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Ginger

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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Otterbein College Theatre

in association with Robert Kennedy, Paul Becker and James Cardwell present:

Donna McKechnie Randy Skinner

and introducing Nili Bassman in

A NEW MUSICAL



GINGER

Directed by **Marshall W. Mason**

Book by **Paul Becker and Robert Kennedy**

Additional Dialogue by James Cardwell

Music by Irving Berlin, Con Conrad, Al Dubin, Vernon Duke, Edward Eliscu, Sammy Fain, Lewis Muir, Dorothy Fields, George Gershwin, Mack Gordon, Cecil Mack, Bruce Pomahac and Ginger Rogers

Lyrics by Irving Berlin, Vernon Duke, Ira Gershwin, Wolfe Gilbert, James P. Johnson, Irving Kahal, Gus Kahn, Jerome Kern, Oscar Levant, Herbert Magidson, Harry Revel, Ginger Rogers, Lela Rogers, Al Sherman, Harry Warren and Vincent Youmans

Associate Director

Erma Duricko

Musical Direction & Arrangements by

Peter Larson

Associate Musical Direction by

Jennifer Bell

Scenic Design by

Rob Johnson

Costume Design by

David Zyla

Lighting Design by

Dana White

Sound Design by

Jonanthan Erwin

Production Stage Manager

Megan Smith

Choreography by

Randy Skinner

Otterbein
College
Theatre

MAY 26, 27, 28 & JUNE 1, 2, 3, 4, 2000

CAST (In Order of Appearance)

GINGER.....	Nili Bassman*
FRED ASTAIRE.....	Randy Skinner*
MARK SANDRICH.....	Brandon Strawder
MOVIE CREW.....	Joe Dallacqua, Chris O'Connor, Allison Sattinger, Jesse Wilson, Scott Wilson, Derek Gatts
HEDDA HOPPER.....	Allison Sattinger
LELA ROGERS.....	Donna McKechnie*
FILM SM/AD/ENGINEER.....	Billoah Greene
GUS.....	Bryan Green
JACK CULPEPPER.....	Ayler Evan
STAGE MANAGER.....	Trent Caldwell
BILL.....	Derek Gatts
FRAN/LYNNE.....	Chris O'Connor
WALTER WINCHELL.....	Jesse Wilson
GEORGE GERSHWIN.....	Chris Van Hoy
MYRTLE.....	Lindsay Chambers
FRANCES DEE.....	Natalie Padula
PAN BERMAN.....	Ted Sima
MERVYN LEROY.....	Joe Dallacqua
LEW AYRES.....	Steve Sparks
JOEL MCCREA.....	Randy Goetz
MCDONOUGH.....	Scott Wilson
MIKE.....	Michael Kirsch
RAE-MI.....	Rae-Michelle LeRoy
ENSEMBLE... Jim Cooney, Derek Gatts, Tony Gonzalez, Michael J. Kirsch, Kendrick Knight, Rae-Michelle LeRoy, Amy Miller, Stephanie Miller, Jennifer Minter, Laura Runkle	
LELA STAND-IN.....	CHRISICARTER

*Actor appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Production Staff

Artistic Director	DENNIS ROMER
Production Manager/Technical Director.....	GREGORY BELL
Audience Services Director	BRIAN FALCK
Assistant Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor	TIMOTHY D. ALLWEIN
Costume Shop Supervisor/Associate Costume Designer.....	MARCIA HAIN
Production Stage Manager.....	MEGAN SMITH*
Assistant Stage Managers.....	JACLYN HOLSEY, AMANDA LYNCH
Script Supervisor.....	COLLEEN MCKNIGHT
Assistant to the Artistic Director.....	JACLYN HOLSEY
Deck Chief.....	FRANK CIRIVELLO
Properties Master	EDITH DINGER
Assistant Properties Master	BRYANNE BORNSTEIN
Master Electrician.....	LORA WINSHIP
Assistant Master Electrician.....	STEVE SAKOWSKI
Sound Engineer/Assistant Sound Engineer	PAT GREEN, CORA EVANS
Wardrobe Master.....	JAYSON PRITCHARD
Sound Consultant.....	DAVID MEAD
House Manager.....	JAMIE SPONCIL
Box Office Managers.....	MATTHEW SHERR, RANDY GOETZ

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

Alison Acierno, Ray Auxais, Holly Barnett, Casey Beard, Elizabeth Carroll, Frank Cirivello, Abby Clark, George DeShetler Jr., Edith Dinger, Cora Evans, Jenny Hitmar, Lora Winship

