

Actors prepare spring musical

By Becky Mizer and Aimee Zerla

"This is the tale of a dreamer," said director Dennis Romer.

Students are recreating this tale in Otterbein's production of "Man of La Mancha."

Set in a 16th century prison during the Spanish inquisition, Micheal Cervantés introduces a fantasy life to the other prisoners. He develops an alter-ego named Don Quixote and the other prisoners become characters in his play.

Junior Jess Hanks, who assumes the role of Don Quixote, said his character is "a person who sees good in everything."

"Because of his unwillingness to be beaten, he shows them they can have hope," said Romer. He added that this mixture of comedy and drama has wide appeal because "he represents the dreamer in all of us."

Senior Colby Paul, who is the female lead, Aldonza, said the story is "tied together with the music."

Because it is a musical theater production, it is co-sponsored by the department of theatre and dance and the department of music.

The show has "uplifting music," said Romer.

"Man of La Mancha" is one of the longest running Broadway musicals with over 2000 performances. It is most noted for the song "The Impossible Dream."

"The cast is extremely balanced (between upper and lower classmen)," said Romer.

Freshman Scott Wilson, in his first performance at Otterbein, appears in the supporting role of Sancho, Don Quixote's squire.

"It's a challenge," Wilson said. "I want to make a good impression and don't want to let the others down."

Romer said the goal of any actor is "transforming your behavior into the behavior of the character." As the actors

continue to rehearse, they bring out more of the story.

"Everyone's putting in a lot of work," said Hanks.

Sophomore ensemble member Corey Moore said, "We've gotten a lot done in a short period of time."

"The show is going to be a very colorful story," said sophomore ensemble member Carrie McDonald.

Hanks said, "It's a fun show to do; I think it would be a fun show to see."

Sophomore Doug Geib, in the primary role of José, said: "It's not just another play.

It's something the people can be part of and enjoy."

"Man of La Mancha" will run Wednesday, May 1 through Sunday, May 5. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. May 1, 8 p.m. May 2-4, and 2 p.m. May 5.

Tickets are available in the Cowan Hall box office from 1-4 daily. General admission is \$9 for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday performances and \$10 for Friday and Saturday. Tickets are free to students with I.D. Faculty/staff tickets are \$5 Friday and Saturday and free for all other performances.

'Man of La Mancha' is offered

Otterbein College Theatre is offering *Man of La Mancha* at 7:30 p.m. May 1-5, with a matinee at 2 p.m. May 5 in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St.

Man of La Mancha is co-sponsored by the department of music at Otterbein with assistant professor Craig Johnson acting as music director and assistant professor David DeVenney as vocal director. Theatre Instructor Director Dennis Romer will direct the musical. Patricia Hiatt, a newcomer to Otterbein College Theatre, will be the choreographer for this year's musical.

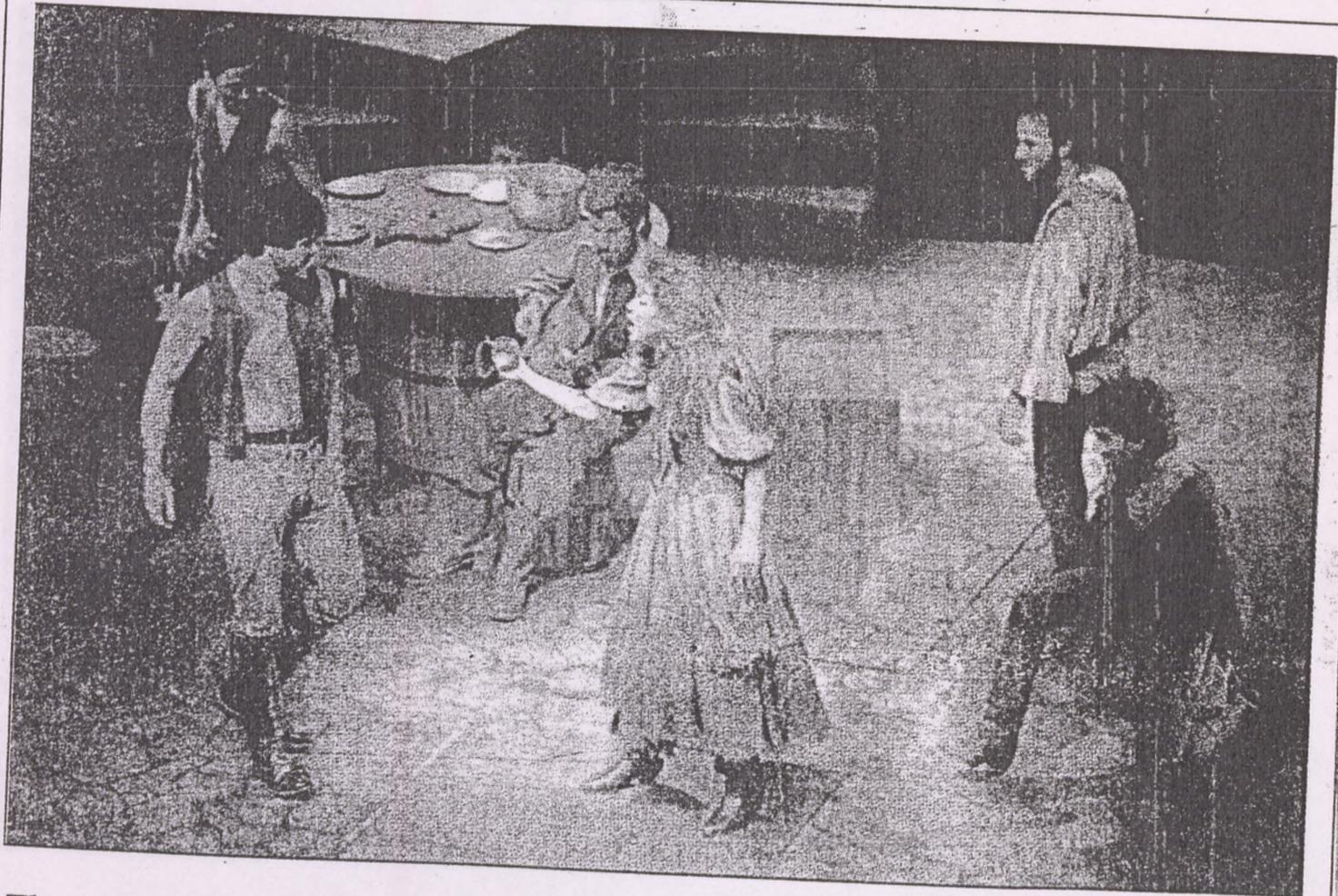
For tickets call 898-1109.



'La Mancha' starts Wednesday

Otterbein College Theatre presents the classic musical "Man of La Mancha" from Wednesday through May 5. The opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m., the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. and all other performances begin at 8 p.m. in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St. Senior Colby Paul, left, plays the raucous bar maid Aldonza gazing at the errant knight Don Quixote, played by junior Jess Hanks. For tickets and more information call 898-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

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The impossible drama

'Aldonza', played by Colby Anne Paul, sings with the Muleteers during the play, 'Man of La Mancha'. The actors on the play at Otterbein College May 1-5, the College's last play of the season.

ThisWeek photo by Joy Parker