

## Arts Festival Serves All

A series of events in the second annual Otterbein College Festival of Arts will get underway this Sunday. All events will center around the theme "Crisis and Expressions: The Civil War."

Upon looking at the schedule we find three lectures, an art exhibit, the showing of a silent film with critical commentary, a folk song program, and the presentation of a narrative drama with choral singing.

A yet closer examination of the Festival of Arts lineup reveals that the College has obtained several nationally known personalities to participate in the Festival. Notable among these is Pulitzer Prize winning author Bruce Catton, and Hans Conried, comedy and dramatic star of stage, films and television.

We feel that the College has performed quite a service for the community in presenting this Festival of Arts, and that there is at least one event on the program which should appeal to every resident of the Westerville area.



Hans Conried

## Famed Broadway, TV Star To Appear Here

The Otterbein College Theatre also has been a frequent guest announced today that, after several months of negotiation, Hans Conried, star of stage, screen, radio and television, has been secured to guest star in the March 1, 2 and 3 production of Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body." Final confirmation of Conried's appearance was received a few days ago, according to Prof. Charles Dodrill, Director of Theatre.

Conried has starred in the Broadway production of Cole Porter's "Can-Can" and the recent hit, "Tall Story." During the past two years he has appeared as "Uncle Toonoose" on the Danny Thomas TV show. He

also has been a frequent guest on the Jack Paar show.

ACCORDING TO Prof. Dodrill, Conried will arrive on the Otterbein campus on Feb. 24 to participate in final rehearsals for the production. He will appear as the narrator in this Pulitzer Prize winning epic poem, a poem turned into a play that has been termed tender, moving, romantic, heroic and dramatically exciting.

Tickets will go on sale Feb. 19 for this production, the first appearance ever of a professional guest star in an Otterbein College Theatre production.

## Theatrical Star Hacks Own Biographical Sketch

"What is a star 'really' like?" is a question often asked. As the date nears (Feb. 24) for the arrival of well-known stage, screen and television star Hans Conried on the Otterbein College campus, a more pertinent question might be, "What is Hans Conried like?"

A partial answer to the above question was received recently by Charles Dodrill, Director of the Otterbein College Theatre. Dodrill is directing the March 1-3 production of "John Brown's Body," the play in which Con-

ried will star on the Cowan Hall stage.

The answer came in the form of a biography prepared by Conried's agent. Throughout the biography are script notations written by the star himself. The following are excerpts from the paper, with Conried's comments written in parentheses:

**"REAL NAME** — Hans Conried (I would have changed it to this?) . . . Hair — brown (also gray and thinning).

"Hans Conried has (usually) enjoyed a career spanning several theatrical media. From Hollywood's standpoint it is unusual that during these 25 years he has never been under contract (maybe this isn't anything to brag about).

"It was in a succession of uncut Shakespearean plays that he entered Hollywood radio in 1936. He had (the temerity to play) second leads in support of the late John Barrymore in a broadcast series of 'Streamlined Shakespeare' the following year but, with the Bard's works so rarely presented, Conried (took the first of many steps downward and) developed less classical facets to his repertoire . . .

**"HE WAS STILL** in high school when he played his first stock, and in 1935 moved to Los Angeles with his family and launched his successful career (\$15 a week?) as a radio actor. During the beginning he sought work in allied fields where he could learn by observing human nature (sold basketballs and demonstrated punching bags). . . .

"He has appeared in over 100 motion pictures including '3 for Bedroom C,' 'Big Jim McLain,' 'Bus Stop' and 'Meet Me in Las Vegas.' Recently he was the voice of both Captain Hook and Mr. Darling in Walt Disney's 'Peter Pan' and will likewise be heard as the voice of the Grand Wazier in UPA's first full length cartoon feature, 'Magoo's Arabian Nights.'

His enactment of the title role in 'The 5000 Fingers of Doctor T' is perhaps most remembered (mostly by Hollywood. It was the outstanding money loser of all time). . . .

## 'John Brown' March 1 At Otterbein

Hans Conried, well-known stage, screen and television star, will have the leading role in the Otterbein College Theatre presentation of "John Brown's Body," on March 1, 2, 3. This great Pulitzer Prize winning poem by Stephen Vincent Benet will be presented in Cowan Hall on the Westerville campus.

A whole gallery of characters, and sections narrating and setting the scene of the great American sectional conflict, will be rendered by a cast of three actors, Hans Conried and two Otterbein students, with 16 members of the Otterbein A Capella Choir supplying battle songs, love songs, chants and sound effects.

Tickets will be available at Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling TU 2-3611.

**"TWICE THE NAME** of Hans Conried has appeared on Broadway. First in Cole Porter's 'Can-Can' as the Bulgarian sculptor, Boris Adzinidzinadze. He claims it was not so much for the critical accolades ("helpful and adequate") he received for his characterization but for his unerring ability to pronounce the name that gained him the opportunity to portray the role, which he created in Broadway. Early in 1959 he was starred in the Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse comedy "Tall Story." . . .

