

The Columbus Dispatch / APRIL 30, 1998

Weekender



Neal C. Lauron / Dispatch

Director Pamela Hill with cast members, from left, Christina Cochrun, Christopher Sloan, Katie Pees (front), Mandy Wheeler and Lauren Blair

Crazy

Cover Story/2

Otterbein restages
classic musical

'bout Gershwin

9/Night Life

Ready for a rumble? Foo Fighters set their sights on having a primal rockin' good time.

23/Kids

Writing camp and art workshops are among the goodies springing up for children as summer approaches.

25-37/Mother's Day Dining

The Grumpy Gourmet offers his annual suggestions on where to take that special lady for a memorable meal.

OHIO JEWISH CHRONICLE
COLUMBUS, OH.
W. CIRC. (JEWISH) 3,041

APR-23-98

389 Otterbein College Theatre to present Gershwin musical

The Otterbein College Theatre will present their production of the George Gershwin musical, *Crazy For You*, Thursday, April 30, through Sunday, May 3, and Thursday, May 7, through Saturday, May 9, in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. in Westerville.

The opening night show begins at 7:30 p.m. Other evening performances begin at 8 p.m., and the Sunday matinee begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for Friday and Saturday shows and \$12 for Thursday and Sunday shows. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at 823-1109, between 1 and 4:30 p.m., weekdays.

This "heartwarming and upbeat" story is set in the framework of the most popular and endearing Gershwin hits. Five memorable songs — "Bidin' My Time," "Could You Use Me," "But Not for Me," "Embraceable You" and "I Got Rhythm" — all from the original show, are presented in this production. Other Gershwin tunes have been added to this musical, including "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and "Shall We Dance?"

The plot follows the familiar story of "boy gets girl/boy loses girl/boy gets girl." The hero, Bobby, is sent to Dea-

drock, Nevada by his mother, a banker, to foreclose on a musical theatre. Bobby, who's always yearned to be in show business, is at once smitten by the theatre owner's daughter, Polly.

Crazy For You ran successfully for two years on Broadway, setting a record for the longest running Gershwin show in history. This musical won the 1992 Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for "Best Musical."

The New Yorker called *Crazy For You*, "everything a musical should be."

Pamela Hill, an Otterbein alumna, will direct this production. She directed *Wind in the Willows* in 1996 and in 1990, Hill directed *Charlotte's Web* at Otterbein, which was the highest attended children's show ever presented at the College. Other productions Hill has directed at Otterbein include *Winnie the Pooh*, *Night Watch*, *Quilters* and *Sleeping Beauty*. During recent summer sessions she directed the musical revue *The World Goes Round* and the musical *Once Upon a Matress*.

Visiting Instructor David Monseur will serve as musical director. The production will be choreographed by Michael Thomas, adjunct professor of Dance at Otterbein.

Curtain Call

Re:plays

Et tu, Rosebriar

by Doug Hoehn

If politics makes strange bedfellows, and history turns down the sheets, leave it to art to flip over the mattress. Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* depicts two volatile men, Brutus and Cassius, pursuing power with different motivations. We know the harsh judgment accorded both these traitors in Dante's *Inferno*: chewed for all eternity with the hapless Judas in the triple mouths of a frozen Satan.

The truth may have been less poetic or more honorable. A group of patriots made a last ditch attempt to save a great institution, the Roman Republic, from the clutches of a self-promoting gangster. They failed to reckon upon the fickle loyalty of the mob; the Republic was already dead from internal decay and not from the actions of the ready line of scavengers.

The production of the Rosebriar Shakespeare Company showcases a fine array of talent. Scott Arent is a dynamic and thoughtful Brutus, while Phillip James Hickman-Romine is a cunning, emotive Cassius. Shane Egan lends Caesar a passionate human reality, and Rodney Grist portrays a flamboyant Marc Antony with a commanding voice and demeanor.

Superb support arrives in some of the smaller packages. Faye Purol has a Gothic quality as the eerie soothsayer, and brings a rich vein of comedy to the extraneous material that provides a framework for the show. Caryl Plost offers a believable devotion as the wife

of Caesar, and Cynthia Frazzini's caustic witticisms give an unusual dimension to Portia.

John Heisel's direction is forceful and focused. Some sequences, aided by the 19th-century look of the costumes, take on the haunting aura of Garcia Lorca. The prologue and epilogue, actually set in a 19th-century theater, offer a clever touch. Only one controversy remains: Who made the salad?

The play runs through May 16, and tickets are available at the door. For information, call 470-1616.

CRAZY FOR IT

The Otterbein College production of the Gershwin musical *Crazy For You* is unabating family entertainment as perfected as any touring Broadway show. The performers are so good that we almost hope for a stumble or a stutter to remind us that this is a college cast. There are no stumbles and no stutters, and you will wake up the next morning hoping for a third act.