BOX OFFICE CREW

Robin Seabaugh, Amanda Lynch, Annette Williams, Matt Sherr, Billoah Greene, Robyn Lindsey, Krista Lively, Renata Wilson, Rebekah Sheldon, Billoah Greene, Elizabeth Harold

ELECTRICS CREW

Jonathan Bennett, Joe Dallacqua, Erin Detrick, Micah Fitzgerald, Anthony Gonzalez, Marisa

Keith, Ted Otting, Steve Sakowski (Light Board Operator), Matt Sherr, Renata Wilson
(Spot Operators: Alison Acierno, Lora Winship, Renata Wilson, Ted Otting)

WARDROBE CREW

Ray Auxais, Jeremy Bobb, Micah Fitzgerald, Robyn Lindsey, Kathleen Taylor
SET/PROPERTIES RUNNING CREW

Mike Cassara, Matt Edwards, Maya Frank, Tom Weaver, Jason Walker

Musicians

Keyboards: Peter Larson, Jennifer Bell; Percussion: Jeremy Bradstreet; Bass: Zid Townsend
Rehearsal accompanist: Beth Burrier-Bradstreet

Biographies

Donna McKechnie (Lela) Tony Award star of *A Chorus Line*, Ms. McKechnie is regarded internationally as one of Broadway's foremost dancing stars having recreated her role of "Cassie" in the first English speaking companies in Tokyo and Paris. She comes to Otterbein directly from Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park playing Desiree in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*. Last fall, also at the Playhouse she workshopped and performed her one-woman musical *Inside the Music* written by Christopher Durang and choreographed by Thommie Walsh. After one her greatest triumphs as "Sally" in the critically acclaimed revival of *Follies* in the Spring of 1998, she choreographed and performed *No Way to Treat a Lady* in London's West End were a few seasons earlier she performed in Cole Porter's *Can Can* at the Strand Theatre. Her other West End credits include: *Promises Promises*, *Company* and *Follies in Concert* at the Dury Lane this time playing the role of "Phyllis." Her other Broadway credits include: *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Funny Happened on the Way to Forum* (national tour), *The Education of Hyman Kaplan*, *Sondheim: A Musical Tribute* (which she also choreographed), *On The Town*, *Promises Promises*, *Company* and *State Fair* for which she received the Fred Astaire Award for the Best Female Dancer 95-96 season. She has starred in dozen of regional theatre and Off-Broadway productions including: Cole Porter's *You Never Know*, *Misalliance*, *I Do! I Do!*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Goodbye Girl* and *Annie Warbucks*. She was invited by Bob Fosse to play the lead in his last production, the National Tour of *Sweet Charity* for which she was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award. Donna has performed extensively on the concert stage, cabaret and with symphony orchestras internationally. She made her opera debut in 1996 with the San Francisco Opera in *Die Fledermaus*. She appeared as a guest star in numerous television musical specials and dramatic series including: *Fame Cheers*, *Family Ties* and *Dark Shadows*. She played "The Rose" in the film *A Little Prince*. The last time performed in Columbus was for the Kenley Players in *Call Me Madam* with Ethel Merman. That was 32 years ago and she is thrilled to be back.

Randy Skinner (Fred Astaire/Choreographer) New York: *State Fair* (Outer Critics nomination) *Ain't Broadway Grand* (Tony, Outer Critics nominations) *42nd Street* (assisted Gower Champion), *DO RE MI* (City Center Encores!), *The Jazz Singer* (Workshop). Los Angeles: *Pal Joey*, *Hello Dolly!* (Drama-Logue Award) *Strike Up The Band*, *42nd Street*, (L.A. Drama Critics, Bay Area Critics Awards). Goodspeed: *Lucky In The Rain* (Connecticut Critics Award). Recordings: *Sondheim at the Movies*, *110 In The Shade*, *Strike Up The Band*, *Lucky In The Rain*, *DO RE MI*. Played Bobby in the National Company of *A Chorus Line*, Rudolf in *Hello Dolly!* (with Nell Carter), Victor in *Pal Joey* (with Dixie Carter and Elaine Stritch), Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Lucky in *Dames at Sea*, Chester in *Once More With Feeling* (with Don Ameche), Val in *Babes In Arms* (directed by Ginger Rogers), featured dancer in the world premiere of *The American Dance Machine*. Cum Laude graduate of The Ohio State University. Guest teacher at numerous colleges. Future projects: *George M* revival at Goodspeed Opera House, *42nd Street* revival on Broadway.

