beautifully, complimenting his role with a superb tenor voice.

Musically, the ensemble numbers worked well enough, but some of the solos were slightly weak.

Orchestra members, who had to learn 16 numbers (in addition to intricate timing for special effects) contributed greatly to the success of the show.

Director Lloyd Lewis has put together a cohesive production full of laughter and a few tears here and there.

It was noticeable that, although the house was full, there were very few very young people, and that's too bad.

In a time when public entertainment offers little that is suitable for sub-teens, "Charlie Brown" is truly a show that youngsters as well as parents will enjoy.

The opportunity to expose children to a media other than movies and television is one that parents should not pass up, particularly when a production of this high quality is available.

"Charlie Brown" will con-

tinue its run Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at the Campus Center in Westerville. Curtain is at 8:15 p.m.



# A little baseball, a little Greek perk up summer repertoire

Three summer season openers, three musicals, and three out-of-town locations are all facts about three productions which opened last week.

Otterbein Summer Theatre opened with "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" directed by Lloyd K. Lewis. The show, seen at the Campus Center in Westerville, plays through July 5 (Theater dark on July 4).

This is theater for the entire family and no matter what your age there is something there for you. The set piece design, which looks like a giant block puzzle, adds much to the evenings fun. Accolades to Marty Bookwalter for this design.

The production is warmly funny and touching and well played by the cast. Pamela Hill, as Lucy, set, maintained and controlled the pace and mood of the show. She was outstanding. I left the theater wishing that John Cain as Charlie Brown could have been less baby sweet and more baseball playing boy. However, I did see one of the final dress rehearsals and this must be taken into consideration when reviewing.

Take your family. They will enjoy the evening. But better have reservations (called 891-3331) because this may well be a SRO show.

**CURTAIN CALL**

Jean Ann Weaver



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## Lucy laughs again

Lucy and Pigpen (left) have done it again. They've beaten Charlie Brown in the annual contest over who gets the most Valentines. Showing his usual chagrin is Charlie Brown himself (John Cain). Thursday and Saturday, 8:30 performances of this popular musical play mark the halfway point in the local summer season. The theatre will not be open, however, on July 4. Tickets are now available both for the evening productions of "Charlie Brown" and also for the special hour-long matinee performances of "Hansel and Gretel" on the same dates, from Campus Center box office, 12:30 to 9 p.m.

## Barn Theatre good e

by Sarah Skaates

There's something new for Westerville area theatre patrons who enjoy following the careers of the young talents at Westerville High School and Otterbein College.

The Sabina Barn Theatre opened its premiere season last weekend with the production of Thornton Wilder's classic, "Our Town." Of the sixteen cast members, ten were familiar faces from the Westerville High and Cowan Hall stages.

The Sabina Barn Theatre is a new venture in religious drama, sponsored by the Southwest Region of the Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. The nucleus of the company in this initial season is Fred Thayer, Director of Technical Theatre and Chancel Players at Otterbein College, and several members of the Otterbein Chancel Players.

Last Friday's attendance at the premier performance of "Our Town" by the Sabina Barn Theatre proved very agreeable. Sabina is roughly 1 1/2 hours from Westerville, and we arrived in time for the 6:30 p.m. smorgasbord dinner in the main dining room on the Sabina Campgrounds. The dinner itself was the sort of tasty, home-cooked kind of fare you might expect in a small town nestled among the farms of southern Ohio.

During the meal, selected members of the company presented a musical revue for the entertainment of the patrons. Songs were delivered with conviction and polish, and the whole show very well suited to its purpose as "appetizer" for the rest of the evening.

By 8 p.m. it was curtain time in the newly scrubbed and outfitted barn theatre.

The first performance of "Our Town" by this fledgling troupe was very well done overall, but traces of the all-out pre-opening effort showed in various places. Pacing was a little slow, particularly in the first act, and there were occasional minor tongue-tangles. But these were easily understood in light of the brevity of preparation time.

"Our Town" was chosen to open the first season of the Sabina Barn Theatre because of its timeless quality, and its look at the big themes in the corner of daily living. Long a personal favorite of this viewer, the play chronicles some of the happenings of life in Grover's Corner, H. shortly after the turn of the century. From the arched wall of one young man over her wardrobe to recognition by the young man that most of the truly beautiful things of life are without ever being recognized, the message is as easy as 1901.

As the young lovers, Jerry Herron and Cabot Rea, completely believable. The projects the essence of young people caught in the year of self awareness and cognition of each other. The drugstore scene was a light to watch.

Bill Brewer and Julie Siles play George's parents with good effect in a comfortable sort of way, while M. Hull and Marcia Phillips work well together as Emily's parents. Randy Adams handles the narrative role of stage manager in low key folksy style, while Beth K. dig and Tracy Dodrill ma

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## SNOOPY EYES PITFA

Steve Black as Snoopy is prepared for all in the Otterbein Summer Theater production "A Good Man, Charlie Brown," playing at 8 Saturday in Campus Center, with matinee of "Hansel and Gretel," children's theater, 2 p.m. on the same dates.





### Set planner

Marty Bookwalter poses with his unorthodox set for Otterbein's current production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," which continues through Saturday.

## Designer creates unique set

If Marty Bookwalter had a puzzled look on his face when he designed the set for the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," it's understandable.

The set he created for the long-running off-Broadway musical, which opened last night in Otterbein's air-conditioned Campus Center arena theatre, consists of ten odd-shaped blocks which fit in jigsaw fashion into a rectangular shape at the beginning and end of the show.

"The usual set for 'Charlie Brown' is done with different shaped boxes," said Bookwalter, "but I wanted to do something really different - something that tells the idea behind the whole story."

Bookwalter got the idea to design odd-shaped blocks which fit together much like children's building blocks.

In addition, each piece represents something individually. One block is Schroeder's piano, another a dog house for Snoopy and yet another a chair for Lucy. Others perform dual functions, such as a television/toy box, a teeter-totter which flips over to make a pitcher's mound and a bench that becomes a tunnel.

Bookwalter painted each block with orange, green, blue and brown "comic strip colors" and treated them with a special paint to appear old and well-used.

"This is by far the most ingenious set I've seen for this play," said Lloyd Lewis,

director of the production. "It works really well for getting the cast and audience involved in what 'Charlie Brown' is all about," Lewis

said, "and it provides a challenge to the actors to invent more interesting movement patterns."