



NEWS

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General Entertainment

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR*

Otterbein concludes its 2004-2005 season with the popular rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which runs May 19-22 and 26-28 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville.

It seems especially fitting that the first rock opera, created as a concept album at the end of the turbulent '60's, should have at its center a social and political rebel. Jesus' meteor-like rise in renown provides, as the title suggests, a parallel to contemporary celebrity worship. As His radical teachings are evermore embraced, Judas increasingly questions the enlightened motives of this new prophet, resulting in betrayal. Christ's final days are dramatized with emotional intensity, thought-provoking edge and explosive theatricality. Propelled by one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's best scores, by turns driving and majestic, satirical and tender, *Jesus Christ Superstar* illuminates the transcendent power of the human spirit with a passion that goes straight to the heart.

Directed by Dennis Romer, Otterbein's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* features Johnny Hawkins, an Equity Actor from the National Tour of the production, as Jesus. Hawkins has performed in the national tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Smoke on the Mountain*, as well as the European tour of *Cabaret*. He has performed as Joseph in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, as Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as Frederic in *Pirates of Penzance*, as Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Jinx in *Forever Plaid* and has been appeared on the television programs *Coupling* (pilot) and *Unsolved Mysteries*. He has performed in Los Angeles at the Hollywood Bowl, La Mirada, Cabrillo Music Theater, The Odyssey and Coronet Theater. Nationally, he has performed at the Goodspeed Opera House, Manhattan Theater Club and Westchester Broadway.

The opening night show on May 19 begins at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday, May 22 matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. All other performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College box office at (614) 823-1109. The box office is open 1:00-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and one hour prior to performances. The box office is located in Cowan Hall, 30 S Grove St., Westerville. For group sales, call (614) 823-1209.

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