

COLUMBUS DISPATCH  
AM-CIRC. 289,793  
COLUMBUS, OH  
MAY-20-07

## THEATER AND DANCE

# 'Virginia Woolf,' 'Urinetown' to highlight year at Otterbein

389  
By Michael Grossberg  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The Otterbein College Theater and Dance Department will begin its next season with biting adult drama and musical satire — and end it encouraging audiences of all ages to clap their hands for Tinkerbell.

*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, the Edward Albee drama about a bickering academic couple, will open the season Oct. 4. Dennis Romer will direct.

The fall musical will be *Urinetown*, the Tony-winning satire about greed, corruption, love and revolution in a future when water is worth its weight in gold.

Among the satirical targets of *Urinetown* are the political musicals of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, so it makes sense for Otterbein's season to include a chance for theatergoers to experience Brecht firsthand: Christina Kirk will direct *The*

## 2007-08 lineup

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATER  
AND DANCE DEPARTMENT

► *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* — Oct. 4-13, Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

► *Urinetown: The Musical* — Nov. 1-10, Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville

► *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* — Jan. 31 to Feb. 9, Cowan Hall

► *Dance Concert 2008* — March 6-9, Cowan Hall

► *Miss Witherspoon* — May 1-10, Campus Center Theatre

*Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Brecht's parable of class and misdirected social priorities. The play updates King Solomon's tale of a child claimed by two mothers.

Ed Vaughan will direct *Miss Witherspoon*, a comedy about a struggle with spirituality and

► *Peter Pan* — May 21-31, Cowan Hall

Subscriptions, to go on sale Aug. 1, cost \$70 for the four Cowan Hall productions.

Single tickets, on sale Sept. 17, cost \$25, or \$12 for children younger than 12, for *Peter Pan*; \$20 for *Urinetown*; and \$15 for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Miss Witherspoon* and the dance concert.

Call 614-823-1109 or visit [www.otterbein.edu/theatre](http://www.otterbein.edu/theatre).

psychology by Christopher Durang, creator of *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* and *Beyond Therapy*.

Finally, *Peter Pan* will end the season with songs, children, pirates and American Indians in Neverland.

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THIS WEEK - WESTERVILLE  
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**SEPT-20-07**

## Otterbein College news

### 384 Otterbein College Theatre announces season lineup

Otterbein College Theatre has announced its 2007-2008 season. The lineup includes:

- "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," by Edward Albee, Oct. 4-6 and 12-13, Campus Center Theatre.

- "Urinetown," by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman, Nov. 1-4 and 8-10, Cowan Hall.

- "Caucasian Chalk Circle," by Bertolt Brecht, Jan. 31-Feb. 3 and Feb. 7-9, 2008, Cowan Hall.

- Dance Concert 2008: Gotta Dance!, March 6-9, 2008, Cowan Hall.

- "Miss Witherspoon," by Christopher Durang, May 1-3 and 9-10, Campus Center Theatre.

- "Peter Pan," lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden and Adolph Green; music by Mark Chalap and Jule Styne, May 21-25 and 29-31, Cowan Hall.

Subscriptions are \$70 and include four of the six productions. Individual show tickets go on sale Sept. 17. Prices will vary.

For more information, call (614) 823-1109.



## THEATER REVIEW | HELLO, DOLLY!

## College show thrives with Broadway touch

By Michael Grossberg  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The addition of Broadway talents has boosted the appeal of the already-superior spring musicals at Otterbein College in Westerville.

Last year's successful *42nd Street* has been followed by *Hello, Dolly!* — which opened Thursday in Cowan Hall.

Two-time Tony nominee John Carrara choreographs with a jaunty flair and directs with a savvy understanding that the best of the American musical-genre is grounded in motion and emotion.

Jerry Herman's 1964 hit, lovingly adapted by Michael Stewart from Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker*, is a warhorse from Broadway's golden age.

But the show, about seizing second chances, can still ring well. At Otterbein, it gallops along with Carrara's sure-footed guidance, a sparkling orchestra, top-notch dance and talented performers.

Given the limitations of any college show, the production is cast superbly. Karl Ringer is charming and amusing as Dolly, with a singing voice even bigger than her smile. Eric Folks is comical but believable as the greedy shopkeeper who becomes the (hard-to-fathom) object of Dolly's desire.

Both actors look mature for their age. Their charismatic and adult voices help, especially when they reprise the duet *It*

► Otterbein College Theatre will present *Hello, Dolly!* at 8 tonight and Saturday night, 2 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. May 24-25 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville. Tickets cost \$25. Call 614-223-1109 or visit [www.otterbein.edu/theatre](http://www.otterbein.edu/theatre).

## Takes a Woman.

One of the pleasures of attending college productions is being among the first to discover up-and-coming talents.

Although Barnaby isn't the leading role, freshman Nathan Keen shines — and his brief footwork is dazzling — as the young, naive feed-store clerk eager to visit the big city and find romance. Watch for Keen to land bigger roles in dance musicals at Otterbein and, later, throughout the country.

