



DEDICATED DIRECTOR DISCOVERS DILEMMA, DELIBERATES, DISCUSSES AND DECIDES
Terri Hiatt at Work on Otterbein Production of "Black Comedy" and "The Tiger"

(Dispatch Photos by Robert Fox)

UNUSUAL TALENT RECOGNIZED

Drama Graduate Looks to Future in Theater

By SARA WISEHART
Of The Dispatch Staff

The people at 4204 Chandler Dr., in Whitehall have known Terri Hiatt all her life. They think she's great, but then they're family and justifiably inclined to be a wee bit prejudiced. You know how families are.

The faculty and students at Otterbein College have known her for only four years. Still, judging by snatches of conversation

over heard while on campus last week, her contemporaries share the enthusiasm of Mr. and Mrs. Linn Hiatt, Patty, Martha, Stella and Robert ("Rebel").

Dr. Charles Dodrill, eminent director of Otterbein's Theater Department, has the utmost confidence in her theatrical know-how and has evidenced



Wisheart

that trust by placing more and more responsibility into her capable hands.

RENOWNED AND respected theater and television personalities (including Pat Hingle and George Grizzard) have been impressed by her talent and ability and have insistently encouraged her to pursue a career in the theater by opening a few Broadway doors for her which might have otherwise remained tightly shuttered.

So this is Terri, a pert 21,

with upturned nose, wind-blown blondish hair, cool grey-blue-green eyes and plenty of freckles (which, incidentally, turned on and tuned up Dispatch photographer Bob Fox.

The freckles have multiplied in recent years as freckles are wont to do. So have Terri's achievements, interests, ambitions and sense of responsibility.

SO WHAT KIND of a girl is she? How did she get that

way? And, speculatively, where might she be going?

"When I was very young," she said, "I started dancing lessons with Stella Becker."

"At the age of 10 or so," Terri continued, "Miss Becker helped me get started in bit parts with the old Independent Players and on the Paul Winston shows.

"All through grade school and high school, I was active in any number of productions, both amateur and professional, largely due to the encouragement, advice and training of Miss Becker."

WHEN IT came time for a choice of colleges, Terri applied for, and was granted, a scholarship for matriculation in the college of the arts at Otterbein.

"About that scholarship set-up," she commented, "I think perhaps many people don't realize what a good program Otterbein has. They send out letters to every high school in the state asking speech or theater teachers to send a resume of their outstanding students. Then the college writes and asks that student to come in for an interview, not only in theater work but debate, speech radio and television.

"Such grants are based on financial need, talent and the greatest potential.

"I WAS fortunate enough to win a scholarship," she said, "and I'm trying my best to justify it."

According to Dr. Dodrill, she has, indeed, more than earned her accolades.

"You may quote me," Dodrill emphasized, "when I say that she is one of the brightest original talents it has been my pleasure to work with in the 12 years I've been at Otterbein.

"And she's not out to make a campus name. She is a sincerely dedicated young lady, who probably didn't even tell you that she was the first non-sorority student

to be elected home-coming queen," Dodrill commented.

"ALTHOUGH SHE has largely worked her way through college as a secretary and student teacher," he continued, "she is undoubtedly one of our most outstanding students, terribly bright, extremely capable with clear-

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THE LOBBY - Of the Otterbein Summer Theatre is brightened by the group of photos of the summer theatre company. Lynn Scarlett came along on opening night to brighten even more the scene as she is shown here looking over the company photos.



TERRI HIATT
Makes a Point

DRAMA GRADUATE

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ly defined goals and the unusual maturity to handle it."

Watching Terri in action as she directed "Black Comedy" and "The Tiger," Otterbeins last offering, it was easy to understand the kudos heaped upon her by peers and superiors.

Sample dialog between director and actors Penny Wilfong and Mike Carroll:

Scene: A middle-aged man abducts a youngish, intellectual matron.

Question: Shall the matron project abject terror or shall she remain cool and somewhat derisive in manner?

Objective (and interpretation): Was author Murray Schisgal's intent to have the male or the female the strong, dominant character?