Nili Bassman (Ginger) Ms. Bassman's stage credits include The Goodspeed Opera House, The Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, and numerous productions at The John F. Kennedy Center, where she created the role of Sarah in the original production of *T-Money & Wolf*. Ms. Bassman was also featured as a guest soloist in *Singularly Sensational Broadway*, an evening with Marvin Hamlisch and The Pittsburgh Pops. Her favorite stage roles include Maggie in *Brigadoon*, Abigail in *The Crucible* (Michael Rupert, dir.), and Cassie in *A Chorus Line* (Mitzi Hamilton, dir.). Ms. Bassman's film and television credits include a lead role in Fogwood Films/ABC's "The Christmas Tree" directed by Sally Field. And most recently, she shot the pilot episode of "The Contender," directed by Hugh Wilson for the UPN network. Ms. Bassman is from Burke, VA, and has a BFA from Point Park College.

Megan Smith (Production Stage Manager) New York credits include: *Ginger, Flight to Freedom: Eastville on the Underground Railroad, Dream City Twosome, Battle of Angels, Sailor's Knot, Elvis and My Little Brother, and Tennessee and His Women*. Other New York credits include: production assistant for *Robbers* by Lyle Kessler, directed by Marshall W. Mason; *Dying Breed* by Berilla Kerr and *Father's Day* by Lanford Wilson, directed by Erma Duricko. Regional credits include: *Truth in the Guise of Illusion, Battle of Angels, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Lady of Larkspur Lotion, 4 x Tenn: An Evening of Tennessee Williams* and *Paper Lanterns: An Evening of Tennessee Williams*. Ms. Smith has transferred several productions including *Ginger, Truth in the Guise of Illusion, Battle of Angels, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Lady of Larkspur Lotion* and *4 x Tenn: An Evening of Tennessee Williams*. Ms. Smith is a Founding Member and Managing Director of Blue Roses/4Tenn Productions, a non-profit production company in New York. She wishes to thank her family and Ed for their continuing love and support.

Marshall Mason (Director) Mason has directed 12 productions on Broadway which have won 4 Tony Awards and 24 Tony nominations, including 5 for Best Director: *Redwood Curtain, Burn This, As Is, Angel's Fall, Fifth of July, Talley's Folly* and *Knock Knock*. His Off-Broadway work has been recognized with six Obie Awards for Distinguished Direction. He has directed two other musicals in development in New York and London and most recently staged Lanford Wilson's award winning new play *Book of Days*. Mason was the founding Artistic Director of Circle Repertory Company, which the NY Times called "the chief provider of new American plays." Last fall, Mr. Mason was honored as one of the "Outstanding Directors of the Century" by the Stage Directors / Choreographers Foundation. He is currently a professor at Arizona State University.

Rob Johnson (Scenic Designer), our resident scenic designer since 1987 has designed sets and/or lighting for over one hundred theatrical productions in his career. Recent Otterbein designs include the sets for *West Side Story* and *Twelfth Night* and lighting design for *Death of a Salesman*. He also designed the set for the Contemporary American Theatre Company's recent hit, *The Anger In Ernest & Ernestine*. Rob also recently won two Ezekiel Design awards: one for the scenic design of last year's *Arcadia*, the other for the set design of *A Little Night Music*, produced last season here at Otterbein. He also creates 3D computer visualizations/animations for architects and designs websites for fun. You can visit him at his website: <http://www.otterbein.edu/home/fac/RBRWJHNS/>.

Peter Larson (Music Director/Arranger) collaborated with Josh Rubins in composing the score for the award-winning musical, *Brownstone*. Songs by Larson and Rubins have been recorded by Dionne Warwick, Bette Midler, Michael Crawford, Liz Callaway, and others. On Broadway Mr. Larson has written dance music for *My One and Only, Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, orchestrated for *Something's Afoot* and played the piano for numerous Broadway shows. He has also written several published children's musicals and toured extensively as pianist and musical director for such artists as Chita Rivera, Dionne Warwick, and others. Mr. Larson currently lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife, Susan, and daughter, Eliza.

