

'Stepping Out' opens tonight

By Jeff Golns

Seven women and one man will be "Stepping Out" at the Campus Center Theatre this week, although they may be stepping rather unsurely at first.

"Stepping Out" is a British comedy about several dancers who meet weekly in a church basement to tap away their problems and also learn about themselves. The group, led by Mavis, an ex-chorus girl, practices a routine for the chance to perform in a benefit production for charity.

Colby Paul, who portrays Maxine in the production, said one of the most difficult features of the play is the dance routines. "The dancers aren't supposed to be professionals, and they need to look bad at first, and then improve and look polished near the end of the show," she said.

Stella Hiatt Kane, the production's choreographer, also said it's tricky to prepare students to portray the dancers' awkward beginnings, "It takes a lot of work to make that awkwardness look natural," she said in a college press release.

There is more to the production than dancing, however. The characters come to the church basement from all walks of life, some are humorous, others have experienced pain and suffering. "It's a very real, human play, but it's not meant to be incredibly deep," said Paul.

The production will be directed by theatre instructor Dennis Romer, and will run from Jan. 25-28, Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 1-4. The production, which won best comedy accolades during its run on Broadway, is a central Ohio premiere.



Tap dance gang

An unlikely gang of ungracefuls from all walks of London society meet weekly in a church basement to tap dance away their troubles in "Stepping Out." The Central Ohio premiere of this British comedy will be presented by Otterbein College Theatre Jan. 25-28; 30, 31 and Feb. 1-4. Shuffling along with the cast will be Ginger McDermott, Longwood, Fla., left, Mary Randle, Columbus, Anastasia Klemazewski, Aurora and Mark Merriman, Marysville. All performances will be in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. Opening night will begin at 7 p.m. and the Sunday matinees (Jan. 28 and Feb. 4) at 2 p.m. All other performances will start at 8 p.m. For tickets, call the Cowan Hall box office, 614/898-1109.

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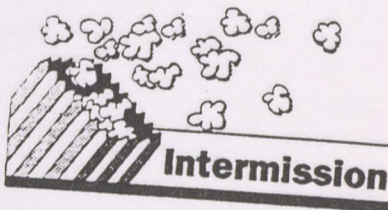
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Editor's note: Welcome to the resurrected Intermission column. Every other week, the Dispatch staff will attempt to amuse you with anecdotes or information that seemed to never quite fit into a story, but deserve to be passed along.

■ Out go the lights

Computer screw-ups can happen even in the theater. Consider Otterbein College's "Case of the Disappearing Light Cues."

Just two hours before a Campus Center Theatre performance of *Stepping Out*, lighting designer Rob Johnson discovered that about 90 carefully programmed lighting cues had disappeared from the computerized lighting board.

Johnson never programmed so many cues "from scratch" so quickly. The show opened only a few minutes late.

But was the mishap a product of computer or human error? Anyone with a flair for the dramatic will prefer another theory.

"Whenever anything goes wrong at Cowan Hall, we traditionally blame it on Twyla, the Theater Ghost," Johnson said. "She must have crossed campus to wreak havoc on our board."

— Michael Grossberg

CENTRAL OHIO PREMIERE COMEDY!

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TOMORROW**

STEPPING OUT

BY RICHARD HARRIS

January 25, 7:30 p.m.,
January 26, 27, 30, 31,
February 1, 2, 3, 8:00 p.m.
January 28 and
February 4, 2:00 p.m.



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25 JANUARY-4 FEBRUARY 389

Stepping Out. Otterbein College's production of Richard Harris' riotous British comedy. The play tells the story of eight people—an unlikely gang of ungracefuls from all walks of London society—who meet weekly in a church basement to tap dance away their troubles. Ex-chorus girl Mavis teaches them, guiding them toward the chance to perform in a charity benefit. With their hearts in their feet, the group pulls off a minor miracle. Jan. 25, 7:30 pm; Jan. 26, 27 & Feb. 1-3 at 8 pm; Jan. 28 & Feb. 4 at 2 pm. Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville, 898-1109.

• "Stepping Out," a British comedy about eight klutzy tap dancers, will receive its Central Ohio premiere in an Otterbein College Theatre presentation Jan. 25-28, 30, 31 and Feb. 1-4 in the Campus Center Theatre. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. opening night, other nights at 8 p.m. and at 2 p.m. Sundays. For tickets call 898-1109.

• Big band sounds will fill the hall when the Otterbein College Jazz-Lab Band performs at 8 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Battelle Fine Arts Center on campus. Also appearing will be the Otterbein Saxophone Ensemble. Free.

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