

Eloquent Performances Mark "As You Like It"

Americans are wont to interpret the great Bard, but only Englishmen can do that successfully. They only seem to have

mastered the intricacies of the Shakespearean dialogue. Nevertheless, for those who missed him, Shakespeare was in Westerville last week-end in the form of "As You Like It" presented by the Otterbein College Theatre.

It seems rather late to praise Caesar, but it should be done. There were minor slips in technique and characterization, but why dwell on these when the overall production was excellent? Charles Dodrill's direction was sure. The pace was brisk and the comedy business inventive. He used very effectively the versatile set that Fred Thayer designed. Petie Dodrill's costumes added the fillip that made the whole production glitter. The music by Anthony Ginter and the dances by Eula Sabock provided a sensual element which increased the audience's involvement in the mood and spirit of the play.

The actors, students all, seemed to catch the flavor of this sometimes ribald comedy. Any number of them could be singled out for commendation. Three actors though must be mentioned.

Greg Sabatino played the part of Orlando. He has experience and is aware of the theatrical nuances necessary to make Or-

lando believable. His alternating between earnest and satirical love-sickness was one of the high points of the production.

Touchstone, a clown, was played by Jim Granger, another experienced hand. He gave the part just the correct amount of buffoonery so as not to make it awkward and embarrassing.

And last sweet Rosalind, played by Teri Hiatt. For a freshman, her performance in the role was remarkable. She displayed a poise and attitude toward the part that is lacking in many professional actors. Many great actresses have performed the role of Rosalind down through the years in this country from Sarah Siddons to Katherine Hepburn -- who needs them?

"As You Like It" began the sixty-first year of academic theater at Otterbein. It was a rousing send-off-Englishmen or no.

"As You Like It" Superb Production

by Jinny Schott

The Otterbein theatre department produced Shakespeare's "As You Like It" last week, and, reversing the old gag line, a fortunate thing happened -- the curtain went up.

With only a few small exceptions the diamond jubilee production of "Like It" was excellent. The two major characters, Rosalind and Orlando, were wonderfully played by **Teri Hiatt** and **Greg Sabatino**, respectively. Both Teri and Greg had the power to carry their roles as well as the great, good sense to carry them lightly. One thing I did take exception to: for the greater part of the play Teri played a boy, and anyone who could believe those legs belong to a boy has got to be a little off.

One does not need to be an expert on the Elizabethan era to know that, while Elizabethan clothes had great weight, wide hips, and enormous sleeves, they flowed rather than bunched.

However, for all the big guns invested in the leads, the big payoffs in "Like It" came in the minor roles. Especially appealing in the role of Rosalind's cousin Celia was **Mary Furniss**. Her pretty face and gentle manner won the audience over immediately, and her calmness even when (as happened in the Thursday night performance) her skirt began to fall off was worth applauding in itself.

Steve Lorton in the role of the brother to Orlando was properly rotten in the beginning and convincingly repentant in the end. **Gwendy Miles** lent boisterous humor to the evening with her rendition of the shepherdess Phebe; **Jim Anderson's** Le Beau was properly effeminate, so good in fact, that we are beginning to wonder about Jim. (Not really!)

The "Seven Ages of Man" speech is a very diffi-

cult one for most young people. This is because it has been delivered so often as to become stale. **Don Parsisson** made the speech come alive by throwing it away, coolly peeling apples in the process. He added new depth to a small part.

Jim Lewis, with the distinct advantage of his nose (it makes his face look older and more English), had the only true Shakespearean accent in the cast. As a result he seemed genuinely the Duke he was portraying.

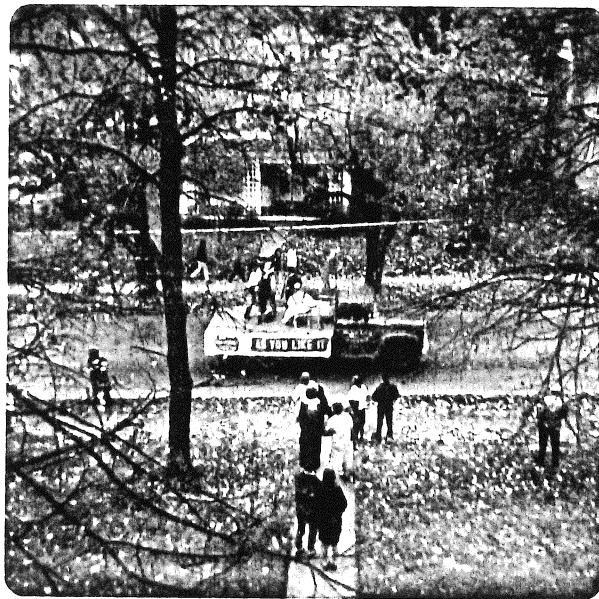
Another genuine character was **Mike Metzel's** Adam, servant to Orlando. This Adam presented the only touching moments in the production. An old man who is nearly dead from hunger, his gratitude to those who give him food was made nearly heart-breaking by Mike.

