
OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

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

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Contact Valerie Klawitter 898-1605

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otterbein College Theatre and the department of music will present "A Chorus Line" May 4-8 — Broadway's longest running show, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama, nine Tony Awards and a New York Drama Critic's Award.

"Chorus Line" opens with a cast of 30 gypsies (Broadway chorus people) who are going through the final round of auditions for a musical. Their number is quickly reduced by half. With principal parts available only to four women and four men, eliminations begin in earnest. The director has seen the talent they have to offer, and now requires them to step forward and talk about themselves. Brought into the harsh spotlight one by one, the competitors tell intensely personal stories that divulge a need to vie for attention, approval and love.

"The touch of genius in "Chorus Line's" idea," said a review in Newsweek magazine, "is to take this figure of the dancer and to show it at the point where it intersects with ordinary people — with the people in the audience. In the members of his chorus line, Michael Bennett (who conceived "Chorus Line" and was its original director and choreographer) has created a new king of Everyperson, someone both special and common, someone with whom audiences sharply identify."

BUT THE SHOW also is about the pure joy of dancing, notes the Otterbein production's choreographer and coordinator of the school's dance program, Denise David.

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Otterbein's choreography has been adapted to highlight the individual student's strengths, David points out. "That's the fun part for the choreographer, to design around the strength of their dancers. We know exactly where each of our students are right now, and they are ready to do this show. We have no questions about their ability — they will shine." "Chorus Line" is a show that's close to David's heart. Some years back, she was an understudy for the role of Diana Morales with the musical's New York production.

Ed Vaughan, chairman/artistic director of the department of theatre and dance, will be the show's director. Music directors will be college faculty members Craig Johnson and David DeVenney.

Student cast members and their characters will include Brent Ries and Christina Nieto, both of Westerville, Larry and Judy; Colby Paul of Worthington, Sheila; Jean Childers of Indianapolis, Val; Emily DePaul and Steve Geyer, both of Pittsburgh, Diana and Don; Andrea Strom of Worthington, Kristine; Lisa Walton of Stow, Ohio, Maggie; Kelli Glaser of Newark, Bebe; Sue Brown and Pat McRoberts, both of Canton, Connie and Mike; Kevin Ford Carty of Findlay, Richie; Tim Deak of Brunswick, Paul; Ben Hodges of Morristown, Tenn., Mark; Scott Best of Columbus, Greg; Marc Foster of Gahanna, Bobby; and Chuck Rosen of Mentor, Ohio, Al.

Appearing in the opening number will be Julie Anderson of Copley, Matt Bartholomew of Mt. Gilead, Aysu Basaran of Warren, Kim Beimly of Dayton, Leah Belardo of Crestline, Patty Cockburn of Gahanna, Elizabeth Herring and Ron Maurer of Findlay, Kelly Knowles of Gahanna, Jeff Miller of Springfield, Kyle More of Columbus, Lori Schubeler of West Chester, Scott Willis of Lockbourne, Cathy Collins of Mt. Clemens, Mi., and Chris Feree of Uniontown, Pa.

All performances will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Opening night will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. All other performances will be at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available beginning April 21 from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109, open from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performance weeks. The box office also is open at 6:30 p.m. performance evenings and at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday matinees.