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### Ouachita to present "Oklahoma!" as spring musical April 11-14

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Ouachita News Bureau

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OUACHITA  
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

For immediate release

**Ouachita to present “Oklahoma!” as spring musical April 11-14**

*By Madison Cresswell*

April 1, 2019

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at [newsbureau@obu.edu](mailto:newsbureau@obu.edu) or (870) 245-5208



ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's School of Fine Arts will present one of the most performed shows in America, “Oklahoma!,” beginning Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Performing Arts Center. Performances will continue April 12-13 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee performance on Sunday, April 14, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from the OBU Box Office for \$12 each.

Written by composer Richard Rodgers and librettist Oscar Hammerstein II, “Oklahoma!” tells the story of Laurey Williams, a farm girl from Oklahoma territory in 1906, and her courtship from two rival suitors, cowboy Curly McLain and farmhand Jud Fry. Curly fights to keep Laurey's love with a story full of mystery, drama and romance.

“It's a story about hope, love, friendship and togetherness,” said Joe Hernandez, director of the musical and assistant professor of theatre arts at Ouachita. “The message is timeless and is really something everyone can relate to. Laurie is a young girl who just wants to be loved, and Curly is a young man who wants to be respected. Through this story, you get to watch these two fall in love while relating them to your own life. We want the audience to grow with the characters throughout the show and become immersed in the story from the very beginning.”

Rehearsals for the show began in January and will continue until the week of the performances. There are more than 120 cast and crew members involved in the production.

“This show is one of our largest productions in the School of Fine Arts,” said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of the School of Fine Arts and professor of music. “It really brings all of our folks together for one great big production, including faculty, staff and students.”

Lauren Terry, a senior musical theatre major from Evansville, Ind., is assistant director for the production. Dr. Jon Secrest, Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music, is serving as music director; Christina Johnson, assistant professor of theatre arts, as costume designer; Eric Philips, professor of theatre arts, as technical director; and Stacy Hawking, fine arts administrator and box office manager, as choreographer.

Abi Anderson, a sophomore theatre arts and education double major from Mesquite, Texas, is serving as stage manager and will be assisted by Dani Thompson, a freshman musical theatre and education double major from Benton, Ark.

The production is open to the public and tickets are \$12 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the OBU Box Office in Jones Performing Arts Center on weekdays from 1-5 p.m. or online at [www.obu.edu/boxoffice](http://www.obu.edu/boxoffice). Ouachita students may obtain one free ticket with their student ID. For group rates or more information, call the box office during business hours at (870) 245-5555 or email [boxoffice@obu.edu](mailto:boxoffice@obu.edu).

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