

Contact Patti Kennedy, 823-1605

or Patricia Kessler, 823-1600

May 3, 1999

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD PREMIERE OF *ANTIGRAVITY* CLOSSES OTTERBEIN SEASON

Otterbein College Theatre will close its sixth consecutive theatre season with an original commissioned play. Each year the Department of Theatre and Dance commissions a play in an effort to bring original theatre to Central Ohio.

Antigravity, by Mystery Science Theater writer Bill Corbett, takes a comic and serious look at our feelings of isolation and fear at the end of the millennium.

The story focuses on Wendy and her brother Peter, trying to repair the family home, recently ravaged by a storm. They are aided, somewhat unwillingly, by a group of Peter's friends, Roy the caretaker, and a mysterious stranger Gerald. These very different people share the house for a Memorial Day weekend as tragedy, comedy and many surprises ensue.

Through alternating doses of wit and wisdom, *Antigravity* shows us that learning to let go of stress and pain will lead us to new and exciting personal connections. As Gerald says to Wendy in the play - "I've learned that when you go to the heart, punishment melts away, fear melts away, light comes in and there's space for happiness to enter."

Corbett's plays have been produced all around the country. Recently his play, *The Big Slam*, was produced in theatres in Boston, Seattle, Minneapolis, Fort Worth, Anchorage and Richmond, Va. While *Antigravity* is in rehearsals at Otterbein, *The Big Slam* is running at the Purple Rose Theatre produced by actor/director Jeff Daniels.

Other plays Corbett has written include *Down the Pike*, *Cash Karma*, *Ridiculous Dreaming*, and *Motorcade*.

Antigravity is not the first commissioned play Corbett has created. It is actually the third. He co-wrote a play with Kira Obolensky called *Hate Mail* and *The Clown* was commissioned by the Guthrie Theatre.

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Corbett earned his Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama, where he studied playwriting and screenwriting.

As well as writing plays, Corbett is currently writer and performer for the Mystery Science Theater 3000, where he provides the voice of “Crow” for the Comedy Central program.

As a man of many talents, Corbett has taught playwriting and screenwriting at Carleton College, Macalester College, Viterbo College, and the Playwrights’ Center.

Department of Theatre and Dance Chairperson John Stefano will direct this original work. In the past at Otterbein, Stefano has directed the mysteries *Black Coffee* and *Ten Little Indians*, the musicals *Big River* and *Sweet Charity* and children’s shows *Robin Hood* and *Pinocchio*.

Antigravity will be performed in Otterbein’s Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. in Westerville, May 27-30 and June 3-6.

The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$11 for Thursday and Sunday and \$12 for Friday and Saturday. Tickets can be reserved by call the Otterbein College box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays beginning May 17.

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Otterbein College Theatre

Antigravity

Runs May 27-30 and June 3-6, 1999

Tickets are \$11 for Thursdays and Sunday shows and \$12 for Fridays and Saturdays.

The box office is open 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, selected Saturdays beginning May 17 and one hour prior to performances. 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, May 27	7:30 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Friday, May 28	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Saturday, May 29	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Sunday, May 30	2:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Thursday, June 3	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Friday, June 4	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Saturday, June 5	8:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville
Sunday, June 6	2:00 p.m.	Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St., Westerville

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Otterbein College Theatre
Antigravity
Directed by John Stefano

Cast List

Wendy	Kelly Reeves
Roy	J.B. Reidenbaugh
Gerald	Damon Decker
Eve	Amber Mellott
Cameron	Jesse Wilson
Brian	Randy Goetz
Melina	Nikki Hersh
Peter	Jared Jensen
Suzanne	Robin Borovic