"On the personal side, the lack of privacy an actor faces seems to be the one aversion Conried has to the theatrical profession. He owns a comfortable home in the Hollywood hills with a magnificent view of Lake Hollywood (sometimes there's smog).

"He is an incurable collector of postage stamps, Japanese sword-guards, tiny, complicated toys and figurines from many lands and other Oriental objects of art (plus four children)."

The Cowan Hall box office will open Feb. 19 for "John Brown's Body." Box office hours are from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays



## Conried Rehearses With Student Actors

Guest star Hans Conried (center) rehearses with Otterbein College students Richard Berry, New Cumberland, Pa.; and Judy Stone, Dayton; for the Otterbein Theatre presentation of "John Brown's Body" scheduled for today, Friday and Saturday in Cowan Hall. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m.

# Versatile Showman Discusses Theater and Its Effect Today

By Sarah Skaates

Actor, lecturer, narrator, TV personality and philosopher — Hans Conried is all these and more.

Taking a break between Monday night rehearsals of "John Brown's Body," opening today on the Cowan Hall Stage, the tall actor with the penetrating dark eyes reflected on the world of show business which has been his life.

Reaffirming an earlier statement, Conried defined the purpose of the theater. "The business of theater is primarily to entertain. It can also educate after it has entertained, all well and good. I think too, that theater had a strong moral obligation to the public."

### ON CHILDREN'S THEATER—

"It is hard to say what precisely is children's theater. We did a big production of 'Hansel and Gretel' in which I played the witch. This was a good children's show. I think the Westerns are for children." Then, with a smile he added, "Or the child in mind!"

A veteran character actor, Conried spoke approvingly of radio where he worked for close to twenty years. "It (radio) gave the audience their widest stage," he said. But Conried believes radio now is a lost cause.

In answer to the question, "Do you believe TV is living up to its challenge, or it is the wasteland Mr. Newton Minow, FCC official declares?" Conried was quick to reply. "There's no challenge about it. Television, as all media, must work within its own limitations. Because it appeals to two senses instead of one (as does radio) it must be doubly careful to avoid going stale."

**THE SPEED WITH** which scripts must be written, the vastness of a nationwide audience swallowing up new material, and the absence of a training or proving ground for young actors are all problems which television must somehow battle successfully.

Is Hans Conried primarily an actor or a personality? Now, he says, he feels he is strictly a

personality. "I was an actor for many years," he said, "and through the respect I gained as an actor from others in the business I was able to become a personality."

Explaining that as a character actor, he worked behind the mask of someone else, Conried went on, "I was terrified the first time I appeared as Hans

(Continued on page 6-A)

Conried. I thought to myself, 'What does Hans Conried wear? Does he limp? Does he have an accent?' I had to decide what sort of character he was."

**"IS HANS CONRIED,** the personality, then, just another character?" was the next question.

"Only to the extent that everyone — the plumber, the banker, assumes a character. No one ever really shows himself to others. But this mask he wears must not be too far from the truth; it must be close enough for him to slip on easily."

Conried admits he enjoys the personality aspects of his present work, feeling that it added to his already achieved stature as an actor, gives new dimension to his career. "Another string to the bow" as he put it.

"Hans!" came the summons of director Charles Dodill from the stage. "We're going downstairs. Come on down to the green room theater shop room below the stage when you're finished."

And so it was back to debriefing and another rehearsal of "John Brown's Body" for this versatile and talented entertainer.

"John Brown's Body" co-stars Richard Berry, Miss Judy Stone and the A Cappella Choir. Curtain goes up at 8:30 p.m. today for the opening performance and will continue through Saturday night. Some tickets still are available at Cowan Hall box office.

## Arts Program Moves Into Final Week

The final week of the Otterbein College Festival of Arts program will feature a theater production; lectures and two musical events. Complete schedule is as follows:

March 1, 2, 3—Theater production of "John Brown's Body," by Stephen Vincent Benet, starring Hans Conried, professional guest star and well-known stage, screen and TV actor. The play also will feature the Otterbein College A Cappella Choir under the direction of Prof. Richard Chamberlain at 8:30 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

March 5—Two lectures by Bruce Catton, noted Civil War historian and senior editor, "American Heritage," 9:30 a.m. lecture in Cowan Hall will be on the subject "America's Tragedy," 8:30 p.m. lecture in Cowan Hall will be, "The Ordinary Soldier in the Civil War."

MARCH 7—"Folk Songs of the Civil War Period," by Grace Creswell, one of America's favorite folk singers. 8:30 p.m., Cowan Hall.

March 11—"An Evening with Stephen Foster and Ben Hanby," featuring a discussion by Fletcher Hodges, noted authority on Stephen Foster and a discussion by Judge Earl R. Hoover, noted authority on Ben Hanby, along with the Otterbein College A Cappella Choir and Glee Clubs. 8 p.m., Cowan Hall.



