



Monday, October 6, 2003

Dickens events complement symposium

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The works of 19th century author Charles Dickens are undeniably of great depth and lend themselves to adaptations, reinterpretations and depictions in other artistic mediums. Reflective of this richness, Oakland University's **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** (MBAG) will exhibit a rare collection of 19th century photographs of London beginning Friday, Oct. 10, and students in Oakland's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** (MTD) will stage an adaptation of Dickens' novel "Great Expectations" beginning Thursday, Oct. 9. Both events are being held in conjunction with the eighth annual **Dickens Society Symposium**, which is taking place at OU's Meadow Brook Hall Oct. 10-12.

The MBAG exhibit, titled "Dickensian London and the Photographic Imagination," features more than 50 19th century photos from the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the collection of William B. Becker. The photos, which complement Dickens' descriptive realism, also are poignant artistic compositions.

"The photos are very important from a historical point of view," said MBAG Director Dick Goody. "When one thinks of London or any other big city today, you think of large architectural vistas with skyscrapers and such. But in the 19th century, there were not many buildings in London over five stories tall. These photographs give a sense of how compressed London was. They also have an atmospheric appeal from that period that could otherwise only be expressed through illustration or in writing."

In addition, large texts from Dickens' writings will be displayed and film adaptations of his works from the 1930s will be shown in the gallery to bring the realism of his prose alive. Assistant Professor of Art and Art History Claude Baillargeon, an expert in 19th century photography and curator of the exhibit, will give a lecture on the exhibit at the gallery on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 5 p.m., and Richard Stein, professor of English at the University of Oregon, will deliver a lecture titled "London's Londons: Photographing the Urban Poor in 1903," on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit the **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** Web site or contact Dick Goody at (248) 370-3005 or goody@oakland.edu.

MTD performances of "Great Expectations," adapted by Barbara Field, follow the main character, Pip, from his humble beginnings through his encounters with an escaped convict, the bizarre Miss Havisham and the haughty Estella, and on to London where his "expectations" are made known as he aspires to become a gentleman. Evening performances are scheduled for Oct. 9, 10, 16, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 8:30 p.m. Matinees are Oct. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. and morning performances are Oct. 14 and 15 at 10 a.m. Admission is \$6 for students and \$12 for the general public. For more information, visit the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** Web site or contact (248) 370-3013 or mtd@oakland.edu.

The Dickens Society Symposium, which is open to the public, will feature lectures and presentations by noted scholars from around the world celebrating the life, work and times of Charles Dickens. Attendees must pay a \$60 registration fee (\$35 for students and seniors), which includes lunch on Saturday, Oct. 11. For more information, visit the **Dickens Society Symposium** Web page or contact Natalie Cole at (248) 370-2539 or cole@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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