

# Award winning 'Equus' is OC Theatre opener

"Equus," winner of both the Tony Award for Best Play and the Outer Critics Circle Award in 1975, opens the 79th season of Otterbein College Theatre Thursday, Oct. 18, through Sunday, Oct. 21.

Evening performances are set for 8:15 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus.

The thriller was written by English playwright Peter Shaffer and was produced by the National Theatre Company at Old Vic Theatre in 1973, after a successful run at Britain's National Theatre.

The production will be directed by Dr. Charles Dodrill, chairperson of the theatre and dance department, and will feature a guest professional artist for the 24th consecutive year. According to Dr. Dodrill, "Equus will be this year's entry in the American College Theatre Festival's annual competition in Kalamazoo, Mich."

"Equus" has two formidable roles, that of a boy and his psychiatrist. Otterbein's guest professional actor will play the role of Dr. Martin Dysart, the psychiatrist, a role that lured the late

Richard Burton back to Broadway after a 12-year absence.

ACCORDING TO playwright Shaffer, the action of the play was inspired by a real life case of which he was once told, in which a highly disturbed young man had inexplicably blinded a number of horses.

In the play, the audience watches the actions of a young man, Alan Strang, as he gradually deviates from society's respectable norm, into neurosis and crimes of cruelty to animals. It is this behavior which brings Alan and Dr. Dysart together for treatment.

A second storyline emerges when the psychiatrist begins to question his own values as he and his young patient progress in therapy sessions.

Otterbein junior Jeff Kin plays the role of Alan Strang. Other cast members include junior Nancy Fox as the nurse, junior Jodie Silk as Hester Salomon, and junior David Caldwell and senior Laura Stitt as Frank and Dora Strang, the boy's parents.

Junior Craig Summers is the horseman Nugget, sophomore John Fisher as Harry Dalton, and sopho-

more Charlotte Dougherty as Jill Mason round out the cast.

"Equus" also includes a number of "horses," played by senior Tod Wilson, junior Todd Freeman, and freshmen Michael Cunningham,

Jonathan Hudson, and Greg Kemnitzky.

Michael Slane, recent Otterbein graduate will design the stage sets for the production, with Otterbein Costume Designer Lucy Lee Reuther designing the costumes. Otterbein Scenic De-

signer Fred J. Thayer will serve as technical director.

Tickets to "Equus" will be available at the Cowan Hall box office from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, beginning Oct. 4, and at the door for one hour preceding each performance.



# British actor to play at Otterbein in 'Equus'

Noted British actor Donal Donnelly will be the guest professional actor in Otterbein College Theatre's upcoming production of "Equus," set for Thursday, Oct. 18, through Sunday, Oct. 21, in Cowan Hall on the college campus in Westerville.

Evening performances will be at 8:15 p.m., and a Sunday matinee is set for 2:30 p.m.

Donnelly will play psychiatrist Martin Dysart, whose way of life is suddenly challenged when he is asked to treat an emotionally disturbed young man who has inexplicably blinded six horses.

Dysart's searching for "Why?" is what "Equus" is about. Written by Peter Shaffer, "Equus" won the 1975 Tony Award for Best Play.

Donal Donnelly has played a wide variety of stage, film and television roles in both the United States and his native England, as well as Ireland and elsewhere in

Europe, but he is perhaps best known by the American public for his work on Broadway.

**HE PLAYED** Dr. Frederick Treves on Broadway in "The Elephant Man," and recently appeared as Maitland in "The Chalk Garden" with Irene Worth and Constance Cummings at the Roundabout Theatre.

Donnelly won the Outer Critics Circle Award, a Tony nomination, and was voted by the critics as Most Promising Newcomer to Broadway for his starring role in Brian Friel's "Philadelphia, Here I Come."

He later took over for Albert Finney in "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg," and co-starred in "Slueth" in London, New York and Dublin.

Having recently completed a national tour of "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney" with Deborah Kerr, Donnelly also played in "The Faith Healer" on Broadway with James Mason.

He performed as George

Bernard Shaw in "My Astonishing Self" at the Shaw Festival in Canada and on tour across the United States.

