
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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GUEST ARTIST/ALUM TAKES TIME OUT FROM MOVIE PROJECT
TO DESIGN SET FOR OTTERBEIN PRODUCTION

David Weller, a '77 Otterbein alumnus, is returning to his alma mater to be a guest set designer for the Feb. 4 - 7 production of Georges Feydeau's hilarious farce, "A Flea in Her Ear." In order to accommodate the college project, the accomplished professional is taking time away from another of his exciting involvements -- the making of a major motion picture.

The working title of the movie is "Bloodhounds of Broadway." It's a Damon Runyonesque-type storyline, Weller says, that is to feature Madonna, Matt Dillon, Randy Quaid and Anita Morris. He is working on the movie as assistant art director and his responsibilities include drafting sets, readapting locations and creating scenery.

During Otterbein chairman/artistic director Ed Vaughan's recent sabbatical in New York, he met with Weller to collaborate on design ideas for "A Flea In Her Ear." Further details between the set designer and play director have been coordinated by telephone, and Weller is coming to the campus briefly this week and during Jan. 22 through Feb. 3 to oversee the final stages.

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"We've tried to create a feeling of another time and place — Paris in 1910 — that era," Weller says. The set is a large undertaking that includes two separate interiors — the fancy drawing room of the lead characters and the infamous hotel. "What we've tried to do with the hotel is fun," he notes. "We've worked to make it appear as though it was very hoity-toity at one time, but a little the worse for wear now. It's almost like doing a musical with the intricate mechanics involved."

Other top-notch projects which have benefited from the designer's expertise include the soon-to-be-released film "Heart" (for which he was production assistant) and the new set of TV's "Good Morning America" which he (as an art director) helped create. He worked as assistant to the production designer for "ASCAP at Wolftrap" which aired several months ago on PBS, took creative part in the syndicated "National Geographic Explorer" and worked with the Off-Broadway productions of "Misalliance" and "Sophie." For the past two years he has been involved with the Blossom Festival School of Theatre, connected with Kent State University, and remains active in the production of theatre, opera, television and commercial design in New York.

His past theatre credits include the national tour of "Tintypes," directed by Jerry Zake, "The Middle Ages" for Nassau Repertory Theatre, the original stage version of "Educating Rita" for the Falmouth Playhouse and "Mass Appeal" for Geraldine Fitzgerald at the Pocono Playhouse. Last year, he was the American designer for a half-million dollar TV variety show for the Italian television network, RAI, and he also serves on the faculty of the New York University School of Design.

Tickets for "A Flea In Her Ear" will be available beginning Jan. 21 from the Cowan Hall box office, 898-1109, open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performance weeks — and for an hour and a half prior to performances. Performances, to be held in Cowan Hall, will begin at 7:30 p.m. opening night, 2 p.m. for the Sunday matinee and at 8 p.m. other evenings.