

CALLBOARD

Leadership Conference combined with Fall Conference this year, October 12-14

The Theatre Leadership Conference (TLC) is back, and it is now part of the CTAM Fall Conference, October 12-14, in the Flint/Grand Blanc area. Beginning Friday evening and continuing through Sunday morning, theatre leaders from around the state will have the chance to network with others who do the same thing, have their questions answered, and learn from each other. Both paid staff and Board members from theatres with no staff work together to learn what shows are hits and misses, how to solve Board challenges, effective marketing tips, fundraising ideas, how to budget, new technical options, and other topics they choose themselves in a pre-conference survey.

The weekend is moderated by Allen Ebert, an AACT Board member, who currently is the Executive Director of the Children's Theater of Madison. Previously Allen was the Executive Director at La Crosse Community Theatre and served as the Entertainment Director of the Army's Soldier's Theatre in Vicenza, Italy. Ebert has been an advocate for the arts for more than 23 years. He has managed various theaters, large and small, and has directed and performed in more than 100 productions. He



Allen Ebert

has extensive knowledge in marketing, teaching, audience development, board management, consulting and directing. We are excited to have his enthusiasm and vast knowledge at the helm of this conference.

Our goals for the TLC are to send your theatre leaders home with knowledge that can help your organization improve and grow, provide a bridge between the theatres with staff and those who have not reached that level, and make it less costly and time consuming for your theatres to gain knowledge - one conference that answers your administrative needs while others from your organization learn acting, directing, and technical skills.

The TLC has sessions Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. Participants will dine with everyone else at the conference and will be able to attend the Saturday night general conference activities. There will be time available for theatres with comparable budgets to work together on problem solving.

It's a lot of learning packed into one weekend, but your theatre will soon see the benefits both financially and administratively. As one regular Madison attendee always says, he never goes home without at least one idea that pays for the cost of his weekend.

If you have questions please contact Betsy Willis at 231-838-0269 or reach out [via email](#).

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Callboard

Editor..... Mary Lou Britton

This is the official newsletter of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, issued monthly to all group affiliates and individual members with e-mail addresses on record. Distribution is by e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the association website. Back issues are available on the association website. Correspondence to the **Callboard** should be sent to the Editor at mellbee@earthlink.net.

- Productions and dates should be sent to the Editor.
- Short informational articles are accepted and will be used on a space-available basis.
- Show photos should be carefully selected and sent to the Editor, along with identifying caption and permission from photographer for us to publish.

Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Executive Secretary Nancy Peska and should be sent to her at peska@cmsinter.net.



Nominations Deadline Approaching July 1

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Board of CTAM -- or if you want to nominate someone else you think would be a good Board member, please contact David Wahr of the nominating committee at dwahr@cass.net on or before July 1st!

There are three seats open (3 years each) and the Nomination Committee will select up to five qualified individuals to run for each open seat.

Please note that the CTAM Board strongly suggests that all nominees attend the Board meeting on Saturday and Sunday July 14 and 15 at the MacMullan Center at Higgins Lake. This will serve as a pre-election orientation to how the board works.



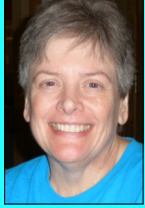
CTAM Calendar of Events

June 27-July 1, 2018 New York City	CTAM trip to Broadway
July 13-15, 2018 Higgins Lake	Master Classes MacMullan Center
October 12-14, 2018 Flint/Grand Blanc area	2018 Fall Conference Holiday Inn-Gateway Ctr.
(to be announced), 2019 Owosso, Michigan	2019 Michigan AACTfest
April 11-14, 2019 Kokomo, IN	AACTfest Region III Festival
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater

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The prez Sez... by Christy Frick

CTAM on the Road was a great success! Many thanks go to Fenton Village Players and Players De Noc (Escanaba) for hosting our Spring Conference(s). I was unable to attend in Fenton, but have heard many great things and they did a wonderful job! I did make it up to Escanaba and wasn't disappointed. What a great turnout! Kudos to both theatre groups for putting in time and effort for these two "mini" conferences.

Coming up next is our Master Classes held at the MacMullen Center at Higgins Lake. The dates are July 13th – 15th. We are offering two Master Classes. (1) Actor and Director Working Together lead by Penny Notter, retired associate Director of Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. (2) So You've Agreed to Design Costumes. Now What? lead by Joy Butler, Volunteer Chair of Costumes at Bay City Players. The registration form is now online so take a few minutes to register. Remember there are scholarships available to help with the cost of registration only. Look for more information about the Master Classes online.

