



OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

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NEWS

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE OPENS
30TH SEASON WITH ROMANTIC COMEDY

Otterbein Summer Theatre will present the British comedy *Educating Rita*.

This two-person play is essentially about a young woman trying to find herself and a middle-aged man trying to lose himself.

It opens with Rita, a woman of enormous vitality — funny, outspoken and outrageous — going to college to find what is missing from her life of work as a hairdresser and marriage to a demanding, uncompromising husband. Her quest for an education lands her at the office of Frank, a world weary English professor and failed poet who is on a ruinous course of heavy drinking.

From the start Rita is obviously a woman of brains and determination. Frank takes her on as a student and through her is given a chance to re-examine and even re-live the spontaneity of youth and the freshness of innocence becoming experience.

She manages to rekindle his interest in life but he soon finds she has outgrown her tutor. She becomes an independent woman secure in her ability to express contradictory views that Frank finds unsettling. But her becoming a successful student entails a loss for Rita as she must abandon her uniqueness to conform with the other students.

She clearly has improved her life as she leaves both her dead-end job and her husband but also has started him on the road to salvation as he prepares for a trip to Australia and a chance to work at his poetry again.

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