
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The central Ohio premiere of "Noises Off," the hilarious farce to be presented Feb. 5 - 8 by Otterbein College Theatre, earned such raves as "The funniest comedy I have ever seen!" "You laugh 'til you hurt" and "One hundred percent, uproarious fun!" during its early '80s Broadway run.

"It's the silliest, craziest farce that anybody will ever see," says Ed Vaughan, Otterbein's assistant professor of theatre and the play's director. Written by British playwright Michael Frayn, "Noises Off" treats its audience to a farce-within-a-farce with a non-stop cast of characters that hilariously embroil themselves in a mess-within-a-mess.

The curtain opens on a troupe of second-rate actors rehearsing the bedroom farce titled "Nothing On" for their impending tour of backwater towns. "They have all kinds of problems," Vaughan explains. "They open tomorrow, and have never had a technical rehearsal or a dress rehearsal. They can't get through the first act without people forgetting lines and asking questions -- questions that should have been asked a long time ago! Everything that can happen in this company does happen."

Act II of "Noises Off" calls for the entire set to be turned around so that the audience can get a bird's eye view of what goes on backstage as this motley crew actually attempts to perform the first act of "Nothing On."

"We see all the love interest going on among the cast members," Vaughan says, "and the fighting and bickering. They've got an alcoholic that they are trying to keep from drinking to make it through the play -- and we see all that backstage action while they're out 'front' performing the show."

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Act III reverses again for a look at "Nothing On" a few months later and finds everything even more hysterically chaotic than before because of all the backstage intrigue that has multiplied during the tour.

The lead role of Dotty Otley will be played by Catherine Randazzo of Seven Hills, Ohio, a senior at Otterbein whose experience through the past few years has included parts in "Fiddler on the Roof," "Murder on the Nile," "Androcles and the Lion," "Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," "West Side Story" and "Baby."

Other cast members and their roles include sophomore Joshua Wank of London, England, as Lloyd Dallas; junior Kevin Ford Carty of Findlay, Garry Lejune; sophomore Lori Schubeler of West Chester, Brooke Ashton; senior Dia Huekler of Cincinnati, Poppy Norton-Taylor; sophomore Ralph Scott of Albany, Frederick Fellowes; junior Lisa Davidson of Worthington, Belinda Blair; junior Robert Witherow of Columbus, Tim Allgood; and sophomore Kyle Moore of Columbus, Selsdon Mowbray.

"Noises Off" will be performed in Cowan Hall Feb. 5, 6, and 7 at 8 p.m. A 2 p.m. matinee performance is slated for Sunday, Feb. 8.

The box office (614) 890-3028, is open 1 - 4:30 p.m. weekdays and will begin selling tickets for this laugh-a-minute comedy on Jan. 22. Tickets may be purchased at the door one hour prior to each performance.