

## College Theatre Attraction

# Albert Dekker Guest Artist For "Our Town" Production



The Otterbein College Theatre announced today that actor-director Albert Dekker has been secured for the Theatre's sixth annual guest artist production.

Dekker will appear as the "stage manager" in Thornton Wilder's classic, "Our Town," scheduled for production March 9-11.

Dekker joins a growing list of well-known theatre personalities who have appeared on the Westerville campus during the past six years. Hans Conreid initiated the guest artist program in 1962 starring in "John Brown's Body" and has been followed by guest personalities Ed Begley, Arnold Moss, Kim Hunter and Viveca Lindfors.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Dekker began his professional career in 1927 and has compiled a distinguished record on Broadway, in Hollywood and on the television screen.

Among his numerous stage appearances, Dekker is perhaps

best known for his portrayal of Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman." He has also done "Salesman" for both English and Canadian TV. In the medium of U. S. Television, he has made six appearances on the Jack Paar show; played George Washington in "Valley Forge" and appeared in "My Eyes Have a Cold Nose," among others.

His film credits include "Among the Living," "Cass Timberlane," "Strange Cargo," "Dr. Cyclops," and the Duke of Norfolk role in "Man of All Seasons."

Dekker will arrive in Westerville, Saturday, February 25, to begin rehearsals for "Our Town." The show will be produced with a "town and gown" cast of approximately thirty persons.

## Actor Dekker Reports We All Play Healer's Role

Sculptor, therapist, lecturer. These are not just acts for Albert Dekker. Though he is a widely experienced actor, Dekker follows these pursuits outside the theater.

He's in Columbus as guest professional for the Otterbein College Town and Gown players' production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." It runs March 9-11, at Cowan Hall.

THIRTY-SIX years of acting have enriched Dekker's life. But acting's a job. He loves to talk about his more genuine, less glittering life, on the world's stage.

"A stroll down the street becomes an adventure for me," he said, "because I always look for possibilities for my sculpture." In his works, mostly small, rough-textured objects of alloy metal, may be seen artfully disguised coat hooks, sea shells, or even chicken bones.

WHILE ON A recent goodwill tour in Vietnam, Dekker enjoyed doing bits from plays or reciting poetry to the troops.

In the Philippines he became fascinated with a faith-healer named Tony. Dekker was amazed to see Tony perform



Albert Dekker

"... Everyone has ten-cents worth of healer..."

form surgeries without the aid of scalpel or anaesthesia.

"BUT MY confidence was

shaken when I noticed the 'gallstones' he supposedly removed from the patient looked awfully like the driveway gravel," Dekker said.

"Some spiritualists and faith healers, however, do seem to have uncanny powers. I wouldn't discount them all," he said. "We all have ten-cents worth of healer in us. Who's to say the other fellow hasn't \$1.25?"

FOR HIS PART, he helps multiple sclerosis patients to rehabilitate by teaching them to swim, and giving them encouragement.

At their home in New York City, he and his wife take pride in their two children. His daughter, graduated from Harvard, is now studying in Yugoslavia.

STAGE, TV and screen credits include: "Grand Hotel," "Death of a Salesman," and "Andersonville Trial." On TV he has been seen on the Jack Paar show, Rawhide and Mission Impossible.

Movies include "Gentlemen's Agreement," "Sound and Fury," "East of Eden," "Suddenly Last Summer," and "Man for All Seasons." He also lectures in American drama and poetry.



### GUEST STAR AND DIRECTOR

Otterbein College Theater Director, Dr. Charles Dodrill, right, and professional guest artist Albert Dekker, discuss Dekker's role of Stage Manager in the March 9-10-11 Otterbein Theater production of "Our Town." Curtain time is at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall Auditorium.



