

## Theater prepares for 'Good'

By Kelley Grant

Drama is combined with comedy as the play "Good," by C.P. Taylor, is performed Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1-3 and Feb. 5-10 by the Otterbein theatre department.

"Good" is a play with music which follows the life of John Halder, a German literature professor in the 1930s who is drawn into the Nazi party.

"Good" is a warning against compromise, how a good man is faced with a moral decision most of us would rather avoid," director Dennis Romer said.

"The author sets the play in Hitler's time to heighten the seduction of John Halder, the 'good' man," Romer said.

Romer chose the play because of its timeliness and modern style. "The audience is not told what to think, they are invited to think about what arouses them in the situation," he said.

Although "Good" evokes strong feelings by the end of the play, there is humor as well. "'Good' is not written morbidly; there is a lot of Vaudeville style comedy," Romer said.

Music is used by the main character to create a mood. A three-piece band, directed by Dr. Michael Haberkorn, plays 28 strains of music, ranging in style from Beethoven to a dance hall band.

"The band is a representation of John Halder's mind. It is an integral part of the production," Romer said.

Guest actor David Combs will play the lead role of John Halder in "Good." Six men and four women will take on the roles of 14 characters, and most will remain on

stage through the play.

The set for "Good" was designed by junior Greg Owen.

An open forum with speakers will be held in the production's second week to discuss the issues raised by the play. No date has been set yet.

## Guest artist to star in 'Good'

By Gregory Davis

The Otterbein theatre department's production of "Good" will feature equity actor David Combs.

Combs will play the role of John Halder, a German professor of literature during the time of Hitler. Halder writes a book that argues for euthanasia, which is used by the Nazi Party to justify the genocide of the Jews. Halder is then sucked into the Nazi Party.

Dennis Romer, director of "Good," said: "I knew (Combs) from graduate school. I had directed him before. We've kept in touch over the years. He's the right age and look for the part. It's one of the instances when actor and role are perfectly matched."

The theatre department brings in at least one guest artist for each production. According to Romer, Combs has a larger role than most guest artists. Usually, a guest artist works at Otterbein for three weeks; Combs is staying for six weeks.

Combs' professional experiences include his role in the Broadway play "Equus," with Richard Burton.

Sophomore cast member Daryl Lozupone said: "(Combs) is very amiable and talkative. He's shown me some of the tricks of the trade."

Romer said of Combs' performance in rehearsals, "He's acclimated very well, everything is on course."

"He's a good actor. He has fleshed out his performance. He grips your attention, and he holds it," Lozupone said.



# 'Good' continues semi-successful run

By Tracey Young

How can a literature professor condone the burning of books in Nazi-Germany? How can he accept the mass murders of millions of Jews?

This is the subject of "Good," presented by the department of theatre and dance through Feb. 10.

Directed by Dennis Romer, the play stars guest artist David Combs as John Halder, a literature professor at a German university in the 1930s.

Halder is drawn into the Nazi party because of a book he wrote supporting euthanasia, or "mercy-killing." The Nazis use the book to justify the mass killings of the

Jews.

Throughout the play, Halder must struggle with his conscience to accept what is going on around him. A three-piece band, directed by Dr. Michael Haberkorn, is on stage and triggers the memories and emotions experienced by Halder as he made his decision.

Junior Jess Hanks plays Maurice, a Jewish friend of Halder's who complicates his emotional roller coaster. Other key characters are Helen, Halder's wife, played by senior Colby Anne Paul; Anne, Halder's mistress, played by junior Katy Bowers; and Halder's mother, played by senior adult student Ann Marie Elder.

Freshman Kim Allen said, "I thought the

acting was superb. There were parts, though, that were difficult to understand."

Although tickets have not been selling well, "It's about what we expected," said managing director Tod Wilson. "We understand that some of the shows we do won't do so well with our normal community audience."

"We protect ourselves by doing big productions like the musical so the smaller shows don't need to make money," said Wilson. "We do a show like ('Good') for ourselves."