Dana White (Lighting Designer) is Associate Professor of Lighting, Sound, and Stage Management. Otterbein audiences may remember his Sound Design for *Death of a Salesman* and Lighting Design for *West Side Story*. He has designed several original productions including the World Premier of *Book of Days* by Lanford Wilson, winner of the Grand Prize "Best Play of 1998", and *Brave New World* with Columbus Dance Theatre. Recent projects include *All Night Strut!* at Cleveland's Hannah Theatre, and the long running comedy, *Escanba in da Moonlight* at the historic Gem Theatre in Detroit, MI. Mr. White is an Associate Artist at the Purple Rose Theatre, and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

David R. Zyla (Costume Designer): Recent stage credits include the Ahmanson Theatre's 20th Anniversary production of *Sweeney Todd* starring Kelsey Grammer, Neil Patrick Harris and Christine Baranski; the Pittsburgh Public Theatre's *The Pirates of Penzance*; the LA Philharmonic's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* starring Alfree Woodard and David Ogden Stiers; the national tour of *Wonderful Town* starring Lucie Arnaz; and for the Los Angeles Reprise! series: *Fiorello!* starring Tony Danza, *The Boys From Syracuse* starring David Hyde Pierce and *The Threepenny Opera* starring Patrick Cassidy. Additional recent credits include the Shakespeare Festival/LA productions of *As You Like It* and *The Comedy Of Errors* starring Tom Hanks; the Baltimore, Chicago and New York productions of *Clue-The Musical*; the New York Encore! production of *Fiorello!*; the Sacramento Light Opera productions of *The Secret Garden* starring Robert Cuccioli and *Carousel*;

and the Sacramento Theatre Company's production of *Pericles*. Film credits include *Nice Guys Sleep Alone* starring Morgan Fairchild; Joe Brook's *Sara's Life*; and the PBS mini-series: *They Came For Good*. Prior to his career in theatre and film, Mr. Zyla's name was on an international fashion label, carried in all major stores and featured in national and international press. In addition to designing for numerous celebrities, Mr. Zyla designed the wardrobe for First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for her trip to the Far East.

Jonathan Erwin (Sound Designer) is junior BFA Design/Tech major from sunny Upper Arlington. His previous Otterbein sound designs include *Steel Magnolias*, *Proposals* and *Guys and Dolls*. Thanks to all, have a great summer.

Erma Duricko (Associate Director) Erma Duricko is the founder of Blue Roses/4-Tenn Productions, NYC. She has directed over 40 productions in NY and 100 across the country. Among her favorites are: All plays by Tennessee Williams, *Flight to Freedom*, *Dying Breed*, *Sailors Knot and Father's Day*. Musicals include her award winning productions of *Peter Pan*, *High Spirits*, *The Me Nobody Knows*, *Damn Yankees* and *How to Succeed Without Really Trying*. She is the recent recipient of the Tennessee Williams Festival Award for Outstanding Contributions Preserving, Promoting, and Perpetuating the plays of Tennessee Williams. She has twice received the Arizona Critics' Award for Directing, the Scranton Times Critics' Choice for Outstanding Production of the Year, a Cervantes Grant for Directing, and an ACTF Award for Direction. She is also Artistic Associate of Circle East, NYC, listed in Who's Who in Entertainment, America & World. Erma is married to the love here life – psychologist Dr. Allen Duricko and is the mother of award winning composer Jeffrey Allen and young actor Marissa Danielle. She is thrilled to be reunited with Mr. Mason once again.

Jennifer Bell (Associate Music Director) has been Music Director for *Wind in the Willows*, *Emperor's New Clothes*, and *Once Upon A Mattress* here at Otterbein, as well as *Godspell* at Columbus Children's Theatre and *Working* with Reynoldsburg Performing Arts Program. In an earlier incarnation she appeared onstage in *Baby* at the Showboat Dinner Theatre, *A Little Night Music* and *My Fair Lady* at Seaside Music Theatre and *Camelot* at the Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre, all in Florida. She has also sung as a concert soloist in Boston, Cincinnati, Orlando, and Pittsburgh. Current interests are "early music" (playing viola da gamba and teaching recorder) and her daughters Rebecca and Sarah.

Marcia Hain (Costume Shop Supervisor/Associate Costume Designer) has been a member of the Otterbein Theatre Tech Staff since 1989. Since then she has run the Costume Shop full time and has also designed such shows as *Night Watch*, *Sherlock's Last Case*, and *A Few Good Men*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *1776*. She also served as Associate Designer for *Phantom*. Ms. Hain has an extensive background in Home Economics as well as commercial costuming, and has free lance designed and built for regional, community, and high school theatres.

