

TAN AND CARDINAL

Student Publication Of Otterbein College

"The Glass Menagerie" To Be Presented Here

As its third major production of the year, the Otterbein College Theatre announces Tennessee Williams' great play "The Glass Menagerie." The play will be presented in Cowan Hall on Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4.

This production will be the first major event of the first annual Festival of Arts to be held at Otterbein during March. "The Glass Menagerie" was the first major play by Tennessee Williams, one of America's greatest playwrights. Other well-known plays by Williams include "Streetcar Named Desire", "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", "Summer and Smoke", "Camino Real", "Suddenly Last Summer", and "Rose Tattoo."

"The Glass Menagerie" was first produced by Eddie Dowling in New York City on March 31, 1945. The cast featured the inimitable actress Laurette Taylor, with Eddie Dowling, Julie Haydon, and Anthony Ross in the supporting roles. Statistics published

by the Speech Association of America show that "The Glass Menagerie" has been one of the most frequently produced plays in America during the past ten years.

This production will be directed by Prof Fred Thayer. Marden Blackledge, a senior speech student, has designed the settings, under the supervision of Prof Thayer.

Tickets will be placed on sale Monday, February 20 at the Cowan Hall box-office from 1:00-4:00 p.m. weekdays. Season ticket holders may now exchange their coupons for tickets by mailing their coupons to the Otterbein College Theatre, enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope.

"Glass Menagerie" Set Takes Play Out of Reality

"The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams' play which won the Drama Critics Award in 1945, will be presented at Cowan Hall Thursday and Friday evenings, March 3 and 4.

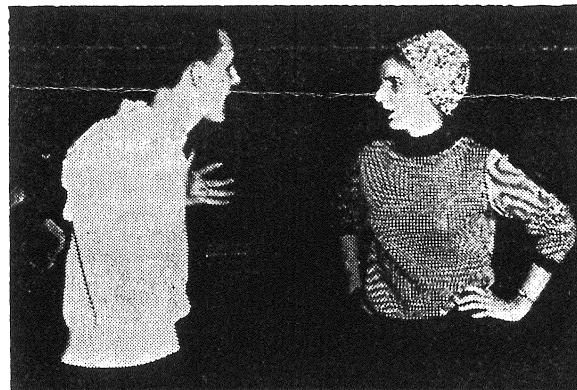
As a partial requirement for an advanced speech course, Marden Blackledge has designed the technical aspects of the play under the supervision of Director Fred Thayer. Design of the scenery is unusual, being a "cut-down" type. According to Mr. Thayer, "The walls just aren't there." There is just enough for an illusion, the object being to take the play out of reality and make it something of the past. All the technical aspects are this way. For example, only the area of the stage where the acting is taking place is lighted at one time. It is also unusual in its lack of the conventional number of properties. Some of the actions, such as eating, are pantomimed at times and act-

ed out with props in other scenes.

One of the problems of the director and technical designer has been that of finding music which will convey a memory theme as a background for the reminiscing mother.

The play takes place both now and in the past. That which has happened in the past, now unreal, is projected to the audience by Richard Berry as the son, Tom, through his soliloquies to the audience. From these, he must make a quick transition back to reality "through the walls" and into the immediate scene of the play.

According to Fr. Thayer, the success of the play is due in part to the autobiographical sketches of Tennessee Williams stemming from his Episcopalian background, the well developed moods of the play.



Dick Berry and Kaye Koonitz are caught amidst earnest discussion in rehearsal for "The Glass Menagerie," to be presented next weekend.

Thayer Announces Cast For "The Glass Menagerie"

Winner of the Drama Critics' Award in 1945, "The Glass Menagerie," to be presented March 3 and 4, is one of the greatest plays of the modern theater. The story of the play revolves around a Southern family, now living in St. Louis, who are lost in a web of illusion and memory. Each character tries to find an escape from the realities of life. The mother,

Amanda Wingfield, is played by Miss Kaye Koontz. Miss Koontz, who is a well-known figure to Cowan Hall stage, has been in "Diary of Anne Frank," "Teahouse of the August Moon," "Squaring the Circle," "Ten Nights in a Barroom" and others.

Amanda's son, Tom, is played by Richard Berry, who starred in "Ten Nights in a Barroom," "Teahouse of the

August Moon" and "King of Hearts."

Two newcomers to the Cowan Hall stage are Miss Janet Lacey and Richard Russo. Miss Lacey, a freshman from Newark, Delaware, plays Laura, Amanda's daughter. She has played in "Town Drama" Group plays and in "The Happy Journey," a production for the Delaware Play Festival

Laura's "gentleman caller" is played by Richard Russo, a freshman who hails from Woodhaven, New York. Dick, who has appeared in high school plays, is majoring in business and speech.