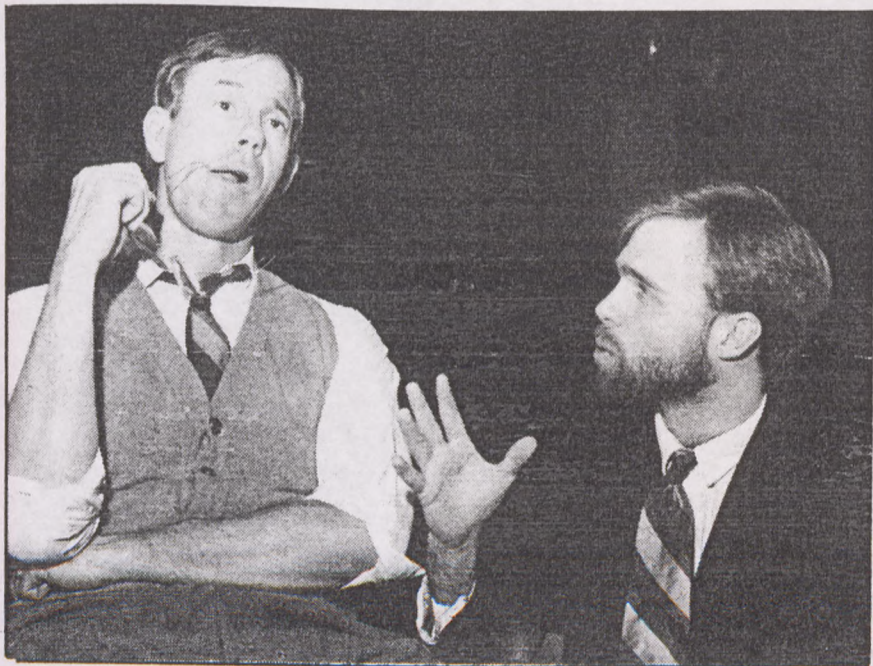
Tickets are on sale for the remaining performances of "Good" in the theater Box Office from 1-4:30 p.m. daily. Performances continue through Sunday.



## Behind the Scenes.

Sophomore Amy Patten and juniors Katy Bowers and Jess Hanks prepare for showtime (top left). The musical trio tunes up (lower left) while adult degree student Ann Marie Elder puts on the finishing touches for a performance of "Good." The play closes with Sunday's 2 p.m. matinee. Photos by Becky Cummings





## 'Good' opens this week.

Guest artist David Combs and junior Jess Hanks performed yesterday in opening night for the Otterbein theater production "Good."

Publicity photo

(AN 1991)



# Westerville resident set to appear in 'Good' play

Ann Elder of Westerville will be appearing as "Mother" in Otterbein College Theatre Department's production of *Good*.

The production will be presented at the Campus

Center Theatre's Jan. 30 and 31 and Feb. 1-3 and 5-10."

*Good* is a play about how the German people were swept along by Hitler's madness.

