

# Blazer pursues her true love--theatre



*Diana Blazer paired up with Steve Geyer for the winter production of "A Flea In Her Ear." Publicity photo by Ed Syguda.*

**A** hanging on her bedroom wall titled "Don't Be Afraid to Fail" inspires sophomore Diana Blazer, who plays the title role in the current Otterbein theatre production.

Blazer has captured three major stage roles this year. She has portrayed Aunt Blanche in "Brighton Beach Memoirs," Yvonne in "A Flea in Her Ear" and she has the title role in the current production of "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday." She has also starred in two theatre workshops, "Patio" and "Approaching Laverder."

Blazer said she enjoys playing the character of Gillian. "I really love Gillian," Blazer said.

"You know when you read a good book and you fall in love with a character? That's what I have done."

Gillian is rowdy and outgoing, whereas Blazer sees herself as shy and rational. "It's interesting, because Gillian is a complete contrast to me, which is so much fun to do," Blazer said.

Of the three major characters she has played, Blazer said she relates most to Aunt Blanche of "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

"I have a lot of Aunt Blanche qualities," Blazer said. "She was the motherly type, which is what I am like. I had a lot of fun with her."

According to Blazer, acting classes have provided her with the background to play characters completely unlike herself.

She said, "You bring what you are, a little of yourself to your character, and so no two people are ever going to play a character in the same way."

The tall, thin actress said she almost chose a career in fashion. When Blazer visited Otterbein as a high school senior, she came to examine the fashion merchandising program.

After her visit, she carefully thought about her career choice and decided she was taking the safe path instead of doing what she really wanted. When Blazer returned, she did so to study what she

loved—theatre.

Once enrolled in the theatre program, Blazer said she played it safe again, choosing theatre education, rather than performance, as her major. "I didn't think I was good enough to perform," she said.

However, by the end of Blazer's freshman year, theatre professors recognized her talent and directed her towards a career in performance.

**OTTERBEIN'S THEATRE** program is known to be excellent and tough, according to Blazer. But she said she has never gotten discouraged with being a theatre major.

"At the end of both your freshman and sophomore years you have an evaluation," she said. Blazer said both of these times can be nerve-racking, especially the sophomore evaluation, when theatre professors decide whether or not you are succeeding in the program.

Blazer said her freshman evaluation helped her to pinpoint problem areas in her performance. She learned she needed to work on some of her body movements and her voice on stage. Overall, she said the professors were happy with her dedication to the theatre.

Although the life of a theatre major is often strenuous, Blazer's intense blue eyes sparkle when she talks about theatre. She loves the

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# Arts

## 'A Flea in Her Ear' to open in Feb. at OC

"A Flea In Her Ear," a madcap French farce, will be presented by Otterbein College Theatre (OCT) Feb. 4-7. Described by a San Francisco Chronicle reviewer as a "merry gavotte, as spirited as it is absurd... a hilarious ballet, at once lively and precise," the Georges Feydeau comedy will be directed by Otterbein department of theatre and dance chairman/artistic director Ed Vaughan.

The "flea" in the title refers to the young wife's itching suspicion that her straight-as-an-arrow husband has gone astray. "To

trap him," says Vaughan, "she persuades a friend to write him an alluring and anonymous love note begging for a rendezvous at an infamous hotel."

Sparks of misguided jealousy fly in yet another direction when the friend's hot-tempered husband sees the note in his own wife's handwriting.

Slamming doors, people frantically trying to explain guilty appearances and mistaken identities provide howling hilarity as the entire cast ends up with urgent reasons to converge at the hotel. The ingenious result is

a wild barrage of chases and entanglements that bring all the wrong people red face to red face.

The OCT cast includes Kevin Ford Carty of Findlay and Lori Schubeler of West Chester, who recently portrayed Eugene and Nora in the college's production of "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

Also, Marc Foster of Gahanna, Rachael Harris of Worthington, Diana Blazer of Mechanicsburg, Ralph Scott of Albany, Keith Berkes of North Royalton, Scott Best and Michelle Thompson of Columbus, Melissa Helm

and Brent Ries of Westerville, Ron Mauer of Findlay, Steve Geyer of Pittsburgh and Ben Hodges of Morristown, Tenn.

This masterpiece of mirth will play Feb. 4-7 in Cowan Hall. Opening night will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday matinee, 2 p.m. All other performances will begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets will be available beginning Jan. 21. The box office, (614) 898-1109, is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performance weeks — and for an hour and a half prior to performances.

# OCT to present *Flea*

Westerville Beacon 1/25/88

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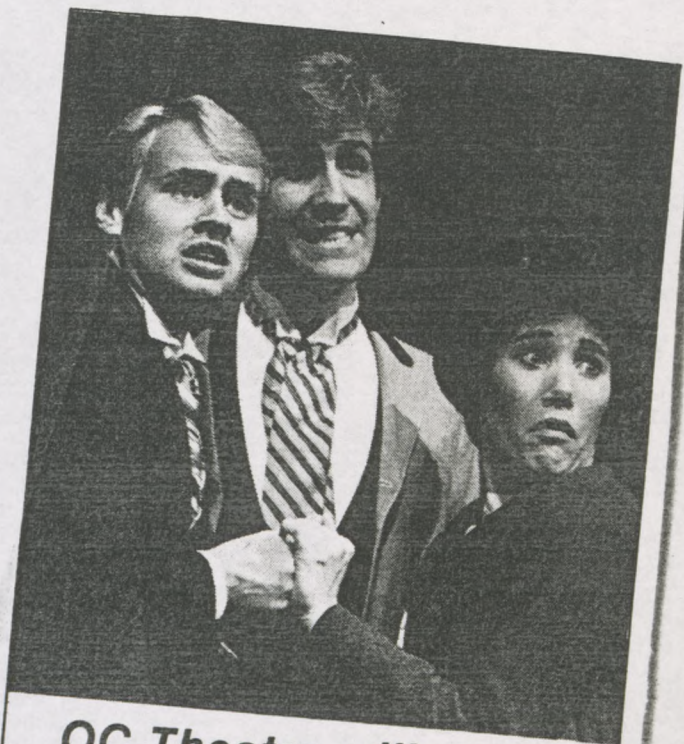


Westerville Beacon Feb. 1, 1988



## "A Flea in Her Ear"

Slamming doors, people frantically trying to explain guilty appearances and a cascade of mistaken identities provide howling hilarity in the Otterbein College Theatre production of "A Flea in Her Ear". The madcap French Farce will play Feb. 4-7 at the college's Cowan Hall. Playing prime roles in the masterpiece of mirth are Ralph Scott of Albany and Diana Blazer of Mechanicsburg. The opening night performance will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday matinee on Feb. 7, 2 p.m. All other performances will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are available by contacting the Cowan Hall box office at 898-1109. The box office is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performance weeks—and for an hour and a half prior to performances.



## OC Theatre will stage 'A Flea in Her Ear'

Slamming doors, people frantically trying to explain guilty appearances, and a cascade of mistaken identities provide hilarity in the Otterbein College Theatre production of "A Flea in Her Ear." The French farce will play Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 4-7, in Cowan Hall. Playing prime roles in the production are, from left, Steve Geyer, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Ralph Scott, Albany, Oh.; and Diana Blazer, Mechanicsburg, Oh. The opening night performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m., all other performances at 8 p.m.