Tickets will go on sale Monday, February 20, at 1:00 p.m. The Cowan Hall box office will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Columbus Dispatch
SUN., FEB. 19, 1961
THEATERS

Tennessee Williams Drama Is Programed at Otterbein

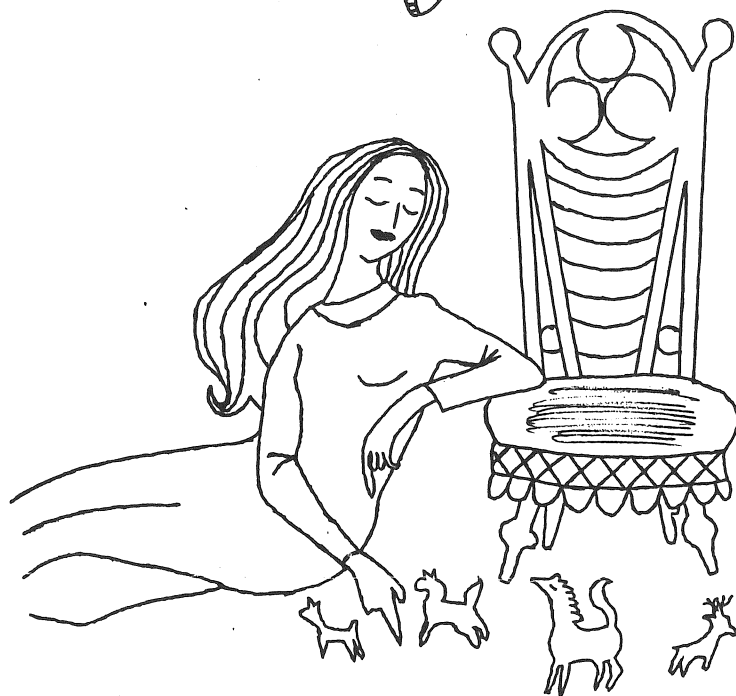
The Otterbein College Theater announces Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" as its third major production of the year. The play will be presented on Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus in Westerville.

"The Glass Menagerie" is the first major event of the Otterbein College Festival of Contemporary Arts. The play will be directed by Prof. Fred Thayer. Marden Blackledge, a senior speech student from Eau Gallie, Fla., has designed the settings. The play will be

staged on an impressionistic space stage, featuring cut-away walls and space isolation through lighting.

Tickets go on sale Monday, Feb. 20, at the Cowan Hall box-office from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays. Phone reservations may be made by calling TU. 2-3611 during box-office hours.

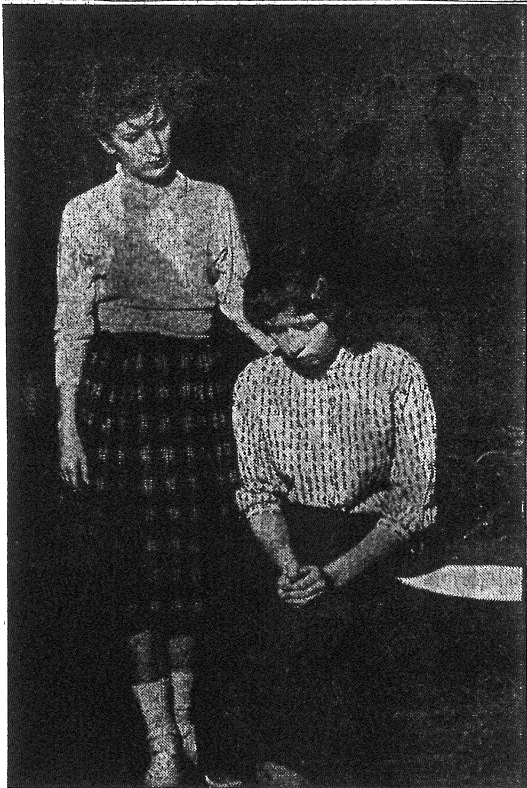
The Glass Menagerie



By Tennessee Williams

PUBLIC OPINION

ABOUT AND FOR THE WESTERVILLE AREA



Rehearsal Scene From OC Play

Kaye Koontz as Amanda and Janet Lacey as Laura rehearse a scene for the Otterbein College Theater production, "The Glass Menagerie" which will be presented at Cowan Hall, March 3 and 4, at 8:15 p.m.

'Glass Menagerie' Set For Friday, Saturday

The Otterbein College Theater will present "The Glass Menagerie" Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

The feature attraction of Otterbein's annual Mother's Weekend, "The Glass Menagerie" will

also be the first major event of Otterbein's Festival of Contemporary Arts.

IN ADDITION to seeing one of the best known plays by one of America's great modern playwrights, Tennessee Williams,

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Glass Menagerie

(Continued from Page 1)

theater-goers will also have the opportunity to examine part of the current art exhibition. Contemporary sculpture and graphics by Columbus artists David Jacobs and Sydney Chafetz are on display in the Cowan Hall lobby.

The play is under the direction of Prof. Fred Thayer. As

technical director-designer of "Teahouse of the August Moon" and "The Gazebo," "The Glass Menagerie" marks Prof. Thayer's directorial debut on the Otterbein stage. Settings for the production have been designed by Marden Blackledge, senior speech student.

FEATURED PERFORMERS in the production include Kaye Koontz, Amherst; and Richard Berry, New Cumberland, Pa., appearing as Amanda Wingfield and her son Tom. Miss Koontz has formerly appeared on the Otterbein stage in "Squaring the Circle," "Ah, Wilderness," "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Ten Nights in a Barroom" and "Teahouse of the August Moon."

