

Guest director chosen for Otterbein Theatre

You'll want to grab a stool at the counter for "Come Back To The Five & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," to be presented by the Otterbein College Theatre, Feb. 7-10, at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall. Dr. Roy Bowen, former director of theatre at The Ohio State University, will direct.

An Otterbein graduate, Dr. Bowen, has spent more than 30 years in theatrical work in the Columbus area, including a 10-year stint, as managing director of the Columbus Players Club, in which he directed some 50 productions for the organization.

Dr. Bowen has served in the past as guest director with Otterbein College Theatre, and in 1971 he was presented with the Ed Begley Memorial Drama Award which is given annually to an Otterbein graduate who has distinguished himself in theatre. The last play he directed at Otterbein was "Shadow Box," performed four years ago.

"Come Back to The Five & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" is the Broadway version of Ed Graczyk's play, which is the story of a dime store reunion of the fans of the late Jimmy Dean, the legendary movie star.

JUST THREE years ago, the original New York production premiered at the Hudson Guild Theatre, then enjoyed a run at the Martin Beck theatre on Broadway, and later was made into a movie of the same name.

The screen play was adapted by playwright Graczyk, and Robert Altman directed both the Broadway

and film versions, which retained the same actresses as the trio of aging fans: Sandy Dennis, Cher, and Karen Black.

Basically, "Jimmy Dean" is a story about a group of kids in a dried up, dusty Texas town in the middle of nowhere and how the nearby filming of "Giant," Dean's last movie before he died in the high-speed crash of his Porsche in 1955, has affected their lives.

It was "Giant," the movie that also starred Elizabeth Taylor, that provided all the plot twists in "Jimmy Dean."

The play takes place on Sept. 30, 1975, during the club's 20th reunion, and also—through flashbacks—to the same day in 1955 when Dean was killed in the fiery crash of his Porsche. The scene is the local five-and-dime. Since the characters "age" 20 years, pairs of actresses have been cast in the key roles.

GOOD FRIENDS and officers of the Disciples of James Dean fan club are Mona and Sissy, who are played as teenagers by junior Dia Huekler and sophomore Gina Grogg. Freshman Michael Cunningham has been cast as Joe, a Deanish-looking, effeminate youth who is the club's vice president.

At the reunion, and still working the counter after 20 years is an older, but not necessarily wiser Mona, played by junior Linda Cole.

Sissy, played by sophomore Nancy Fox, who used to work at the drug store with them, returns to stir up old emotions. They all still work under Juanita (sophomore Catherine Randazzo), the Bible-thumping, fly-swatting proprietress.

Among the other major characters are Stella May, (junior JoBeth Phalen), now a fat, married, tough-talking, and hard-drinking woman, and Edna Louise (sophomore Charlotte Dougherty), now as before, a wispy waif, although very pregnant with her seventh child.

While the play is about Dean as the ultimate cult figure, there are any number of intertwined themes that deal with such things as the illegitimacy of the ring-leader Mona's son (whom she has bragged for years was the child of James Dean, conceived while she was an extra on the set of "Giant").

ACTUALLY, ALL the main characters have been hiding a secret for the past 20 years, which are eventually bared in the play.

Otterbein scene designer Fred J. Thayer has recreated a nostalgic dime store set for "Jimmy Dean." Otterbein costume designer Lucy Lee Reuther will outfit the actors and actresses.

New design-technical theatre staffer Michael Slane has assumed the task of technical director, junior Joanne Fabian is the assist-

ant director, and senior Anne Barnes is stage manager for the production.

Tickets for "Come Back to the Five & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," a play which employs adult themes and language, are available at the Cowan Hall box office from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and at the door for one hour preceding each performance.

Theatre to stage nostalgic look at James Dean fan club

DO 1/31/85

"Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," a play about hero worship and the effect of the legendary film hero on the lives of a group of die-hard fans, opens Feb. 7 at Otterbein College, just one day after what would have been Dean's 53rd birthday.

Set for a four-day run, "Jimmy Dean" will be presented Feb. 7, 8, and 9 at 8:15 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 2:30 p.m. in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus.

The headline announcing Otterbein's upcoming play might be "Come Back to Columbus, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean." It has been almost nine years since playwright Ed Graczyk, then executive director of Players Theater of Columbus, staged the premiere of his play written about a small-town group of lifelong fans of the late movie idol, James Dean.