Directorial Decision (By Miss Hiatt): "Let's play it through this way and see how we feel about it. If you're uncomfortable, we'll give it a go the other way. Instead of having the woman fearful, let's try it with a contemptuous, condescending attitude. We'll know when it's just right. But let's talk about it ... and talk some more."

AND TALK they did, with Terri occasionally saying, "Hey, now, look! We have two different attitudes here within the space of one speech. So, you pause, Mike (Carroll) and attempt to get it. On that one line, say 'We are alone here, quite alone.' Make it sinister and threatening with overtones of the braggadocio floundering in mid-air.

Scrounged down on their haunches, standing upright, slowly pacing back and forth, or lackidassically sprawled on a prop sofa, they talked. And talked!

Sometimes they laughed, either at each other's incongruities (accent on the second syllable if an adjective or on the third if a noun, a subject of much hilarious debate) or at spontaneous ad libs by the company.

Example: Miss Wilfong's extemporaneous comment after being blindfolded and whipped down a stairway for the umpteenth time "I quit! I may never bear a child . . . this man's turned my innard's upside down and I'm ruined for life!"

Example: After innumerable entrances carrying Penny

over his shoulder like a sack of potatoes, Mike collapses, spread-eagle on the set, muttering "I'm either goin' to have the most beautiful body on campus or the worst hernia in existence!"

These sometimes very funny stage asides frequently "broke up" Terri and the cast and her shoulders would shake with laughter. Most of the time, however, rehearsal was most intense and her face was a study in concentration.

THROUGHOUT IT all ran a contagious spirit of camaraderie, plus ample evidence of the respect her opinion commands. A cast member asks if she can take break to look for another costume, since one she is using is tight across the shoulders. Quickly, Terri replies, "Yes, you'd better do that, but I still want to see you in yellow."

Assistant technical director, Keith Squires, requests the services of cast members not in rehearsal and receives a decisive affirmative. Stage manager Doug Redding is told not to make tape of a record unless absolutely necessary because "this is arena stage and we're so closely involved with the audience that everything possible must come off live."

While she most assuredly knows exactly what she wants and shows no hesitancy, her decisions and suggestions are not made in a dictatorial manner and her fellow students obviously LIKE as well as respect her.

THIS UNASSUMING self-assurance carries over into her plans for the future.

"I'm going to New York this fall for a personal interview with Nina Soboloff. I'm pretty sure I'll concentrate on the dance theater for at least the next eight months or year. Then we'll see.

"I'm pretty sure though that I want to be a choreographer. In fact, I do some now. Then I'll probably try to study with Uta Hagen or Sandy Meisner at Neighborhood Playhouse. I love both directing and acting and one thing I am sure of—I will be in the theater in some capacity."

She will, too, if talent and tenacity are any criteria. Mark well the name Terri Hiatt. Her recurrent theme song these days could well be "You're Gonna Hear From Me."



DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS
Terri Instructs Miss Wilfong, Carroll

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SAT., JULY 4, 1970 ****

Otterbein Dual Bill Is Slated

Otterbein Summer Theater will feature a dual bill as its second show of the season Tuesday through Saturday.

Slated for an 8:30 p.m. curtain in the Otterbein Campus Center are productions of Murray Schisgal's "The Tiger" and Peter Shaffer's "Black Comedy."

Both will be directed by Teri Hiatt.

"THE TIGER" is a tale of confrontation between a young woman and the man who has abducted and taken her, to his dingy, book-cluttered basement room.

Their comic but drama-filled move toward mutual understanding will be played by Pennie Wilfong as Gloria and Mike Carroll as Ben.

"Black Comedy" derives its name from the author's reversal of light and dark as seen by the characters in his play.

SHAFFER BEGINS the action in total darkness during a scene which the actors conduct as if it were light. Then a fuse blows and when the stage lights come on, the actors complete the plot as if they were in total darkness.

The resulting fumbings and confusion result in some hilarious moments for both actors and audience.

