



**OTTERBEIN**  
C O L L E G E

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**NEWS**

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SUMMER SEASON OPENS WITH NEIL SIMON HIT

Otterbein Summer Theatre will open its season with *Jake's Women* in late June. A Broadway hit in 1992, the story follows a novelist in the throes of a mid-life crisis.

Jake is a character who feels more at home in his fantasies than in the real world. Now as he enters middle age, he is tormented by the realization that he has been perched on the sidelines of his life, observing rather than living.

Early in the play his wife leaves him for a six-month trial separation, a situation that kicks his imagination into overdrive. Yearning for the intimacies enjoyed by characters in his books, his mind begins to play out conversations with the women in his life.

Grappling with issues of intimacy, guilt, trust and control, Jake spends much of his time talking about his emotional problems with a steady stream of female visitors, some of whom exist only in Jake's thoughts.

Through a series of flashbacks, fantasies and daydreams, he is visited by all the women in his life, both past and present. They include a revered first wife who was killed in a car crash, his daughter at ages 12 and 21, his boisterous and bossy sister, a motherly psychoanalyst and his current wife who is considering a marriage proposal from another man, and a prospective third wife.

Much of *Jake's Women* is autobiographical. Neil Simon, who chronicled his early life in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues* and *Broadway Bound*, adds a chapter with this play.

A hilarious foray into the world of modern relationships, *Jake's Women* is simultaneously funny and heartbreaking. With this play, Simon continues to demonstrate why he is considered by many to be the most popular contemporary American playwright.

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*Jake's Women*, directed by Ed Vaughan, will run June 21-25 and June 28-July 2. It will feature guest actors Scott Kloes, who last appeared at Otterbein in *The Boys Next Door*, and Otterbein graduate Mandy Fox, who is best remembered as Sister Mary Amnesia in *Nunsense* and its sequel.

It will be performed in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. in Westerville. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and all other evening shows begin at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12.50 for Friday and Saturday shows, \$11 for Wednesday and Thursday shows and \$9.50 for Sunday matinees. Reserve tickets by calling the Otterbein Summer Theatre box office at 823-1109.