



OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

Office of College Relations • Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio 43081
(614) 823-1600 • Patricia Kessler, Director

NEWS

Contact Patti Kennedy, 823-1605

or Patricia Kessler, 823-1600

October 20, 1994

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

OTTERBEIN PRESENTS PLAY FOR THE KIDS

This year Otterbein College Theatre will present the children's musical *Androcles and the Lion*, one of the most popular children's plays ever written. This prize winning play has been produced in more than 20 countries. It will be performed at Otterbein Nov. 18-20.

Written in the style of Italian Commedia dell'Arte, a group of strolling players set up their stage and give a performance. Using authentic staging and stock characters of Commedia, Aesop's fable of lasting friendship becomes a colorful theatrical experience. Filled with zany comedy sure to elicit giggles and belly laughs from the youthful audience, the play also glows with the warmth of friendship.

In this timeless fable, Androcles serves as a slave to the villain Pantalone. When the handsome Lelio asks to marry Androcles' niece Isabella, Pantalone has the Captain hold her prisoner rather than pay her dowry.

Androcles helps Isabella escape and tells her to take the Captain's gold as dowry. In her rush to be reunited with Lelio, she forgets the gold and Androcles runs after her to return it.

He realizes he will be considered a thief and runaway slave and hides in a cave where the lion lives. During their ensuing fight, the lion gets a thorn stuck in its paw. Androcles removes the thorn and they vow to be friends.

When the lion goes to find food, Androcles is captured by Pantalone and the Captain. He is taken to Rome and sentenced to be devoured by wild beasts. Isabella and Lelio race back to Rome and the lion follows them hoping to save his new friend.

When Androcles is released in the arena, the wild beast that is suppose to devour him is none other than the lion he befriended. There is a happy ending as the lion convinces Pantalone, the Captain and the crowd at the arena that all creatures were meant to be free. Lelio and Isabella are given permission to marry and Androcles is granted his freedom.

-more-

Assistant Professor Christina Kirk will direct. Kirk last directed *King Lear* at Otterbein. She also has directed shows at Actor's Summer Theatre in Columbus, The Living Theatre in New York and the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Otterbein graduate Beth Burrier-Bradstreet, a vocal music teacher in the Zanesville City Schools, will serve as musical director for this play. While a student, Bradstreet was involved in the productions of *A Chorus Line*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Quilters*. She served as assistant music director for the Otterbein Summer Theatre production of *Baby*.

This spring she served as music director for the Zanesville Community Theatre production of *Pippin* and for the Weathervane Playhouse production of *Into the Woods*. Bradstreet is a member of VocalBAROQUE, a professional early music group in Columbus, and is also pursuing work as a freelance accompanist.

Androcles and the Lion will be performed Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m. in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. Tickets are \$5.50 for reserved seating and \$4.50 for general admission. Reserve tickets by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Wendy's International is the corporate sponsor for this play.