ALBERT DEKKER

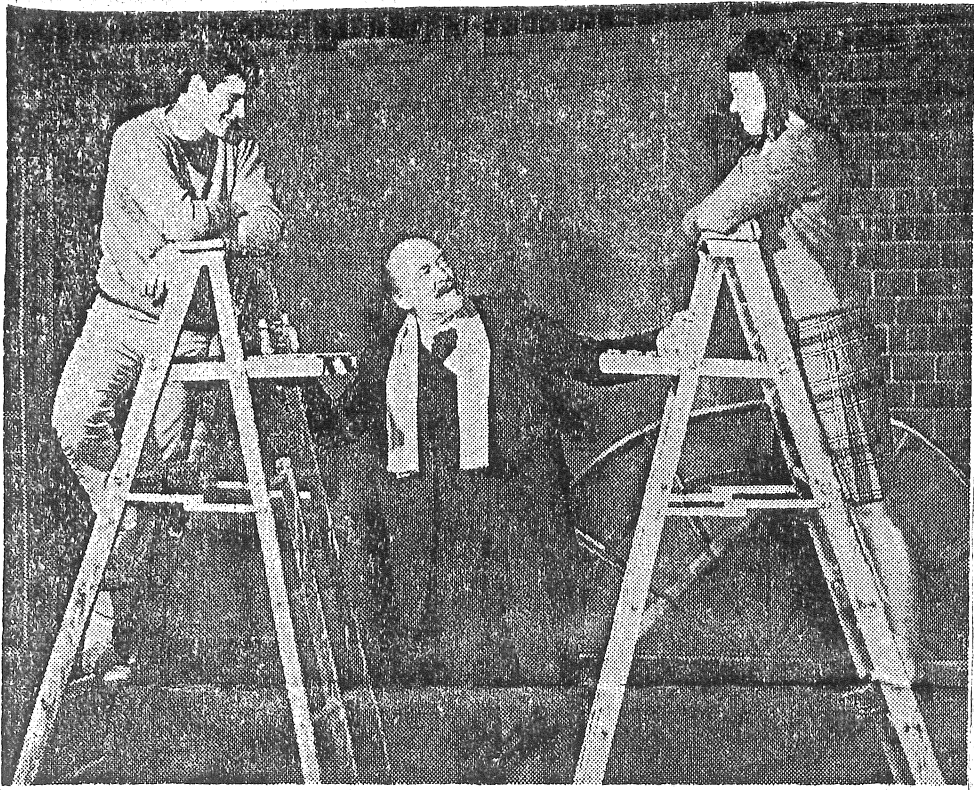
## Our Town Tonight At Cowan

By Fran Bay

Opening tonight at 8:15 at Cowan Hall, "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder will be making its second appearance at the local college campus. It was first produced here in 1948 as the spring commencement play by Cap and Dagger Dramatic Society.

"Our Town" had opened on Broadway ten years before and almost immediately became an American Classic. The story is a simple one of a neighborhood -- talk about people, love and marriage, death and immortality. Mr. Wilder presented Grover's Corners, N. H., as a living piece of the universe, as much a part of the world as of that small New England state. It has been referred to as "a classic by reason of its humanity."





**BEDROOM WINDOWS** — Professional guest star Albert Dekker stands on the set of "Our Town" and gives instruction to two "young lovers." Greg Sabatino, a junior from Dayton, plays George, and Mary Furniss, a sophomore from Westerville, plays Emily. (Dispatch Photo)

# ACTOR INTERPRETS WILDER: 'Enjoy Each Moment' Is 'Our Town' Theme

By ROBERT HORAN  
Of The Dispatch Staff

Thornton Wilder was trying to say: "If we learn to live and enjoy each day, moment by moment, we will wind up with a full life, rather than waiting to retire and die in Florida."

This is the evaluation of "Our Town," by veteran stage, screen and TV actor Albert Dekker who will play the part of the stage manager in the play.

DEKKER arrived at Otterbein College in Westerville Saturday to begin work with the Town and Gown cast of "Our Town," which will be presented by the Otterbein College Theater at Cowan Hall at 8:15 p.m. March 9, 10 and 11.

Seated on the bleak stage, wearing a carelessly knotted Ascot tie with a scarf thrown about his shoulders, Dekker reflected on Wilder's theme, saying:

"I live that way to the best of my ability. Who suddenly wants to find out he has a vacation at the age of 60, and

doesn't know what to do with it?"

**THE PROFESSIONAL** guest star for the production manages a full life for himself when not engaged in his acting profession.

He is a sculptor of the modern school and also devotes time to administering physical therapy for persons afflicted with multiple sclerosis.

"I use ash cans, pieces of pipe — anything, I can pick up — in sculpting. It makes a walk an adventure instead of a doctor's prescription. I used the carcass of a turkey for one of my works. It turned out well. It looks like a gargoyle." Dekker said some of his works have been on exhibition.

DEKKER HAS disdain for the stereotyped actor, saying the role he likes best "is the one that pays the most."

However, he spoke glowingly of months spent in shooting the film "Marie Antoinette" and listening to John Barrymore quote Shakespeare in his dressing room. His own accomplishments in acting reach from Broadway to Hollywood and from villainous to humanitarian roles, in both historical and modern settings.

