
OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High school -- that mixed bag of emotional memories that is ever fresh and important -- is the sparkling subject for Otterbein Summer Theatre's Central Ohio Premiere of "Is There Life After High School?" The hit musical, taken from a book by Jeffrey Kindley with music and lyrics by Craig Carnelia, deftly touches the common chord of American high school experience and its heavy hand in making us what we are today.

Characters who graduated high school 10 to 20 years ago receive invitations to their respective reunions in the show's opening scene. From that point, the cast of nine becomes a gallery of many hauntingly familiar characters to guide the audience down memory lane by way of songs, soliloquies, bits of dialogue and snappy one-liners.

"Joyful, brightly-fused musical entertainment -- vastly more intelligent and more endearing than most Broadway musicals..." Rex Reed wrote in the New York Daily News during the show's Broadway run in the early 80s. Critic Earl Wilson called it "A lively, tuneful show that captures the joy and romance of high school" in his N.Y. Post review.

With insight and wit, the show explores high school types from bookworms to cheerleaders -- types we were, wished we were, hated,

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admired, rejected, ignored and overlooked. It also touches on those intensely felt teen-age relationships -- from love to hate -- and covers memorable common ground from proms and homecomings to blind dates and gym classes.

The show's truly tuneful music, numbers such as "The Kid Inside," "Things I Learned in High School," "Diary of a Homecoming Queen" and "I'm Glad You Didn't Know Me," keeps lyrical pace with the dialogue.

The production will be directed by Robert Hetherington, back for his third season with OST, having previously directed "Baby," "The Good Doctor," "Jacques Brel" and "The Foreigner." D Martyn Bookwalter, a '75 Otterbein alum who has been nominated for an Emmy and won the Los Angeles Drama Critics award for outstanding design for three consecutive years, will be scenic and lighting designer. Costume designer for the show will be Otterbein's Katie Robbins.

"Is There Life After High School?" will run June 23-28 and June 30 through July 3. All performances will be held in the Campus Center Arena Theatre. Performances will begin at 8:30 p.m., with the exception of the 7:30 p.m. opening show on the 23rd. A 2:30 p.m. matinee also will be presented Sunday the 28th.

Tickets will be available beginning June 15 from the OST box office, 890-3028 or 898-1109, open from 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The box office is open on Sundays only during scheduled matinees, from 12:30 to 3 p.m.