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OTTERBEIN  
C O L L E G E

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July 6, 1988

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Camille," a touching love story for mature audiences, will be presented by Otterbein Summer Theatre (OST) July 20-24 and 27-30. The central Ohio premiere includes several outstanding guest artists (most of whom are Otterbein alumni), including Susan Diol in the lead role of Marguerite Gautier. Diol, appearing with OST for the first time since her graduation in 1984, is an accomplished stage and television actress who replaced Amanda Plummer in Broadway's "You Never Can Tell," appeared on The Bill Cosby Show and currently may be seen as Claudia in ABC's "Hothouse" series Thursday evenings.

Portraying the part of the Marquis will be Los Angeles-based actor/director Dennis Romer '71, who has appeared on "Dynasty," "Hotel," "All My Children" and numerous commercials. Romer directed the recent Otterbein College Theatre production of "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday." Recent graduate Tim Gregory, national winner of the 1986 Irene Ryan Scholarship for excellence in acting, will return to OST to play the role of Armand. Directing "Camille" will be Carter Lewis '73, San Francisco freelance writer and director who directed past OST productions of "Plenty" and "The Real Thing." Costumes will be designed by New York freelance artist Mary Myers whose credits include "Pal Joey" for the Colonial Theatre in Rhode Island and "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "The Lion in Winter" for Snowmass Repertory Theatre, Colorado. Myers

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replaces designer David Robinson '78 who could not return to OST because of a movie committment.

In the Paris of the 1840s, an unmonied, unmarried woman from the lower class had slim chances for survival outside servitude. The beautiful Marguerite, however, finds not only survival -- but success -- as a courtesan. Sent away from her large and poor family at 13 to become a maid in an aristocratic family, Marguerite soon becomes the sexual pawn of the master of the house only to find herself exiled when she becomes pregnant. The idea to capitalize on herself as an object of desire surfaces as she is once again victimized by a relative with whom she sought temporary refuge. He gives her money, and the clue to her new livelihood.

Sharing her life and solicited affection with wealthy men becomes an accepted pattern for Marguerite until she encounters the cold, compelling and well-born Armand. Attracted by a bond of loveless pasts, Armand and Marguerite are defenseless against their emotions and come to truly care for each other. Such a mixing of the classes is spurned by society, and especially by Armand's family. The ramifications of such love, they discover, are disasterous.

"This is compelling theatre," noted BBC Radio London. "And all credit to Pam Gems (author of the play's modern version) for perpetuating a legend and making it perfectly credible to a modern audience."

All performances of "Camille" will be held in the Campus Center Theatre, located in the lower level of the Campus Center on Home Street. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office, open 12:30-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, at (614) 898-1109. Opening night will be at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. and all other performances at 8 p.m.