

OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

Office of College Relations • Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio 43081
(614) 898-1600 • Patricia Kessler, Director

Contact Valerie Klawitter 898-1605

or Patricia Kessler, 898-1600

Oct. 28, 1988

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

42

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Otterbein Children's Theatre Nov. 18-20 production of "Alice in Wonderland" will be a lively romp brimming with magical, musical and visual treats. Professional guest director Doreen Dunn (who adapted the script from the original Lewis Carroll novel) has brought Alice and company into the modern world, according to guest scenic designer David Hammond — an approach which called for a unique set.

"Doreen described a fantasyland playground-type of idea she had in mind — complete with ramps, fireman's poles, tunnels and ladders," Hammond says. In order to provide maximum activity area, he elected to use air space and go "up" with a three-tiered set. "The three levels give added ability for action such as toppling over a railing to another level or climbing, and provide a variety of locations that can be anywhere in Wonderland," he adds.

Hammond claims part of his inspiration for the pipe structure, gridwork and paddle tier set came from modern Broadway productions such as "Starlight Express," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats." "Since 'Alice' was being brought into contemporary times, I believe I was influenced somewhat by these modern productions that really open the area up for visual action."

Greens and yellows are the color base for most of the set, and the magical aura will be accomplished with lighting effects.

"It's something that's been exciting to work with," Hammond says. "There was no

-more-

actual set description, and so it was able to evolve from an idea. As a creative artist, it's an expression — and I think that's satisfying to anyone."

Although this is Hammond's first children's production for Otterbein, he has worked with Otterbein Summer Theatre for nine consecutive years and has designed main stage productions of "Ladyhouse Blues," "My Fair Lady" and "Amadeus." A 1974 Otterbein alumnus, he earned a master's degree from The Ohio State University and is director of theatre at Upper Arlington High School. He also has worked with the Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Commission in initiating the Upper Arlington performance series. As a freelance designer, he has designed for Contemporary American Theatre Company and Lancaster Summer Theatre. He has worked as an assistant stage manager at The Country Dinner Playhouse, and served as designer/technical director for Players TheatreColumbus.

All performances of "Alice in Wonderland" will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville. The Nov. 18 performance will be at 7:30 p.m., at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the 19th and at 1:30 p.m. on the 20th. Advance tickets may be obtained beginning Nov. 7 from the Cowan Hall box office, (614) 898-1109. The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.