**THE VERSATILE** actor recently recreated his portrayal of George Bernard Shaw at the Players Theatre in New York. He co-starred last year with Shelley Winters in the U.S. tour with Sandy Dennis.

He began his career at the Dublin Gate and first played in London in "Shadow of a Gunman" for Jack McGowan's Irish Players. He appeared at the Royal Court in "Progress to the Park" and "Sargeant Musgrave's Dance," as well as co-starring with Sioban McKenna in "The Playboy of the Western World" in Dublin,

and at festivals in London and in Europe.

His films include "Young Cassidy," "The Knack," and "The Mind of Mr. Soames."



Donal Donnelly

Donnelly has starred in many productions for the BBC and ITV in London, including his own sit-com series, "Yes, Honestly."

He recently appeared in the NBC serial "Another World," and last fall, he directed a new play, "Big Maggie," Off-Broadway at the Douglas Fairbanks Theatre in New York.

**THIS IS THE** 24th consecutive year that Otterbein College Theatre has invited a guest professional artist to the campus to lend expertise to their productions.

"Equus" tickets will be available today at the Cowan Hall box office. The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and for one hour preceding each performance.

## 'Encounter fall' set at Burr Oak

Burr Oak State Park located in Athens and Morgan counties will be the site of an "Encounter Fall" workshop. Friday through

robust and majestic Cy Garton whose reputation as a story teller extended

p.m. on Saturday. Participants may bring



# Otterbein plans homecoming with variety of events

Otterbein College has a full weekend ahead with a variety of 1984 homecoming activities planned Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 19-21.

"Say It With Music" is the theme that will run through the festivities in this special year that marks the diamond anniversary of the founding of the Otterbein College Marching Band.

To mark the occasion, Otterbein has invited alumni band members, as well as alumni "O" Squad members, back to campus for the celebration. In keeping with the musical theme of "homecoming," both the current marching band as well as the alumni band will perform throughout the weekend.

The three-day event begins Friday when the Alumni Council will hold its fall meeting at 4:30 p.m.

followed by a dinner hosted by President C. Brent DeVore in the faculty dining room of the Campus Center.

**SATURDAY MORNING,** prior to the parade, a number of events are planned. Alumni, family and friends will be gathering at the Campus Center at 9 a.m. for coffee, hot chocolate and donuts.

During that time, also, alumni women's physical education majors and athletes, as well as residence hall staff alumni, will be holding reunions at the Campus Center.

The annual Otterbein homecoming parade will begin at 10 a.m. Colorful floats built by campus organizations will appear in the parade along with the Otterbein College Marching

Band and the Alumni Band.

Several visiting high school bands will be on hand to entertain parade-goers. These include DeSales and Whitehall-Yearling from the Columbus area, and the Huntington, O. band led by recent Otterbein graduate Elaine Babb.

Following its traditional route, the parade will move east on Main Street, to Grove, then south on Grove to College Avenue, east on College to State Street, north on State to Home Street, and finally, west on Home to the Campus Center where the parade will disassemble.

After the parade, the annual Cardinal brunch will be held in the Campus Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The brunch is open to students and their families, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

Many fraternity and sor-

ority teas and luncheons will be taking place in the Greek houses near campus, and several luncheons are planned in the Campus Center. A Continuing Education (formerly Adult Degree Program) tailgate party is set for the Campus Center parking lot.

At 1 p.m., the Cardinal Marching Band pre-game will begin at Memorial Stadium, and the 1984 homecoming queen will be crowned. This year's candidates include Otterbein co-eds Susan Bowman, Laurie Lee Brown, Lisa Fickel, Martha McKell, Tracey Muschott and Devonie Verne.

**THE HOMECOMING** football game, pitting the Cardinals against the Ohio Wesleyan Bishops, will begin at 1:30 p.m. The marching band and alumni band will both perform at half-time, and the traditional "O"

Club annual service awards will be presented.

Following the game, President DeVore and his wife, Linda, will host a special post-game reception at the presidential home, the "Clements House," 111 N. West St. The "O" Club will hold its annual dinner, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Monte Carlo restaurant to honor members of past cross country and track teams.