Of his guest appearance at Otterbein, Dekker said: "I am enjoying myself."

## Otterbein Cast Earns Praise for 'Our Town'

By ROBERT HORAN

Thornton Wilder's paean to Americana, "Our Town," was revisited Thursday night at Otterbein College and found to be as heartwarming as ever.

The nostalgia and truisms of life in the horse-drawn era as presented by the Otterbein College Theater players evoked a warm response from an appreciative audi-

ence. Credit for sustaining the mood and spirit of the play is due to a skillful blending of acting talents and technical skills in a cohesive production.

FROM THE opening curtain when guest artist Albert Dekker set the pace as "stage manager" through the play's acts of "daily life," "love and marriage" and "death," the audience was transported into a former, simpler time spanning the years 1901 to 1913.

In an unusual curtain speech, Dekker singled out director Charles R. Dodrill as



ALBERT DEKKER HERE SATURDAY

Actor-director Albert Dekker will arrive on Otterbein campus Saturday to appear as the "stage manager" in Thornton Wilder's American classic, "Our Town," which will be produced March 9-10-11.

### YOUR TOWN By Thornton Wilder Otterbein College Theater

Directed by Charles W. Dodrill; designer-technical director Deena Ferrigno. Assistant to the director, Sharon Ruhly. Stage manager, Lois Miller. Costumes by Mary Harlan and Lois Mollenkopf, co-chairmen. House manager, Jim Bruce. Lighting by Alma Lee Schmidt and Bill Ahl, co-chairmen. Makeup by Gwendy Miles, chairman. Properties by Jim Anderson, chairman. Sound by Dick Andrews. Scenery by Speech 214 Class. Tickets, Marsha Shauck, chairman. Programs, Bonnie O'Leary, chairman. Publicity, Barb Immel, chairman.

Characters	Players
Stage Manager	Albert Dekker
Dr. Gibbs	Dr. H. C. Holdren
Joe Crowell	John Waddingham
Howie Newsome	Mark Peters
Mrs. Gibbs	Margaret Tucker
Mrs. Webb	Jean Ann Weaver
George Gibbs	Greg Sabatino
Rebecca Gibbs	Jennifer Ellsworth
Wally Webb	Jeff Beachler
Emily Webb	Mary Furniss
Professor Willard	Don Parsissom
Mr. Webb	Johnny Martin
Woman in the balcony	Linda Sharpless
Man in the auditorium	Daryl Bojanowski
Lady in the box	Linda Grzner
Simon Stimson	Jim Lewis
Mrs. Soames	Bev Davis
Constable Warren	Larry Evans
Baseball Players	Russel Bohin, John Waddingham, Gary Phelan
Sam Craig	Tom Davis
Joe Stoddard	Don Lund
Assistant stage managers	Linda McNeil, Carolyn Hager
People of the town	Bob Abdalla, Cecil Elliott, Mary Harlan, Linda Lebold, Gary Phelan, Peggy Watkins

force responsible for the production's cohesiveness. Designer - technical director Deena Ferrigno contributed excellent lighting, sound, and other technical effects balanced to illuminate, but not dominate, the players.

Outstanding in their roles as the young boy and girl growing into husband and wife were Greg Sabatino and Mary Furniss. They presented the proper amount of adolescent emotionalism and youthful maturity demanded of George and Emily.

IN AN entire cast of college students and community residents well balanced in stage presence and abilities, H. C. Holdren as Dr. Gibbs, Margaret Tucker as Mrs. Gibbs, Johnny Martin as Mr. Webb, Jean Ann Weaver as Mrs. Webb, and Bev Davis as Mrs. Soames are particularly noteworthy.

Area residents will find it worthwhile to make a theatrical journey to Grover's Corners, as brought to life at Cowan Hall. There are two more performances scheduled for Friday and Saturday night at 8:15 p.m.

## Our Town Agrees With Albert Dekker

By Fran Bay

Albert Dekker could be the man next door -- if you have terribly interesting neighbors.

A twenty minute conversation with Mr. Dekker can, and did last Monday evening, run the gamut of topics from education and house building to international students, the dignity of man, children, and most obviously, theatre.

On the Otterbein Campus for two weeks in-residence and performances in "Our Town", March 9, 10, and 11, Mr. Dekker appears to be enjoying his return to "small town" living. A native of Brooklyn, he now lives in New York. However, his college years were spent in Brunswick, Maine where Bowdoin College awarded him a B.S. degree in 1927.