# Many Stories Related In 'John Brown's Body'

"John Brown's Body," the Stephen Benet poem that puts the Civil War into a dramatic nutshell, will be staged by the Otterbein College Theatre as their next attraction, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 1-3. Hans Conried, star of stage, films, radio and TV will guest star in the production.

Prof. Charles Dodrill will direct the production in the same pattern that achieved theatrical success for the famous epic for two seasons, from the fall of 1952 to the spring of 1954, in New York and on tour.

A whole gallery of characters, and sections narrating and setting the scene of the great American sectional conflict, will be rendered by a cast of just three actors, Hans Conried and two student actors, with a chorus of eighteen supplying battle songs, love songs, chants and sound effects.

Ever since "John Brown's Body" was first published and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1928, it has been one of the most popular of poems. An astonishing 600,000 copies of the epic have been sold in hard-cover volumes, and the poem has come to be a

part of American lore as fundamental as Walt Whitman. The 377 pages of work, in the original edition, telling the terrible story of the Union and Secessionist ordeal, have been reduced for this staged version to be played within a normal two hour performance.

Taking its title from the song that Northern soldiers sang in their camps and on their marches, "John Brown's Body" presents a panorama of the critical struggle of the 1860's that has become the haunting keynote of American history ever since. Prof. Richard Chamberlain will direct the chorus of 18 voices which will supply a musical and orchestrated setting to the play.

The narrative is held together by the tale of two romances. One is the love of Northern recruit Jack Ellyat for the girl, Melora, he came across when fleeing captivity after a battle. The other is the love of the Southern aristocrat, Clay Wingate, for Sally Dupre. Both of these valiants will be portrayed here by Conried.

ALONG WITH THESE imaginary figures representing the

generation whose lives were disrupted by the Civil War, the poem also dramatically highlights some real historical figures — John Brown, the fanatic whose doomed slave-emancipating raid across the Potomac provided the startling overture to the war itself, Lincoln, Lee and some other leading participants.

A student actor, as yet uncast, will portray these great figures of the nation's drama. A student actress will depict all the feminine roles — the sweethearts of the heroes, the defiant Northern mother who dares to pray for John Brown, and the proud and disdainful mistress of a Southern plantation.

"John Brown's Body," with the condensation that good poetry always provides, will render for audiences here the surge and sweep of the whole Civil War, in a nutshell. Tickets will go on sale Monday, Feb. 19.

Otterbein College Theatre  
presents  
**HANS CONRIED**  
in  
**"John Brown's Body"**  
Now thru Sat., March 1, 2, 3.  
Cowan Hall, Westerville 8:30 p.m.  
For phone Res., TU-2-3611 from  
1 to 4:30 p.m. daily.




## HANS CONRIED AT OTTERBEIN

The Otterbein College Theater announces that Hans Conried, star of stage, screen, radio and television, has been secured to guest star in the March 1-2-3 production of Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body." Prof. Charles Dodrill, director of theater, says Conried will arrive on the Otterbein campus on Feb. 24 to participate in final rehearsals for the production.

**OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE**  
presents



**HANS CONRIED**  
IN  
**JOHN BROWN'S BODY**  
By STEPHEN VINCENT BENÉT



**THURS. - FRI. - SAT. MARCH 1, 2, 3**  
**COWAN HALL** 8:30 P.M.

**RESERVED SEATS \$1.25**

For Phone Reservations call TU 2-3611 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. daily, or stop at the Cowan Hall Box-Office.

# Hans Conreid Will Star In Theatre Production

The Otterbein College Theatre announced today that, after several months of negotiation, Hans Conried, star of stage, screen, radio and television, has been secured to guest star in the March 1, 2 and 3 production of Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body." Final confirmation of Conried's appearance was received a few days ago, according to Professor Charles Dodrill, Director of Theatre.

Conried has starred in the Broadway production of Cole Porter's "Can-Can" and the recent hit, "Tall Story." During the past two years he has appeared as "Uncle Toonoose" on the Danny Thomas show, and he has been a frequent guest on the Jack Paar Show.

According to Professor Dodrill, Conried will arrive on the campus February 24 to participate in final rehearsals for the production. He will appear as the narrator in the Pulitzer Prize winning epic poem, a poem turned into a play that is tender, moving, romantic, heroic and dramatically exciting.

Tickets will go on sale February 19 for this production, the first appearance ever of a professional guest star in an Otterbein College Theatre production.

## Meet Hans Conreid

"What is a star really like?" is a question often asked. As the date nears (February 24) for the arrival of well-known stage, screen and television star Hans Conried on the Otterbein College campus, a more pertinent question might be, "What is Hans Conried like?"