The material is a seamless blend of great Gershwin tunes and a likable, well-crafted story by Ken Ludwig. The dance numbers are extremely demanding, and the physical humor is as challenging as the best of the Marx Brothers films. The Otterbein cast, under the imaginative direction of Pamela Hill and the painstaking choreography of Michael Thomas, rise to and beyond the occasion to give us the time of our lives



On rare occasions there is a local performance that truly warrants the over-used special tribute of a standing ovation. Christopher Sloan, playing the tireless banker/dancer who wants out

of the foreclosures and into the footlights, deserves the honor. Sloan is brilliant in the musical numbers, tear-jerking in the rocky romance with talented co-star Katie Pees, and hilarious with partner Josh Gilliam in a mirror sequence that Groucho and Harpo

Katie Pees and Chris Sloan in *Crazy for You*



would applaud.

This is as good as it gets. The show runs through May 7. For tickets, call 823-1109.

Gershwin Musical

Audiences will go crazy this spring for the Otterbein College Theatre production of the musical *Crazy For You*. Co-presented with Otterbein's Department of Music, *Crazy For You* is based on the 1930 Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy*.

Crazy For You, will be performed Thursday, April 30 through Sunday, May 3 and Thursday, May 7 through Saturday, May 9 in Cowan Hall.

The opening night show begins at 7:30 p.m. Other evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee begins at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 for Friday and Saturday shows and free for Thursday and Sunday shows. The May 3 show is limited in availability. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

This heartwarming and upbeat story is set in the framework of the most popular and endearing Gershwin hits. Five memorable songs — *Bidin' My Time*, *Could You Use Me, But Not for Me*, *Embraceable You* and *I Got Rhythm* — all from the original show, are presented stylishly in this production. Other great Gershwin tunes have been added to this wonderful musical including *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and *Shall We Dance?*

The plot follows the sweet, familiar story of boy gets girl/boy loses girl/boy gets girl. The hero, Bobby, is sent to Deadrock, Nevada by his mother, a banker, to foreclose on a musical theatre. Bobby, who's always yearned to be in show business, is at once smitten by the theatre owner's daughter, Polly. After she spurns him, Bobby decides



to save the theatre and win her heart by impersonating a famous Broadway producer.

He plans to stage a musical to raise money and calls in his show business friends to help. The plot continues to twist when the real producer shows up, as well as Bobby's overbearing mother, causing delightful confusion. Add to the mix a woman claiming to be Bobby's fiancée and the Deadrock tavern owner who claims Polly for himself and you have a recipe for a lively classic musical. Chaos and fun ensue but with the bold, beautiful sound of Gershwin and 20 exhilarating dance numbers all ends in triumph.

Crazy For You ran successfully for two years on Broadway setting a record for the longest running Gershwin show in history. This musical won the 1992 Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for "Best Musical."

Pamela Hill, an Otterbein alumna, will direct this production. Visiting Instructor **David Monseur** will serve as musical director. The production will be choreographed by **Michael Thomas**, adjunct professor of Dance.

EUCYRUS TELEGRAPH FORUM
EUCYRUS, OH.
FM CIRC. 7,932

JUL-30-98

389 Marion's production of 'Crazy for You' features Otterbein set

MARION - Marion's historical Palace Theatre and Whirlpool Corporation's production of "Crazy For You" will feature an entire set for "Crazy For You" from Otterbein College in Westerville.

Each of the five major set pieces is equipped with air lift casters designed by Otterbein technical director Greg Bell.

"With one flip of a switch, the air casters make the set lock into place so that it is durable and easy to dance on," "Crazy For You" director Val Hedges said. "We don't need to worry about

the set shifting when cast members are dancing on it. Another switch releases the air to move the section offstage."

Imagine emptying a large complicated jigsaw puzzle onto a table and deciding how to begin putting it together. The difficult part the "Crazy For You" crew encountered as they brought the set to Marion without damaging any pieces and putting it back together, was a great challenge.

Carl Schrote, R.J. Creamer, both of Marion, and Don Jenney of Bucyrus donated flatbeds and

trucks to haul the huge sections to store in the warehouse behind the Palace. town.

"We were very excited that we were able to retrieve the set and bring it to Marion nearly intact. The set has five sections, most of which are two stories and reversible. We had to cut the top off and reassemble it once we brought it onto the Palace stage," "Crazy For You" producer Marty Kaufman said.

