

Arts

OST to present 'Camille' next

"Camille," a love story for mature audiences, will be presented by Otterbein Summer Theatre (OST) July 20-24 and 27-30. The central Ohio premiere includes several outstanding guest artists (most of whom are Otterbein alumni).

The group includes Susan Diol in the lead role of Marguerite Gautier. Diol, appearing with OST for the first time since her graduation in 1984, is both a stage and television actress who replaced Amanda Plummer in Broadway's "You Never Can Tell," appeared on the Bill Cosby Show, and currently can be seen as Claudia in ABC's "Hothouse" series Thursday evenings.

Playing the role of the Marquis will be Los Angeles-based actor/director Dennis Romer '71, who has appeared on "Dynasty," "Hotel," "All My Children" and numerous commercials. Romer directed the recent Otterbein College Theatre production of "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday."

Recent graduate Tim Gregory, national winner of the 1986 Irene Ryan Scholarship for excellence in acting, will return to OST to play the role of Armand.

Directing "Camille" will be Carter Lewis '73, San Francisco freelance writer and director who directed past OST productions of "Plenty" and "The Real Thing."

Costumes will be designed

by New York freelance artist Mary Myers whose credits include "Pal Joey" for the Colonial Theatre in Rhode Island, and "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "The Lion in Winter" for Snowmass Repertory Theatre in Colorado. Myers will replace designer David Robinson '78 who could not return to OST because of a movie commitment.

IN THE PARIS of the 1840s, an unmonied, unmarried woman from the lower class had slim chances for survival outside servitude. The beautiful Marguerite, however, finds not only survival — but success — as a courtesan.

Sent away from her large and poor family at 13 to become a maid in an aristocratic family, Marguerite soon becomes the sexual pawn of the master of the house only to find herself exiled when she becomes pregnant.

The idea to capitalize on herself as an object of desire surfaces as she is once again victimized by a relative with whom she sought temporary refuge. He gives her money, and the clue to her new livelihood.

Sharing her life and solicited affection with wealthy men becomes an accepted pattern for Marguerite until she encounters the cold, compelling and well-born Armand.

Attracted by a bond of loveless pasts, Armand and

Marguerite are defenseless against their emotions and come to truly care for each other.

Such a mixing of the classes is spurned by society, and especially by Armand's family. The ramifications of such love, they discover, are disastrous.

"THIS IS compelling theatre," noted BBC Radio London. "And all credit to Pam Gems (author of the play's modern version) for perpetuating a legend and making it perfectly credible to a modern audience."

All performances of "Camille" will be held in the Campus Center Theatre, located in the lower level of the Otterbein Campus Center, 100 W. Home St.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office, open 12:30 - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, at 898-1109. Opening night will be at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. and all other performances at 8 p.m.

"Hothouse" star to perform at Otterbein

"Camille," a touching love story for mature audiences, will be presented by Otterbein Summer Theatre (OST) July 27-30.

The central Ohio premiere includes several outstanding guest artists (most of whom are Otterbein alumni), including Susan Diol in the lead role of Marguerite Gautier. Diol, appearing with OST for the first time since her graduation in 1984, is an accomplished stage and television actress who replaced Amanda Plummer in Broadway's "You Never Can Tell," appeared on

The Bill Cosby Show and currently may be seen as Claudia in ABC's "Hothouse" series Thursday evenings.

Portraying the part of the Marquis will be Los Angeles-based actor/director Dennis Romer '71, who has appeared on "Dynasty," "Hotel," "All My Children" and numerous commercials. Romer directed the recent Otterbein College Theatre production of "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday." Recent graduate Tim Gregory, national winner of the 1986 Irene Ryan

Scholarship for excellence in acting, will return to OST to play the role of Armand. Directing "Camille" will be Carter Lewis '73, San Francisco freelance writer and director who directed past OST productions of "Plenty" and "The Real Thing." Costumes will be designed by New York freelance artist Mary Myers whose credits include "Pal Joey" for the Colonial Theatre in Rhode Island and "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "The Lion in Winter" for Snowmass Repertory Theatre, Colorado. Myers

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In the Paris of the 1840s, an unmonied, unmarried woman from the lower class had slim chances for survival outside servitude. The beautiful Marguerite, however, finds not only survival—but success—as a courtesan. Sent away from her large and poor family at 13 to become a maid in an aristocratic family, Marguerite soon becomes the sexual pawn of the master of the house only to find herself exiled when she becomes pregnant. The idea to capitalize on herself as an object of desire surfaces as she is once again victimized by a relative with whom she sought temporary refuge. He gives her money, and the clue to her new livelihood.

