

THIS WEEK - NORTHLAND  
WORTHINGTON, OH.  
W CIRC. 26,200

MAR-10-97

# Otterbein presenting contemporary 'Hamlet'

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Otterbein College Theatre will present "Hamlet," one of Shakespeare's most famous and universally appealing dramas, in a contemporary setting, March 13-16 at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St.

Use of the college's smaller theatre setting is planned to make the play "more intimate and accessible" than most other versions, according to information from the college.

For the Otterbein production, guest director Robert Behrens will reset "Hamlet" in a contemporary world. Some of the roles traditionally played

by male actors will be played by women, including that of Hamlet's closest friend, Horatio. In addition, the dress of the actors has been updated to reflect modern styles, and the weaponry is contemporary, as well, so the audience will hear gunfire during the show.

Behrens, who has worked on four other productions of "Hamlet," has been living and working in Columbus for the past six years as a freelance director, actor, and fight director. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in theatre from the University of Akron.

All evening performances begin at 8 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows and \$10 for Thursday and Sunday shows. Tickets may be reserved by calling the OCT box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## Otterbein band prepares for tour

The Otterbein College Concert Band, sponsored by the Department of Music, will preview its annual spring

tour with a concert at 8 p.m. Friday in Cowan Hall. The free concert is open to the public.

During its tour, the 75-member band will perform at schools in West Lafayette, Caldwell, Mechanicsburg, Defiance, Loveland, Pleasant Hill and Clayton. The band will also visit Chicago, where students can tour the city.

The aim of the six-day tour is to make the college's music program better known to prospective Otterbein students and to entertain alumni and others.

This year's concert will include

"Black Granite," a march inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The band will perform John Williams' music from the movie "Far and Away" and the contemporary "Inferno," as well as two movements, "Jupiter" and "Mars" from Holst's "The Suite of the Planets." Other music includes "Stars and Stripes Forever," and "Overture to Candide."

The Jazz Ensemble and Woodwind Ensemble, smaller groups selected from the concert band, will also perform. The band is directed by Gary Tirey and Jeffrey Kunkel.



March 3, 1997

# Otterbein's contemporary 'Hamlet' production set to open Thursday

Audiences will see a new "Hamlet" in a contemporary setting at Otterbein College this spring, but they will find the same intensity that audience members felt on viewing the original productions during Elizabethan times.

Otterbein College Theatre will present "Hamlet," one of Shakespeare's most famous and universally appealing dramas, March 6-9 and 13-16 at the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St.

Use of the college's smaller theater setting is planned to make the play "more intimate and accessible" than most other versions of the play, according to information from the college.

For the Otterbein production, guest director Robert Behrens will reset "Hamlet" in a contemporary world. Some of the roles traditionally played by male actors will be played by

women, including that of Hamlet's closest friend, Horatio. In addition, the dress of the actors has been updated to reflect modern styles, and the weaponry is contemporary, as well, so that the audience will hear gunfire during the show.

Behrens, who has worked on four other productions of "Hamlet," has been living and working in Columbus for the past six years as a freelance director, actor, and fight director.

The opening night performance on March 6 will be at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances begin at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows and \$10 for Thursday and Sunday shows. Tickets may be reserved by calling the OCT box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## Otterbein Band readies for tour

The Otterbein College Concert Band, sponsored by the Department of Music, will preview its annual spring tour with a concert at 8 p.m. Friday, March 14, in Cowan Hall.

The concert is free and open to the public.