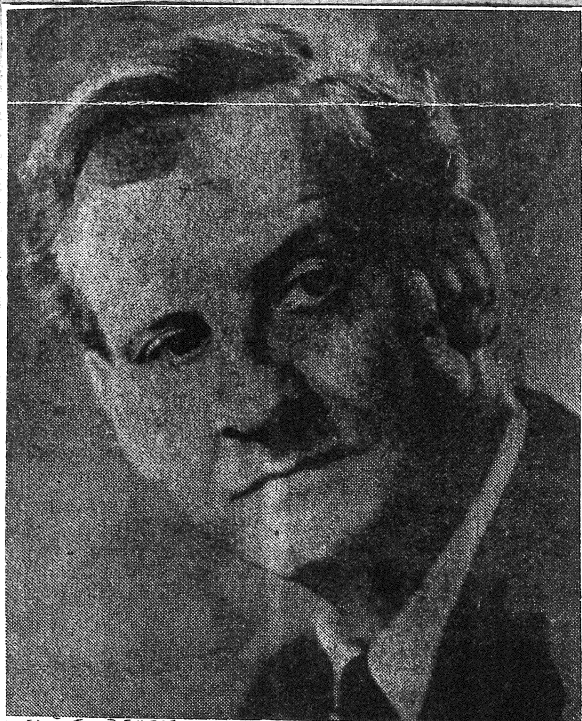
A partial answer to the above questions was received recently by Charles Dodrill, Otterbein College Theatre director, who is directing "JBB," the play in which Conried will star on the Cowan Hall stage on March 1, 2, 3. The answer came in the form of a biography prepared by Conried's agent. Throughout the biography are script notations written by the star himself. The following are excerpts from the papers, with Conried's comments written in parenthesis.

"Real name—Hans Conried. (I would have changed it to this?)  
... Hair—Brown (also gray and thinning). Hans Conried has (usually) enjoyed a career spanning several theatrical media. From Hollywood's standpoint it is unusual that during these 25 years he has never been under contract (maybe this isn't anything to brag about). It was in a succession of uncut Shakespearean plays that he entered Hollywood radio in 1936. He had (the temerity to play) second leads in support of the late John Barrymore in a broadcast series

### Conreid Cont.

of "Streamlined Shakespeare" the following year but, with the Bard's works so rarely presented, Conried (took the first of many steps downward) and developed less classical facets to his repertoire . . . .

He was still in high school when he played his first stock, and in 1955 moved to Los Angeles with his family and launched his successful career (\$15 a week?) as a radio actor. During the beginning he sought work in allied fields where he could learn



Hans Conried



# PUBLIC OPINION

ABOUT AND FOR THE WESTERVILLE AREA

## Civil War Theme For OC Festival Of Arts

The second annual Festival of Arts will be held at Otterbein College, Feb. 25 through March 11. The festival will consist of exhibitions, lectures, theater production and music centered around the theme "Crisis and Expression: The Civil War." Complete schedule of events is as follows:

Feb. 25-March 11 — Exhibits of Brady Civil War photographs in the Association Building Lounge and exhibits of professional Broadway theater productions around the Civil War in Cowan Hall foyer.

Feb. 25—Silent movie, "The General," starring Buster Keaton at 8 p.m., Cowan Hall. Piano accompaniment and discussion on the film will be provided by Robert Verbeck, silent film authority from Cabbage Corners Museum.

Feb. 26—Introduction to the Festival program in Cowan Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 28—James A. Rhodes, state auditor of Ohio and noted Ohio author of "The Trial of Mary Todd Lincoln" and "Johnny Shiloh," will lecture in Cowan

Hall at 9:30 a.m.

March 1-3—Theater production of "John Brown's Body," by Stephen Vincent Benet, starring professional guest star Hans Conried and featuring the Otterbein College A Cappella Choir. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

March 5—Lecture by Bruce Catton, senior editor of the American Heritage Magazine, Pulitzer Prize winner of 1954 for his book "A Stillness at Appomattox," and noted Civil War historian, at 9:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

March 7—"Folk Songs of the Civil War Period" by Grace

Cresswell, one of America's favorite folk singers, at 8:30 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

March 11—"An Evening with Stephen Foster and Ben Hanby," featuring a discussion by Fletcher Hodges, curator of the Foster Hall Collection at the University of Pittsburgh, and noted authority on Stephen Foster will be given at 8 p.m. in Cowan Hall. The Otterbein A Cappella Choir and Glee Clubs will sing the favorite Foster and Hanby songs of the Civil War period.

All events on the Festival of Arts schedule are open to the public.

## Arts Festival To Open Sun. At Otterbein

The two-week Festival of Arts program begins Sunday on the Otterbein College campus. Centering around the theme "Crisis and Expression—The Civil War," the festival will consist of Exhibitions, lectures, theater production and special music.

Complete schedule for the first week of the festival includes:

Sunday, Feb. 25—Initial showing of Brady Civil War photographs in the Association Building lounge with a coffee hour from 3-5 p.m. The showing will be open to the public.

Exhibit of Broadway theater productions centering around the Civil War in the foyer of Cowan Hall.

