
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otterbein College Theatre will close its 1986-87 winter season with the exciting East Coast premiere of "Frontiers," an exceptional play/picture-essay characterizing the indomitable spirit of America's pioneer women.

Ionia Zalenka of The Ohio State University will serve as guest director of the May 28-31 and June 3-6 production to be held in the college's Campus Center Arena Theatre.

The play premiered last summer to rave reviews at the Victory Theatre in Los Angeles. "Variety" called it "A masterwork...the souls of the pioneers have taken control of the stage to tell a curious world just how it was they lived and dreamed," and the Los Angeles News dubbed it "A Must See!" The premiere was directed by Dennis Romer with scenic design completed by D Martyn Bookwalter (both Otterbein graduates).

The combined inspiration of four actresses -- Valery Daemke, Doreen Dunn, Kathleen Gaffney and Nancy Sellin -- "Frontiers" is the poignant result of extensive research into diaries, recorded recollections and family histories of America's pioneer days.

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A myriad of situations are covered during the fascinating stream of small, interconnecting portraits. Stories of heartbreak, hardship and the strain of survival are beautifully blended with masterful doses of humor, joy, courage and strength. "Frontiers" women are seen enduring lengthy, often permanent, separation from their families and former ways of life. Having been thrust into an expansive wilderness, they are challenged to cure illness by home remedies, make liveable homes from sod huts and shacks, endure merciless extremes in weather, adapt to lawlessness, live side-by-side with the mysterious Indian culture, bury their dead and risk death themselves by giving birth.

Zalenka, who has been with OSU since 1977, has a broad range of acting and directing experience in both professional and educational theatre. She has performed at one of the top regional theatres in the country, the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., as well as the Olney Theatre in Maryland and other professional theatres around the country.

Tickets for "Frontiers" will go on sale beginning May 20 at the Cowan Hall box office, (614) 890-3028. Performances, to be held in the Campus Center Arena Theatre, will be at 8 p.m. May 28, 29, 30 and June 3, 4, 5 and 6. A 2 p.m. Sunday matinee is slated for May 31. The box office is open from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour prior to performances.