Paul Becker (Book / Producer) began his association with Ginger Rogers twenty-two years ago while he was producing a National Public Radio show on her career as an entertainer. He and Miss Rogers formed a close personal friendship that lasted the rest of her life. He encouraged her to write her autobiography for which he was the historical consultant and one of the editors. Mr. Becker's earlier experience included broadcasting for the Armed Forces Network. Later, he wrote over fifty shows which he produced for a local NPR affiliate in Los Angeles. He has also edited and presented motion picture film clips at institutions including the Ronald Reagan Library, American Cinematheque, the Dance Gallery Guild in Los Angeles, the Charles Russell Museum and the Hollywood Westerner Hall of Fame. Miss Rogers named him as executor and trustee in her will. He wrote the play *Ginger* with his partner Robert Kennedy, then secured the approval of the legal beneficiary of Ginger's image and rights to produce the play under the banner of Tremont Productions. Mr. Becker produced a shortened thirty minute version of the play, in a radio show format, for presentation at a major fund-raiser in Palm Springs earlier this year co-starring Rich Little and Meredith Patterson.

Robert Kennedy (Producer / Book) Mr. Kennedy joined with Ginger Rogers professionally 20 years ago as her personal manager. In 1985, Ginger made her directing debut with his two productions of *Babes in Arms* where she and he revamped the classic Rodgers and Hart. Most recently, Mr. Kennedy in association with Ms. McKechnie presented the American premiere of her one-woman show, "*Inside the Music*." For 22 years Mr. Kennedy was the sole owner of GK Management, handling the careers of professionals throughout the entertainment industry. He was president of KENVEL Productions for 2 years and GK Productions for 10. While traveling with Ginger on her

book tour, she agreed to allow her autobiography to be adapted and written for the theater - thus the musical GINGER. Mr. Kennedy has handled Miss Rogers intellectual property rights for the Ginger Rogers Trust and is currently distributing Ginger's last television special from her one-woman show and a new CD including rare new released vocal recordings of Miss Rogers.

James Cardwell (Producer / Additional Dialogue) At age 25, Mr. Cardwell began producing with the NUNSENSE running nearly 15 years and grossing over \$250 million. He also co-produced the critically acclaimed musical, "THE LAST SESSION" ("Exquisite - Exuberant" - New York Times), and the award winning Monsoon Christmas. He is the co-developer for the Harlem Performing Arts Center and was recently appointed as the Deputy Director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem (a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate). He also serves as a co-founder and COO for the Harlem Institute for Hospitality & Performing Arts Management. As a theater consultant to Dentsu, Inc., he authored the book "INSIDE BROADWAY." His PLANET FASHION ran 182 episodes in over 60 countries and he is developing numerous film and television projects. He was formerly a senior tax consultant for Arthur Andersen & Co. James serves as a Trustee for John Street United Methodist Church (the oldest and first Methodist Society in America - since 1766).

Alison Acierno (Follow Spot Operator) is a sophomore Design/Tech major from Columbus. She is very happy to be working on yet another Otterbein show. She was last seen as Assistant Stage Manager for *West Side Story*. She sends her love and thanks to her Mom, Dad and Pat.

Bryanne E. Bornstein (Assistant Props Master) is a freshman BA Theatre major from Worthington, OH. Bryanne is very happy to be part of this production. Special thanks to friends and family.

Trent Braden Caldwell (Stage Manager) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Cambridge, OH. He has appeared in the faculty-directed workshop *Yerma* and the mainstage production of *Twelfth Night*. He would like to thank his family, the brothers of Zeta Phi, the sophomore acting class, Mr. Frank and Mark Hitzel, a great guy who will be missed.

Chrisi Carter (Lela Stand-In) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Mechanicstown, OH. Otterbein Theatre credits include *A Little Night Music*, *Edmond*, *Falsettos*, and *Cabaret*. Otterbein Opera Theatre credits include *The Magic Flute* and *Napoleon*. Thanks to Jamie, Miguel, Jim and Cara for making me laugh!

Lindsay Chambers (Myrtle) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major with Dance Concentration from Worthington, OH. Lindsay is thrilled to be part of *Ginger* and to be working with these fabulous people. She was last seen in *West Side Story* as Anita. Thanks to Marshall, Erma and Megan, the awesome cast, the sophomore class, her family friends and Quatt Quooper.

SPECIAL THANKS: JOANN VANSANT and MARYLIN DAY, NEVALYN F. NEVIL, BENT TREE GOLF CLUB, CHESROWN AUTO DEALERSHIP, ROUSH HONDA, MY COUSIN'S CLOSET, ERNEST and NEVA FRITSCHKE, RICART HYUNDAI



For more program information see our website @ WWW.otterbein.edu
Otterbein College Theatre (Cowan Hall)

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Monday - Friday 1:00 - 4:30



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