Sharing her life and solicited affection with wealthy men becomes an accepted pattern for Marguerite until she encounters the cold, compelling and well-born Armand. Attracted by a bond of loveless pasts, Armand and Marguerite are defenseless against their emotions and come to truly care for each other. Such a mixing of the classes is spurned by society, and especially by Armand's family. The ramifications of such love, they discover, are disastrous.

"This is compelling theatre," said BBC Radio



Hothouse star returns

Armand and Marguerite share a tender moment in Otterbein Summer Theatre's (OST) July 27-30 production of "Camille."

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CURTAIN CALLS

Here is a guide to central Ohio theater shows, based on recent Dispatch reviews. For performance times and dates, see theater listings in Weekend Planner.

Camille — New version or old, this classic romantic tragedy enchants. **Otterbein's** sinuous Ohio premiere, based on British playwright Pam Gems' crisp rewrite, makes this familiar story about a beautiful woman stricken with disease seem fresh. Outstanding performances by guest Equity artist Susan Diol (TV's *Hothouse*) as Marguerite Gautier, Tim Gregory as her impetuous lover, Equity professional Dennis Romer as Gregory's aristocratic father, and a strong ensemble cast make this lovely love story the best show of

the summer season. Other pluses: guest Equity artist Carter Lewis' stylish direction, Doreen Dunn's elegant choreography and Michael Haberkorn's moody piano accompaniment. **Otterbein Summer Theatre.** (Reviewed by Michael Grossberg.)

Home Free — Reality Theatre moves from the dubiously experimental to the near-conventional in this off-Broadway comedy-drama by Lanford Wilson. Dee Shepherd directs two Ohio State University actors with wistful lyricism. Nick Kellis is touching and Jackie Chabler is angrily funny as a grown-up brother and sister who live in a child's world of make-believe. Both are oddly endearing as they pretend to eat "filet of flamingo" and talk to imaginary friends. But this coyly offbeat fantasy eventually con-

fronts painful necessity. With this fine production, Reality also faces reality. Take a chance on this modestly staged but poignant one-act. **Reality Theatre.** (M.G.)

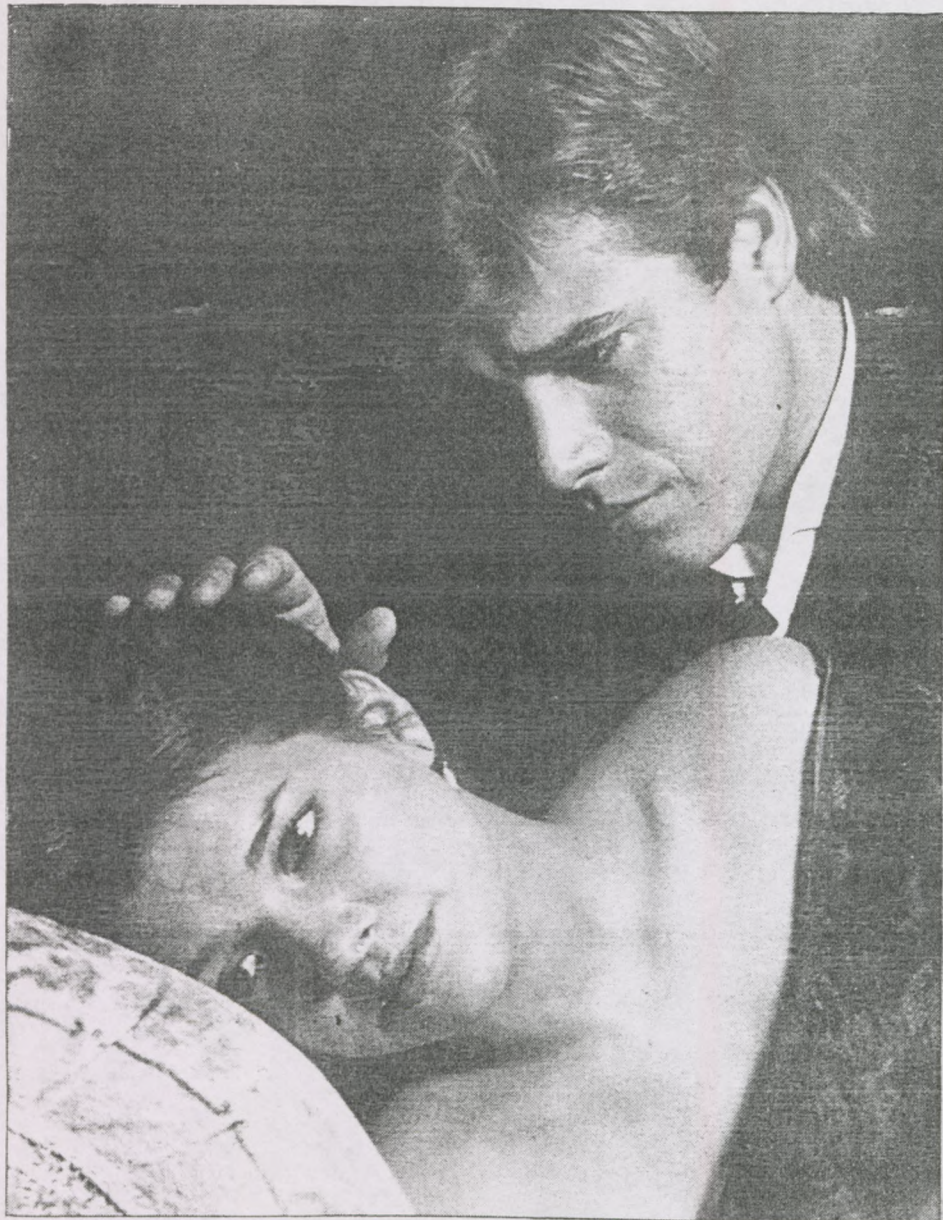
Kiss Me Kate — Despite fiery disaster, this attractive community theater production continues bravely and brightly. Actors Summer Theatre's well-staged, well-costumed, well-spoken revival of Cole Porter's backstage musical, cleverly adapted from Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, catches fire the right way — by igniting the audience. As the head of a modern-day Shakespeare troupe, Bill Verno's exasperation is entertaining; Kelly Hunt's fury as his ex-wife and leading lady is very funny. But Cavin Bodouin's slick choreography surpasses the amateur dancers, who can't quite keep up with his jazzy steps. Ac-

