

OTTERBEIN  
C O L L E G E

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General Entertainment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*5th of July*

The Otterbein Summer Theatre (OST) continues in July with the opening of the serious comedy *5th of July* by Lanford Wilson.

This comedy, aimed at mature audiences, has been hailed as a major work by one of the theatre's most important and celebrated writers. Wilson is also the author of *The Hot L. Baltimore*, *Lemon Sky*, *The Mound Builders* and the Talley cycle including *Talley & Son*, *Talley's Folly* and *5th of July*.

He received a Tony nomination for best play for *5th of July* and won a Pulitzer Prize for *Talley's Folly* in 1980. His other awards include the Brandeis University Creative Arts Award, the Institute of Arts and Letters Award, the Vernon Rice Award, the Outer Critics' Circle Award and two Drama Critics' Circle Award.

*5th of July* is the first play Wilson wrote in a series chronicling generations of the Talley family. Wilson is a founding member of the Circle Repertory Company where *5th of July* premiered in 1978 and later opened on Broadway in 1980 for a two-year run.

The action of the play centers on a group of former student activists who gather for a reunion at an old farmhouse in Lebanon, Mo., the birthplace of the playwright. The anti-war activists were thrown together in the turbulent 60s at Berkeley and meet again in 1977 to discover their early aspirations and ideals have dimmed.

The group is headed by Kenneth Talley Jr., a Vietnam veteran who lost both his legs in the war. While reviewing his past with friends and family gathered, he also considers his future and selling the family homestead.

Equity guest artist Dennis Romer, who plays Kenneth Talley Jr., is an instructor of theatre at Otterbein and has appeared on such TV shows as *All My Children* and *Hotel*. He has also directed several Otterbein productions in the past year including Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues*, *Stepping Out* and the musical *Evita*.



Romer is joined by two other guest actors, Tess Hartman and Marilyn Sundin. The guest director is Richard Harden.

The play will be performed July 18-22 and 25-29 at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. in Westerville.

Tickets are available from the Otterbein Summer Theatre box office, 898-1109. The box office is open from 12:30-8:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Sunday. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. All other performances are at 8 p.m.