

Contact Patti Kennedy, 823-1605

or Patricia Kessler, 823-1600

March 30, 1999

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

“A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC” BRINGS SOUNDS OF SONDHEIM TO THE STAGE

Otterbein College Theatre's annual spring musical, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, brings the sounds of Stephen Sondheim to the stage this year. *A Little Night Music* is one of the most popular and most praised Broadway musicals of the early 1970s. In 1973 it won six Tony awards including those for its book, music and lyrics.

Otterbein College Theatre will present *A Little Night Music* April 29-May 2 and May 6-8. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinee on May 2 is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sunday and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. beginning April 12.

Based on Bergman's *Smiles of a Summer Night*, the show deals with illusions and disillusion of love as it follows the matchings and mismatchings of four couples.

Frederick, a lawyer, and Desiree, an actress, a pair of long-separated old flames meet again and seek to untangle their present alliances in order to recapture old love. Frederick, however, is married to a child bride of 18 who for nearly a year, has skittishly declined a consummation of their marriage, while Desiree is the “other woman” with a possessive army officer. Another complication is that Henrick, Frederick's religious son, is being pursued by the maid-servant, yet he has a crush on his own step-mother.

This is some of the best of Sondheim's work in an exceedingly distinguished career. “This is a jeweled music box of a show; lovely to look at and delightful to listen to.” — *Time Magazine*.

This production will welcome back Guest Equity Artist Linda Dorff. Previously seen at Otterbein in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and last summer's *Steel Magnolias*, Dorff is returning in the role of Madame Armfeldt in this spring's *A Little Night Music*. She performed the role of Charlotte 20 years ago in the Players Theatre of Columbus production. Other favorite Sondheim roles among her credits are Amy in *Company*, the beggar woman in *Sweeney Todd* and a production of *Side by Side by Sondheim*.

A longtime actor with the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO), she has had leading roles in over 22 productions since its beginning in 1987, including *The Club*, *1959 Pink Thunderbird*, *On The Verge*, *Lie of the Mind*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Laughing Wild*, *Marvin's Room*, *The Birthday Party*, *The Gin Game* and this past fall's critically-acclaimed *All My Sons*.

Dorff often performs with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, as lay reader at the First Community Church and has done numerous industrials, videos and voice-overs.

Others involved in the production include Director Dennis Romer, Musical Director Kevin Purcell and Choreographer Stella Kane.

Romer, artistic director for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Otterbein, has directed numerous musicals at the College including *Cabaret*, *Phantom*, *Pippin* and *Evita*. Last season he directed *Thirst* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. This fall, he directed *The Secret Garden* with Purcell as musical director. Purcell, a new faculty member, joined Otterbein's Department of Music this fall. Kane, the dance coordinator for the Department of Theatre and Dance, has choreographed a number of Otterbein musicals including *Cabaret*, *A Chorus Line*, *Sweet Charity* and *Pippin*.

For more information on this production, call the box office at 823-1109 or the audience services director at 823-1209.

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Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sunday shows and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays.

The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, selected Saturdays and one hour prior to performances beginning April 12. The box office is located in Cowan Hall and that phone number is (614) 823-1109. For more information on Otterbein College Theatre's season, call (614) 823-1209.

Dates, times and location of performances are as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, April 29	7:30 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Friday, April 30	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Saturday, May 1	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Sunday, May 2	2:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Thursday, May 6	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Friday, May 7	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.
Saturday, May 8	8:00 p.m.	Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St.

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Otterbein College Theatre
A Little Night Music
Co-sponsored by the Department of Music
Directed by Dennis Romer
Musical Direction by Kevin Purcell

Cast List

Charlotte	Chrisi Carter
Malla	Lindsay Chambers
Henrik	Matthew DeVriendt
Madame Armfeldt.....	Linda Dorff, Equity Guest Artist
Mrs. Anderssen	Crystal Edwards
Carl-Magnus	Ayler Evan
Fredrika	Maya Frank
Mr. Lindquist	Josh Gilliam
Mrs. Nordstrom	Elizabeth Harold
Petra	Jen Minter
Osa	Natalie Padula
Desiree	Allison Sattinger
Fredrik	Chris Sloan
Frid	Travis Smith
Mrs. Segstrom.....	Faith Talley
Betrand	Chris Van Hoy
Anne	Amanda Wheeler
Mr. Erlanson	Jonathan Yount