The Otterbein College Theatre is presenting their 1984 season opener during homecoming weekend with evening performances of "Equus" running Thursday through Saturday at 8:15 p.m., and a 2:30 p.m. matinee scheduled for Sunday.

The Tony award-winning play features noted British actor Donal Donnelly as guest performing actor. All performances will take place at Cowan Hall.

# Otterbein signs actor for 'Equus'

Otterbein College has signed actor Donal Donnally as professional guest artist for *Equus*, to be staged Oct. 18-21. He will play psychiatrist Martin Dysart.

Donnally has appeared in several off-Broadway productions and toured the United States with Shelley Winters in *84 Charing Cross Road*. He also has staged his one-man George Bernard Shaw play, *My Astonishing Self*, throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The actor started his career in Ireland and co-starred in a touring production of *The Playboy of the Western World*. He has appeared in many British television productions, including a sitcom called *Yes — Honestly*, in which he had the lead role.

*Equus* was written by English playwright Peter Shaffer. Its two key roles are the psychiatrist and a disturbed boy who mysteriously blinded several horses at a stable where he was working. The boy will be played by Otterbein student Jeff Kin.

Charles Dodrill, chairman of the theater and dance department, will direct the production. The play will be staged at 8:15



Lionel Larner Ltd. photo

## Donal Donnally

p.m. Oct. 18-20 and at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 21. The production will be in Cowan Hall.

Tickets will go on sale Thursday at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028. The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays.



Nov. 1. He said he'll direct at least two other shows this season.

Casey claims no artistic prejudices. "From Judy Garland at the Palace to Shakespeare, it's all grist for the mill," he said. But the new director praised PTC for its adventurous spirit, exemplified by the alternative stage series, which is still being formulated for the 1984-85 season.

"So many community theaters stick the tried and true. This theater is interested in taking risks," he said.

The Gallery Players at the Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center and Otterbein College in Westerville will once again present guest professional performers as part of their seasons.

At the Jewish Center's Roth/Resler theater, Valerie Lee will star in the Garson Kanin comedy *Born Yesterday* and Rosalind Harris will appear in *Funny Girl*.

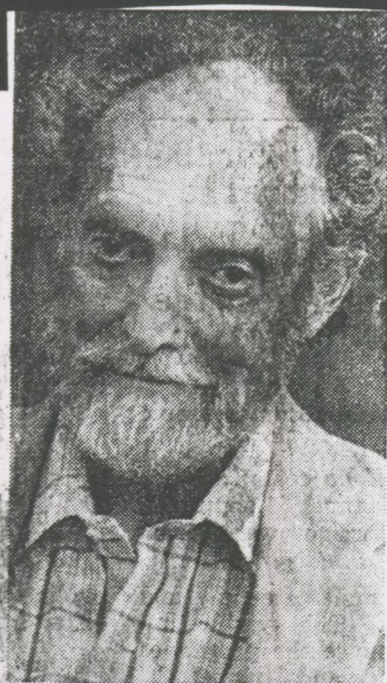
Lee recently appeared opposite Rex Harrison in the Broadway revival of *My Fair Lady*. In *Funny Girl*, Harris will reprise her Broadway role of Fanny Brice.

Gallery Players is also planning a "theater lab/workshop" that will present at "least three offbeat type of plays" to the public, according to managing director Harold Eisenstein.

At Otterbein, director of theater Dr. Charles Dodrill is looking for a "name" to appear as professional guest artist in *Equus*, which opens the upcoming season on Oct. 18.

Thanks to renewed marketing efforts, audiences have been on the upswing at Otterbein, and Dodrill said he planned the 1984-85 season with that in mind.

Consequently, the college will be spending more money to improve the technical end of its productions. "We built a new scene shop three years ago and



Dispatch photo by Tom Dodge

**Richard Casey, executive director at Players Theatre of Columbus, will direct *Serenading Louie***

now we've added an assistant technical director and designer. . . We expect to be better," Dodrill said.

As usual, some of the most diverse programming in the city will be found at Ohio State University where theater department chairman Firman H. "Bo" Brown has lined up a season of nine productions that includes everything from an Italian political farce to an off-Broadway musical.

