

# 'Alice' will be full of surprises

The Otterbein Children's Theatre Nov. 18-20 production of "Alice in Wonderland" promises to be brimming with surprises. Favorite characters such as the White Rabbit, Red Queen, the Cheshire Cat and Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum will vibrantly and musically come to life under the direction of professional guest director Doreen Dunn. Wonderland's inhabitants will perform acrobatic feats throughout the show--and theatre-goers might even expect to encounter Alice's caterpillar friend on roller skates.

Dunn adapted the production's script directly from the original Lewis Carroll novel herself. "The idea came to me last June," she said. "I was getting ready for bed when the John Lennon song, 'Imagine,' came into my head. It occurred to me that 'Alice...' has so much to do with how adults' imagination differs from the imagination of children."

Beginning with "Imagine," Dunn developed the idea of using contemporary rock music for the play. "Alice goes into a

world so unlike her own," Dunn said, "and what could be more unlike Victorian England than contemporary rock music?"

The premise provided Dunn with much artistic freedom. "It has been really fun to work with," she says. "Through my imagination as a director, I could go anywhere and do anything."

"Alice..." is based in nonsense, the director said. "Everybody in Wonderland makes sense of nonsense, and that's one reason why the play--with all its nonsense rhymes and so forth--is so terrific for children. Children look at the world differently. They see the nonsense that adults pretend isn't there."

A graduate of Northwestern University, Dunn is a former faculty member of the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York and currently is executive director of OhioDance. She began her career as a dancer with the Garden State Ballet. As a director and choreographers, she has staged the French production of "Les Fantasticks" in Paris, the Giancarlo Menotti opera, "Amahl and the Night

Visitors" and Jean Stapleton in "Hello, Dolly!"

As a playwright, she co-authored "Frontiers" which premiered at the Victory Theatre in Los Angeles, and "An Evening with Sir Noel," performed for the first time in 1986 aboard the M.S. Sagafjord en route to China. She also wrote and has performed a one-woman show, "Legendary Ladies." She has worked as an arts consultant as well, designing educational arts programs throughout the country, and has done extensive arts-related work in prisons and homes for the mentally and physically handicapped.

All performances of "Alice in Wonderland" will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St. The Nov. 18 performance will be at 7:30 p.m., at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the 19th and the 20th. Advance tickets may be obtained beginning Nov. 7 from the Cowan Hall box office, (614)898-1109. The box office is open from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.

# Arts

## 'Alice in Wonderland' is slated at Otterbein

The Otterbein Children's Theatre Nov. 18-20 production of "Alice in Wonderland" will be a lively romp brimming with magical, musical and visual treats.

Professional guest director Doreen Dunn (who adapted the script from the original Lewis Carroll novel) has brought Alice and company into the modern world, according to guest scenic designer David Hammond — an approach which called for a unique set.

"Doreen described a fantasyland playground-type of idea she had in mind — complete with ramps, fireman's poles, tunnels and ladders," Hammond says.

"In order to provide maximum activity area, he elected to use air space and go 'up' with a three-tiered set.

"The three levels give

added ability for action such as toppling over a railing to another level or climbing, and provide a variety of locations that can be anywhere in Wonderland," he adds.

Hammond claims part of his inspiration for the pipe structure, gridwork and paddle tier set came from modern Broadway productions such as "Starlight Express," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats."

"SINCE 'ALICE' was being brought into contemporary times, I believe I was influenced somewhat by these modern productions that really open the area up for visual action."

Greens and yellows are the color base for most of the set, and the magical aura will be accomplished with lighting effects.

"It's something that's been exciting to work with," Hammond says. "There was no actual set description, and so it was able to evolve from an idea. As a creative artist, it's an expression — and I think that's satisfying to anyone."

Although this is Hammond's first children's production for Otterbein, he has worked with Otterbein Summer Theatre for nine consecutive years and has designed main stage productions of "Ladyhouse Blues," "My Fair Lady" and "Amadeus."

A 1974 OTTERBEIN alumnus, he earned a master's degree from The Ohio State University and is director of theatre at Upper Arlington High School. He also has worked with the Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Commission in initiating the Upper Arlington perform-

ance series.

As a freelance designer, he has designed for Contemporary American Theatre Company and Lancaster Summer Theatre. He has worked as an assistant stage manager at The Country Dinner Playhouse, and served as designer/technical director for Players TheatreColumbus.

All performances of "Alice in Wonderland" will be in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., on the Otterbein campus. The Nov. 18 performance will be at 7:30 p.m., at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 19; and at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 20.

