

NEWS RELEASE

February 17, 1962

Tickets are now on sale for the appearance of professional star, Hans Conried, in the Otterbein College Theatre production of "John Brown's Body" on Thursday thru Saturday, March 1, 2, and 3. Star of stage, screen and television, this will be Hans Conried's first appearance in central Ohio.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Cowan Hall Box-Office, TU 2-3611, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. daily. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. daily. ~~Curtain time is 8:30 p.m.~~

A famous soldiers' marching song has provided the title, and the Civil War provides the subject matter for "John Brown's Body." A Pulitzer Prize winning poem of 1928, "John Brown's Body" is a moving epic poem dramatized for the stage by Charles Laughton in 1953. The original production featured Tyrone Power, Judith Anderson and Raymond Massey.

Mr. Conried will be supported by Otterbein students, Judy Stone and Richard Perry. The three actors will be supported by a chorus of 16 voices rendering the songs, and even orchestral effects, that give emphasis and atmosphere to the drama's chronicle of the war that shook America apart for four anguished years, and ended with a rebirth of the nation.

All three players will enact their various roles without the aid of costumes or other theatrical paraphernalia. They will rely only on the poem's verbal vividness and their own acting powers to create the effect of their being confederate officer Clay Wingate, or Union soldier Jack Ellyat, their parents, their sweethearts, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, house slaves, looting soldiers and John Brown.

According to Prof. Charles Dodrill, Director of Theatre, Hans Conried will arrive in Westerville on Feb. 23, for five days of rehearsal. Mr. Dodrill says: "We are extremely fortunate to have been able to acquire Mr. Conried for this extended period, and we hope central Ohio will support this costly venture."