

# 'Godspell' is next at Otterbein

An exuberant retelling of the New Testament gospel according to St. Matthew will be staged when the Otterbein Summer Theatre presents "Godspell."

The contemporary musical will be presented in Otterbein College's air-conditioned Campus Center Arena Theatre, June 30-July 3 and July 7-10, at 8:30 p.m.

Conceived and originally directed by Ohioan John-Michael Tebelak, with music

and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, the play is a celebration of Jesus Christ's message of love and peace. A variety of anachronistic devices such as pantomime, charades, vaudeville routines, and tap dancing are used to bring the familiar words to life on the stage.

"It's a somewhat improvisational play," said Otterbein faculty member Joe Proctor, who will direct the production. "It will be set in a playground-type atmosphere which will convey the impression of mankind as God's children."

The score by Schwartz is highlighted by such songs as "Day by Day," "Turn Back, O Man," and "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord."

As the gospel is presented, cast members drop in and out of their New Testament roles as the action or words require. Members of the "Godspell" ensemble will be Ed Christman, who will take the role of Jesus, A. Victor Jones, Brent Erdy, Richard Buckley, Bethany Bohall, Julie Armentrout, Maribeth Graham, Laura Rudy, Tonye, Patano, Donna

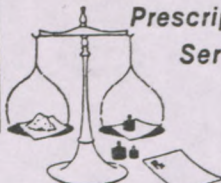
Morris, and David DeCooman.

Fred Thayer, associate professor of theatre at Otterbein, will design the set for "Godspell." This production will be Thayer's 150th set design in his 22-year association with the Otterbein College Theatre.

Tickets to "Godspell" are available at the Campus Center box office from 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays.

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## 'Godspell' doesn't sustain early interest

The problem with Otterbein Summer Theatre's *Godspell* is the play, not the Otterbein players, writes Barbara Zuck, *Dispatch* music critic. *Godspell* is beginning to show its age, and it is not wearing it well, Zuck says. When this show opened six years ago on Broadway, rock musicals were fairly new. So were rock musical treatments of religious subjects. A lot of *Godspell's* initial success was due to the novelty of "getting down and dirty" with Jesus. But now that the shock has subsided, all that's left is the show itself. That, unfortunately, isn't much, says Zuck. Weekender, Page 8.

7-1-82

# 'Godspell' offered by Otterbein troupe

The contemporary musical "Godspell" will be performed in Otterbein College's summer theater series tonight through Saturday and Wednesday through July 10 in the Campus Center Arena Theatre. Performances

are 8:30 p.m. The musical is based on the gospel according to St. Matthew. Joe Proctor will direct and Ed Christman will play the role of Jesus. Other cast members include A. Victor Jones, Brent Erdy, Richard

Buckley, Bethany Bohall, Julie Armentrout, Maribeth Graham, Laura Rudy, Tonye Patano, Donna Morris and David DeCooman.

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The country and bluegrass band The Pleasant Mountain Boys will perform a free lunch-time concert at 12:15 p.m. Friday on the lawn of the Main Library, 96 S. Grant Ave. The concert is part of the library's Summernoon '82 series.

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The Ohio Arts Council has awarded 13 mini-grants to Ohio artists including five Columbus artists. Receiving grants of either \$400 or \$500 are painter Rod Bouc, graphic artist

Robert Glasgow, sculptor Christopher Ries and poets John Bennett and Edward Lense.

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A five-day piano camp will be held July 18-23 at Ohio State University. The 1982 Ohio State University Summer Piano Camp is open to high school students and independent piano teachers.

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Christine Eide, 1982 outstanding music graduate at Capital University, performs a free piano recital at 3 p.m. July 11 in the Toledo Room of Bexley Hall. Her program includes Bach's "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue," Brahms' Sonata Opus 5 and Ginaster's "Danzas Argentinas."



# PUBLIC OPINION

JULY 1, 1982



## 'Godspell' opens

The cast for the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "Godspell" are, first row, from left, Don Ervin, David DeCooman, Brent Erdy, Richard Buckley; second row, from left, Bethany Bohall, Tonye Patano, Julie Armentrout; third row, Donna Morris and Laura Rudy; top, Maribeth Graham, and standing, left, A. Victor Jones, and Ed Christman. The show will be presented tonight through Saturday and July 7-10 at 8:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Otterbein Campus Center Arena Theatre. Tickets for "Godspell" are available at the Campus Center box office, 12:30 to 9 p.m., weekdays.

SN 6/30/82



## 'Godspell' opens tonight

Members of the ensemble for the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of *Godspell* rehearse a scene in the play which opens tonight (Wednesday) and continues through July 3 and July 7-10 at 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Arena Theatre. Actors in the cast are, from the left, Tonye Patano, Don Ervin, Maribeth Graham, A. Victor Jones, Julie Armentrout, Ed Christman, Donna Morris, David DeCooman, Bethany Bohall, Brent Erdy and Laura Rudy. Tickets are available at the Campus Center box office, 890-3028, from 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays.



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