OSU will present its annual musical at Mershon Auditorium on Oct. 25-28 when the theater and music departments co-produce *Guys and Dolls*.

Sunday, Sept. 9, 1984/Pier-

#### **The Columbus Dispatch/H5**

Despite the Palace shows, Columbus traditionally turns to its amateur theaters for a well-rounded stage menu.

The 1984-85 season promises to be particularly exciting for one of the country's oldest community theaters, Players Theatre of Columbus, because it rings in the reign of new executive director Richard Casey.

Casey, 57, probably won't emulate his predecessor, W. David Hagans, with an immediate raft of new ideas and programs.

"I think it would be a mistake for me to come in here and throw my weight around," said the former managing director of the Ft. Wayne Civic Theater in Indiana. "It's going to take some time for me to learn the territory."

Casey plans no changes in PTC's 1984-85 mainstage slate, which was picked before he arrived.

He'll make his Columbus directorial debut with Lanford Wilson's *Serenading Louie* on



# Season ticket sales set new mark at Otterbein

Just two weeks away from opening night of "Equus," Otterbein College Theatre's first offering of the season, Dr. Charles W. Dodrill, chairperson of the department of theatre and dance, has announced that this year's season ticket sales have broken all previous records.

Part of the advance ticket sales success can be attributed to continued use of the department's revised marketing plan.

Last year the OC Theatre departed from the use of 4,500 brochures to mailing 22,000 quarterly tabloid theatre newsletters, and the box office has reflected an 80

percent increase in season ticket sales in the past two years.

"The largest growth pattern in season ticket sales has been subscription sales to Columbus area residents, with 70 percent of the total number of season ticket holders residing in Columbus and nearby suburbs, and 30 percent of them residents of Westerville," said Dr. Dodrill.

"We also have season ticket holders from throughout central Ohio, from as far away as Delaware, Chillicothe, Lancaster, Marion, and Upper Sandusky," he added.

IN ADDITION, Otterbein College Theatre now offers

corporations in the greater Columbus area an additional corporate discount over the already discounted subscription tickets. According to Dr. Dodrill, the option has been well received, with a solid initial response from community businesses.

"The word is out," he said, "purchasers of single event tickets have already discovered that with the increase in season sales, the number of choice single tickets available at the box office is much reduced, since the preferred seats are reserved for season ticket subscribers.

"Therefore, our audiences appear to be turning to season tickets as a way to guarantee better seats."

The Tony Award-winning "Equus" runs Thursday, Oct. 18 - Sunday, Oct. 21, with evening performances at 8:15 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. at Cowan Hall. British actor Donal Donnelly will appear as guest professional actor.

Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office from 1-4:30 p.m., and for one hour preceding each performance.



SEASON OPENER—Guest professional actor Donal Donnelly (foreground), as psychiatrist Martin Dysart, rehearses a scene from Otterbein College Theatre's upcoming production of "Equus," where he discusses Alan Strang's (Jeff Kin, center) obsession with horses and in particular, a horse called "Nugget" (played by Craig Summers, right). "Equus" will run Oct. 18-21, Thursday through Sunday. Evening performances are set for 8:15 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office weekdays from 1-4:30 p.m.



# 'Say it with Music' is theme of Otterbein homecoming

The theme for this year's Otterbein Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 19-21, is "Say It With Music."

The weekend will be highlighted by the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Otterbein Marching Band.

To mark the occasion, the college is inviting alumni band members, as well as alumni "O" Squad and Flag Corps members, back to campus for the weekend. In keeping with the musical theme of homecoming, both the current Cardinal Marching Band and the alumni band will perform throughout the weekend.

The three-day event will once again kick off with the annual alumni baseball game on Friday afternoon, Oct. 19. The Alumni Council will hold its fall meeting at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner hosted by President C. Brent DeVore and an evening at the theatre with the Otterbein College production of "Equus."

Saturday morning, prior to the parade, several events are planned. Alumni, family, and friends will gather at the Campus Center at 9 a.m. for coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts. At the same time, alumni women's physical education majors and athletes and residence hall staff alumni will hold reunions at the Campus Center.

Alumni registration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Campus Center.