Silent movie, "The General" starring Buster Keaton at 8 p.m. in Cowan Hall.

MONDAY, FEB. 26—Introduction of Festival of Arts program at 9:30 a.m., Cowan Hall.

## Student Cast To Play With Professional Star

Professional guest star Hans Conried will find preparations for the Otterbein College Theatre production of "John Brown's Body" well in hand when he arrives on the campus Friday, Feb. 23, for final rehearsals.

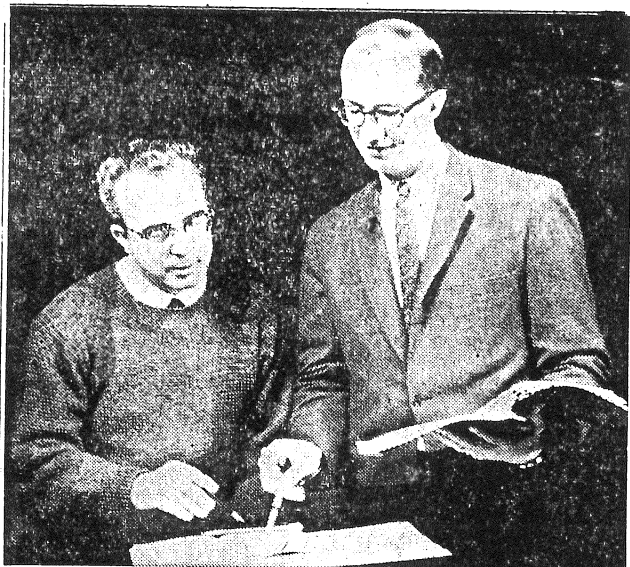
Reservations for "John Brown's Body," which will be presented March 1, 2 and 3, may be made at the Cowan Hall box office. The box office is open from 1-4:30 p.m. daily.

In the production, Conried will appear in the role originally created by Raymond Massey, portraying such characters as John Brown, Robert E. Lee and Abraham Lincoln. Appearing with the star are Otterbein students Miss Judy Stone, Dayton; and Richard Berry, New Cumberland,

Pa.; along with 17 members of the A Cappella Choir. Student Richard Davis, currently serving as Conried's stand-in, will appear in the proposed tour presentation of the play.

THE ACTORS WERE chosen especially for their strength in vocal expression. Although extensive physical movements are not present in "John Brown's Body," the action flows swiftly and dramatically from beginning to end, largely through the fluent and varied speech of the actors. The choir serves as a chorus, painting the background with songs of battle, marching hymns and choric comments.

Movement is also provided through dramatic lighting elements, designed by Professor Fred Thayer, Technical Director.



## Directors Make Preparations

Making preparations for final rehearsals of the Otterbein College Theatre presentation of "John Brown's Body" are Prof. Richard Chamberlain (left), Choral Director; and Prof. Charles Dodrill, Director of Theatre. Guest star Hans Conried will be seen in the March 1, 2, 3 production.



**REHEARSAL**—Actor Hans Conried is preparing for a presentation of "John Brown's Body" next Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Otterbein College in Westerville. The dramatic reading is

one of a series of Festival of Arts programs centered on the Civil War. Backing Conried is the Otterbein A Capella Choir—(Dispatch Photo)

## IN SHOW AT OTTERBEIN

# Actor Hans Conried Sees Doom of Broadway Drama

By NED STOUT

The "unwholesome quality" of current drama may be the doom of Broadway, forecasts Hans Conried, veteran of 100 movies and countless radio and television shows.

Conried made his prediction over lunch Saturday at Otterbein College in Westerville. He went into rehearsal there this weekend for a three-night performance of Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body," opening Thursday in Cowan Hall on the campus.

"I THINK WE'LL see the day when Broadway shows are solely musicals. The sensationalism that we've been getting in serious drama lately can be produced much less expensively off-Broadway," observed the Shakespearean-schooled actor.

"Personally, I'd like to see a return to the drawing room comedy sort of thing, but I doubt we ever will," Conried added.

"The drama's sensationalism today is a direct reflection of the lives of the playwrights.

"LET'S FACE IT, most of the stuff is being written by fags," Conried said.

"Only the audience" can bring a return of the less-sordid aspects of life on the stage, Conried added.

Arriving at 4 a.m. Saturday following an airplane trip of numerous groundings, Conried was impressed by the Central Ohio ice storm. "Send me some photos of this; my kids have never seen anything like it," Conried requested.

THE "KIDS," three of them, are home at Hollywood with their mother . . . to whom Conried has been married for 20 years.

Born in Maryland, but reared in California, the mellifluous Conried began his career in radio.

He "supported" the late John Barrymore and was a West Coast regular in Orson Well's Mercury Theater group.

THE WAR AND "the death of radio" thrust Conried into television and an accelerated motion picture work schedule.

