

Otter Nonsense Players

Preamble: A brief history (for a history of our briefs, see Otter underwear archive)

In the fall of the 1990-1991 school year Eugene Swift '94 and Matt lane '94 decided to create a theater group on the Middlebury College campus which would perform strictly original material. Both had an interest in improvisation and writing material, and hoped to form a company based on the same two interests.

And thus, through auditions organized by Swift, Lane, and Amy Stern '93, the Otter Nonsense Players were formed and began their existence by [censored secret activity] on the [censored secret place] in the early hours of February 21, 1991.

Article I. Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be The Otter Nonsense Players, hereafter abbreviated ONP.

Article II. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of ONP is to provide the Middlebury College community with a source of student run, student performed original comic entertainment.

Article III. Membership

Membership in ONP is determined by an audition and callback process held each semester (or as needed), judged by the current members of the group, but should not be less than five and never any more than fourteen members.

There are no pre-requisites for audition for the ONP besides a willingness and a desire to do so. During the selection process the members of ONP shall judge on the basis of a candidate's audition performance (spontaneity, enthusiasm, creativity, etc.), and a compatibility with and potential commitment to the group, always keeping in mind the aforementioned purpose of ONP.

A player's membership status is considered active until either the member resigns on his or her initiative, is no longer a student at Middlebury College, or is voted out of the group under the provisions of article X.

Article IV. Offices

A. The Lead Players (Papa or Mamma Otter)

1. Shall be held by two performing players
2. Shall be elected by the ONP
3. Shall share equally (as decided by the lead players) the responsibilities of organization and creative co-ordination detailed in 4.
4. These responsibilities include arranging rehearsal and performance spaces (both on and off campus); preparing for the guidance of rehearsals, performances and auditions; publicity; financial arrangements; the maintenance of Otter archives (including relevant notes at meetings and rehearsals); acquisition of properties; communication within the ONP; and any other responsibilities which may later arise.
5. Shall both be equally responsible for insuring that the ONP does not stray from its stated purpose.

Article V. Elections

Election for a school year's lead players shall be held by March 15 of the previous semester. The term of service will be one semester (fall semester includes J-term). Elections for interim positions will be scheduled as necessary. A majority of the ONP votes is required for anyone seeking election to the status of lead player.

Article VI. Meetings

Meetings may only be scheduled by the lead players. Performance dates may only be set after constitution of the full ONP. Attendance at ONP is mandatory for a quorum of one half of the members.

Article VII. Committees

The lead players have the power to appoint players to temporary committees should the need arise. The lead players also have the power of Grey Skull; however, this does not apply to the formation of committees in any way—should the question arise.

Article VIII. Ratification

- A. This constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. This constitution must be approved by the SGA constitution committee.
- C. This constitution (not the other one) will self destruct on its own over a period of years as the paper slowly biodegrades.
- D. Rats are not allowed in the ratification process, no matter what they may tell you.

Article IX. Amendments

- A. Amendments to this constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. Amendments to this constitution must be approved by the SGA constitution committee.

Article X. X-pulsion

Absence from rehearsals scheduled more than two days earlier is only allowable with a justified excuse or advance notification with the approval of the ONP. Justified excuses include illness, special class sessions, inescapable obligations for other Middlebury organizations (although an attempt to escape should be made), family obligation and other important conflicts deemed acceptable by the lead players.

Should a player show a continually negligent attitude towards the ONP, an effort shall be made to inspire change. Upon failure of said efforts, the player may be expelled. To expel a player, the lead players must first agree that expulsion is the best and only solution to the problem. Then the player must be confronted with the possibility of expulsion and given a specific time period in which to alter his or her behavior. If a significant attempt at improvement is not made within this period, the Otter Command may recommend expulsion to the ONP. A vote of three-quarters majority of the Onp is required for the expulsion of a member.

Article XI. Advisor

The Otters agree to maintain a faculty/staff advisor, as required.

Approved as to form: April 23, 1991

Edited and Approved: Spring

1999Approved: Fall 2007