Advance tickets can be obtained beginning Monday, Nov. 7, from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109. The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.



OCTOBER 27, 1988

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# Arts

## OC Theatre to present 'Alice in Wonderland'

The Otterbein Children's Theatre's production of "Alice in Wonderland", to be presented Nov. 18-20, is expected to be filled with

surprises.

Favorite characters such as the White Rabbit, Red Queen, the Cheshire Cat and Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum will musically come to life under the direction of professional guest director Doreen Dunn.

Wonderland's inhabitants will perform acrobatic feats throughout the show — and theatre-goers might even expect to encounter Alice's caterpillar friend on roller skates!

Dunn adapted the production's script directly from the original Lewis Carroll novel herself. "The idea came to me last June," she says. "I was getting ready for bed when the John Lennon song, 'Imagine,' came into my head. It occurred to me that 'Alice...' has so much to do with how adults' imagination differs from the imagination of children."

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A graduate of Northwestern University, Dunn is a former faculty member of the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York and currently is executive director of OhioDance.

She began her career as a dancer with the Garden State Ballet. As a director and choreographer, she has staged the French production of "Les Fantasticks" in Paris, the Giancarlo Menotti

opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and Jean Stapleton in "Hello, Dolly!"

As a playwright, she co-authored "Frontiers" which premiered at the Victory Theatre in Los Angeles, and "An Evening with Sir Noel," performed for the first time in 1986 aboard the M.S. Sagafjord en route to China. She also wrote and has performed a one-woman show, "Legendary Ladies."

She has worked as a arts consultant as well, designing educational arts programs throughout the country, and has done extensive arts-related work in prisons and homes for the mentally and physically handicapped.

**ALL PERFORMANCES** of "Alice in Wonderland" will be in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., on the Otterbein campus. The Nov. 18 performance will be given at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 19, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m.

Advance tickets can be obtained beginning Nov. 7 from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109. The box office is open from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.



# Musical presented in nontraditional way

"Alice in Wonderland," a musical production intended for all ages, will be presented at Ohio Wesleyan University Nov. 4, 5, 11 and 12.

"We are staging the traditional 'Alice' in a nontraditional way," said Bonnie Milne Gardner, director of the production. "The fantastical 'romp' through Wonderland will be presented through the eyes of a 1980s child, putting the action in an amusement park. This includes a fun house, a caterpillar ride, game booths, and a video arcade.

"I think an amusement park is the most fantastic world a child can create," added Gardner, an assistant profession in Ohio Wesleyan's theatre and dance department. "Amusement parks are a little scary, and Lewis Car-

roll walks the fine line between fun and scary."

The Ohio Wesleyan production will use a musical version of author Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" adapted for the stage by Eve LeGallienne and Florida Friebus.

Thirty-one students are cast in the production, including Paula Heitman as Alice, a 1980s seven-and-a-half-year-old, and Alycia Boyer as the White Rabbit, Wonderland's "front-office person" in charge of timetables, rules and public relations. Annice Bennett and Michael Moffatt play, respectively, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, high school boys on holiday.

The Mad Hatter, portrayed by Christina Scalish, is a park souvenir vendor specializing in hats.

James Gulisano plays the Cheshire Cat, Wonderland's handyman. Carey Douglas portrays the Mock Turtle, emcee of the park's stage. The Queen of Hearts, played by 6-foot-5 Andy Rice, is a beauty queen and owner of Wonderland.

Dave Mathieu is stage manager; Ted McGraner, musical director; Kay Albright, lighting designer; and Barb Teleha, production coordinator. Ohio Wesleyan associate professor Glen Vanderbilt is designing sets and Delaware resident Debi Oberle is in charge of costumes.

"I think people are going to be blown away by our production," Gardner said.

An audio description service will be available at the Nov. 12 performance

for theatre patrons who are blind or partially sighted. Individuals may wear a small earphone and receiver to hear a describer set the scenes on stage, helping to convey the total experience of the play.

The cast and crew also will perform special morning and afternoon matinees on Wednesday, Nov. 9, for area elementary school children.

The production, an hour long with no intermission, will be on the main stage of the Chappellear Drama Center, 45 University Ave. The Nov. 4 and 11 performance will begin at 8 p.m. The Nov. 5 and 12 performances will begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the drama center's box office or by calling 369-4431, ext. 361.



# Children's Theatre production will have unique set

The Otterbein Children's Theatre Nov. 18-20 production of "Alice in Wonderland" will be a lively romp brimming with magical, musical and visual treats. Professional guest director Doreen Dunn (who adapted the script from the original Lewis Carroll novel) has brought Alice and company into the modern world, according to guest scenic designer David Hammond—an approach which called for a unique set.