Most Otterbein theater-goers will remember Berry for his comic cavortings in "King of Hearts," "Ten Nights in a Barroom," and "Teahouse of the August Moon," but in this production he dons a serious face to appear in his first serious role on the Otterbein stage.

Tickets may be obtained at the door, or reservations may be made by calling Otterbein College from 1-4 p.m.

Ticket Sale To Open Mon. For OC Play

Tickets will go on sale Monday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. for the third major Otterbein College Theater production of the year. The Glass Menagerie, by Tennessee Williams. The play will be presented Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, in Cowan Hall at 8:15 p.m.

The Cowan Hall box office will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Telephone reservations may be made by calling TU 2-3611 during these hours. Season coupons may be exchanged for tickets by sending the coupons to the box office with a self-addressed stamped envelope enclosed.

WINNER OF THE Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945, "The Glass Menagerie" the story of the play revolves around a Southern family, now living in St. Louis, who are lost in a web of illusion and memory.

Each tries to find an escape from the realities of life. The mother, Amanda Wingfield (played by Kaye Koontz), tries to es-

cape by recalling the glorious days of her youth when she had "Twenty gentlemen callers every Sunday afternoon."

Amanda's daughter Laura (played by Janet Lacey) is crippled, and she tries to hide the shame of this degradation by avoiding all contact with reality and by playing with her "glass menagerie," a collection of glass animals.

AMANDA'S SON Tom (played by Richard Berry), finds his escape from Amanda's biting tongue and constant recollection of the "good old days of the South" by going nightly to the movies and dance halls.

The great moment of crisis comes when Tom brings home a friend of his to be a "gentleman caller" for his poor sister Laura. The gentleman caller (played by Richard Russo) serves as a touchstone of reality for all the Wingfields and the tragedy of their lives is forcefully etched in moving prose dialogue.

OC Theater Has Special

Westerville theatre-goers will receive an additional bonus when they attend the Otterbein College Theater production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," March 3-4. The extra bonus is in the form of a 50 cents value coupon, found elsewhere in this paper, toward the purchase of two reserved seat tickets. The reduced price for two reserved seats is \$2.00.

As winner of the Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1945, "The Glass Menagerie" was described as one of the most moving dramas of the 20th century. It received 563 performances on Broadway. The Otterbein College Theater will present this play as the first major event of Otterbein's first Festival of Contemporary Arts.

Tickets may be reserved daily from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cowan Hall box office or by calling TU-2-3611.

OC Theater Scores In 'Glass Menagerie'

Mar 1961

By Sarah Skaates

Tennessee Williams is thought of most for his triple S plays — southern, sordid, and sexy. He is also capable of spinning a delicate web of illusion as in "The Glass Menagerie" produced last week-end by the Otterbein College Theatre.

"The Glass Menagerie" is a memory play, wistful and poignant. Its theme is one of longing, both for what might have been and for what probably never will be.

Each of three main characters seeks escape from the harsh reality of their present existence. Amanda, the mother, glories in the days when she was "a girl in Blue Mountain" sought after by innumerable gentlemen callers.

HER PAINFULLY shy and withdrawn daughter, Laura, retreats within herself to a world so small it contains only a collection of glass figures and some old phonograph records. Tom, Laura's brother, finds release from the utter boredom of his warehouse job through a steady diet of movies.

The illusive mood of "The Glass Menagerie" was well cap-

tured in the Otterbein College Theatre production. Employing a striking set designed by Marden Blackledge, director Fred Thayer was able to convey some of the feeling of the play even before the action began.

Successfully changing pace from comedy to his first dramatic role since entering Otterbein was Richard Berry. Berry projected strongly as Tom Wingfield, tormented between his duty to his family and his desire to live a life of his own.

AS AMANDA, nagging her son to frustration, fretting over Laura's lack of gentlemen callers, and reminding everyone constantly of "her" girlhood in Blue Mountain, Kaye Koontz, scored in her biggest college role. Despite a few weak spots in characterization, her performance on the whole was quite good. Especially effective were her scenes with her son and with the long anticipated gentlemen caller.

Richard Russo, a freshman, made a creditable showing for the beginning of his college career. Not so auspicious, however, was the first stage appearance of Janet Lacey who was seen

as Laura. Wooden delivery combined with lack of real feeling to make Laura the weak link in an otherwise strong dramatic chain.

"The Glass Menagerie" afforded the use for the first time of new lighting equipment installed at the sides of the auditorium. The additional equipment increases versatility in stage lighting, some of which was demonstrated during "The Glass Menagerie".

ONE POINT of distraction so far as lighting was concerned, was the little red spotlight that popped on and off the photo-

graph of the long absent father whenever he was mentioned. Emphasizing the picture at these times could have been handled more effectively through a different technique.

Coming soon on the Cowan Hall stage will be four one-acts presented March 28 as part of the Festival of Arts program. One of these, "The Bald Soprano" by Eugene Ionesco, will be directed by Otterbein junior Richard Davis, Long Island N.Y. The other three will be presented by The Ohio State University Theatre.