Drew Aber is endearing as gawky Cornelius, the aging store clerk who still dreams and schemes to kiss a girl for the first time.

Aber puts all of Cornelius' longing for love into *It Only Takes a Moment*.

Elizabeth Shiversen, as hat-shop proprietor Irene Molloy, adds tender feeling to *Ribbons Under My Back*.

At Wednesday's preview, the rest of the 14-member cast radiated convincing personality.

With an old-fashioned overture and entr'acte, plus curtain and exit music, the pit orchestra seizes its moments in the brass spotlight under conductor Dennis Davenport.



Karl Ringer is charming and amusing as the title character in the Otterbein College production of *Hello, Dolly!*

Using an orchestra-encircling ramp for busting promenades, Carrara is especially good at blocking and choreographing crowd scenes, which often serve as exclamation points on the song-and-dance numbers that start small but build.

As its title suggests, the whole show is one big exclamation point about the rewards of enterprise in America.

New York in the 1890s becomes a sepia-tinted series of postcards, thanks to Rob

Johnson's versatile moving sets, Jayson Pritchard's golden lighting and Marcia Hain's muted period costumes. All the better to contrast with the dazzling red gown that accents Dolly's emblematic entrance down the restaurant staircase.

Even if it can't surpass the dancing thrills of last season's *42nd Street*, this dreamy *Dolly!* should give theatergoers a whole of a good time.

[mgrossberg@dispatch.com](mailto:mgrossberg@dispatch.com)

## Fiancee must learn to stand up for herself

Dear Carly: I'm engaged to a wonderful man who shares many of the interests and goals that I do.

We're getting married in the summer. After coming out of an abusive marriage and a nasty divorce two years ago, I feel lucky to be with my fiancé.

His family is another story. My fiancé and I are both sophisticated and educated. He started an opinion (such as a successful business, but his family is the exact opposite).

They are uneducated, unrefined, negative and somewhat racist — all of which the fiance makes them difficult to be around. I often struggle to find things to talk about to them.

Recently, his parents asked him whether he was going to get a prenuptial agreement. This really upset me. Do I tell him how uncomfortable I feel around his family or just grin and bear it as I've been doing?

Dear L: Grin and bear it — as you've been doing, and you suffer as you've been suffering, going back to that abusive marriage and ugly split.

Not that a sophisticated in the presence of the uneducated necessarily suffers. But I'll get to that.

People of all stripes and strengths find themselves in abusive situations. Getting out of them is harder, though, for people who are reluctant to act as their own advocates — to stand up for their limits.

And although you might not see what this has to do with Clamette's, it's only a short hop from being bullied in one relationship to being afraid to be honest in the next one. Both have at their foundation your fear of being yourself.

Which probably explains why you take to assure us of your sophistication. If your in-laws-to-be are ignorant, rude and racist, then there were ways to make a sympathetic case for that without building yourself up first.

So here's a way to build yourself up: Become an explorer how you feel. Meeting a wonderful man is luck. But trusting him is a choice.

Believe that there are worse things than losing someone just because you expressed an opinion (such as being afraid to express an opinion).

Maybe you don't think you have the courage to assert yourself. I would think, though, that with what you've been through, silently handing over responsibility for your happiness would be the scarier choice.

Dear Carly: My boyfriend and I moved into our own condos.

If I want to see him, I must go to his place. He has yet to offer to come and stay with me. How can I encourage him to visit me?

He doesn't think it's a problem.

— Homeowner  
Dear Homeowner: Of course he doesn't think it's a problem. He just sits there, and you show up.

If you really want to visit him, then visit him. If you really want to stay home, then stay home. Don't play games just to see what you're willing to do and what he isn't.

Write to "Tell Me About It," which appears Sundays,

Wednesdays and Fridays, at The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071; or send e-mail.

[tellem@washpost.com](mailto:tellem@washpost.com)

## TELL ME ABOUT IT



CAROLYN  
HAX

## HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis  
CREATORS SYNDICATE

Your birthday today: You see yourself a certain way (serious and logical), but to be comfortable in your own skin, learn to laugh at your own contradictions. View life as a comedy skit — it's better when you laugh. Find your momentum and groove in July. Set goals in August. A romance takes you by surprise in October.

• Taurus (April 20-May 20):

mood pass, and your happiness stays strong.

• Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Before you can receive long-range signals from afar, locate your short-range ones. Accept the signals that come in loud and clear. They mysteriously spark the connections that shoot you into the atmospheric waves.

• Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You thrive on feedback. So when you get tons of it (and they're not holding back), you're thrilled. Not only do you feel better equipped to chart your course but also magnificently

as an individual.

Oct. 23-Oct. 23): A

learning how

else wants you to be. Resolve to believe in your own power and lovability.

• Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're not the type to bob about in the sea. Don't worry. You'll find your anchor soon enough, though probably not before you've written the definitive "how-to" guide on floating.

• Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You hold yourself accountable for your behavior, but no one wants you to hold them to theirs. You can insist on how you want to be treated, but they're still free to make the choice to do so — or not.

• Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone's moved into your

DEAR ABBY



## HOW TO REACH US

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ASSISTANT MANAGING