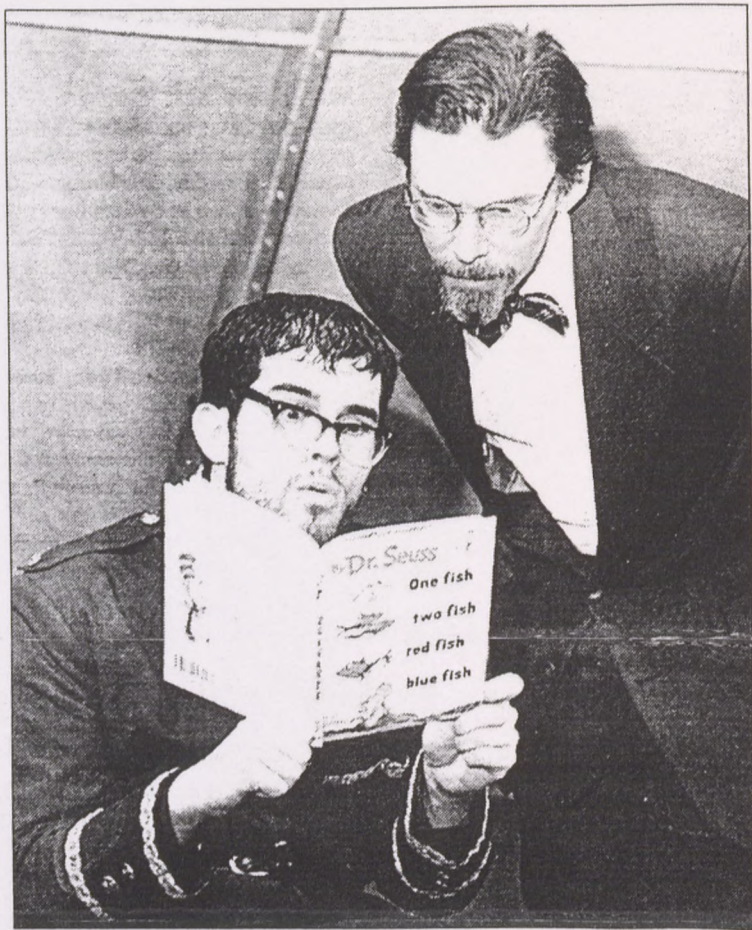
During its tour, the 75-member band will perform at schools in West Lafayette, Caldwell, Mechanicsburg, Defiance, Loveland, Pleasant Hill and Clayton.

The concert band will also visit Chicago, where students can tour the city.

The Jazz Ensemble and Woodwind Ensemble, smaller groups selected from the concert band, will also perform.

The band is conducted by Directors Gary Tirey and Jeffrey Kunkel.

March 10, 1997



## **Avuncular advice**

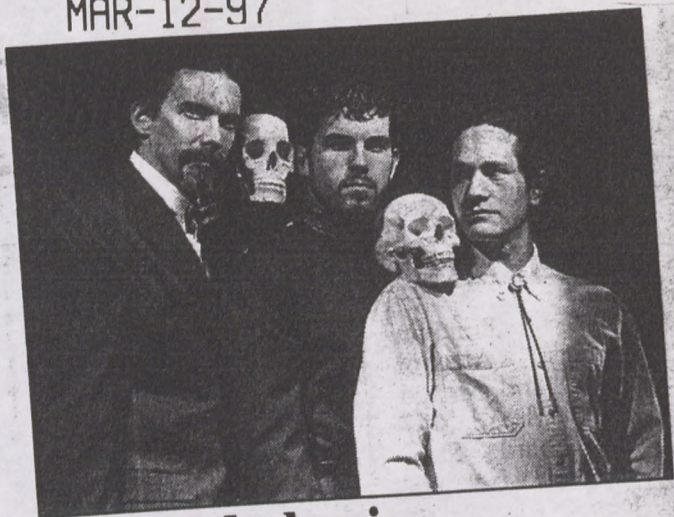
Shakespeare's classic tragedy gets some modern twists in Otterbein College Theatre's current production of "Hamlet," with Ben Sprunger (left) as the title character. Equity Guest Artist Phil Kilbourne (right) plays Polonius. The play opened last week, with performances scheduled Thursday through Sunday this week in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. Show times are 8 p.m., with Sunday's matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets, at \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows and \$10 on Thursday and Sunday, can be reserved by calling the OCT box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



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PUBLIC OPINION  
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## Updated classic

Otterbein College guest director Robert Behrens (right) is giving a modern spin to Shakespeare's *Hamlet* with the help of Equity guest artist Phil Kilbourne (left) as Polonius and Ben Sprunger as Hamlet. Remaining shows are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. Tickets are \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows, \$10 for Thursday and Sunday. To order call 823-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## **'HAMLET' POPULAR**

Despite Kenneth Branagh's four-hour full-script film of *Hamlet* — or maybe partly because of it — Otterbein College Theatre's brisk, action-oriented contemporary update of Shakespeare's most famous drama is selling out.

No tickets are available for performances tonight, Friday or Saturday, but a last-minute group cancellation has made some tickets available for the final show, at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville. Call 823-1109.