

OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Otterbein Children's Theatre Nov. 18-20 production of "Alice in Wonderland" promises to be brimming with wonderful surprises. Favorite characters such as the White Rabbit, Red Queen, the Cheshire Cat and Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum will vibrantly and musically come to life under the direction of professional guest director Doreen Dunn. Wonderland's inhabitants will perform acrobatic feats throughout the show — and theatre-goers might even expect to encounter Alice's caterpillar friend on roller skates!

Dunn ambitiously adapted the production's script directly from the original Lewis Carroll novel herself. "The idea came to me last June," she says. "I was getting ready for bed when the John Lennon song, 'Imagine,' came into my head. It occurred to me that 'Alice...' has so much to do with how adults' imagination differs from the imagination of children."

Beginning with "Imagine," Dunn developed the idea of using contemporary rock music for the play. "Alice goes into a world so unlike her own," Dunn notes, "and what could be more unlike Victorian England than contemporary rock music?"

The premise provided Dunn with much artistic freedom. "It has been really fun to work with," she says. "Through my imagination as a director, I could go anywhere and do anything."

"Alice..." is based in nonsense, the director points out. "Everybody in Wonderland

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makes sense of nonsense, and that's one reason why the play — with all its nonsense rhymes and so forth — is so terrific for children. Children look at the world differently. They see the nonsense that adults pretend isn't there."

A graduate of Northwestern University, Dunn is a former faculty member of the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York and currently is executive director of OhioDance. She began her career as a dancer with the Garden State Ballet. As a director and choreographer, she has staged the French production of "Les Fantasticks" in Paris, the Giancarlo Menotti opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and Jean Stapleton in "Hello, Dolly!"

As a playwright, she co-authored "Frontiers" which premiered at the Victory Theatre in Los Angeles, and "An Evening with Sir Noel," performed for the first time in 1986 aboard the M.S. Sagafjord en route to China. She also wrote and has performed a one-woman show, "Legendary Ladies." She has worked as an arts consultant as well, designing educational arts programs throughout the country, and has done extensive arts-related work in prisons and homes for the mentally and physically handicapped.

All performances of "Alice in Wonderland" will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St. The Nov. 18 performance will be at 7:30 p.m., at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the 19th and at 1:30 p.m. on the 20th. Advance tickets may be obtained beginning Nov. 7 from the Cowan Hall box office, (614) 898-1109. The box office is open from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.