Originally, the script was written as two plays, one with the younger people in 1955; and the story of the same people at a reunion in 1975. The major difference in the Broadway production is that the same people were used to act in the present and the flashbacks, which seemed to have caused some confusion for audiences. Otterbein's "Jimmy Dean" will feature two sets of actresses in each of the main roles and will be directed by Dr. Roy Bowen, former director of theatre at the Ohio State University.

After the play's debut in Columbus in 1976, "Jimmy Dean" was produced in Atlanta, then enjoyed a run off-Broadway at the Hudson Guild Theatre in New York, before it opened on Broadway at the Martin Beck Theatre, where the reception was lukewarm.

According to Graczyk, "The Broadway version of the play was presented in a theatre that was just too big. I wrote a small play that needs an intimate audience." Graczyk also feels that New York reviewers invented imagery, metaphors, and subplots that were a complete surprise to the author when he read about them in the newspapers.

The play is currently enjoying excellent reviews in regional theatre and on college campuses across the country. "There are five productions opening within a three-month period this year in Ohio alone," the playwright said. "There are numerous college productions this year, from Otterbein to the University of Southern California. There

even is a professional tour overseas of 'Jimmy Dean' going on in London right now, and the group is taking it to Edinburgh, Scotland, in the spring."

Graczyk, an Ohio native, spent five years in the Texas flatlands and "just got hooked on the colorful, rural, backward, and amazing folks out there." He is pleased that his play about a small Texas town, their brush with a movie star, and the impact that star's death had on them, has met with success.

The cast includes Junior Dia Hueckel and sophomore Gina Grogg as the teen-aged Mona and Sissy, officers of

the Dean fan club in 1955. Freshman Michael Cunningham plays Joe, a Deansh-looking youth who is the group's vice president. Their counterparts, still working the drug store counter 20 years later, are an older Mona, played by junior Linda Cole, and Sissy, played by sophomore Liana Joanne, played by junior Nancy Fox, returns to stir up old emotions.

Among the other major characters are the Bible-thumping proprietress of the drug store, Juanita (sophomore Catherine Randazzo), hard-drinking Stella May (junior JoBeth Phalen),

and Edna Louise (sophomore Charlotte Dougherty), who is pregnant with her seventh child.

The technical staff for "Jimmy Dean" is comprised of Fred J. Thayer, Otterbein scene designer, who has recreated a nostalgic drug store; Lucy Lee Reuther, Otterbein costume designer; designer/technical director Mike Slane, technical director for the production. Junior Joanna Fabian is the assistant director, and senior Anne Barnes is stage manager.

Tickets for "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," a play which

employs adult themes and language, are available at the Cowan Hall box office 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and at the door for one hour preceding each performance.



Ed Graczyk

OHIO
NEWS BUREAU INC.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115
216/241-0675

CITIZEN JOURNAL
COLUMBUS, O.
AM - CIRC. 10/24/75

389
JAN-26-85

Exhibit will honor veterinary college

An exhibit of life-sized horse sculptures will help celebrate the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine's centennial anniversary. "Still Horses," including five sculptures, will continue Feb. 4 to 24 in the Hoyt L. Sherman Gallery, 1813 N. High St.

Deborah Butterfield creates her sculptures from scrap materials such as wood, wire and mud found on her Montana farm, where she also raises and trains horses. Her sculpture subjects are mares. "By making my horses mares they have as much sculpture mass and volume as stallions but are more concerned with the issues of procreation, art and life," Butterfield said.

An opening reception for "Still Horses" will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 5 in the gallery.

Professor Peter Schickele brings the comic music of P.D.Q. Bach to the Columbus Symphony for a pops concert at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Ohio Theatre. Joining Schickele, the orchestra and CSO Associate Conductor Gary Sheldon will be Channel 10 Sports Director Gary Radnich, who will perform as guest soloist during Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. The program also

includes P.D.Q. Bach's Suite from the "Civillan Barber" and "Variations on an Unusually Simple-Minded Theme." Tickets are available at the CSO ticket office, Mershon Auditorium, the Ohio Center, all Buzzard's Nest Record Stores and all out-of-town CTO outlets.

