



OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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NEWS

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE OPENS WITH CENTRAL OHIO PREMIERE

Otterbein College Theatre opens its 1993-94 season with the central Ohio premiere of the Broadway hit, *I Hate Hamlet*.

This hilarious comedy centers on Andy Rally, a young television star whose prime time series has just been cancelled leaving him in professional limbo. He re-locates to New York and, at his agent's urging, agrees to play Hamlet in Central Park. Only one problem — he hates Hamlet.

Rally's real estate agent finds him a wonderfully Gothic apartment in Greenwich Village overlooking Central Park that was once inhabited by John Barrymore, who was renowned for his portrayal of Hamlet. The realtor also dabbles in new age spiritualism and an impromptu seance brings back Barrymore's ghost, who wonders if he is really dead or "just incredibly drunk."

The ghost of this legendary actor, lecher and lush appears in full Hamlet costume to tutor Rally in what was Barrymore's most famous role. His offbeat pointers include advice on how to milk an audience's applause at the final curtain.

While preparing young Rally for *Hamlet*, Barrymore also offers his views on life, love and the art of acting, whether his opinion is wanted or not. The contrast between the two actors leads to a wildly funny duel over women, art, success, duty, television and even the apartment.

Throw into the mix Rally's ditzzy girlfriend who boasts of still being a virgin at 29, his agent who once had an affair with Barrymore and a Hollywood television producer who is trying to lure the would-be Hamlet back to the west coast with a \$3 million contract. This play is unapologetically silly at times but a thoroughly entertaining farce.

I Hate Hamlet will be performed at Otterbein on Oct. 6 through 10 and 14 through 16 in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances are at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$9.50 for Friday and Saturday shows, \$8 for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday shows. Reserve tickets by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays beginning Sept. 23.