
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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April 13, 1987

General Entertainment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otterbein College Theatre and department of music is offering an exciting variety of singing, dancing, humor and tender moments with its May 7-10 production of "Carousel," one of the greatest hits of American stage history.

Unforgettable songs such as "If I Loved You," "You'll Never Walk Alone," and "June is Bustin' Out All Over" will be under the musical direction of Otterbein's Craig Johnson and vocal director David DeVenney. Faculty members Joanne VanSant, Denise David, Fred Thayer and Katie Robbins will respectively serve as choreographer, assistant choreographer, set designer and costume designer.

Created by the phenomenal team of Rodgers and Hammerstein -- who also gave the world "Oklahoma," "South Pacific" and "The King and I" -- "Carousel" tells the moving story of swaggering braggart Billy Bigelow and his gentle Julie Jordan.

A boisterous carnival barker of the early 1900s, the shiftless Billy's ego is tempered only slightly by Julie's love and undaunting admiration. "Billy doesn't deal with his failures," says play

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director and theatre department chairman Dr. Charles Dodrill, "until he learns he is about to become a father. If it's a boy, Billy could accept a cocky, miniature version of himself. But should the baby be a girl -- well, a girl would deserve a better lifestyle."

In a sworn resolve to obtain security for his unborn daughter, Billy commits robbery, is caught, and chooses suicide rather than bring the shame of imprisonment upon his unborn child. Sixteen years later, a heavenly starkeeper gives Billy the chance to make amends for his life of earthly failure, by allowing him to return to earth for a single day. Nearly bumbling the attempt to accomplish anything, Billy manages -- in a heart-rending final moment -- to make meaningful contact with his child.

Billy will be played by Otterbein College senior Tim Gregory of Cincinnati, winner of the national 1986 Irene Ryan Award for excellence in acting. Gregory's most recent roles have included Antonio Salieri in "Amadeus" and John Proctor in "The Crucible."

The role of Julie will be portrayed by senior Gina Grogg of Mansfield whose roles in past productions include Sissy in "Come Back from the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," and Beauty in a Children's Theatre production of "Sleeping Beauty."

Additional student cast members are Catherine Randazzo of Seven Hills, Steven Geyer of Pittsburgh, Christine Cox of Delaware, Tim St. John, Missy Helm, Lori Schubeler, Tim Barker, Ralph Scott, Emily DePaul, Scott Willis, Kyle Moore, Roy Woods, Scott Willis, Todd Kreps, Robert Witherow and Scott Berkes.

Members of the women's chorus include Bethany Bangeman, Tracy Boger, Emily DePaul, Elizabeth Evans, Shane Frampton, Kelly Glaser, Gwen Griffin, Wendy Grogg, Rachel Harris, Alisa Judy, Mara Matteson, Bethany Smith, Julie Oberholtzer and Lisa Walton.

Men's chorus members will be Scott Berkes, Kevin Ford Carty, Tim Deak, Marc Foster, Todd Kreps, Kyle Moore, Jeff Offenberger, Tony Pierce, Brent Ries, Fred Robertson, Chuck Rosen, Joshua Wank, Scott Willis and Roy Woods.

"Carousel" tickets will be available from the Cowan Hall box office, (614) 890-3028, beginning April 23. The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays. Performances, all to be held in Cowan Hall, will be at 8 p.m. May 7, 8, and 9, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 10. The box office opens one hour prior to each performance.