The OSU Concert Band will perform Feb. 19 in New York City's Carnegie Hall. The band will give a "warm-up" benefit concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, in Weigel Hall Auditorium. The band's East Coast tour includes performances at the University of Maryland and Penn State University. The Weigel performance is a fund-raiser to help with the cost of the trip. Tickets are \$10 each.

"Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" will be staged Feb. 7-10 in Cowan Hall at Otterbein College. The play was written by Columbus playwright Ed Graczyk and given a brief run on Broadway. Dr. Roy Bowen, former director of theater at Ohio State University, will direct the Otterbein production.

"Blind Trust," an original drama by Sally Carpenter, will be performed March 15-16 and 22-23 at the Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2199 E. Main St.

The play concerns a policeman

and his struggle between duty and his love for his daughter, who is an outlaw. Carpenter is a resident of Columbus.

The exhibit "The War Room," a collection of government photographs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, goes on display Feb. 18 to March 15 in the Ohio Union Main Lobby at Ohio State University.

In addition, photographers Robert Del Tredici and Eugene Richards will present their work documenting those who work for and against the nuclear industry in two lectures. Del Tredici will speak at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Ohio Union Conference Theater, 1739 N. High St., and Richards is scheduled Feb. 26.

Otterbein presents '5 & Dime'

Washington
News 1/24/85

Otterbein College Theatre promises audiences a nostalgic trip back in time in their upcoming production of "Come Back To The 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," set for Feb. 27-10 at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

Dr. Roy Bowen, former director of theatre at the Ohio State University, will direct.

"Come Back To The 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" is the Broadway version of Ed Graczyk's play, which is the story of a dime store reunion of the fans of the late James Dean, legendary movie star.

Three years ago, the original New York production premiered at the Hudson Guild Theatre, then enjoyed a run at the Martin Beck Theatre on Broadway, and later was made into a movie of the same name. The screen play was adapted by playwright Graczyk, and Robert Altman directed both the Broadway and film versions, which retained the same actresses as the trio of aging fans: Sandy Dennis, Cher and Karen Black.

"Jimmy Dean" is a story about a group of kids in a dried up, dusty Texas town in the middle of nowhere and how the nearby filming of "Giant" Dean's last movie before he died in the high-speed crash of his Porsche in 1955, has affected their lives.

Tickets for "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," a play which employs adult themes and language, are available at the Cowan Hall box office (890-3028) 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and at the door for one hour preceding each performance.

February 6, 1985

Westerville SUBURBIA NEWS

Otterbein theatre stages tribute to James Dean fans

Just one day after what would have been James Dean's 53rd birthday, the Otterbein College Theatre opens its production of *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Performances are scheduled for Feb. 7, 8 and 9 at 8:15 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2:30 p.m.

It has been almost nine years since playwright Ed Graczyk, then executive director of Players Theatre of Columbus, staged the premiere of his play about a small-town group of lifelong fans of James Dean.

Originally, the script was written as two plays, the first with the younger people set in 1955, and the second a story of the same people, but older, at the reunion in 1975. The Broadway production seemed to have caused some confusion for audiences since the same actors were used in the present (1975) and the flashbacks (1955). Otterbein's "Jimmy Dean" will feature two sets of actresses in each of the main roles.

Among the other major characters are the Bible-thumping proprietress of the drug store, Juanita, hard-drinking Stella May and Edna Louise, who is pregnant with her seventh child.

Dr. Roy Bowen, former director of theater at Ohio State University, will direct the play which employs adult themes and language.

Tickets for *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* are available at the Cowan Hall box office (890-3028) 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and at the door for one hour preceding each performance.



Otterbein College will stage *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* beginning Thursday. Cast members include, from left, Liana Peters, Linda Cole and Jo Beth Phalen. See theater listings. Dispatch photo by Ken Chamberlain



Everything's bigger in Texas

Old friends Mona (Linda Cole, center) and Stella May (JoBeth Phalen, right) react as Sissy (Liana Peters) strikes a pose to point out how she has maintained her envied figure after all these years. The trio has returned for a 20-year reunion to the corner drug store where their 'Disciples of James Dean' fan club met when they were all teenagers. Find out more when Otterbein College Theatre presents "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," at 8:15 p.m. Feb. 7, 8, and 9, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 10, in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour preceding each performance.