CAST BY MISS HIATT in "Black Comedy" are Dennis Romer as Brindsley, the young sculptor; Stephanie Lewis as his fiancée, Carol; Ed Vaughn as Carol's military father, Colonel Melkett, and Peggy Gifford as Brindsley's ex-mistress, Clea.

Debbie Bowman is Miss Furnival, a prissy, middle-aged spinster who sheds her refined manner after drinking alcohol by mistake in the dark.

Marc Smythe is Harold Goringe, Doug Redding is Bam Berger and Mike Hartman is Shupp.

Summer Theatre Twin Bill Next Offering Starts July 7

The Otterbein Summer Theatre completes its first production of the 1970 season, "The Odd Couple", tonight, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Campus Center arena theatre.

Operating in true stock company form -- the actors in "Odd Couple" are already involved in daily rehearsals for other shows on the Otterbein agenda. All members of the acting troupe will appear in both lead or supporting roles for the continuous five-show summer theatre season.

All cast members for "The Odd Couple" are involved in the jumping back and forth between character roles required daily of stock company actors. Slated for next week, with production dates Tuesday through Saturday, July 7-11, is an evening of one-acts including Peter Shaffer's "Black Comedy" and Murray Schisgal's "The Tiger". Both comedies are being directed by Miss Teri Hiatt.

"The Tiger" is a tale of confrontation between a young woman and the man who has abducted and taken her to his dingy and book-cluttered basement room. Their comic but drama-filled move toward mutual understanding was first presented in New York at the Orpheum Theatre in 1963 and starred Anne Jackson and Eli Wallach. Miss Hiatt has selected Pennie Wilfong to play the role of Gloria and Mike Carroll to portray Ben and his attempt at being the "tiger" of the play's title.

"Black Comedy" derives its name from the author's reversal of light and dark as seen by the characters in his play. Mr. Shaffer begins his play in total darkness during a scene which the actors conduct as if it were light. Then a fuse blows and when the stage lights come on, the actors can no longer see and complete the story as if in total darkness. The resulting confusion is hilarious, especially when mixed with the assortment of characters in Shaffer's play.

Cast in those roles are Dennis Romer as Brindsley, a young sculptor who has become engaged to Carol Melkett, a pretty but spoiled debutante, played by Stephanie

Lewis. After the "blackout", enter Debbie Bowman as Miss Furnival, a very prissy, middle-aged spinster who becomes less refined drinking alcohol by mistake in the darkness; and Marc Smythe as Harold Gorringer, the meticulous neighbor from whom Brindsley as "borrowed" furniture for the evening to impress George Bamberger, a millionaire art collector, played by Doug Redding, who is coming to view Brindsley's work.

Also included in the general

hysteria of the evening are Colonel Melkett, Carol's military father who will be played by Ed Vaughn; Shupp, the electrician, played by Mike Hartman; and last, but certainly not least in the merry make-up -- Brindsley's ex-mistress, Clea, who will be acted by apprentice Peggy Gifford.

The Campus Center Box Office is open for ticket sales from noon till 9:00 p.m. weekdays. Season tickets will remain on sale till Friday, July 3, at show time. For reservations phone 882-3601.



HOLD THAT TIGER - Pennie Wilfong as Gloria noisily objects to being carried off by Mike Carroll as Ben in this scene from Murray Schisgal's "The Tiger", slated to be presented in a dual bill with "Black Comedy" July 7-11 by the Otterbein Summer Theatre.



TERI TAMES A TIGER - Miss Teri Hiatt, sterling member of the Otterbein Summer Theatre company will direct both Otterbein Summer Theatre productions of "The Tiger" and "Black Comedy" for the July 7-11 performances. Here, the versatile Teri assists with makeup for Mark Smythe in "The Odd Couple".

The Morning After . . .

Otterbein Actress Turns Director

BY GENE GERRARD
Citizen-Journal Staff Critic

Supergirl with a Doris Day face and a reservoir of restless talent. That's Otterbein's Teri Hiatt.

This attractive, effervescent bundle of energy has been Otterbein Summer Theatre's workhorse since its

beginning. As an actress, and a fine one at that, Miss Hiatt is equally at home in comedy or in drama, as a bright-eyed ingenue or as a giddy character woman.

