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Elwood P. Dowd (Zach Kleinsmith) and his invisible friend in Otterbein College's production of *Harvey*

FRED SQUILLANTE | DISPATCH

* **'Harvey' hops back to Otterbein stage**

Otterbein Summer Theatre will launch its 40th season with a revival of its most frequently staged play, *Harvey*.

The Mary Chase comedy, a 1945 Pulitzer Prize winner, celebrates eccentric individualism with its whimsical portrait of a mild-mannered man whose imaginary friend is a 6½-foot rabbit.

The play will run June 22 to July 8 in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Call 614-823-1109.



OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE

Meg Ward and Zach Kleinsmith in *Harvey*

CURTAIN CALLS

This guide to central Ohio theater is based on recent Dispatch reviews. For show times and dates, see the Theater listings on Page 25.

Greater Tuna — Veteran actors Jonathan Putnam and Jon Farris each play about 10 roles — male and female, young and old, and human and canine — in the quick-changing farce about the eccentric and prejudiced residents of a small Texas town.

The varied performances offer enough canny conviction and understatement to account for the tour de farce, which has been updated with topical references — from Karl Rove to Vice President Dick Cheney. Presley Lindemann's costumes help bring the characters to life.

Under Geoffrey Nelson's direction, the actors present the caricatures within the characters and occasionally find some sweet humanity within the parody. **Contemporary American Theatre Company.** (Reviewed by Michael Grossberg)

Harvey — Although Mary Chase's three-act 1945 comedy seems old-fashioned, it's an apt choice to launch Otterbein Summer Theatre's milestone 40th season. Otterbein lavishes the old chestnut with care and a lighthearted touch.

Director Christina Kirk leads the strong 12-member student cast. As Elwood P. Dowd, who sees Harvey as his best friend although few others see the giant invisible rabbit, Zach Kleinsmith exudes decency and positive energy.

The strong supporting cast is led by Meg Ward as Elwood's flustered sister, Sara Alvarez as her frustrated daughter and Luke Dixon as a sanitarium doctor. **Otterbein Summer Theatre.** (M.G.)

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