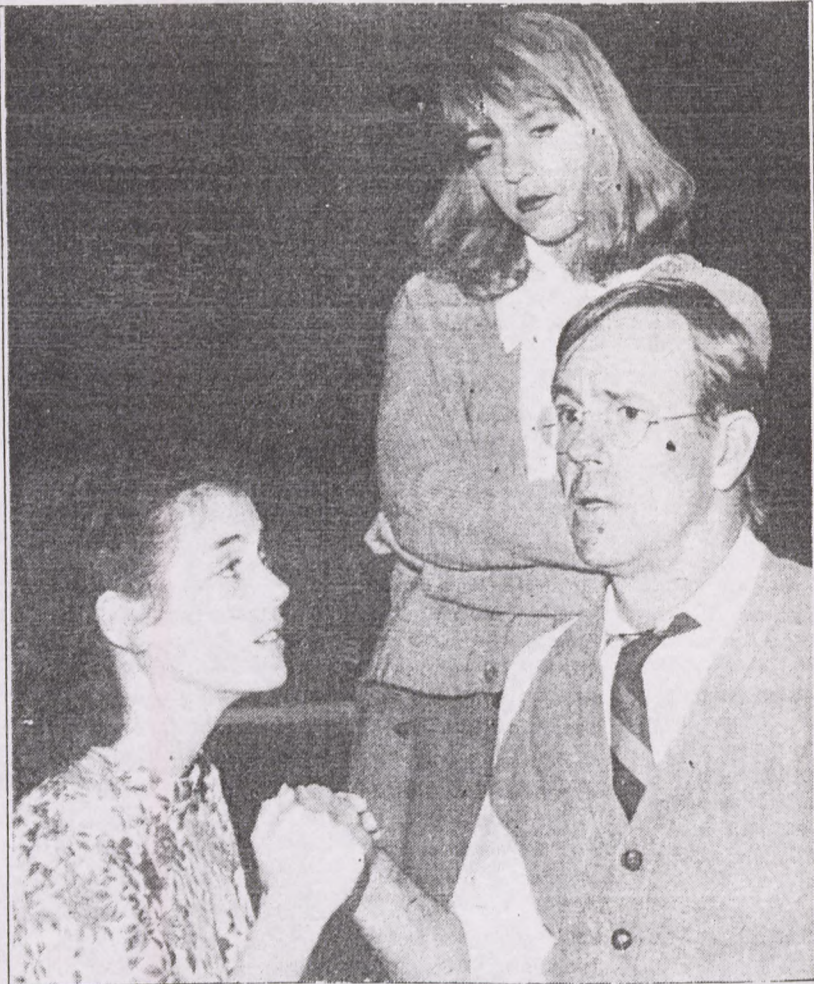
Elder is a senior continuing studies student at Otterbein majoring in theatre.

The play will be directed by Dennis Romer, theatre department instructor.

All performances will be held at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. Westerville.

The opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

For ticket information call the box office at 898-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.



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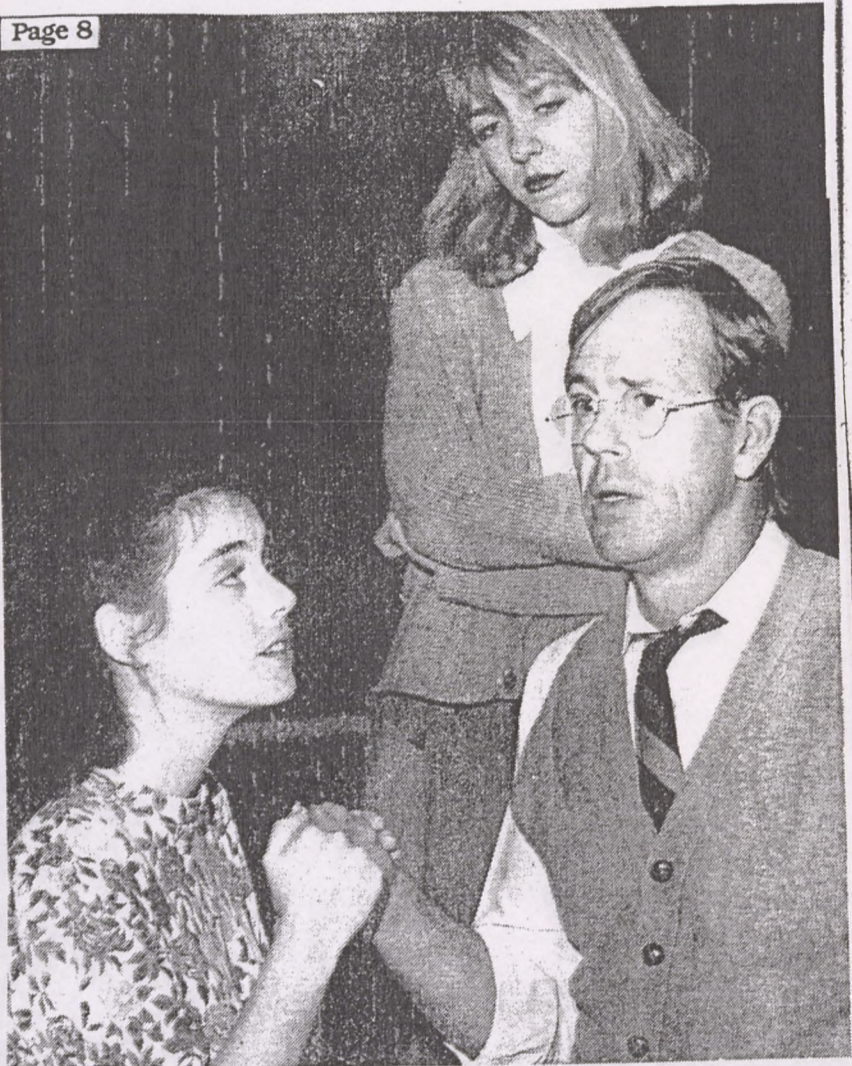
Photo courtesy Otterbein College

