



Lorrie Cecil/Dispatch

From left, Lindsay Metcalfe, Christopher Dean and Amy McAlexander in Otterbein's *The Emperor's New Clothes*

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COLUMBUS DISPATCH  
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## THE YOUNG AT ART

# Andersen's fairy tale goes east in Otterbein College production

Hans Christian Andersen's con artists in *The Emperor's New Clothes* could pull their scheme anywhere, but Otterbein College has chosen to place them in the Orient.

The college theater company is using a script setting the fairy tale in China. A foolish emperor who loves extravagant clothes is tricked by two thieves who pose as weavers.

"The story takes us on an Eastern journey," said director Christine Kirk, an associate professor at Otterbein. "These wonderful rogue weavers — they happen to be little girls in our production — don't have a plan and don't know where they're going. They fear nothing, and therefore they're able to be successful."

The children's production will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. in Westerville. For tickets, \$5 general, \$5.50 reserved, call 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

Kirk said the college company wanted to perform *The Emperor's New Clothes* and was happy to find the Charlotte Chorpenning script, which first was presented in Chicago. "Scenes lend themselves to an Eastern approach," Kirk said. "We're pulling on Tao themes — that life is good and how advantageous it is to cast your net wide and have a loose plan."

Amy Kaufman, a senior from Westerville, designed the costumes. The music, by Jennifer Bell, is minimal with an "Eastern feel," Kirk said.

The play, appropriate for ages 4 and older, runs a little more than an hour and is performed without an intermission.



**NANCY  
GILSON**

## SESAME BITS

In *Sesame Street Live: 1-2-3 Imagine!*, Bert and Ernie wear size 15 shoes, Big Bird is covered with more than 4,000 turkey feathers, and characters range in size from 4 feet 10 inches (Elmo) to 8 feet 2 inches (Big Bird).

Investigate more details during the 90-minute show, opening Wednesday at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St. Performances are at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday; 7 p.m. Nov. 28; 10:30 a.m., 2 and 5:30 p.m. Nov. 29; and 1 and 4:30 p.m. Nov. 30. Tickets cost \$9-\$18. Call 431-3600.

## DANCING SNOWFLAKES

The Davis Dance Ensemble will revive last year's *The Snowmaidens* for a holiday dance concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Davis Discovery Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Becky Grabosky, director of Davis dance programs, choreographed the production for dancers age 9-17. Tickets are free but required. Call 645-7469.

## BOOK DAY

Two branches of the Columbus Metropolitan Library will celebrate the national Children's Book Week with appearances by author and poet J. Patrick Lewis. Lewis, whose newest works include *The Boat of Many Rooms* and *Long Was the Winter Road They Traveled*, will appear at 10 a.m. today at Parsons Library, 845 Parsons Ave., and at 7 this evening at Hilltop Library, 511 S. Hague Ave. The events are free.

## VICTORIAN REVELS

Children will make holiday decorations and trim the tree during a children's program at 10 a.m. Saturday at the 1889 Martin-Perry House, 103 E. Olentangy St. in Powell. The program costs \$5 a child. Call Sherry Carmichael, 889-1894.

Nancy Gilson is a Dispatch arts reporter.



# Schedule promises busy hands, minds

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By Nancy Gilson

Dispatch Arts Reporter

Involving kids in arts — especially allowing them to get their hands dirty — seems to be a goal of Columbus cultural groups.

The Columbus Museum of Art will offer a taste of its planned Children's Center (scheduled to open late in 1998) with "Dig It!," opening Sept. 19. Designed to complement exhibitions in "From Temples and Tombs," "Dig It!" will show antiquities and enable children to dig through sand for coins, write their names in Hebrew and Arabic, and assemble a mosaic.

Children's art classes — one series exploring antiquities and another devoted to animation — will be offered Sundays at the museum. Regular "Family Days," surrounding themes of exhibitions, as well as the popular "First Saturdays" program of drop-in activities for preschool children will continue.

The Wexner Center for the Arts plans three Family Days with plenty of activities. "Imagine That," Oct. 26, surrounds the exhibit "Staging Surrealism" and will include a magic workshop, spooky stories, drawing games and costume making. A Feb. 15 event will complement the architectural "Fabrications" exhibit, and the May 17 Family Day is built around "Body Mecanique: Artistic Explorations of Digital Realms."

The Columbus Symphony Orchestra returns its "Concerts for Families" series including "Jabberwocky" with the the Tales and Scales theatrical group, Nov. 2; "Tchaikovsky Discovers America," Jan. 18; and on March 1, a program conducted by William Eddins of the Minnesota Orchestra. The orchestra also will host Young People's Concerts for school groups and Lollipop Concerts for preschool children, Feb. 21.

Columbus Music Hall will resume its "Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cookie" concert series with events including a Japanese Taiko Concert with Eric and Stuart Paton, Sept. 14; traditional Irish music, Sept. 18; Latin and salsa music, Oct. 21; and a "Four Cultures of Carnival" festival, Jan. 11.

For the first time, Columbus Junior Theatre will produce two Christmas shows at the same time —

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

the Adult Touring Company's *Mr. Scrooge* in the theater's regular space at 504 N. Park St. and the annual *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, next door in the Contemporary American Theatre Company space.

