
OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTERBEIN GUEST DIRECTOR CALLS PLAY

"A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL LOVE STORY"

A 1970 Otterbein alumna is returning to her alma mater to direct the Otterbein College May 24-28 and May 31-June 4 production of "Children of a Lesser God." Professional director/actor/singer/dancer Teri Hiatt Devlin will direct the moving drama surrounding a young deaf woman's relationship with a (hearing) teacher she meets at a school for the hearing impaired. The play deals with the delicate emotions involved in the couple's romance, marriage and turbulent relationship. A Broadway hit and winner of three Tony Awards, "Children..." was dubbed "a play you will never forget" by the New York Post.

"What's really interesting about this play," Devlin says, "is that it is a well-written, exciting piece of drama about relationships -- about people not being able to communicate with each other as strongly as they'd like to. It is not only about a man and a woman, but transcends to all levels of relationships -- mother-daughter, etc., in its message about human communication."

As for the central characters, Devlin says "It's a very strong play about two people just trying to understand each other and get together. I told the cast that as a relationship progresses, we become close and really want to know the other person -- maybe even have the urge to become that other person. But there's always that 'inner

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core' we sort of miss. This play poses the question, 'Once we discover that unavoidable problem, that connection that can never be quite complete, how do we work it out?' It's really a beautiful, beautiful love story."

The Otterbein Department of Theatre and Dance believes the production is important for its student academically. Within the liberal arts framework, students are involved with producing plays that study different aspects of humankind. They are encouraged to move away from themselves and experience the world of the character. Although "Children..." is predominately a play about relationships and written for a hearing audience, it brings students to the examination of a world with which they are unfamiliar -- that of the hearing impaired -- and serves as a significant learning experience.

Devlin has done graduate studies in directing at The Ohio State University and has completed additional studies in acting, directing, voice, dance and theatre administration in New York. She has done numerous industrials and national commercials, served as resident artist with the New York Repertory Company and been a guest artist with the New York and touring companies of American Dance Machine. Currently, she is drama director at the Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center in Columbus.

All performances will be in the Campus Center Theatre. Advance tickets are available from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109, beginning May 15.