tors Summer Theatre. (M.G.)

You're Gonna Love Tomorrow — Stephen Sondheim fans, take note. You're gonna like this smart musical revue, urbanely directed by Todd Neal, which highlights Sondheim's clever intellect and gut emotion. *Send in the Clowns* is here, tearfully sung by Carole Grote. So are such future standards as the revue's plucky title song from *Follies* and *No One Is Alone*, brilliantly borrowed by Carolyn Mapes from *Into the Woods*, Sondheim's latest smash. Still others are fascinating outtakes that never made it to opening night. But no one could call them failures after hearing Mapes, Grote, Lauren Broglia, Michael Dempsey, Joe Killilea, Deborah and James Shellard sing them. **Columbus Summer Stage.** (M.G.)



Dispatch photo
Jackie Chabler in *Home Free*



'Camille' opens at OST this week

Armand and Marguerite share a tender moment in Otterbein Summer Theater's (OST) July 20-24 and 27-30 production of "Camille," a love story for mature audiences. Appearing with OST for the first time since her graduation in 1984 will be Equity guest artist Susan Diol as Marguerite. A stage and television actress who replaced Amanda Plummer in Broadway's "You Never Can Tell," Diol has appeared on the Bill Cosby Show and currently can be seen as Claudia in ABC's "Hothouse" series Thursday evenings. Recent graduate Tim Gregory, national winner of the 1986 Irene Ryan Scholarship for excellence in acting, returns to his alma mater to play the role of Armand. All performances will be in the Campus Center Theatre, located in the lower level of the Campus Center, Home St. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office, open 12:30-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, at 898-1109. Opening night will be at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. and all other performances at 8 p.m.



NeighborNews photo by Tom Sines.

Susan Diol portrays Camille and Tim Gregory is Armand Duval in Otterbein College's Summer Theatre production of "Camille," which opens tonight. Performances will be held through Sunday and July 27 through 30 in the Campus Center. Tonight's show begins at 7:30. The July 24 performance is at 2 p.m. All others begin at 8 p.m. For ticket information, call 898-1109.

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Susan Diol

presents the last in its series of "Popcorn Pops" concerts at 8 p.m. Friday on the Chemical Abstracts Service lawn. Albert-George Schram will conduct. Tickets are \$3 at all Big Bear and Harts stores and \$4 at the orchestra ticket office and at the gate. Call 224-3291 for details on both concerts.

New lady of the flowers. Otterbein Summer Theater will present a new version of *Camille* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Campus Center Theatre. Susan Diol (TV's *Hot House*) stars. Performances continue July 27-30. For tickets, call 898-1109.

Poppin' Along. Crooner Tony Bennett joins the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor Eric Knight for the next "Picnic With the Pops" concert at 8 p.m. Saturday on the lawn of Chemical Abstracts Service, 2540 Olentangy River Rd. Music begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 at all area Big Bear and Harts stores and \$7 at the orchestra ticket office and at the gate.

For children, the orchestra