Ask him the stock question, "What's your favorite role," and Conried is apt to reply, "The stock answer is, 'my current role which presents one of the greatest challenges of my career'."

Then, more seriously, the quick-witted Conried may add:

"MY FAVORITE was one of the all time great money-loosers, 'The 5000 Fingers of Dr. Teas' — no one's ever heard of it."

Striding about the Otter-

bein campus, Conried looks like an actor. He affects a slouch black hat, a green overcoat of conspicuous weight, a light brown tweed suit and a wide belt.

"AFTER ALL, you never know what weather you'll encounter in the Midwest — although I am glad you have the Indians pacified," Conried observed whimsically.

And a final note, per request: "Be sure and put somewhere in your story that tickets are still available. I don't like to work, but as long as I am, we need the money," Conried said.



LIES, ALL LIES!!!



## Music And Theater

### Hans Conreid Keeps Busy, An Actor's Good Fortune

By RON PATAKY

"I've heard you don't drink," I said to actor Hans Conreid, here rehearsing this week for his guest star appearance in Otterbein College's "John Brown's Body," March 1-3.

"No I don't," he laughed. "I didn't know the fact was so well known."

I mentioned certain ads I'd seen in the past linking him with a brand of gin. He laughed again.

"PAAR TOOK good care of that when he began kidding me on the air about my not drinking," he said. "As a result, I lost the account. They knew all along I didn't drink, but evidently didn't care until the fact was brought out on the Paar show."

Exhausted from his belated arrival here at 4 a.m. Saturday morning and subsequent full-day of rehearsal, the tall actor discussed his career.

"I've managed to keep busy—good fortune for an actor," he said. "In addition to dramatic readings and various theatrical productions throughout the country, I've done several dramatic shows on television this winter. Then there's the Danny Thomas Show... I've filmed three or four this season."

"AFTER THIS production, I'll go home to Hollywood for a quick change of shirts... then to Florida where we're doing a play. After that—in April—I'll go with Paar to Japan and Hong Kong. He's filming background material for his new weekly show" (Paar leaves his current show March 31).

"John Brown's Body," featuring a chorus of 17 voices, opens Thursday evening at Otterbein's Cowan Hall. Curtain time is 8:30. We'll view it during dress rehearsal Wednesday evening, and will carry a review Thursday morning. Good seats remain for Thursday and Friday, while Saturday is nearly a sell-out.



## Music And Theater

### 'John Brown's Body' Brilliantly Performed By Otterbein Group

By RON PATAKY

Thursday evening marks the opening of what may be the dramatic highlight of the local season. "It's "John Brown's Body," running through Saturday at Otterbein College's Cowan Hall.

Guest-starring is Hans Conreid, and actor of tremendous magnitude. He can chalk up another in a long list of glowing performances.

THIS ADAPTATION of the Benet work is a new one, quite different from the Broadway version which starred Raymond Massey, Tyrone Power and Judith Anderson some nine years ago.

Not only do I believe this to be a superior version, but I feel Conreid demonstrates capabilities beyond those offered by Massey in the original.

SHARING THE spotlight with Conreid are Richard Berry and Judy Stone in the leads, and a student chorus of 17. All have managed to showcase their wares in a fashion that would put many New York companies to shame.

"John Brown's Body" is an unconventional undertaking. It's not a play per se, but more of a reading. The work combines magnificent dialogue (to which you must listen carefully) with interspersed choral stanzas, forming a narrative poem of epic proportions.

IN IT, the Civil War becomes a living saga.

I urge everyone to see this production. Director Charles Dodrill, Hans Conreid, Mr. Berry, and Miss Stone, the chorus—all connected with this show have combined for one of the most stunning offerings of the year.



## Music And Theater

### 'John Brown's Body' Breaks Otterbein's All-Time Record

By RON PATAKY

I'm certain I'm not alone in deriving a certain amount of personal pleasure when serious theatrical attempts by non-professional groups meet with success. It's a sign of a healthy, robust populace.

THUS I WAS especially pleased on receiving a letter last week from Charles Dodrill, director of theater at Otterbein College. You may recall I reviewed the Otterbein production of "John Brown's Body," March 1-3, which guest-starred Hans Conreid. I thought it a beautiful piece of theater.

Dodrill's letter says the production played to nearly 3000 people during the three-night run — an all-time record for the Cowan Hall Theater. Next production at the College is "Death of a Salesman," slated for May 11-12. Many like myself must be looking forward to it.

## "John Browns Body" Is Arts Festival Highlight

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### WORTHINGTON NEWS

## Curtain Call

A bombshell was dropped in local theatre circles, when it was quietly and matter-of-factly announced by Otterbein College and its theatre director, Charles W. Dodrill, that Hans Conried, of stage, movie and TV fame, would appear as a guest star in an Otterbein College Theatre production.

Otterbein College Theatre department will be well worth following in the future. This year the four plays selected for production were "The Boy Friend" to start the season off with a rouser, followed by Moliere's "Tartuffe" presented in arena style. Now the announcement that Hans Conried will guest star on March 1-2-3 in Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body." Their season will close with "Death of a Salesman."

