

OTTERBEIN  
COLLEGE

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Jan. 6, 1989

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CENTRAL OHIO PREMIERE  
IS HILARIOUS TOE-TAPPER**

A crew of "klutzy" tap dancers bring down the house in Richard Harris' riotous British comedy, *Stepping Out*. The central Ohio premiere of this Evening Standard Award winner for "Best Comedy" during its Broadway run will be presented by Otterbein College Theatre. Jan. 25-28; 30,31 and Feb. 1-4. The Otterbein production will be directed by theatre instructor Dennis Romer, with musical direction by faculty member Eileen Huston.

Seven women and one man -- an unlikely gang of ungracefuls from all walks of London society -- meet weekly in a church basement to tap away their troubles. Ex-chorus girl Mavis serves as teacher for the would-be hoofers, grooming and guiding them toward their pinnacle moment -- a chance to perform in a charity benefit. With their hearts in their feet, the group pulls off a minor miracle that makes the audience "stand up and cheer," according to ABC's Joel Siegel. WCMA Radio called the show "a magical, toe-tapping triumph that tugs at the heartstrings!"

Stella Hiatt Kane, the production's choreographer, says preparing student actors for this particular show is a bit more tricky than for a typical musical where the goal is to be polished from the outset. "Not only do we have to show the dancers at their awkward beginnings -- but also at the end, looking pretty polished. A few of the characters never are super dancers, but they do get better. It's harder for them to appear awkward, and it takes a lot of work to make that awkwardness look natural."

Kane says the show's plot is fairly true-to-form as to how a dance class is taught. As a choreographer, she teaches students the steps, helps them polish the steps and has students approach what they've learned in terms of their character. "But some of the characters are so funny. The audience will enjoy and appreciate their performances."

Kane has been a free-lance choreographer affiliated locally with such organizations

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as the Worthington Civic Ballet, the Wharton School and Neoteric Dance Theatre. She returned to the Columbus area two years ago after living and working in New York for 10 years. While in New York, she studied dance (including tap) and worked with the American Dance Machine.

Currently, she is a teacher and choreographer of jazz at BalletMet and has started a group called JazzMet, an offshoot of the ballet academy. She is an adjunct teacher of dance at Otterbein and continues to free-lance locally.

All performances of *Stepping Out* will be in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. Opening night will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinees (Jan. 28 and Feb. 4) at 2 p.m. All other performances will start at 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained beginning Jan. 15 from the Cowan Hall box office, 614/898-1109.