The only truly weak role in the entire play was that of the Duke Frederick who barged stiffly around the stage in what we were supposed to assume was a case of the nasties, but which never came across as anything but heartburn.

Makeup for the play was generally good, but it is a bit disconcerting to see three old men with the same, identical beards. Jim Lewis' beard was carefully outlined on his cheek, making it look like the 24 carat phony it was.

Costuming was excellent. However, Rosalind's and Celia's first dresses made them look like lumpy potato sacks. Until we saw Teri in the tights and Mary in another costume, we worried that their hips really were that bunched. Men's costumes were particularly original and suited the lively mood of the play with their wild color schemes and pattern reverses.

This year's production of "As You Like It" could easily rival any of the former Shakespearean plays, the only exception being perhaps 1965's "Love's Labour's Lost."



"As You Like It" Next Attraction For Otterbein College Theatre

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Beginning on October 27, the stage of Cowan Hall Auditorium will be turned into one of the most utopianly lovely backgrounds ever imagined for a play—the fabled glades of the Forest of Arden in Shakespeare's romantic fantasy, "As You Like It."

Tickets are currently on sale at the Cowan Box Office (882-3601) and Howard's, 18 North State Street. The show will run for three performances through October 29 as the opening show of the 1967 Otterbein Theatre season.

The Forest of Arden is one of three ideal and fantastic lands created by Shakespeare and is inhabited by some of his finest characters.

