
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

Office of College Relations • Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio 43081
(614) 898-1600 • Patricia Kessler, Director

Contact Patti Kennedy, 898-1605
or Patricia Kessler, 898-1600
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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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**OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE
WRAPS UP SEASON WITH UNCOMMON WOMEN**

Otterbein College Theatre is ending the 1990-91 season with a serious comedy about a group of women facing the challenges and choices of the future as they prepare to graduate from an elite women's college in the 1960s.

Uncommon Women and Others, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein, revolves around the reunion and reminiscences of five Mount Holyoke graduates. The friends meet for lunch six years after graduation and through a series of flashbacks reveal how their hopes and dreams have been attained, changed or cast aside. Wasserstein's play is a look at how this group of women deal with the conflicting signals of being educated for careers while also being socially groomed to be perfect wives and mothers.

The cast of characters includes Kate, poised on the brink of becoming a successful lawyer and terrified of the sacrifices her future career will require, and her roommate who is so intimidated by Kate that she changes her major and eventually escapes to another country where the two won't be compared. Others in the group include Muffet, who is torn between the pressure to be a "liberated woman" and the desire to settle down with a husband, and Rita, the flamboyantly promiscuous student who plans to be a writer but never seems to get past her writer's block.

Otterbein is pleased to welcome Ellen Newman, an assistant professor from The Ohio State University Department of Theatre, as guest director for this final play of the season. Newman has studied theatre and acting at OSU, the State University of New York and The

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Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She has taught at Cornell University, Ithaca College, Baruch College, American Musical and Dramatic Academy as well as currently teaching at OSU.

Newman has performed in four Broadway productions, including *84, Charing Cross Road, Othello, The Merchant of Venice* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, as well as several plays off-Broadway and in London. In regional theatres, she has captured roles in *The Taming of the Shrew, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, Private Lives* and several others. She has also done a stint on the soap opera circuit with parts on *Ryan's Hope* and *All My Children*.

Since joining the OSU faculty, Newman's directing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed at that university and her acting credits include a part in *Broadway Bound* and the lead role in *Driving Miss Daisy*, both performed at Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, NY. She has also served as speech and voice coach for the OSU productions of *The School for Scandal, Twelfth Night, Detective Story, Inherit the Wind* and *Please Don't Hold the Dog Up to the Casket: An Evening with Mike Harden*. This is the first time Newman has directed at Otterbein.

Uncommon Women and Others will be performed May 29-31, June 1-2 and 4-9. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. All other performances are at 8 p.m. and all performances will be held in Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 898-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.