## Accepting evil and 'Good'

Guest actor David Combs stars as John Halder in Otterbein College Theatre's production of "*Good*," the story of a German professor who is pulled into the Nazi party and learns to accept its evil. Pictured here, Halder, center, is torn between the two women in his life — his wife Helen, right, played by Colby Paul, and his mistress Anne, left, played by Katy Bowers. "*Good*" will be performed Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1-3 and 5-10 at Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Opening night performance will begin at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; and all other performances at 8 p.m. For ticket information, call the box office at 898-1109 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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## The 'Good' nazi

Guest actor David Combs stars as John Halder in Otterbein College Theatre's production of "Good," the story of a German professor who is pulled into the Nazi party and learns to accept its evil. Pictured here, Halder (center) is torn between the two women in his life—his wife Helen (standing), played by Colby Paul, and his mistress Anne (kneeling), played by Katy Bowers. "Good" will be performed Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1-3, and Feb. 5-10. The opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. All other performances begin at 8 p.m. All performances will be held in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. For ticket information, one may call the box office at 898-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



## Guest actor in 'Good'

Guest actor David Combs stars as John Halder in Otterbein college Theatre's production of *Good*, the story of a German professor who is pulled into the Nazi party and learns to accept its evil. Halder (left) is convinced by a Nazi major played by Ben Hodges (right) to join the SS. *Good* will be performed Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1-3 and Feb. 5-10. The opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. All other performances begin at 8 p.m. Performances will be held in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. For more information, call the box office at 898-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



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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.*

**Good** — An icy portrait of evil that may leave you cold. No one should expect heartwarming entertainment from a historical drama about those whose cowardly complicity made possible the Nazi rise to power. But C.P. Taylor's Brechtian approach, reinforced by director Dennis Romer's self-conscious staging, distances us from the characters needlessly. Guest artist David Combs' motivations are opaque as a faceless, spineless Everyman. This depressing cautionary tale about one man's descent into hell remains a daring choice for a student production. But good intentions only go so far. **Otterbein College Theatre.** (Reviewed by Michael Grossberg).

**The Secret Garden** — Steven Anderson's adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel about a lonely English girl discovering friendship and a positive outlook toward life is faithful and entertaining, although understandably without the book's complete texture and detail. Anderson's shrewdest move: The cast passes easily for 10-year-olds. **Players Youth Theatre Columbus.** (Reviewed by Nancy Gilson)

**Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery** — A boisterous, playful and charming celebration of black womanhood. What Robert Bly has been trying to provide lately for men, playwright Shay Youngblood offers here for women. Her nostalgic coming-of-age drama employs simple techniques — pantomime, dance, chanting, mythic ritual, narration — to simple effect. A strong ensemble cast, led by Minnie Gentry's pungent Big Mama and Marguerite Hannah's adorable Daughter, fleshes out Youngblood's thumbnail sketches of "some of the wisest women to see the light of day" with a grin here, a wiggle or pout there. While this culture-rich stew never reaches the boil of an August Wilson drama, it simmers along nicely. **Players Theatre Columbus.** (M.G.)

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**DOWNTOWN  
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**6-10 FEBRUARY 389**

*Good.* Otterbein College presents this play about the gradual, apparently innocent descent of Germany's "good" people into the Nazi party. Guest artist David Combs performs the role of John Halder. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville, 898-1109



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**DOWNTOWN  
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**30 JANUARY-10 FEBRUARY**

389

*Good.* Otterbein College presents this play about the gradual, apparently innocent descent of Germany's "good" people into the Nazi party. Guest artist David Combs performs the role of John Halder. Jan. 30, 7:30 pm; Tues.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville, 898-1109.