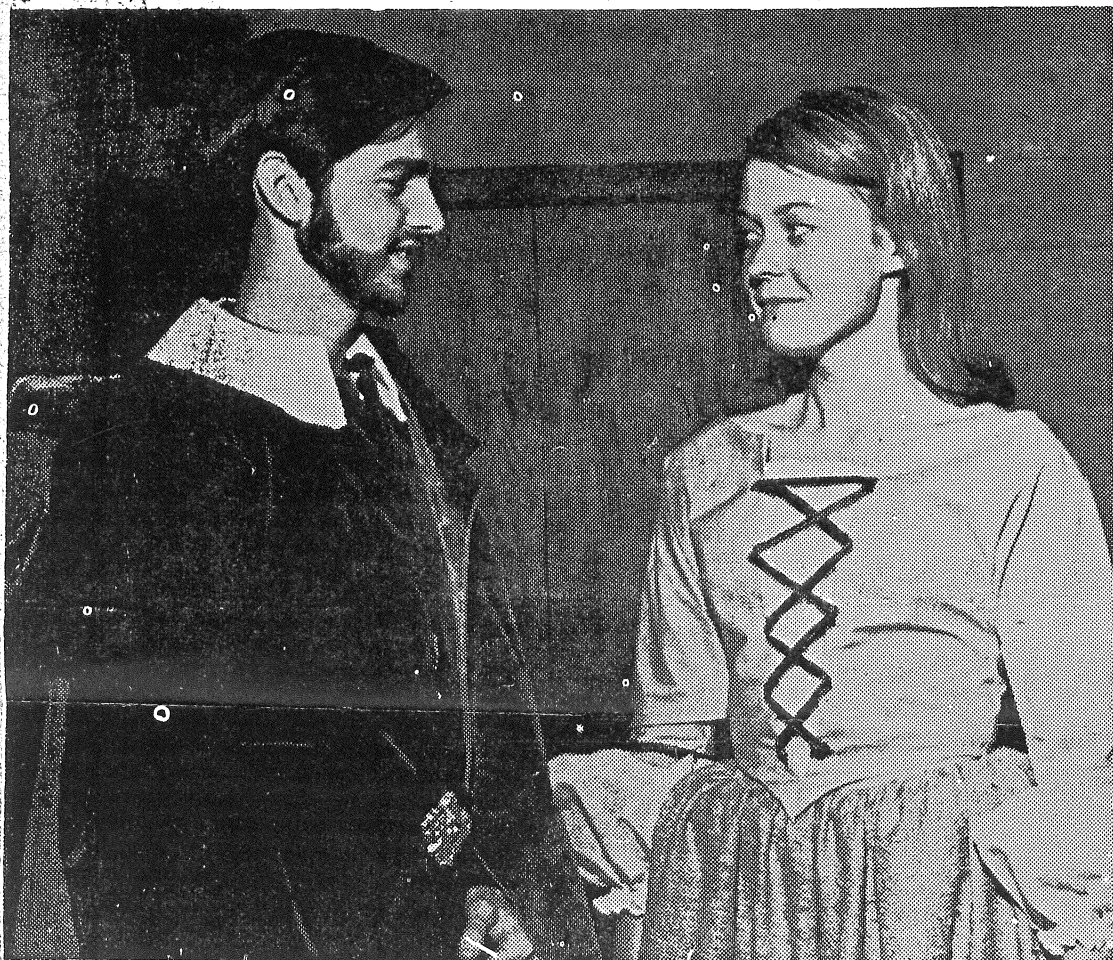
The Otterbein cast includes

Teri Hiatt, Columbus freshman, who will portray the sprightly Rosalind, the maid who impishly coaches her suitor, Orlando, in how to court her by donning a boy's disguise. Greg Sabatino, Dayton junior, plays the role of the gullible, lovelorn Orlando. Pittsburgh sophomore, Jim Granger, will be seen as the jesting, prancing fool, Touchstone; Mary Furniss, Westerville sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Furniss, 281 E. College Ave., as Celia, Rosalind's reticent, devoted friend and Don Parsisson, junior from Florence, Massachusetts, as the wryly contemplative Jaques to whom falls the immortal soliloquy that begins, "All the world's a stage," outlining the seven ages of man.

Others in the cast will be Jim Lewis, Mansfield, as the exiled Duke, father of the fair Rosalind; William Ahl, Doylestown, as his usurping brother Frederick; James Bruce, Wadsworth, the vicious wrestler Orlando overcomes; Tom James, Dayton, as a courtier with a gift for song; Steve Lorton, Sidney, as Orlando's unjust brother; Cathy Cryan, Westerville, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John H. Cryan, 330 N. West St., as Audrey the country wench whom Touchstone, for lack of anything better to do, decides to marry; Wendy Miles as Phebe, a haughty shepherdess whose rejection of Silvius played by John Waddingham, Troy, draws Rosalind's chiding "Down on your knees and thank heaven, fasting,

for a good man's love, sell when you can, you are not for all markets;" and James Anderson as a foppish court attendant.

A cast of eight others will fill out the cast of lords, pages, foresters and servants, and the comedy's total mood of light-someness and fantasy will be directed by Dr. Charles Dodrill. Technical director and designer Fred Thayer will provide the comedy's Arcadian forest settings.



The Otterbein College Theatre will present "As You Like It" next week, October 27-28-29, with Mary Furniss of Westerville and Don Parsisson of Florence, Mass., in the roles of Celia and Jaques. Tickets for the show are now available by phoning 882-3601.

College Theatre's "As You Like It" Opens October 27

The Otterbein College Theatre will open individual ticket sales this Monday, October 17, for their production of William Shakespeare's "As You Like It," scheduled to open a three-night run in Cowan Hall October 27.

Reservations may be made at the Cowan Box Office (phone 882-3601) or tickets may be purchased at Howard's Office Supply Store. Special rates for season ticket purchases will be in effect until opening night for "As You Like It."

Written by Shakespeare when he was 35, as a capricious interlude between the serious histories of English royalty that he had completed and the towering "Hamlet" that he was to write soon afterward, "As You Like It" is the fanciful tale of Orlando, the love-smitten youth who roves through a forest hanging rapturous odes to his beloved Rosalind on every shrub and bush, and carving her name on many of the tree trunks, while this same Rosalind, masquerading as a

boy, mischievously gives him pointers on how to be successful in wooing the object of his affections.

Hardly any play of Shakespeare's is so rife with famous quotations as is this forest idyll. More prose than poetry, its language is of unusual lyric brilliance and filled with such striking phrases as "I had rather have a fool to make me merry than experience to make me sad," and "Sweet are the uses of adversity," and "Thereby hangs a tale" and "Whoever loved who loved not at first sight?" and "I am out of suits with fortune."

Reviewer William Hazlitt says of "As You Like It," "It is the most ideal of any of the plays of Shakespeare."

Chosen by Director Charles Dodrill to commemorate the first full-length production of the Otterbein campus in 1907 which was a performance of "As You Like It," the show will "kick off" the Sixtieth Anniversary of Speech and Theatre activity on the Westerville campus.



