



OTTERBEIN  
COLLEGE

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**NEWS**

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTERBEIN SUMMER THEATRE CLOSES SEASON WITH MYSTERY

The Otterbein Summer Theatre 30th anniversary season ends with the Agatha Christie mystery *Black Coffee* being presented July 31 through Aug. 11.

*Black Coffee* is a little-known mystery that should surprise and delight all Christie fans. Written in 1934, the story concerns a physicist named Sir Claude Amory who has created a formula for an atom bomb.

Sir Claude is surrounded by his devoted family, an efficient private secretary, a loyal though mournful butler and a polite Italian visitor. When Sir Claude is poisoned, in his coffee, of course, it turns out all of them had a motive to devise his demise.

The audience is treated to a tankful of motives liberally stocked with red herrings. The family was not so devoted after all. Most of them needed Sir Claude's money and the formula for the new explosive. And there was a blackmailer at work.

Christie's famed detective Hercule Poirot, played by Ed Vaughan, is called in to sift through the facts and solve the case.

Vaughan, an Equity actor, opened the summer season as Frank in *Educating Rita*. An associate professor of theatre at Otterbein, Vaughan's recent acting credits include roles in Grandparents Living Theatre's production of *Our Town* and CATCO's production of *Loman Family Picnic*. At Otterbein he appeared in *A Few Good Men* and *King Lear*.

*Black Coffee* will be directed by Department of Theatre and Dance Chairperson John Stefano. At Otterbein, Stefano has directed the musicals *Big River*, *Sweet Charity*, the drama *Top Girls* and the children's play *Robin Hood*.

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*Black Coffee* will be presented July 31-Aug. 4 and Aug. 7-11 in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. The opening night performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. All other performance begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for Sunday matinees and opening night; \$12 for Wednesday and Thursday and \$14 for Friday and Saturday. To reserve tickets, call the Otterbein Summer Theatre box office at 823-1109. The box office will be open 1-8:30 p.m. weekdays.