

# 'Extremities' to close season at Otterbein

Otterbein College Theatre will end the current season with William Mastrosimone's play, "Extremities," May 29, 30, 31, and June 4-7 at 8:15 p.m. in the air-conditioned Campus Center. The adult drama deals with an attempted rape and its aftermath for the attacker, the intended victim, and her roommates.

First staged in 1980 by the Rutgers Theatre Company, the play was produced the next year at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, during its Festival of New American Plays. It finally opened off-Broadway at the Westside Arts Center, where it enjoyed a successful run, starring Susan Sarandon and later, Farrah Fawcett in the leading role of Marjorie.

The action begins with the opening scene, as a psycho invades the country home of three single women and tries to force himself on Marjorie (senior Nancy Fox), the only one who is home. The young woman finally acquiesces pesticide in her

attacker's eyes and overcomes him, culminating their violent struggle.

In the next act, the emotional balance shifts completely, with Marjorie bent on revenge, having trussed up the stranger. Raul (played by senior H. Todd Freeman) and pinned a blindfold around his head, determined to take the whole matter into her own hands, but unsure of her next move.

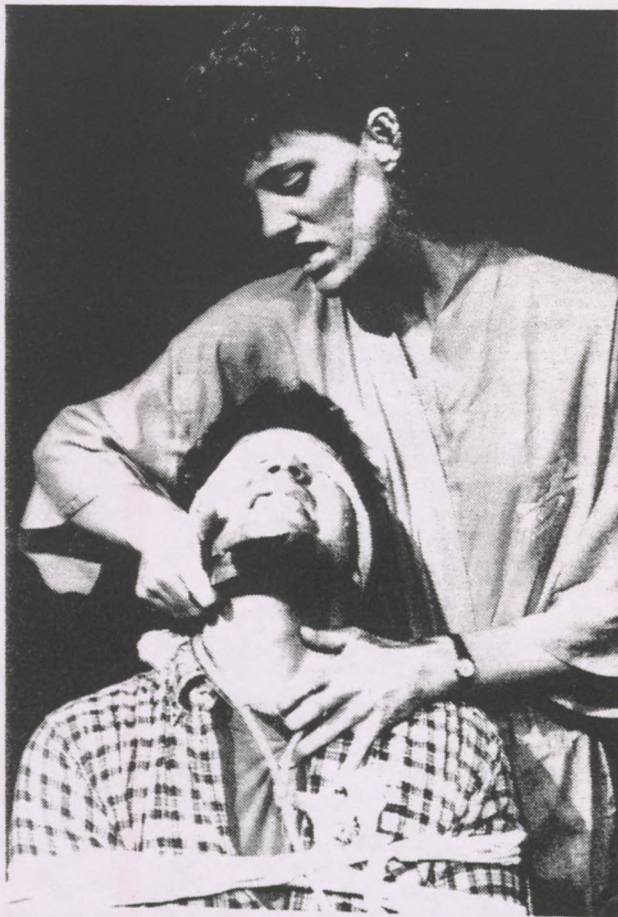
Marjorie's two roommates come home to this bizarre scene, Patricia (senior Jodie Silk), who had been raped, and Terry (junior Liana Peters), an over-enthusiastic psychologist, given to such phrases in questioning the would-be rapist and his almost victim as "Define your terms" and "I can relate to that."

The play marks guest director Suzanne Blackburn's third appearance at Otterbein. The Ohio State University faculty member directed "Agnes of God" and the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "The Fastesticks."

Otterbein junior Stephanie Haney has designed a contemporary country set.

Costume designer Lucy Reuther has created the wardrobes for the four characters and sophomore T. J. Gerckens designed the lighting.

Tickets for the drama are available at the Cowan Hall box office weekdays 1-4:30 p.m.



**PUSHED TO THE LIMIT** - An angry Marjorie (Nancy Fox) gets the upper hand against her attacker Raul (H. Todd Freeman) in this dramatic scene from the Otterbein College Theatre's "Extremities."



# Cast, director prepare for 'Extremities'

Recent weeks of rehearsal have been more than memorizing lines and blocking patterns for the four student actors bringing alive the characters in William Mastrosimone's "Extremities," May 29-June 1, and June 4-7, at 8:15 p.m. in the air-conditioned Otterbein Campus Center Arena Theatre.

Guest director Suzanne Blackburn has immersed her young cast in the emotions, attitudes, and nerves touched in this adult drama that deals with an attempted rape and its aftermath for both the intended victim and her attacker.

Preparation for the highly-charged play, with seniors H. Todd Freeman and Nancy Fox in the roles of attacker and victim, has found Blackburn and her students watching a film on the subject of rape and visiting a rape crisis center in Columbus. The ambitious director brought in a fight choreographer, who instructed the cast on proper timing and how to stage an attack without being injured.

Another part of the students preparation was viewing a number of classic and

popular films such as "Gone With The Wind," then discussing the variety of attitudes depicted or romantic images given to this situation when someone is victimized.

"I had seen 'Extremities' in New York before being approached to direct it at Otterbein, so I knew the nature of the play," Blackburn said. "Yes, it's violent, but in the face of the staggering statistic that one of three women is a victim of an attempted rape by the age of 25, I think we want to make the point that there's nothing pretty about this

kind of aggression."

When the play closes, Blackburn will move on to Paris, where she will begin working with two French theatres for a period of seven months "In numerous production capacities, from student to director to observer."

The Ohio State University faculty member directed last season's "Agnes of God" and the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "The Fantasticks" in 1984.

Ticket information is available at the Cowan Hall box office, 1-4:30 p.m., weekdays.

# Drama to close season

William Mastrosimone's powerful play *Extremities* will close Otterbein College Theatre's winter season, with performances tonight through Sunday and Wednesday through June 7 in the Campus Center.

The two-act drama, which includes some very intense language, deals with an attempted rape and its aftermath for the attacker, the intended victim and her roommates.

The audience is thrown abruptly into the action from the opening scene, as a psychopath invades the country home of three single women and tries to force himself on Marjorie (Nancy Fox), the only one at home.

In the next act, the emotional balance shifts completely, with Marjorie bent on revenge, having trussed up the stranger, Raul (H. Todd Freeman), in the fireplace and pinned a blind-



Dispatch photo by Tom Dodge

**Liana Peters, left, Jodie Silk and Nancy Fox in the Otterbein College production of *Extremities*, which opens tonight**

fold around his head, determined to take the whole matter into her own hands, but unsure of her next move.

The reactions of Marjorie's two roommates also are explored. Patricia (Jodie Peters) — who has been raped — has

no stomach for reliving her experience, and Terry (Liana Peters), an over-enthusiastic psychologist, is given to such phrases in questioning the would-be rapist and his almost victim as "Define your terms" and "I can relate to that."

Showtime is 8:15 p.m., with a 2 p.m. performance on Sunday. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and at the door for one hour preceding each performances.



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## Otterbein College Theatre

Would be victim Marjorie (Nancy Fox, far right), turns the tables on her attacker Raul (H. Todd Freeman), as her roommates (from left) Jodie Silk and Liana Peters look on in this scene from the Otterbein College Theatre production of "Extremities." The play will be performed May 29-June 1 and June 4 in the Campus Center. To reserve tickets, call 890-3028.