"As You Like It" Opens Tonight

The Otterbein College Theatre will open a three-night run of "As You Like It" this evening at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall Auditorium.

Teri Hiatt (Columbus) and Greg Sabatino (Dayton) portray Rosalind and Orlando, Shakespeare's famous lovers in the romantic fantasy.

Tickets for each performance will be available at the Cowan Hall Box Office, 882-3601.

Otterbein To Present Shakespeare Comedy

Beginning on Oct. 27, the stage of Cowan Hall Auditorium at Otterbein College will be turned into one of the most utopianly lovely backgrounds ever imagined for a play—the fabled glades of the Forest of Arden in Shakespeare's romantic fantasy, "As You Like It."

Tickets are currently on sale at the Cowan Box Office (882-3601) any weekday afternoon. The play will run for three performances through Oct. 29 as the opening show of the 1967 Otterbein Theatre season.

The Otterbein cast in-

cludes Teri Hiatt, Columbus freshman, who will play the lovely Rosalind; and Greg Sabatino, Dayton junior, who will be seen as the gullible, lovelorn Orlando.

Other major roles will be played by James Granger, Pittsburgh, as Touchstone; Don Parsisson, Florence, Mass., as Jaques; and Mary Furniss, Westerville, as Celia, Rosalind's devoted friend.



Actors--60 Years Apart

Dr. E. W. E. Schear, 86, science department professor emeritus at Otterbein College, returned to the campus this week to see how college dramatics compares with thespians of 1907 when he played "Touchstone" in William Shakespeare's comedy "As You Like It." He gives pointers here to Touchstone 1966 James Granger, a junior from Pittsburgh. The program opens a three-night run Thursday in the Otterbein campus theater.

OTTERBEIN continued

"As You Like It"



Presented by

Senior Class of Otterbein University

Monday Evening, June 10
1907

Program for "As You Like It," given at Otterbein in 1907 contained such inside ads as "Up-to-date hair cutting, common sense shaving"; "Furniture and undertaking, picture framing, upholstery."

"All the World's a Stage" Ho! Ye People of Westerville

Know ye, that ye Senior Class of Otterbein University will present Shakespeare's brightest, best and wittiest Comedy.

"As You Like It"
on the College Campus
Monday, June 10
7:30 P. M.

— COME SEE —

The Gallant ORLANDO,
the foolish TOUCHSTONE,
the love-sick SYLVIVS,
the melancholy JACQUES
and the fair ROSALIND.

**COSTUMES AFTER ORIGINAL
SHAKESPERIAN STYLE**

ADMISSION. - 25 Cts.

Poster of Otterbein's first production of "As You Like It" which was presented there June 10, 1907.

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"LIKE IT" IS 60, TOO

by Sharon Luster

The story of the development of theatre activities at Otterbein is one having many unique and interesting facets. During an interview with Dr. Charles Dodrill, director of theatre for the past nine years, I was impressed not only by the progress made especially recently, but also by the never-ending activity that centers in his office, reflecting a tremendous vitality in the theatre department.

The beginning was not ostentious. As most other nineteenth-century colleges, Otterbein had several very active literary groups. The original of these was the Philomathean Literary Society, organized in 1853. The Philophrean Society branched off in 1857, and was later joined by two women's literary societies. The program of their regular weekly meetings might include three orations, two essays, a debate, and several extemporaneous speeches — all by the members.

Starting in 1903, the various societies began to sponsor occasional dramatic presentations. This was a sign of great progress, for in the 1860's a student could have been expelled for attending a "...theatrical exhibition."

During these early years, dramatic productions were a total result of the active interest of students, since, as yet, there was no actual speech or theatre department.



The "As You Like It Cast" from 1907 poses gracefully.

The real starting point of Otterbein's theatre history, though, was the Senior Class' open-air presentation of "As You Like It" in 1907, beginning a sixty-year tradition of annual plays. Progress continued with the offering of academic credit to students involved in production of plays and with the establishment of new courses in theatrical technique. In 1927, six years after its formation, Cap and Daggar dramatics club presented "If I Were King," its first full-length play. In the same year, Theta Alpha Phi National Honorary Dramatics Fraternity was founded and sponsored several plays during the 1930's. At this time, facilities were not the best. Plays were presented anywhere that there was room, indoors or out. The third floor of Lambert Hall was used as a scene shop for lack of space. The con-

struction of Cowan Hall, begun in 1950, provided badly-needed facilities for the growing theatrical activities.

