

OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUEST ACTOR TO STAR IN *GOOD*

Otterbein College welcomes guest actor David Combs as he takes on the leading role in the College's production of *Good*.

Combs' career has included appearances in the film *The Accidental Tourist* and the Broadway play *Equus* as well as numerous performances in television and off-Broadway shows.

In *Good*, Combs takes on the role of John Halder, a seemingly decent, liberal-minded German literature professor who is pulled into the Nazi party. An on-stage band plays musical interludes that trigger Halder's memories of his descent into evil.

That descent begins when Halder writes a book on euthanasia. Halder wrote the book because of his struggles with his blind, senile mother but it attracts Hitler's attention. At his father-in-law's suggestion, Halder joins the Nazi party thinking he will be able to change the party from within to a more human approach.

However, Halder is drawn deeper and deeper into evil, gradually embracing the Nazi party and accepting mass murder. He becomes willing to follow orders rather than question what is right and wrong and learns to rationalize his actions, such as overseeing the book burning at the University where he worked. Intimidated by the party's power, Halder's inaction allows his best friend Maurice, a Jew, to be killed when he could have helped him escape to Switzerland. All the while, Halder's mistress assures him they are "good people."

In the end, he joins the SS at a friend's urging and is sent to Auschwitz where he continues to justify his work as the Reich's consultant on humane procedures of killing.

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Good is an attempt to understand how the German people were swept along by Hitler's madness. It is a powerful examination of how well-intentioned people reach a compromise with evil to make their own lives easier.

This play was the last written by British playwright C.P. Taylor before his death in 1981 at the age of 53. He wrote more than 70 plays during his 22-year play writing career and *Good* is considered by many to be his masterwork.

At Otterbein, *Good* will be directed by Dennis Romer. It will be performed Jan. 30 and 31, Feb. 1-3 and 5-10. The opening night performance is 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. All other performances begin at 8 p.m. All performances will be held in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville.

For ticket information, call the box office at 898-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.