



OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

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NEWS

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTERBEIN TO PRESENT COURTROOM DRAMA

Otterbein College Theatre opens 1996 with the military courtroom drama *A Few Good Men*. Released as a feature film in 1992, *A Few Good Men* debuted on Broadway in 1989.

A Few Good Men, which is loosely based on a real incident, is less a murder mystery than a confrontation between a wisecracking military lawyer, fiercely patriotic in his defense of the Constitution, and an engaging lieutenant colonel, equally fierce in his devotion to protecting the United States and the Marine code of ethics.

The play tells the story of two Marines at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who are accused of murdering an unpopular private, a sickly fellow who complained to higher-ups about harsh treatment in his unit.

His death occurred during a Code Red, an unofficial, savage hazing-like form of discipline that Marine Corps personnel apply to fellow Marines they feel fail to meet Marine standards. The two accused Marines, although inadvertently guilty of the killing, were in fact following orders, and are the willing fall guys for a cover-up intended to maintain Marine honor.

Assigned to defend the two Marines is Lt. Daniel Kaffee, a young lawyer biding his time in the Naval reserve in fulfillment of a military scholarship to Harvard Law School. More interested in softball games than hardball law, Kaffee seems to have been selected for his perfect record of settling cases through plea-bargains. The military wants the matter hushed up.

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Kaffe, however, is pushed to take the case to trial by one defendant who won't settle and a fellow naval lawyer, Joanne Galloway, who wants to see justice done. In finding the truth, Kaffe has to take on Lt. Col. Nathan Jessep, a career soldier who believes Guantanamo Bay is vital to the United States security and will do what he must to defend it, even if that means harsh punishment to keep his men in line.

The final dramatic courtroom showdown is a clash of principles — loyalty and obedience versus truth and justice.

Equity Guest Actor Ed Vaughan takes on the role of Jessep. Vaughan, an associate professor of theatre at Otterbein, last year appeared as King Lear. His recent acting credits include roles in Grandparents Living Theatre's production of *Our Town* and CATCO's production of *Loman Family Picnic*.

Otterbein College Theatre will present *A Few Good Men* Jan. 31 through Feb. 4 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. in Westerville. The opening night performance on Jan. 31 will be at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for Friday and Saturday shows and \$8.50 for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday shows. Reserve tickets by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 17.