



OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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NEWS

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LOCAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLES DODRILL RETURNS TO DIRECT

Former Department of Theatre Chairman Charles "Doc" Dodrill, a Westerville resident, will return to Otterbein College Theatre this fall to direct the opening play, *Cat Among the Pigeons*.

Although he recently directed *Baby with the Bathwater* at Contemporary American Theatre Company, this marks the first time he has returned to direct at Otterbein since his retirement in 1991. His last directing efforts at Otterbein included *Present Laughter* and *Not Now, Darling*.

When Dodrill arrived at Otterbein College in 1958, he was practically a one-person department. He taught all theatre classes in addition to the basic speech course, directed plays, designed sets, built scenery and ran the lights. Since those early days, Dodrill has developed a nationally recognized theatre program with nearly 100 majors.

With Dodrill as chairman, Otterbein's theatre department grew in terms of personnel and students but also in the number and quality of productions annually offered to the Central Ohio community. In addition to his responsibilities as administrator and teacher, Dodrill also directed more than 90 productions. He served as department chairman until 1987 when he resigned for health reasons. Even then, he continued to serve several more years as director of the College's Professional Actor Training Program and director of the National Recruiting Program. He officially left all his duties at Otterbein in 1991.

Milestones Dodrill has achieved during his chairmanship at Otterbein are significant and numerous. In 1962, he instituted the professional guest artist program which brings credited, established actors to campus; founded the Summer Theatre in 1967; established the professional internship program in 1973, which provides students with on-the-job training at nationally recognized repertory theatres and casting agencies across the nation; developed the BFA degree in professional theatre in 1976 and oversaw the creation of a dance major in 1986.

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Dodrill's awards and honors are numerous. In 1988 he received the John F. Kennedy Center Medallion of Honor from the American College Theatre Festival for "Outstanding Contribution to American Theatre." Also that year, he was given the Distinguished Service Award from the Otterbein College Alumni Association.

He also has received the Ohio Theatre Alliance Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Theatre," the 1973 Otterbein President's Award for "Outstanding Faculty Representative Member," The Westerville Jaycee Distinguished Service Award and the 1966 Outstanding Faculty Award. He was also named by the Columbus Citizen Journal in 1968 as one of the "Top Ten Men of the Year." In 1979, he was named an Honorary Alumnus of Otterbein College.

He was honored by the Westerville Rotary Club as "Rotarian of the Year" in 1992-93 and by Doctors Hospital with the "Golden Achievement Award" in 1993 for "outstanding contributions to the arts."

His professional affiliations include serving as Governor of the Great Lakes Region of the American Theatre Association (ATA). He also served on the ATA Board of Directors and as coordinator for the ATA Assembly of States. He was president of the Ohio Theatre Alliance, national president of Theta Alpha Phi Theatre Honorary, president of the Ohio Speech Association, president of the Ohio Association of Concert Managers and president of the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

The farce, *Cat Among the Pigeons*, will be performed Wednesday, Oct. 5 through Sunday, Oct. 9. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. All other evening performances are at 8 p.m. and the matinee starts at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$9.50 for the Friday and Saturday shows and \$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. 22.