NOT CONTENT with being an actress or a dancer or a choreographer, Miss Hiatt directed the school's production of "The World of Carl Sandburg" during the regu-

lar season. It was her own conception of the work and was considered a huge success. Charles Dodrill gave her carte blanche and she didn't let him down. She's incapable of letting herself down, I suspect.

Apparently Miss Hiatt has learned early in the game that to avoid stagnation one must work in all areas of the theater.

SO THIS summer she has turned to directing again with an arena-style staging of Murray Schisgal's "The Tiger" and Peter Shaffer's "Black Comedy." The double-bill of one-acts opens at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Campus Center.

These extraordinary plays provide a challenge to even the most seasoned director. But total theater people like Miss Hiatt thrive and grow on challenge.

PLAYWRIGHT Shaffer pulls a theatrical switcheroo in "Black Comedy" by reversing dark and light. In the brief moments when the lights are "on" for the actors the stage is actually blacked out; the rest of the time it is light for the audience, while the performers on stage stumble about in their own darkness. Slapstick comedy at its best.

Miss Hiatt has cast Dennis Romer, Stephanie Lewis, Peggy Gifford, Ed Vaughn, Debbie Bowman, Marc Smythe, Doug Redding and Mike Hartman in "Black

Comedy." Some of them are already Otterbein favorites.

SCHISGAL'S "The Tiger" is, from first to last, a veritable landslide of spontaneous wit. In this violent confrontation of a ferocious nonconformist and a respectable housewife, the playwright lays bare the cliches that join hipster to square in our society.

Pennie Wilfong and Mike Carroll comprise the entire cast of "The Tiger," which was played in New York by Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson.

OTTERBEIN'S Summer Theatre is truly a "stock" company in that the same actors appear throughout the season, one week playing a leading role, the next in a supporting part or even a walk-on. It's a system that provides young actors with a wealth of experience in all kinds of roles under all sorts of circumstances. It's also a system that is rapidly dying out in this country.

Dodrill chooses his summer company with great care. It's amazing how much he's able to get out of these "student" actors. There is a freshness and firmness about their performances that reassures us the future of the theater is secure in their capable young hands.

If you haven't yet had the pleasure of their company, I'd strongly advise you to make the hop to Westerville. You won't be sorry you did.

"Black Comedy" and "The Tiger" play through Saturday, July 11. Call 882-3601 from noon to 9 p.m. for reservations. See you there!



Stephanie Lewis and Dennis Romer as Carol and Brindley get lost during a "blackout" in a scene from the Otterbein Summer Theater production of "Black Comedy."

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VIEW AND REVIEW

One-Acters Divide Honors

By JAMES T. McCAFFERTY
Entertainment Editor

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got itself hammered too hard. Teri Hiatt's direction was sound, her points well taken, but too much effort was wasted in emphasis

"BLACK COMEDY"
"THE TIGER"

At Otterbein College

HIGHEST HONORS went to Marc Smythe, who played the deprived bachelor-art collector with just enough touch

Smythe, Doug Redding and Mike Hartman in "Black Comedy" play through Saturday, July 11. Call 882-3601 from noon to 9 p.m. for reservations. See you there!

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VIEW AND REVIEW

One-Acters Divide Honors

By JAMES T. McCAFFERTY
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Two one-act plays split honors squarely down the middle when they opened Otterbein Summer Theater's second offering of the season Tuesday night in the Campus Center arena.

Failure of the first was less of individual fault than of full realization of concept. Peter Shaffer's "Black Comedy" contains razor-sharp writing and carries its own intensity without applied effort. Trying to improve upon that kind of intensity only confounds its effectiveness. The play wants loosening.

SUCCESS OF THE second, on the other hand, was thanks to all involved. Murray Schisgal's "The Tiger," while far from being a farce, affords enormous challenge to both its principals in demanding of them total revelation of human fallacies in a funny and inoffensive way.

"Black Comedy" simply

got itself hammered too hard. Teri Hiatt's direction was sound, her points well taken, but too much effort was wasted in emphasis on the obvious. The play is funnier when it's allowed to bumble a bit.