The Otterbein set has about eight different scene changes mirroring those of a Broadway street and a western Nevada

OHIO
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THIS WEEK - WESTERVILLE
WORTHINGTON, OH.
W. CIRC. 24/253

MAY-6-98



'Crazy' ends run Saturday

The Otterbein College Theatre production of the Gershwin musical, "Crazy for You" continues this weekend in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. The story's hero, Bobby (Chris Sloan, center), calls in his friends the Follies girls (from left, Christina Cochran, Mandy Wheeler, Lauren Blair) to put on a show, save the musical theatre in the town of Deadrock, and win the heart of the theatre owner's daughter. Also in the cast is Brent Tomer of Westerville, a graduate of Westerville South High School and a junior majoring in musical theatre at Otterbein. The show can be seen Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; ticket information is available by calling the box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

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DELAWARE GAZETTE
DELAWARE, OH.
PM CIRC. 7,900

MAY-1-98



Photo courtesy Otterbein College

Crazy for Gershwin

"Crazy For You" hero, Bobby, played by Chris Sloan, is joined by the Follies girls, from left, Christina Cochrun, Mandy Wheeler, and Lauren Blair, in the Otterbein College production of the fun-filled Gershwin musical. The show plays tonight, Saturday and Sunday, and May 7 through May 9 in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein

campus. Evening performances are at 8 p.m., with the Sunday matinee starting at 2 p.m. For ticket information, call the Otterbein Theatre box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Friday and Saturday tickets are \$14; Thursday and Sunday shows are \$12. Cowan Hall is at 30 S. Grove St. in Westerville.

CRAZY FOR YOU

Book by Ken Ludwig
Music and Lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin
Concept by Ken Ludwig and Mike Ockrent

Otterbein College Theatre
Cowan Hall
30 S. Grove St.
Westerville, OH 43081

April 30 (7:30 pm), 31, May 1 (both at 8 pm), May 2 (2 pm),
May 7, 8, 9 (all 3 at 8 pm)

Ticket prices: \$12 Thursday/Sunday \$14 Friday/Saturday
CALL 823-1109 STARTING APRIL 13

Presented by The Departments of Theatre & Dance and Music

Don't miss this Central Ohio Premiere of this GERSHWIN hit
musical, featuring: "I Got Rhythm," Someone to Watch Over Me,"
"They Can't Take That Away from Me" and many more favorites!

Call 823-1209 about group sales and discounts.

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MOUNT VERNON NEWS
MOUNT VERNON, OH.
FM CIRC. 10,928

APR-29-98

JAG Drama



"The Nerds" cast, clockwise, Susie Deal as Tansy McGinnis; Bruce Jacklin, from Mount Vernon, as Willum Cubbert; and Robert Shuman as Rick Steadman; will perform this weekend in Westerville. (Photo submitted)

WESTERVILLE — "The Nerd" will be presented Friday, Saturday and May 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17 at the Curtain Player's Theatre, 5691 Harlem Road.

The comedy written by Larry Shue will be performed on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Serving as director for the play is Linda Sopp.

Willum Cubbert, played by Mount Vernon native Bruce Jacklin, is delighted when a fellow ex-GI, Rick Steadman, played by Robert Shuman of Reynoldsburg, shows up unexpectedly at his apartment on the night of his 34th birthday. Willum has told his friends often about the debt he owes to

Rick for saving his life after he was seriously injured in Vietnam. His delight soon fades as it becomes apparent that Rick is a hopeless "nerd."

For reservations and tickets, call 885-7000.

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COLUMBUS — Since its Broadway premiere in 1939, Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes" has become famous as a vehicle for great acting. The central role, "Regina Giddens," has become one of the most notable roles for actresses.

The four major New York productions have starred Tallulah Bankhead, Anne Bancroft, Elizabeth Taylor and Stockard Channing. The film starred Bette Davis. CATCO's production of this tale of manners, morals and murder among the well-to-do features a veteran cast headed by Wendy Barrie-Wilson.

This American classic, sponsored by the Huntington National Bank, is presented by CATCO, the Contemporary American Theatre Company. "The Little Foxes" opens Thursday and continues through Saturday at the Riffe Center Studio One Theatre, 77 S. High St.

For tickets, call CATCO at (614) 461-0010 or go to the CATCO Box Office at the Riffe Center at 77 S. High St.

...
WESTERVILLE — Audiences will go crazy this spring for the Otterbein College Theatre production of the musical "Crazy for You." Co-presented with Otterbein's department of music, "Crazy for You" is based on the 1930 Gershwin musical "Girl Crazy."

"Crazy for You," will be performed Thursday through Sunday and May 7 through May 9 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.

The opening night show begins at 7:30 p.m. Other evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee begins at 2 p.m. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at (614) 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

This heartwarming and upbeat story is set in the framework of the most popular and endearing Gershwin hits. Five memorable songs — "Bidin' My Time," "Could You Use

Me," "But Not for Me," "Embraceable You" and "I Got Rhythm" — all from the original show — are presented stylishly in this production. Other great Gershwin tunes have been added to this musical, including "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and "Shall We Dance?"

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PUBLIC OPINION
WESTERVILLE, OH.
W CIRC. 6,386

APR-29-98

389 'Crazy For You' to be featured

389 Otterbein College Theatre will present *Crazy For You* at
7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and May
7, 8 and 9 and 2 p.m. Sunday in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove
St.

Tickets are \$14 Fridays and Saturdays, \$12 Thursdays and
Sundays.

For tickets call 823-1109.