The rest of the Junior Theatre schedule includes the season-opening *Cinderella*, full-length Rodgers and Hammerstein musical; *Little Red Riding Hood*, an audience participation fairy tale; *School House Rock*, a new musical; *Ramona Quimby* from Beverly Cleary books; Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, another audience participation play by theater director William Goldsmith.

Park Playhouse Teen Theatre, one of two companies at Davis Discovery Center, will present Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*, *Harvey*, a spring musical to be announced and, in conjunction with the Children's Drama Company, *The Last Christmas Carol*, a musical about a director tired of staging the annual Dickens classic. The Children's Drama Company also plans a spring production.

New at the Davis Discovery Center, 549 Franklin Ave., is the "Off-Broadway Series ... for kids." Beginning Sept. 20 with Arnett Howard and his Creole Funk Band, the series will present regular Saturday afternoon music or theater events, most of which are free.

Phoenix Theatre Circle again turns to children's literature for *The House at Pooh Corner*, *Sarah Plain and Tall*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Goosebumps!* based on R.L. Stine books. All shows play at the Davis Discovery Center.

For the little ones, *Barney's Big Surprise* runs Oct. 21-22 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Bigger kids will enjoy the Broadway Series' *Annie* and *The King and I*. Otterbein College's annual children's show is *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and Children's Hospital Pleasure Guild plans *Heidi*.

And the annual KidSpeak Kids-Fest is Sept. 21 at Franklin Park.

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SEPT-7-97

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**Otterbein College Theatre**  
Presents our Annual Children's Theatre Show:

# **The Emperor's New Clothes**

*by Charlotte Chorpenning*

Set in the Orient, this classic Hans Christian  
Andersen fable is sure to enchant adults & children.

*\*OCT was selected as "Best" in Children's Theatre in  
'96 by The Columbus Dispatch\**

**This Weekend Only!**

**Nov. 21-23, 1997 (Friday - Sunday)**

11/21 @ 7:30 pm, 11/22 @ 10:30 am & 1:30 pm,

11/23 @ 1:30 pm

General Admission \$5 (reserved \$5.50)

Call the Box Office at 823-1109

weekdays from 1:00 to 4:30 pm

**Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville**

West. News + Pub. Opinion 11-19-97



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PUBLIC OPINION  
WESTERVILLE, OH.  
W. CIRC. 6, 386

NOV-19-97

389 Otterbein Theatre to present fable

Otterbein College Theatre will present Hans Christian Andersen's fable *The Emperor's New Clothes* Friday through Sunday in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.  
Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday.  
Tickets are \$5, \$5.50 for reserved seating.

For reservations call 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

# THEATER

**Act Out Productions** — *Christmas on Mars*, 8 tonight through Saturday \$15; Reality Theatre, 736 N. Pearl St.; 263-9448

**Capital University, Cabaret Theatre**, 2199 E. Main St., Bexley — *Antigone*, 8 tonight-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, \$5, \$4 students, senior citizens, free for students with current Capital ID; 236-6801.

**Contemporary American Theatre Company**, 512 N. Park St. — *The Turn of the Screw*, through Saturday, Park Street Theatre 512 N. Park St. \$22-\$28, \$14-\$20, students, senior citizens, teacher (K-12); for times, call 461-0010.

**Curtain Players**, 5691 Harlem Rd., Westerville — *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday through Dec. 7, \$8, \$6 senior citizens, children, students, 885-7000.

**Denison University, Ace Morgan Theatre**, Theatre Arts Building, 211 W. College, Granville — *Pierre*, 8 tonight-Saturday, \$7, \$5 senior citizen, \$4 student 587-6231.

**Footsteps of the Elders** — *Now You See Me, Now You Don't*, noon today; YWCA, 65 S. 4th St., 784-8770.

**Readers Theater**, Nestor Auditorium, Columbus State Community College, 550 E. Spring St. — *Dunelawn*, 8 p.m. Friday, free; 227-5097.

**Ohio State University, Mount Hall Theatre**, 1050 Carmack Rd. — *Miller's Point*, 8 tonight, Friday, 2 and 8 p.m.

Saturday, \$5.50; 292-2295.

**OSU, Thurber Theatre, Drake Union**, 1849 Cannon Dr. — *The Cherry Orchard*, 8 tonight-Saturday, \$7.25-\$10.50; 292-2295.

**Ohio Theatre**, 39 E. State St. — *Big, the Musical*, 8 tonight and Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday; 224-7654.

**Otterbein College, Cowan Hall**, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville — *The Emperor's New Clothes*, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, \$5, 823-1600.

**Red Herring Productions** — *Punch and Judy*, through Saturday, \$16, \$11 for students and senior citizens, for times; 291-8252.

**Rosebriar Shakespeare Company** — *Enemy of the People*, 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through Saturday, \$9, \$7 senior citizens, students; Davis Discovery Center Theatre, 549 Franklin Ave.; 470-1616.

**Saunders Productions' Cloak & Dagger Dinner Theatre**, 1048 Morse Rd. — *Wheel of Misfortune*, show and dinner, 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays; \$31.95; 523-9347.

**Shadowbox Cabaret**, 232 E. Spring St. — *Freak Show*, 8 tonight through Saturday; \$15, \$7.50 students and senior citizens; 224-3374.

**Strollers Student Theatrics**, 1739 N. High St., Room 308 — *The Diary of Anne Frank*, 8 tonight and Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 424-6652.