Even so, it's fair to say that most objectors will probably be found among those who have seen the piece before. It doesn't wear well because one knows what is coming, and in this sort of thing that can be lethal.

FIRST-TIMERS may find themselves howling their heads off. They won't be so busy watching subtle shadings of inflection, postured histrionics or the thrust of the timed line.

Dennis Romer and Stephanie Lewis managed to be mildly convincing as the sweethearts who borrow a bachelor neighbor's furnishings in order to impress her father and an expected art critic. But when the lights

"BLACK COMEDY"
"THE TIGER"
At Otterbein College

Otterbein Summer Theater productions of plays by Peter Shaffer and Murray Schisgal, respectively. Directed by Teri Hiatt. Technical design and direction by Fred Thayer. Scenery by Karen Rossi.

"BLACK COMEDY"	
Characters	Players
Brindsley Miller	Dennis Romer
Carol Melkett	Stephanie Lewis
Miss Furnival	Debbie Bowman
Colonel Melkett	Ed Vaughan
Harold Gorringer	Marc Smythe
Schuppanzigh	Mike Hartman
Clea	Peggy Gifford
George Famberger	Doug Redding

"THE TIGER"	
Characters	Players
Benjamin	Michael Carroll
Gloria	Pennie Wilfong

came up, signifying a blown fuse and supposedly plunging the action into darkness in reverse, things began to get themselves untracked.

Debbie Bowman, as the neighboring spinster afraid of the dark, was rather badly overdone, which robbed her of comedy. The same fate awaited Ed Vaughan, who played the girl's military father, mostly because of curiously mistaken timing.

HIGHEST HONORS went to Marc Smythe, who played the deprived bachelor-art collector with just enough touch of swish to make suspicion a certainty. He held things together where they might otherwise have fallen flat.

Mike Hartman and Doug Redding scored well in their brief moments of mistaken identity, as the electric repairman and the real art judge, respectively. Peggy Gifford was too light and too lacking in mischief to be convincing as the former mistress who shows up at the wrong time.

The play had its moments because it is basically a good play. But it takes a thoroughly uninhibited touch and tremendous repartee to bring it off with rapport. "A" for effort. Experience is the answer.

"THE TIGER" was something else again. Michael Carroll and Pennie Wilfong built a sense of the sinister, suspense and comedy all at once. He has abducted her and brought her to his apartment, where she is subjected to his tirade against all social ills until she turns the tables and has him meekly agreeing with her.

Carroll was quite as fascinating in his second outing as in his first. His is a talent of encompassing quality in everything from word to gesture. So far, there seems to be nothing that he can't do well. His snapping eyes and catlike movements hold attention at all times.

Miss Wilfong displayed an amazing degree of decorum in her state of shock at the beginning. But once she found herself gaining the upper hand, she played it to the hilt. At the end, there was no doubt who was boss.

The pair plays through Saturday. Entertaining, if not always excellent.

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Pennie Wilfong Praised Highly For 'Tiger' Role

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Pennie Wilfong, daughter of Mrs. Bettie Wilfong, 39 Spring St., is receiving high acclaim for her role in "The Tiger" at Otterbein College Summer Theater.

Miss Wilfong portrays a Long Island matron.

Playing opposite Miss Wilfong is Michael Carroll, a rebellious letter carrier.

Wrote Gene Gerrard in the Citizen-Journal:

"Miss Wilfong does a wickedly funny satirization of a woman who is not content with middle class stagnation and wants to complete her 'education' so she 'can fulfill her abilities on more than one level.' Together these two remarkable performers give the best performance I've seen so far this season. Simply brilliant!"

The Columbus Dispatch acclaimed Miss Wilfong as displaying an amazing degree of decorum in her state of shock at the beginning." As she found herself gaining the upper hand, she played it to the hilt," the reviewer wrote.

Miss Wilfong is a June graduate of Defiance College.

"The Tiger", a one-act comedy, is appearing along with "Black Comedy", another one-acter. It may be seen at 8:30 p.m. through Saturday.