Impressed with this line-up? Me too! But that isn't all. Otterbein College Theatre will present it's first Children's Theatre production in history on Feb. 16-17. Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale "The Emperor's New Clothes" will be given in Cowan Hall in Westerville. I'm sure all will be pleased with this delightful fantasy, but it is especially designed to delight youngsters in the second to the seventh grades.

Sound like a lot for a small college? But still more to come! In March, an evening of one-act plays, including an original by an Otterbein student, John Soliday, will be presented.

But let us elaborate a little more upon the production "John Brown's Body." Otterbein is presenting a festival of art in relationship to the national Civil War Centennial. Brady photographs of the Civil War

## Hans To Star

Appearance of Hans Conried in the College Theatre production of "John Brown's Body" on March 1, 2, 3 will be one of the features of Otterbein's annual Festival of Arts, scheduled this year for February 25 through March 11.

Adapted from the powerful epic poem by Stephen Vincent Benet, "John Brown's Body" underscores the Festival of Arts theme: Crisis and Expression, The Civil War.

Tickets for the production will go on sale Monday, February 19. Reservations may be made by calling TU 2-3611 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Taking its title from the song that Northern soldiers sang in their camps and on their marches, "John Brown's Body" presents a panorama of the critical struggle of the 1860's that has become the haunting keynote of American history ever since.

The narrative is held together by the tale of two romances. One is the love of Northern recruit Jack Ellyat for the girl, Melora, he came across when fleeing captivity after a battle. The other is the love of the Southern aristocrat, Clay Wingate, for Sally Dupre. Both of these valiants will be portrayed in the Otterbein production by Richard Berry, junior speech major.

Along with these imaginary figures representing the generation whose lives were disrupted by the Civil War, the poem also dramatically high-lights some real historical figures: John Brown, the fanatic whose doomed slave-emancipating raid across the Potomac provided the starting overture to the war itself, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and some other leading participants. Hans Conried will portray these great figures of the

nation's drama.

Miss Judy Stone will depict all the feminine roles — the sweethearts of the heroes, the defiant Northern mother who dares to pray for John Brown and the proud and disdainful mistress of a Southern plantation.

by Jean Ann Weaver

period and a Civil War display will be shown on the campus from Feb. 25 to March 11. The silent movie "The General," starring Buster Keaton, will be shown on Feb. 25. James A. Rhodes, noted Ohio author of "The Trial of Mary Todd Lincoln" and "Johnny Shiloh," will lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 28, in Cowan Hall. Bruce Catton, Senior Editor of the *American Heritage* magazine, and author of "A Stillness at Appomattox," will lecture Monday, March 5, at 9:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Grace Cresswell, an American folk singer, will give selections of melodies popular during the Civil War period, March 7, at 8:30 p.m. The festival is closed with "An Evening With Stephen Foster and Ben Hanby" which will be presented Sunday, March 11, at 8 p.m. Of course, the topping for the cake will be Hans Conried in "John Brown's Body," March 1, 2 and 3.

It seems that congratulations are in order for the Otterbein College Theatre.



# Columbus Sunday Dispatch

## Otterbein Reviews Civil War

IN a welcoming address to state and national delegates attending a meeting of the Civil War Centennial Commission in Washington recently, Dr. Allan Nevins, newly-appointed chairman of the commission, declared "we have the task of interpreting the terrible convulsion of a century ago in such a way as to deepen the patriotism of all Americans . . ."

He explained that emphasis should be given only to that which was really the most important and memorable aspect of the conflict. To accomplish this, he said, means lifting the commemoration to a high plane.

An outstanding example of how the observance can be lifted to a high plane, reaching from the grass roots and the common people to the mountain peaks and the painter, poet, sculptor and musician, is the second annual festival of arts, featuring a Civil War theme, currently in progress at Otterbein College.

**HIGHLIGHTING** the two-week observance is the presentation of Stephen Vincent Benet's epic poem, "John Brown's Body," starring Hans Conried, supported by Otterbein students and the college's a cappella choir. Performances will be given Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, this week.

Monday, March 5, Bruce Catton, Pulitzer prize-winning historian of the Civil War, will give two addresses, at 9:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Grace Cresswell, noted folk

singer, will be on the campus next Wednesday evening to present a concert of Civil War folk songs, and a week from Sunday, March 11, Fletcher Hodges Jr., curator of the Foster Hall Collection at the University of Pittsburgh and an authority on Stephen Foster, will speak.

The arts festival got under way this week when James A. Rhodes, auditor of state, discussed his two books bearing on the Civil War, "The Trial of Mary Todd Lincoln" and "Johnny Shiloh."

**THROUGHOUT** the two weeks' observance, several exhibits will be on display, including a collection of Brady's photographs, show bills and programs dealing with Civil War theater productions, and a collection of photographs depicting Otterbein and the Westerville community during the war.