Cowan Hall marks the beginning of a recent period of rapidly-increasing quality and variety in Otterbein's theatrical attempts. Play production has increased from three full-length plays with a total run of five nights in 1958 to this year's four full-length plays with a total run of thirteen nights. Along with these developments is the addition of arena style plays, Children's Theatre productions, guest star appearances, use of townspeople in the Town and Gown plays, and the Chancel Drama tours. Those of us who are here during this dynamic moment in the life of Otterbein theatre can now, with a proper historical perspective, more fully appreciate all that it offers.

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CULTURE ON CAMPUS

*Shakespeare's Work
Popular at Otterbein*

Original cast of "As You Like It" presented by the Otterbein College Senior Class, June 10, 1907. The fifth production will open Thursday at Cowan Hall on campus.

WHEN THE curtain opens Thursday night at Cowan Hall on the Otterbein College campus for the first of three performances of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, it will mark the fifth time the production has been put on at Otterbein—the first was 60 years ago, June 10, 1907. It was also produced in 1911, 1927, and 1957.

The initial performance marked the first complete major production ever given at Otterbein, an open-air performance under the direction of Professor Edwin B. Evans, sponsored by the senior class.

Since then, theatrical productions have continued on the campus, this marking the 189th production over that 60-year span.

Dr. Charles W. Dodrill, director of theater and cultural events at Otterbein, recently researched the history of the Otterbein Speech and Theater Department and came up with data that places Otterbein among theatrical pioneers.

Otterbein, founded in 1847, was the first college in the United States to be opened as a coeducational institution and the first to employ women on its faculty. As the years passed, the college continued to march with theatrical times. In 1912 academic credit was first offered dramatic students there. Only 14 American institutions had such a course or followed such a policy at that time.

The first national honorary on the campus was Pi Kappa Delta, National Forensic Fraternity, founded in 1924. In 1921 Cap and Dagger Dramatics Club was formed and in 1927 this honorary local group produced a play, the ambitious *If I Were King*. In 1927 Professor John Smith, a 1910 Otterbein graduate, returned to Otter-

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OTTERBEIN continued

bein as chairman of the speech department and continued in that post until his retirement in 1950, directing more than 85 plays. He is still regular in attendance at college productions.

In 1962 the professional guest artist custom was started with Hans Conried starring in *John Brown's Body*. Since then guest stars have been Arnold Moss, Ed Begley, Kim Hunter and Viveca Lindfors. In 1964 the American Education Theater Association and the USO sponsored the Otterbein College Theater on an overseas tour. They presented *The Boy Friend* in Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and Iceland. Two years ago a Chancel Drama Group was organized as a touring unit presenting 22 performances in churches throughout Ohio and neighboring states. This past June the college trustees approved plans to begin a 1967 summer theater in the newly air-conditioned Campus Center.

From that first open-air production in 1907 through the years, Otterbein College theatrical productions have been given in many different locations and conditions. These include plays in the gym, the city bandshell, at the stadium, in Westerville High School, the Student Union and in the 1300-seat Cowan Hall auditorium dedicated in 1951, as home to the Otterbein Speech and Theater Department.

While the Otterbein Theater was making history through the years, the speech department also etched its name in the forensic history books.

The first intercollegiate debate between Harvard and Yale was in 1892. The first Otterbein debate was in 1898, only six years later. The Otterbein girls' debate team is believed to have been the first all girl collegiate debate team in the country, formed in 1912. By that year debate had become so popular at Otterbein that season tickets were sold and programs carried advertising by Westerville businessmen. The speech department was officially approved by the board of trustees in 1906, one of the first 25 colleges and universities in the country to have such a department.

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ADMISSION. - 25 Cts. (Continued)

Poster of Otterbein's first production of "As You Like It" which was presented there June 10, 1907.

REYNOLDSBURG

SPECTATOR

COLUMBUS, O.

W - circ. 1548

OCT. 19, 1966 ✓

Otterbein Production
Slated For 3-Day Run 389

Tickets are now on sale at Otterbein College for their production of William Shakespeare's "As You Like It," which will open a three-night run in Cowan Hall, Oct. 27, at 8:30 p.m.

Reservations may be made at the Cowan box office or by calling 882-3601 any weekday afternoon. Special rates for season ticket purchasers will be in effect until the opening night.

This play was chosen by Director Charles Dodrill to commemorate the first full-length production on the Otterbein campus in 1907, which was "As You Like It."