

OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otterbein College Theatre will present an Ohio premiere, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," Oct. 6-9 and 13-15 at Cowan Hall on the College Campus. The ingenious and wildly comic play written by Mansfield, Ohio native John Bishop enjoyed a long and critically hailed run both on and off-Broadway.

The murder-mystery spoof will be directed by Dennis Romer. "Everyone has a motive, but no one has a clue," Romer says. "It's a mystery/farce with a plot that audiences can really have a good time with."

Entertaining excitement brews as the characters move about in a mansion rife with secret passageways, revolving bookcases, magical walls and dead bodies. The group of Broadway hopefuls has been invited to the Westchester residence to audition for a backer of a new musical. The show biz types become snowbound together and assume "real life" roles of suspects and victims. Plot twist follows energetic plot twist as the zany ensemble tries to unearth the slasher, and zesty musical numbers are interspersed to compliment the lively pace.

"Enormous fun!" according to the New York Post. "There are murders galore, a mysterious maid, slashed chorus girls, a Nazi agent and sheer diamond wit." New York magazine reported that the show "basks in every kind of lunacy. 'The musical comedy murders of 1940' is the intelligent person's kind of nonsense!"

Cast members include junior Cheryl Gaysunas of Columbus as Helsa Wenzel, senior Heather Huprich of Berlin, Ohio, as Elsa Von Grossenkneuten; junior Joshua Wank of London, England, as Patrick O'Reilly; sophomore Ben Hodges of Morristown, Tenn., as Ken de la Maize; junior Jean Childers of Indianapolis as Nikki Crandall; sophomore Dennis Rapp of Delaware, Ohio, as Eddie McCuen; senior Michelle Thompson of Columbus as Marjorie Baverstock; senior Kyle Moore of Columbus, Roger Hopewell; and junior Patty Cockburn of Gahanna, Bernice Roth.

All performance will be in Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Opening night will begin at 7:30 p.m., the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. and all other performances at 8 p.m. Tickets are available beginning Sept. 22 by contacting the box office at 898-1109. Box office hours are from 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays of performance weeks. It also is open at 6:30 p.m. on performance evenings and at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday matinees.