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OTTERBEIN  
COLLEGE

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Office of College Relations • Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio 43081  
(614) 898-1600 • Patricia Kessler, Director

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Contact Valerie Klawitter 898-1605

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The refreshing approach Otterbein Children's Theatre is taking with its Nov. 21-23 production of "The Sleeping Beauty" will capture the fancy of adults as well as youngsters.

A unique prologue, penned by guest director Pamela Hill of Opera Columbus, sets the Renaissance scene: A group of weary traveling players pause during their trek through the forest to rest and rehearse portions of their repertoire. When a female "beauty" of the acting troupe falls asleep amid lighthearted banter about "what to rehearse," the way is paved for the classic tale.

A revolving set, strolling madrigals and spritely dancers all serve to embroider the fantasy and provide a quick-paced, fun interpretation of the children's story.

The storyline itself, points out Hill, takes a different twist from the traditional account "' Briar Rose' is the tale's original title," she says, "and there are over 20 different versions." The script she selected as most compatible with her production ideas is a 1947 play written by Charlotte Chorpenning which incorporates an interesting subplot.

Elano, the queen's page who will one day become prince, fails to invite Frytania (the bad fairy) to the infant Beauty's christening because he fears to enter her mysterious dwelling. The childish error in judgement is discovered too late by the king and queen, spawning Frytania's wrath and subsequent curse sworn to befall Beauty at the age of 16.

Because Frytania's powers gain strength by feeding on the fears of men, Elano must learn to overcome his anxieties in order to undo her evil. Although a good fairy's spell is able to alter the wicked spell cast on Beauty from instant death to 100 years of sleep and give Elano slight hope of retribution -- it is Elano's strength of character that must

mature to save the day. If Beauty is to awaken, he must face up to the fearful Frytania.

Hill is an Otterbein alumna who earned her master's degree at Bowling Green State University. Her broad theatre background includes the directing of past productions for The Little Theatre Off Broadway, Contemporary American Theatre Company and Weathervane Playhouse. Of her approach to directing children's theatre, she says, "I believe that if it's interesting to me and to the actors -- it's going to be interesting to the kids.

"I feel this version is particularly appealing because it gives another moral to the traditional story -- people have to face up to their fears and once they do, it's not so bad."

Kevin Ford Carty of Findlay, the Otterbein junior who recently appeared as Mozart in the college theatre's production of "Amadeus," will portray the character of Elano. Senior Gina Grogg of Mansfield, who has played prominent roles in several Otterbein plays, will bring her skills to the role of Beauty. Frytania, the bad fairy, will be played by senior Nadine Sheridan of Barrington, Ill., whose other stage credits include the role of Graziella in "West Side Story."

Other cast members include junior Marc Foster of Gahanna, King; sophomore Alisa Judy of Stoutsville, Queen; sophomore Todd Alan Kreps of Loveland, Colo., Gort; freshman Lisa Walton of Stow, Ella; freshman Tim Barker of Cincinnati, Norbert; sophomore Kelli Glaser of Newark, Cook; and the four good fairies -- sophomore Lori Schubeler of Westchester, Una; freshman Julie Oberholtzer of Medina, Freona; freshman Kris Nieto of Westerville, Cordia; and freshman Rachael Harris of Worthington, Belita.

All performances of "The Sleeping Beauty" will be at Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Performance dates and times are Friday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 23, 1:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased beginning Nov. 10 at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028, 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and at the door for one hour prior to each performance.