

Theater

& COMEDY



Troubled church

Michael Grossberg • migrossberg@dispatch.com
Tensions within a modern American church are explored in the Available Light Theatre production of *The Christians*, which continues through this weekend at the Riffe Center's Studio One Theatre. (Details: 614-558-7408, www.avltheatre.com)

BEST BETS

Buyer & Cellar

CATCO, RIFFE CENTER'S STUDIO TWO THEATRE, 77 S. HIGH ST.
Contact: 614-469-0939, www.catcoistheatre.org

Details: Jonathan Tolins' solo off-Broadway comedy about celebrity and obsessive fandom revolves around a gay actor hired by a famous singer to work as curator of her "underground mall."

Showtimes: 8 tonight through Saturday night, 2 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. Wednesday, 8 p.m. June 11-13 and 2 p.m. June 14

Tickets: \$30 to \$45, or \$11.50 for the 11 a.m. matinees



Andrew Levitt is the only actor in *Briyer & Cellar*.

Kooza

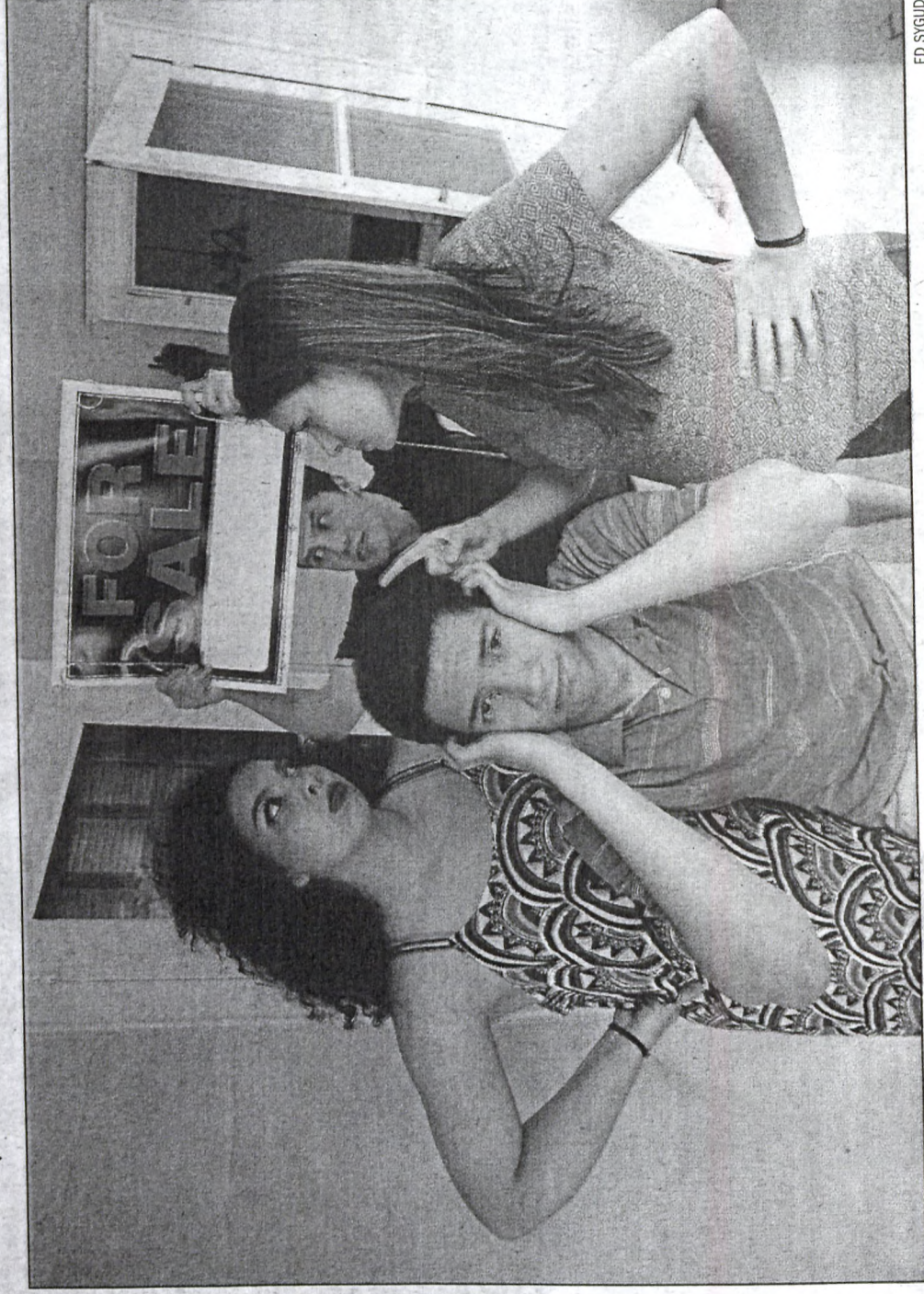
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, 1155 W. MOUND ST., AT THE FORMER COOPER STADIUM SITE

Contact: www.cirquedusoleil.com

Details: The touring big-top production blends acrobatics and clowning in a coming-of-age journey.

Showtimes: 8 tonight, 4:30 and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1:30 and 5 p.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. Tuesday through June 12 and various times through July 5

Tickets: \$35 to \$495



ED SYGUDA

Performing in *Clybourne Park*, clockwise from front, JT Wood, Morgan Wood, Alex Armesto and Aubree Tally

Award-winning play explores differences in racial attitudes

By **Michael Grossberg**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A neighborhood that undergoes two racial transitions sparks comedy and drama in *Clybourne Park*. Otterbein Summer Theatre will launch its season with the

Clybourne Park, a fictionalized Chicago neighborhood in the early stages of integration.