Otterbein is to be commended for the outstanding program it has arranged so that Central Ohioans can gain a keener and fuller understanding of the Civil War.

That the college should participate in the centennial observance is fitting, for Otterbein and Westerville played important roles in the period leading up to the war and during the conflict itself. Westerville was a station on the underground railroad, and one of Otterbein's best remembered sons, Benjamin Hanby, wrote one of the unforgettable songs of the period, "My Darling Nellie Grey."

## Hans Conried Guest Stars At Otterbein

The Otterbein College Theater's next production, "John Brown's Body," on March 1, 2, 3, will feature as special guest star, the well-known stage, screen and television star, Hans Conried. Mr. Conried will appear in the role made famous by Raymond Massey in the original hit production in 1953-54.

This great Pulitzer Prize winning poem by Stephen Vincent Benet, often called the American Iliad, presents a whole gallery of characters, and sections narrating and setting the scene of the American Civil War.

**JOHN BROWN**, Robert E. Lee, and Abraham Lincoln will be brought to life by Hans Conried, while two Otterbein students will create a variety of roles, including the two live stories that help bind the work together. In addition the Otterbein A Cappella Choir will supply battle songs, love songs, chants and sound effects.

When "John Brown's Body" was first staged in New York in 1953, Brooks Atkinson, then critic for the New York Times, acclaimed it as "a piece of vivid theater, a stage performance of fire and beauty." Walter Kerr, critic of the New York Herald Tribune, proclaimed it "a stunning success, that fills the reaches of the theater with its rolling rhythms."



### BENET PLAY AT OTTERBEIN

Guest star Hans Conried and director Charles Dodrill in a rehearsal conference for the Otterbein production of Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body," which opens a three-night run at 8:30 p.m. Thursday evening in Cowan Hall.

# 'John Brown's Body' Is Adaptation From Poem

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Benet, "John Brown's Body" underscores the Festival of Arts theme: Crisis and Expression, The Civil War.

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a key-note of American history ever since.

THE NARRATIVE is held together by the tale of two romances. One is the love of Northern recruit Jack Ellyat for the girl, Melora, he came across when fleeing captivity after a battle. The other is the love of the Southern aristocrat, Clay Wingate, for Sally Dupre. Both of these valiants will be portrayed in the Otterbein production by Richard Berry, junior speech major from New Cumberland, Pa.

Along with these imaginary figures perrepresenting the generation whose lives were disrupted by the Civil War, the poem also dramatically high-lights some real historical figures: John Brown, the fanatic whose doomed slave-emancipating raid across the Potomac provided the startling overture to the war itself. Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and some other leading participants. Hans Conried will portray these great figures of the nation's drama.

Miss Judy Stone, senior from Dayton, will depict all the feminine roles—the sweethearts of the heroes, the defiant Northern mother who dares to pray for John Brown and the proud and disdainful mistress of a Southern plantation.

Tickets for the production will go on sale Monday, Feb. 19, at the Cowan Hall box office. Daily box office hours will be 1-4:30 p.m. Telephone reservations may be made by calling 882-3611 during the same hours.

## Critic Has All Orchids For 'John Brown's Body'

By Sarah Skaates

"John Brown's Body," which ran March 1-3 on the Cowan Hall stage, will go down in Otterbein Theater history as one of the brightest stars in an already polished crown.

Guest actor Hans Conried lent the sensitivity and depth of characterization for which his career has been noted. His mastery of language, vocal expression and flexibility combined with just the right suggestion of mannerisms to convey distinctly each character he described.

Conried's wealth of technique, added to the flowing beauty of Stephen Vincent Benet's words, made images of John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee and many other lesser known personalities which will long be remembered.

ILLUMINATING THE stage with the perfection of her portrayals was Miss Judy Stone. As Lucy Weatherbee she was frivolous and vain, as Sally Dupre and Mary Lou Wingate she was steel in a velvet cloak, and as Melora she was poignantly young and guileless.

Richard Berry gained added stature as the two young men touched by the conflict of the

Civil War and never to be quite the same again. Usually at his best in light comedy, Berry here well demonstrated his aptitude for serious dramatics.

Without the compelling strength and lyric beauty of Benet's poem, however, the excellence of the actors involved would have been lost. "John Brown's Body" is so vividly written that anything other than the utter simplicity of setting used in the Otterbein production would only confuse and detract.

THE PRESENT STAGE adaptation of the original Benet poem includes a chorus whose music and sound effects heighten and intensify the pace and mood of the narration. The A Cappella Choir under the direction of Richard Chamberlain performed this function in unquestionably excellent style.

Lastly, to Director Charles Dodrill goes a huge bouquet of orchids for the choice of "John Brown's Body" in the first place, for securing the top quality services of Hans Conried, and for shaping, molding and polishing the whole production to the luster of its final presentation.

Bravo!