"It takes a lot of thought."

wick, Maine where Bowdoin College awarded him a B.S. degree in 1927.

The science degree was heading him toward the medical profession in psychiatry. A graduate of Bowdoin, however, persuaded him to try theatre first and introduced him to Alfred Lunt. In six months he was a featured player with New York Theatre Guild -- an end to medicine as a primary profession. He maintains an active interest in that field as a medical and laboratory assistant at the Constructive Research Foundation.

Another of his interests, which he declines to refer to as "hobbies", a designation only for "something children play with", is house construction. He delights in the rebuilding of his "brown



"Our Town" could be your town.

(Continued on Page 8A)



# The Otterbein College Theatre

Westerville, Ohio

Professional Guest Star



**Albert Dekker**  
Star of Stage, Screen & TV  
as "The Stage Manager"  
with a Town & Gown Cast



presents

## "OUR TOWN"

Thurs., Fri., Sat.  
**MARCH 9-10-11, 1967**  
COWAN HALL, 8:15 p.m.  
Reserved Seats \$1.50

For reservations phone 882-3601 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. daily, or stop at the Cowan Hall Box Office.  
Tickets also available at Howard's, 18 N. State Street.

## Cast Town-Gown For Guest Star Play

Twenty-eight members of the cast for the guest star production, "Our Town," have been chosen.

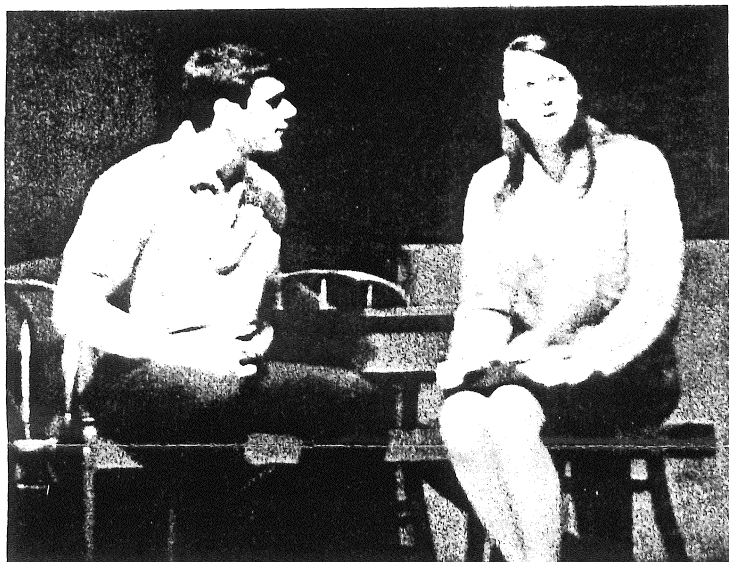
Leading roles for the play, which will be presen-

ted in Cowan Hall on March 9 through 11, will be taken by **Mary Furniss**, sophomore from Westerville, and **Greg Sabatino**, junior from Dayton. Both have appeared in several previous Otterbein productions.

Other college students in the cast include Springfield freshman Mark Peters, Larry Evans, sophomore from Columbus, Mansfield senior Jim Lewis, Daryl Bojanowski, sophomore from Whitehall, Cecil Elliot, a sophomore from Mount Vernon, and Russ Bolin, sophomore transfer from Uniontown.

Also included are John Waddingham, freshman from Troy, Gary Phelan, Heath freshman, Bob Abdalla, senior from Newark, Cincinnati junior Linda McNeil and Don Parsisson, junior from Florence, Mass.

Carolyn Hager, a freshman from North Industry, Linda Sharpless, Toledo sophomore, Linda Grznar, sophomore from Canton, Peggy Watkins, a Dayton freshman, Bolivar sophomore Linda Lebold, Mary Harlan, sophomore from Arlington, Va., and Pat Spreng, sopho-



Greg Sabatino and Mary Furniss rehearse a scene from "Our Town." They have the lead roles.

## Play Tells Story Of "Every Town"

Last night, Otterbein gave its first performance of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town". The play was performed in the traditional "Our Town" manner of no scenery or curtain falls.

The play, first shown on February 4, 1938 at Henry Miller's Theatre in New York City, won Wilder the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

The story evolves in a little New Hampshire town called Grover's Corners. The Stage Manager, played by **Albert Dekker**, gives a little of the history of Grover's Corners at the beginning and acquaints the audience with the residents. From there on, he sets the scenes and acts as an omnipresent narrator.