In the second act, set in 2009, when the neighborhood is mostly black, residents experience discomfort as a wealthy white couple wants to buy the now-decrepit house and replace it with a much


AT A GLANCE

Clybourne Park

OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE: FRITSCH THEATRE, COWAN HALL, 30 S. GROVE ST., WESTERVILLE
Contact: 614-823-1109, www.otterbeintheatre.org

really want to say, especially in 2009," Leibowitz said. "They're politically correct, using euphemisms and self-righteous liberal flatteries. . . . But Norris shows that today we're just as tribal, territorial and euphemistic." Otterbein sophomore Morgan Wood, 20, plays two

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OTHER OPTIONS

COMEDY

The Best of Shadowbox Live 2015

SHADOWBOX LIVE, 503 S.
FRONT ST.

Contact: 614-416-7625,
www.shadowboxlive.org

Details: The annual show
uses the company's best
works.

Showtimes: 7:30 and 10:30
p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
through Aug. 22

Tickets: \$25 to \$40, or \$20
to \$35 for students, senior
citizens and military personnel

'Spring Comedy Showcase'

HERRON ENTERTAINMENT,
OAKHAVEN GOLF CLUB, 2871
RT. 23 N., DELAWARE

Contact: 347-602-0002,
www.herroncomedyshow.com

Details: Comedians from
Ohio, New York and Los
Angeles will perform.

Showtime: 8 p.m. Saturday,
with doors opening at 7

Tickets: \$22

Ryan Hamilton

FUNNY BONE COMEDY CLUB,
EASTON TOWN CENTER

Contact: 614-471-5653,
www.columbusfunnybone.com

Details: *Rolling Stone* named
Hamilton a top young comic.

Showtimes: 7:30 tonight,
7:45 and 10:15 p.m. Friday,
7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday and
7 p.m. Sunday

Tickets: \$15, or \$10 tonight
and on Sunday

THEATER

Escapist Drama

A&B THEATRICALS, CLUB

DIVERSITY (UPSTAIRS SPACE),
863 S. HIGH ST.

Contact: 614-441-2929,
www.ab-theatrical.com

Details: A summer series of
staged readings begins with a
new dream comedy about
coming-of-age.

Showtimes: 8 p.m. Fridays
and Saturdays through
June 13

Tickets: \$8

The Fantasticks

SRO THEATRE COMPANY,
COLUMBUS PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER, 549 FRANKLIN
AVE.

Contact: 614-258-9495,
www.srotheatre.org

Details: The off-Broadway
musical focuses on neigh-
boring families who stage a
feud to contrive a marriage
between their children.

Showtimes: 8 p.m. Friday,
Saturday and June 13; 2 p.m.
Sunday and June 14; and

10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.
June 12

Tickets: \$21, or \$18 for 55 or
older; \$12 for students; \$16
for adults for the matinee

Hippie Hoax

MAYHEM & MYSTERY, THE
SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE, 397
W. BROAD ST.

Contact: 614-464-0143,
www.mayhemmystery.us

Details: The interactive
comedy-mystery is set on a
groovy evening of a bohemian
gathering.

Showtimes: 7 p.m. Tuesdays
through June

Tickets: \$25.95, including
dinner; tax and gratuity not
included

Which One's Pink?

SHADOWBOX LIVE, 503 S.
FRONT ST.

Contact: 614-416-7625,
www.shadowboxlive.org

Details: The multimedia show
celebrates Pink Floyd music.

Showtimes: 7:30 tonight,
2 and 7 p.m. Sunday and
various times through Aug. 2

Tickets: \$25, or \$20 for
students, senior citizens and
military personnel

YANK! The Musical

EVOLUTION THEATRE, COLUM-
BUS PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER, 549 FRANKLIN AVE.

Contact: 614-233-1124,
1-800-838-3006, www.
evolutiontheatre.org

Details: The off-Broadway
musical revolves around two
male soldiers in love during
World War II.

Showtimes: 8 tonight through
Saturday night

Tickets: \$25, or \$20 for
students and senior citizens

— Compiled by
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Otterbein

FROM PAGE F12

honest, way."

In the second act,
Wood plays Lena, a
neighbor who serves on a
committee that recom-
mends restrictions on
construction.

"She represents the
black people in the neigh-

borhood who are ner-
vous. They worry that a
white family moving into
a predominantly black
neighborhood will stir the
pot a bit," Wood said.

Otterbein junior Aubree
Tally, 20, plays Betsy in
the first act and Lindsey
in the second.

Betsy is the wife of Karl,
a Rotarian who is trying
to keep the neighborhood

predominantly white.

"But Betsy, deaf and
pregnant, doesn't know
what's going on," Tally
said.

Lindsey, meanwhile, is
trying with husband Steve
to buy the same house in
2009 that the white cou-
ple was selling in 1959.

But Lena and Kevin, a
black couple, don't want
it torn down because of

its history and meaning
to their family.

"Lindsey is very stub-
born but also trying to
please and appease
everyone," Tally said.

"She's very conscious of
the issue of race that is
being brought up, but she
wants to sweep the issue
under the rug."

Ultimately, Leibowitz
said, the two acts mirror

each other in ironic ways.

"You have a full circle.
The play centers around
who owns the territory
and, really, who owns
history. I'd call it a hilari-
ous scolding of liberal
pretensions, a mirror that
is both unflattering and
funny and very truthful."

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