



OTTERBEIN COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2010

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS *DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*

Westerville, OH—Otterbein College Theatre will present *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, a comedy by acclaimed playwright Sarah Ruhl, at 7:30 p.m. on April 29; and 8 p.m. on April 30-May 1 and May 7-8 at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Tickets cost \$15. Call 614-823-1109 or visit www.otterbein.edu/theatre.

An incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet café, a stranger at the next table who has had enough, and a dead man—with a lot of loose ends. So begins *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, a wildly imaginative new comedy by MacArthur Genius Grant recipient and Pulitzer Prize finalist, Sarah Ruhl, author of *The Clean House* and *Eurydice*.

Dead Man's Cell Phone is a work about how we memorialize the dead and how that remembering changes us, portrayed through the odyssey of a woman forced to confront her own assumptions about morality, redemption, and the need to connect in a technologically obsessed world.

The opening night performance on Thursday, April 29, begins at 7:30 p.m. and is followed by a reception. Friday and Saturday performances on April 30-May 1 and May 7-8 begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets for *Dead Man's Cell Phone* are \$15 each and can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College box office at (614) 823-1109. The box office is open 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning April 5, and one hour prior to performances. The box office is located in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville. For more information about the 2009-10 Otterbein College Theatre & Dance season, please visit www.otterbein.edu/theatre.

DETAILS:

Dead Man's Cell Phone

By Sarah Ruhl

April 29-May 1, May 7 & 8, 2010

Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Ed Vaughan

Student Scenic Designer: David Kerr

Guest Costume Designer: Tatjana Longerot

Student Lighting Designer: Reece Arthur

Student Sound Designer: Jack Denzinger

CAST LIST

Jean Stanzi Davis

Gordon Eric Folks

Mrs. Gottlieb Lauren Friednash

Hermia..... Amanda Huxtable

Dwight..... Luke Scroggins

The Other Woman/The Stranger..... Jen Brunker

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Thursday, April 29 7:30 p.m. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

***Opening Night: Reception following performance*

Friday, April 30 8:00 p.m. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

Saturday, May 1 8:00 p.m. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

Friday, May 7 8:00 p.m. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

Saturday, May 8 8:00 p.m. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

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May 6, 2010

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH | weekender

theater & comedy



now onstage

Dead Man's Cell Phone

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE: CAMPUS CENTER THEATRE, 100 W. HOME ST., WESTERVILLE (614-823-1109, WWW.OTTERBEIN.EDU/THEATRE)

» In the imaginative comedy, a woman picks up a stranger's cell phone and confronts assumptions about mortality and redemption.

SHOWTIMES » 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

TICKETS » \$15



GREG BEERS

Stanzi Davis and Luke Scroggins in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

CENTER STAGE PLAYERS: AXIS NIGHTCLUB & THEATRE, 775 N. HIGH ST. (1-866-250-4832, WWW.CENTERSTAGEPLAYERS.COM)

» Clever, warm and funny, the recent Broadway musical is *A Chorus Line* for adolescents.

SHOWTIMES » 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 4 p.m. Sunday

TICKETS » \$15

Kevin McGuire

ATHLETIC CLUB OF COLUMBUS, 136 E. BROAD ST. (614-225-0098, WWW.KEVINMCGUIREINCONCERT.COM)

» The singer-actor, who appeared on Broadway in *Les Miserables* and in Toronto with *The Phantom of the Opera*, will present a supper-club-style concert of show tunes and classics.

SHOWTIME » 8:30 p.m. Saturday, with dinner at 7 and dancing at 10

TICKETS » \$72.50 to \$77.50, including dinner and dancing

MULTI-TASKING THESPIAN SCENE IN SHORTS FES

BY MICHAEL GROSSBERG | THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

To pull off the three themed nights of its annual shorts festival, MadLab Theatre relies on participants to wear more than one hat.

"So many people have to do so many different things to make the festival work well each year," producer Andy Batt said.

John Kuhn, for example, will act in one piece and direct another in the 11th annual Theatre Roulette, which opens tonight.

"The festival has an exciting pace," Kuhn said. "For someone who's never directed or acted before, it can be a bit overwhelming. But I enjoy being able to contribute different perspectives."

Josh Kessler, meanwhile, is busy as the writer and an actor in one play and director of another.

"It can certainly be frantic," he said, "but I'm the kind of person who enjoys that intensity."

Here is a preview of the festival's rotating themed bills:

'CRAZY/TALK'

PLAYS » *The Final Scene of a Ninety-Six-Hour-Long Play, In a Bad Place, Let Lying Dogs Sleep, Narcoleptic Pillow Fight*

PERFORMANCES » 8 tonight and May 14, 22 and 27; and 2 p.m. May 29

Kessler and Batt are in *Bad Place*, a comedy about a humor writer trying to survive in a world that recognizes only drama as art.

"It's a sendup of modern playwriting that skewers all the trends and styles — from dark subjects and snappy, clipped dialogue to movement-based theater," Batt said.

A narcoleptic couple tries to stay awake long enough to save their marriage in *Narcoleptic*



From left: Josh Kessler, Erin Prosser, John Kuhn, Vicki Andronis at

at a glance

Theatre Roulette

MADLAB THEATRE, 227 N. 3RD ST. (614-221-5418, WWW.MADLAB.NET)

SHOWTIMES » 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, through May 28; and 2, 4 and 8 p.m. May 29

TICKETS » \$12, or \$8 for students and senior citizens, \$6 for members

Pillow Fight, and a couple discovers uncomfortable truth in *Let Lying Dogs Sleep*.

Scott Tobin, who directs *Let Lying Dogs Sleep*, wrote *The Final Scene*, about three actors redefining their craft after a marathon performance.

"It becomes a question, at a certain point for the actors, of whether it's art or endurance — sort of like the Roulette festival itself, almost," Tobin said.

"The good thing about MadLab's festival is that it's the shared result of a community effort."


Directed by Ed Vaughan
April 29-May 1 & 7-8
Campus Center Theatre
100 W. Home Street


Box Office 614-823-1109
www.otterbein.edu

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE

dead man's cell phone
by sarah ruhl

Blackwelder Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of "Dead Man's Cell Phone" Off Broadway in 2008.





OTTERBEIN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Directed by
Ed Vaughan

**April 29-May 1
May 7-8**

Campus Center
Theatre
100 W. Home St.
Box Office
614-823-1109