The annual homecoming parade will begin at 10 a.m.

and wind through campus streets to Uptown Westerville. The musical theme of the weekend will be reflected in the design of homecoming floats, and the parade will also feature the marching band, alumni band, and area high school bands. Last year's homecoming queen and past queens are being invited to ride in the parade.

After the parade, a special Cardinal brunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Campus Center for anyone interested in attending. At 1 p.m., the Cardinal Marching Band pre-game show will begin at Memorial Stadium, and the homecoming queen will be crowned.

The homecoming football game, pitting the Cardinals against the Ohio Wesleyan Bishops, will begin at 1:30 p.m. The marching band and alumni band will perform at

halftime, and the traditional "O" Club annual service awards will be presented.

Following the game, President DeVore and his wife, Linda, will host a special post-game reception at the Campus Center. The "O" Club will hold its annual dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Monte Carlo restaurant. It will feature the honoring of members of past cross country and track teams.

The Otterbein College Theatre will present "Equus" from Oct. 18-21. Evening performances of the play, which won a Tony Award in 1975 for Best Play, will begin at 8:15 p.m. The Sunday matinee will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Further information concerning homecoming events is available from Eileen Thome, director of alumni relations.



# Entertainment



## The subject is horses

Professional actor Donal Donnelly (left) stars as psychiatrist Martin Dysart in Otterbein College's upcoming production of "Equus." The psychiatrist is treating Alan Strang, played by Jeff Kin (center), who has an obsession with horses and, in particular, a horse called Nugget, portrayed by Craig Summers (right). The Peter Schaffer drama is directed by Charles Dodrill and will be presented Oct. 18-21 at Cowan Hall Theatre.



# Campus notes

WESTERVILLE — Jeffery Kin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kin, Route 3, Upper Sandusky, will play the role of Alan Strang in the Otterbein College Theatre production of "Equus." The play will be presented Oct. 18-21 in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus.

Kin, a 1982 graduate of Upper Sandusky High School, is a junior majoring in musical theater at Otterbein. He has also worked in Otterbein's Summer Theatre and is a member of the college's swing choir, Opus Zero.

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Chief-Union





**SEASON OPENER**—Guest professional actor Donal Donnelly (foreground), as psychiatrist Martin Dysart, rehearses a scene from Otterbein College Theatre's upcoming production of "Equus," where he discusses Alan Strang's (Jeff Kin, center) obsession with horses and in particular, a horse called "Nugget" (played by Craig Summers, right). "Equus" will run Oct. 18-21, Thursday through Sunday. Evening performances are set for 8:15 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office weekdays from 1-4:30 p.m.



Otterbein College Theatre

# “EQUUS”

Guest Artist Donal Donnelly

**Oct. 18-21**

Cowan Hall

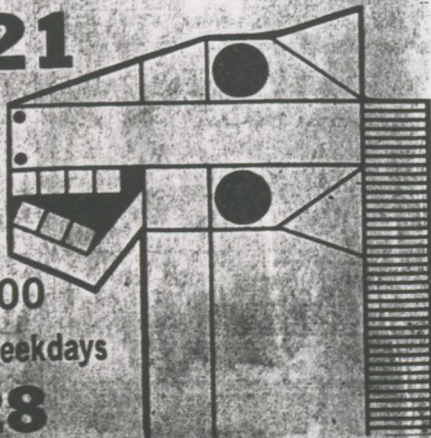
8:15 p.m., Thurs.-Sat.

2:30 p.m., Sunday

Tickets: \$5.00-\$6.00

Box Office: 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays

**890-3028**





# **EQUUS**

by

**Peter Shaffer**

with

**Guest Artist, Donal Donnelly**

**October 18, 19, 20, 1984**

**8:15 p.m.**

**October 21, 1984**

**2:30 p.m.**

**DIRECTOR:**

**Charles W. Dodrill**

**SCENIC DESIGN:**

**Michael S. Slane**

**COSTUME DESIGN:**

**Lucy Lee Reuther**

**LIGHTING DESIGN:**

**Fred J. Thayer**

**CHOREOGRAPHY:**

**Ginny Adams**

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