"Doreen described a fantasyland playground-type of idea she had in mind—complete with ramps, fireman's poles, tunnels and ladders," Hammond said. In order to provide maximum activity area, he elected to use air space and go "up" with a three-tiered set. "The three levels give added ability for action such as toppling over a railing to another level or climbing, and provide a variety of locations that can be anywhere in Wonderland," he said.

has designed main stage productions of "Ladyhouse Blues," "My Fair Lady" and "Amadeus: A 2974 Otterbein alumnus, he earned a master's degree from The Ohio State University and is director of theatre at Upper Arlington High School.

He also has worked with the Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Commission in initiating the Upper Arlington performance series. As a freelance designer, he has designed for Contemporary American Theatre Company and Lancaster Summer Theatre. He has worked as an assistant stage manager

at The Country Dinner Playhouse, and served as designer/technical director for Players Theatre/Columbus.

All performances of "Alice in Wonderland" will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville. The Nov. 18 performance will be at 7:30 p.m., at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the 19th and at 1:30 p.m. on the 20th. Advance tickets may be obtained beginning Nov. 7 from the Cowan Hall box office, (614) 898-1109. The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.

Hammond claims part of his inspiration for the pipe structure, gridwork and paddle tier set came from modern Broadway productions such as "Starlight Express," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats." "Since 'Alice' was being brought into contemporary times, I believe I was influenced somewhat by these modern productions that really open the area up for visual action."

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Westerville Beacon

7/27



# Alice brings Wonderland playground to Otterbein

By Nancy Gilson  
*Dispatch Entertainment Reporter*

In this production, Alice's Wonderland will be a contemporary playground with ramps, fireman's poles, tunnels and ladders.

Otterbein Children's Theatre's *Alice in Wonderland* will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. in Westerville.

Designer David Hammond will use three levels for his set, and actors will climb and slide throughout the set. Hammond claims inspiration for the pipe structure, gridwork and paddle tier set came from several lavish Broadway productions. The show is being directed by Doreen Dunn.

This production is part of the children's theater series, but the performance is appropriate for adults as well, according to theater spokesmen. Tickets are available by calling 898-1109. The box office will be open one hour before performances.



# Theater group presents play

The Otterbein Children's Theatre will present *Alice in Wonderland* Nov. 18-20.

All performances of *Alice in Wonderland* will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St. The performance will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18; 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 19; and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 20.

Advance tickets may be obtained beginning Nov. 7 from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109. The box office is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.

*Westerville News 11/21/88*

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## ★ Youth theater sets performance

In the Nov. 18-20 Otterbein College Children's Theatre production of *Alice in Wonderland*, senior Chuck Rosen of Mentor will portray the baby/pig and Ginger Lee McDermott of Longwood, Fla., will star as Alice.

All performances will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday. For tickets call 898-1109.



# OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE

*Hurry! The Tea Party Begins Friday!*

## Alice in Wonderland

One Weekend Only!

Friday, November 18 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, November 19 at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm  
Sunday, November 20 at 1:30 pm

Box Office Open 1-4:30

Tickets are \$3.50 for general admission



**CALL 898-1109 TODAY FOR TICKETS**



## 'Alice' staged

Alice struggles with the antics of a Mad Hatter, a Cheshire Cat and a strange baby in the Nov. 18-20 Otterbein College Children's Theatre production of "Alice in Wonderland." Favorite characters from Lewis Carroll's famous novel will vibrantly and musically come to life in the lively romp brimming with magical, visual treats. Junior Tim Deak of Brunswick will appear as the hatter, sophomore A. Scott Best of Columbus will portray the Cheshire Cat, senior Chuck Rosen of Mentor will portray the baby/pig and Ginger Lee McDermott of Longwood, Fla., will star as Alice. All performances will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St.





## OC sets children's show

Alice listens to the purring of a Cheshire cat in the Nov. 18-20 Otterbein College Children's Theatre production of "Alice in Wonderland." Favorite characters from Lewis Carroll's famous novel will come to life in this lively romp brimming with magical visual treats. Sophomore A. Scott Best of Columbus will portray the Cheshire Cat and Ginger Lee McDermott of Longwood, Fla. (granddaughter of Harold and Esther McDermott of Westerville) will star as Alice. All performances will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein Campus, 30 S. Grove St. The Nov. 18 performance will be at 7:30 p.m. It will be at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the 19th and at 1:30 p.m. on the 20th. Advance tickets can be obtained from the box office, 898-1109. The box office is open from 1-4:30 weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.