The story takes the audience from Grover's Corners in 1901 before cars and

movies to Grover's Corners in 1923 when these things are becoming common sights.

The main element of the play is simplicity and the main topic is life. Life is portrayed not by philosophical characters or by extraordinary happenings, but by plain day to day living. People quarrel, gossip, eat, sleep, are born, and die. They are boring, odd, pitiful, sad, and happy.

The lack of scenery and the relationship of the Stage Manager to the people make the play versatile. Grover's Corners can be any town in any state and the people can be each and every member of the audience. Then too, lack of scenery further emphasizes that this is a story about people and not about appliances or buildings.



Greg Sabatino and Mary Furniss rehearse their lines.



Dr. Charles Dodrill helps block out a scene.



Albert Dekker rehearses a scene from "Our Town".

COLUMBUS EVENING  
DISPATCH  
COLUMBUS, O.  
P.M. circ-313,146

MAR. 2, 1967

## Bachelor Wrote Wedding Scene In 'Our Town'

One of the most beautiful wedding scenes in recent stage history, according to scholars, was written by a bachelor, Thornton Wilder, in his Pulitzer Prize play, "Our Town," to be presented by Otterbein College Theater March 9-10-11 in Cowan Hall.

Professional guest artist Albert Dekker will appear with a "town and gown" cast.

The wedding scene is underscored by the comment of one of the characters of the play, "People are meant to live two-by-two in this world."

FEB-16-67

## Dekker Slated For Otterbein

319 The Otterbein College Theatre announced Wednesday actor-director Albert Dekker will appear in the sixth annual guest artist production. Dekker will appear as "stage manager" in Thornton Wilder's classic, "Our Town," scheduled for production March 9-11.

Dekker joins a growing list of well-known theatre personalities who have appeared on the Westerville campus during the past six years—Hans Conreid, Ed Begley, Arnold Moss, Kim Hunter and Viveca Lindfors.

Among his numerous stage appearances, Dekker is perhaps best remembered for his portrayal of Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman."

Dekker will arrive in Westerville Saturday, Feb. 25, to begin rehearsals for "Our Town." The show will be produced with a "town and gown" cast of about thirty persons.

Galion Inquirer  
Galion, O.  
P. M. - Circ. 5395

FEB-17-67

389  
**Albert Dekker Joins  
Theatre Group Play**

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FEB-23-67

## 8 Win Parts In Play

389  
Eight area residents are among the twenty-eight member cast selected by Director Charles Dodrill for the March 9-10-11 Otterbein College Theatre production of "Our Town."

Professional guest artist, Albert Dekker, will arrive this Saturday to complete the cast. Dekker will assume the role of the "stage manager."

COLUMBUS residents in the show will be Jean Ann Weaver and Betty Carlisle, the former playing the role of Mrs. Webb.

Westerville cast members include Johnny Martin who will play Mr. Webb, Dr. Hazard Holdren as Dr. Gibbs, Margaret Tucker as Mrs. Gibbs, Tom and Beverly Davis playing Sam Craig and Mrs. Soames, and Donald Lund who will be seen as Joe Stodard.

Otterbein students who will play leading roles in the show are Mary Furniss, Westerville sophomore, who will be seen as Emily Webb; and Greg Sabatino, Dayton junior, who plays George Gibbs.

**ALL REMAINING** roles are played by members of the Otterbein student body.

Tickets for the show will go on sale Monday, Feb. 27, at the Cowan Box Office, 882-3601, between the hours of 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets will also be available during the intermission of the Texas Boy Choir concert Thursday evening, Feb. 23, in Cowan Hall. All seats are reserved.

FEB-28-67

## 389 Otterbein's Our Town On Stage March 9-11

Probably the most famous work of the contemporary American writer, Thornton Wilder, is his 1938 play "Our Town." The show has been produced constantly since its first staging and ranks high among the most produced of recent American plays.

"Our Town's" popularity is especially significant as Mr. Wilder's other plays include "The Skin of our Teeth," "The Matchmaker" (on which the musical "Hello, Dolly!"

was based), "The Alcestiad," and adaptations of Ibsen's "A Doll's House" and "Lucrece."

Ticket sales for the Otterbein College Theatre production of "Our Town" are now on sale. For seating reservations phone 882-3601 between 1 and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

"Our Town" is scheduled to run three nights, March 9-10-11, at 8:15 p.m. in Cowan Hall Auditorium, with professional guest artist Albert Dekker in a leading role.