



NEWS

Office of College Relations • One Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio 43081
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December 17, 1998

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS THE CENTRAL OHIO PREMIERE OF AWARD-WINNING *ARCADIA*

What is *Arcadia*? Is it a romantic comedy, a suspenseful mystery or a cerebral exploration of the nature of the universe? In fact, Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* is all three and more. It is a titillating romp through time and space focusing on two very different groups of people living in very different time periods, who share only one thing: a room in an English country estate.

Otterbein College Theatre will present the Central Ohio premiere of *Arcadia* Feb. 4-7 and 12-13. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinee on Feb. 7 is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$11 for Thursday and Sunday and \$12 for Friday and Saturday. Tickets can be reserved by call the Otterbein College box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays beginning Jan. 25, 1999.

Arcadia is set in Sidley Park, a stately Darbyshire home. The scenes alternate between the early 1800s and the present with different generations of the same aristocratic family and their invited guests.

In 1809, Thomasina Coverly, a brilliant 13-year-old math prodigy is discovering the beginnings of scientific principles that will not be named for another century — fractal geometry, iterated algorithms and chaos theory. Her tutor, Septimus Hodge, attempts to understand her brilliant mind while trying not to succumb to a violent end for his numerous love affairs, including one with the wife of Sidley Park's resident poet Ezra Chater.

Meanwhile the Lady of Sidley Park, Lady Croom is troubled by her landscape architect's plan to turn her park into an example of the random and chaotic romantic style of gardens complete with an occupied hermitage.

To add to all the excitement, Lord Byron, a school fellow of Septimus, is visiting Sidley Park as well; much to the joy of Lady Croom, whom has fallen in love with the romantic poet, and the chagrin of Septimus who is in love with Lady Croom.

In the present, Valentine Coverly, the Earl of Croom, and his mute brother, Gus, direct descendants of Thomasina, inhabit Sidley Park. They welcome two literary researchers trying to discover events that took place from 1809 to 1812 at the estate.

Hannah Jarvis researches the gardens and grounds trying to discover the identity of a genius hermit who occupied the hermitage built around 1812. Bernard Nightingale is interested in the affairs of Lord Byron and a duel that supposedly took place at Sidley Park while Byron was a guest there.

While the past scenes are a romantic farce, the present scenes create a suspenseful mystery until the very last scene where both time periods and both groups of people occupy the same room at the same time. *Arcadia* is literally two plays in one.

Only English playwright Tom Stoppard could create a play about passion and sublimation into a witty discourse on the second theory of thermodynamics, the history of British landscape gardening, the elusive movements of Lord Byron, the advent of the mathematical revolution known as chaos theory and, finally, human nature.

In *Arcadia*, Stoppard has created a complex, lucid drama, shuttles adroitly between the present and the 19th century, the certainty of science and the unpredictability of love, broad comedy and large-scale tragedy.

At the age of 29, Stoppard became a theatrical wonder on both sides of the Atlantic following the success of his first produced play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, in 1967. He was judged by critics to be among the most important new English playwrights. *Arcadia* was named "Best Play" at the Laurence Olivier Awards in 1994 and the 1995 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards.

Associate Professor Christina Kirk will direct *Arcadia* at Otterbein. Her directing credits at the College include *The Royal Family*, *King Lear*, *Trojan Women*, *Otterbein Voices*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *Marcus Is Walking*.



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Otterbein College Theatre
Arcadia
Directed by Christina Kirk

Cast List

Septimus	Randy Goetz
Chater	J.B. Reidenbaugh
Noakes	Jesse Wilson
Brice	Jared Jensen
Jellaby	Anthony Amsbary
Lady Croom	Allison Sattinger
Thomasina	Liz Beckham
Valentine	Damon Decker
Bernard	Ben Stewart
Gus/Augustus	Geoff Martin
Hannah	Amber Mellot
Chloe	Lindsay Metcalfe



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Otterbein College Theatre

Arcadia

Runs Feb. 4-7 and 11-13, 1999

Tickets are \$11 for Thursday and Sunday shows and \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows.

The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, selected Saturdays and one hour prior to performances beginning Jan. 25. The box office is located in Cowan Hall and that phone number is (614) 823-1109. For more information on Otterbein College Theatre's season, call (614) 823-1209.

Dates, times and location of performances are as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, Feb. 4	7:30 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Friday, Feb. 5	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Saturday, Feb. 6	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Sunday, Feb. 7	2:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Friday, Feb. 12	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Saturday, Feb. 13	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.