

Dean is choreographer for 'Irene' production

Joanne Van Sant, who wears three hats at Otterbein College, is donning her choreographer's cap to direct the movements of the student dancers in "Irene," the 29th musical production she has choreographed at Otterbein.

Van Sant serves as vice president for student affairs and dean of students, as an associate professor of health and physical education, and as choreographer for Otterbein regular season and summer theatre musical productions.

"I really enjoy my stints as choreographer," said Van Sant. "They are an interesting counterpart to my role as administrator."

Right now, she is busy arranging the dances and stage movements for the songs in Otterbein's upcoming production of "Irene," set for May 4-7 at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

"Irene" has a large cast and a 16-member chorus,

VanSant said. "The kids are really enjoying learning the movements. As a matter of fact, they're disappointed if they're not in a dance. There are four large production numbers in the play as well as 10 or 12 smaller dances, so everyone gets a chance."

Since "Irene" is set in the 1920's, VanSant is striving for accuracy in the dances. "I always look carefully at the period in which a play occurs so that the movements have an authentic feel to them. The cast members in this production are learning such dances as the Irish Jig, the Riviera Rage, and the Charleston," she said.

In dealing with students who may not have had any dance training, VanSant said she tries to instill a sense of how the movements should feel. "I talk a lot about lightness and heaviness, about energy and levels of tension. The kids can learn the steps but that's just the form. The feeling has to come from the

inside out. They must reach out and engulf the audience."

The choreographer of a production must work very closely with the general director, the musical director, and the costumer, VanSant pointed out. "All the technical directors must agree on the basic concepts, on the characterizations, on the tempos. The costumes must be able to move with the dancers."

VanSant's interest in dance began with childhood dance lessons. As an undergraduate at Denison University, she studied some modern dance while working on her physical education major. She did further graduate study at the University of Colorado with Jean Erdman and Pearl Lang, disciples of Martha Graham. In

1948, she joined the women's physical education department faculty at Otterbein.

Frequent trips to London have enabled Miss VanSant to study with other choreographers and to see a wide variety of theatrical productions.

Tickets to "Irene" are available in the Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



Susan Diol, as Geraldine O'Dare, gets a lift from Craig Icsman, portraying dress designer Madame Lucy, in the Otterbein College Theatre and Department of Music production of "Irene," set for May 4-7 at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

Otterbein Theatre and music dept. to present 'Irene'

In cooperation with the Otterbein Department of Music and Dance Area, the Otterbein College Theatre will present "Irene" May 4-7 at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

Originally produced in 1919, "Irene" was revived in the 1970s as a vehicle for Debbie Reynolds' Broadway debut.

"The new version has been slightly modernized and revamped with additional lyrics and music," according to Ed Vaughn, Otterbein theatre faculty member and general director of the production. "But it is still very much a period piece and we will play it as such. We're not going to camp it up."

The plot revolves around spunky Irene O'Dare who

lives with her widowed mother on Ninth Avenue in New York's Irish neighborhood. Although her mother wants only to see her daughter married and settled, Irene has bigger plans for a business career and opens a small music shop, installing the neighborhood's first telephone.

When Irene is called to tune the piano on a swanky Long Island estate, she meets the aristocratic Donald S. Marshall III and falls in love. The course of true love and its resulting complications make for a delightful, light-hearted, and often hilarious play.

"Irene" contains "Alice Blue Gown," "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows," "You Made Me Love You," and "They Go Wild, Simply Wild Over Me."

"This production is meant to be a fun evening at the theatre," said Vaughan. "There's no message—it's just a delightful piece of fluff. People will go home happy and humming."

Joanne VanSant, Otterbein's vice-president of student affairs, will do the choreography for the production with the assistance of adjunct music faculty member Catherine Johnson.

Bruce Wood, instructor of music at Otterbein and director of the Westerville Civic Symphony, will serve as musical director.

Lynn Hurstad, director of choral and vocal activities, will do the vocal coaching.

Costumes will be designed by Lucy Lee Reuther, instructor of theatre.

Fred Thayer, associate professor of theatre, and technical director and de-

signer of Otterbein College Theatre, will design the set.

Tracy Jones will play the role of Irene. Susan Diol is cast as her mother, Mrs. Geraldine O'Dare.

Todd Reagan will play Donald, the love interest, and Laura Stitt will play his snooty mother.

The eccentric dress designer, "Madame Lucy," will be played by Craig Icsman. Ozzie will be played by Giovanni Moscardino.

Irene's Ninth Avenue friends will be played by Tonye Patano, Juli Armen-trout, and Todd Rupp.

Mary Beth Robinson will play Arabella, a debutante

and Gary Scott will portray Clarkson, the butler.

Members of the chorus will be David DeCooman, Todd Freeman, Carlyle Owens, Chris McCluskey, Larry Sherwood, David Caldwell, A. Victor Jones, Jeff Kin, Bethany Bohall, Allison Dixon, Joanna Fabian, Heather Hock, Sherri Puderbaugh, Mary Beth Robinson, Robin Stafford, and Nancy Fox.

Tickets to "Irene" will be available at the Cowan Hall box office beginning Tuesday, 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and for one hour prior to each performance.



Fighting over 'Irene'

Todd Reagan, left, in the role of Donald Marshall, engages in a bout of fisticuffs with Jimmy, played by Todd Rupp, who fears that Donald is toying with the affections of the charming Irene in the Otterbein College Theatre and Department of Music and Dance area production of "Irene." The musical comedy, featuring such songs as "Alice Blue Gown" and "You Make Me Love You," runs through Saturday at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Otterbein College Theatre

presents



Irene

a lighthearted musical comedy

Wed.-Sat., May 4,5,6,7

8:15 p.m., Cowan Hall

Tickets: \$3 Wed.; \$4, \$3 Thurs., Fri., Sat.

For reservations, call 890-3028 weekdays 1-4:30 p.m.



Filled with dreams

Tracy Jones, playing Irene O'Dare, tells her dreams for the future to her mother, played by Susan Diol, in the upcoming Otterbein College Theatre, the department of music, and the college's dance area production of the musical comedy *Irene*, today (Wednesday) through Saturday, 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus in Westerville. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



'Irene' at Otterbein

Tracy Jones (left) portrays Irene O'Dare and Susan Diol is cast as her mother in Otterbein College's production of "Irene." The musical comedy runs from Wednesday through Saturday at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall in Westerville.