Remember we have a new date and destination for our Fall Conference! October 12th – 14th at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center Flint/Grand Blanc area. It is a lovely facility and we feel it will meet our needs. It is easy to get to from all areas. We are hoping for a great turnout. Thank you to Suzan Dunham and her team for all their hard work and planning. Watch for more information online and in our Call-board.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

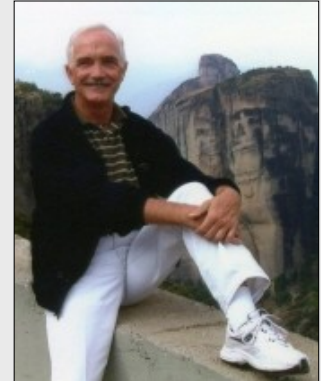
Christy Frick

Two theatre greats gone.

In the past several weeks, CTAM has lost a former President Jeff Springgay from Clio Cast & Crew, and former Board member Michael Schacherbauer from Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing. Both gentlemen were dedicated, passionate believers in CTAM and worked hard toward the success of our organization. We extend our condolences to their families and friends ... and to the affiliate groups who will feel the giant loss.



Schacherbauer



Springgay

Fall Conference FACTS

Date: Weekend of October 12-14, 2018

Location: Holiday Inn - Gateway Center in the Flint/Grand Blanc area. Easily accessed from I-75 or M-23 because it's located where they intersect.

Online registration will be posted soon at ctam.online!

Several CTAM activities are being combined into this special weekend.

- ☆ The regular Fall Conference with workshops, parties and networking,
- ☆ A Youth Theatre conference for youngsters who want to learn and grow in the performing arts, and
- ☆ The TLC - Theatre Leadership Conference for your paid staff and lead volunteers to share ideas and get better at what they do.



THEATER CAMP FOR GROWNUPS

A Master Class Series

Higgins Lake, near Roscommon, July 13 - 15

Remember how much fun summer camp was when you were a kid? How would you like to revisit the days of sitting around a campfire, sing-alongs and spending time in a peaceful, natural surrounding? Add to that, friends from around the state who enjoy theatre as much as you do and you have THEATRE CAMP FOR GROWNUPS!

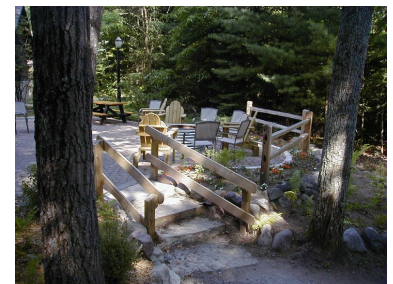
CTAM is known for bringing you top notch educational opportunities and we continue that trend with our summer Master Class Series, which will be held at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on beautiful Higgins Lake. Centrally located just off I-75, it's the perfect setting in which to have a lot of fun while enjoying 14.5 hours of practical theatrical classes.

This summer we will be offering two extremely interactive and engaging master classes simultaneously. Both will be facilitated by acclaimed instructors that are highly knowledgeable and have taught numerous classes in their field for many years.

★ Actor & Director will be led by **Penny Notter** from the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and

★ **Joy Butler** from Bay City Players will teach Costuming.

You can [register on line](#) immediately and make that commitment to having summer fun again like you did in the years gone by!



Joanne Berry receives Bay Music Foundation award



Joanne Berry with her husband, Kerry, at the award ceremony.

On Sunday, May 20, Joanne Berry received the **Peggy Rowley Award** in a ceremony at the State Theatre. This is a significant honor, given annually by the *Bay Music Foundation*. The award recognizes a current or former Bay County resident who has made a significant impact on youth in the Arts. Recipients of the award have exhibited influence 'Above and Beyond' in furthering musical education of students in the area.

Presenting the award, Mike Bacigalupo, President of the Foundation's Board of Directors, cited Joanne's years of teaching theatre and English, her involvement with CTAM and AACT, her service as a performer, director, stage manager and Board member at Bay City Players. Significantly, Mike highlighted Joanne's continuing involvement in arts education as Chair of the Education Committee for CTAM and as Co-Chair (with Joy Butler) for Bay City Player's *Stages of Discovery*. Joanne has been long dedicated to education and arts advocacy for CTAM. Congratulations, Joanne!



Don't forget about our CTAM Scholarship opportunities

Just a reminder that scholarships are still available to help cover the cost of registrations for the upcoming Master Classes and Fall Conference. There is a short application that needs to be completed and signed by an officer of your local theatre. These scholarships are available for Individual Members, and are limited to two per theatre group per conference/class per year. So take advantage. Send a request or questions to Christy Frick, Scholarship Chair at cfrick9898@charter.net. I know of some that have received a scholarship for past events and were so appreciative that this was available to them.



New members join CTAM

We are pleased and proud to welcome our new members from the Upper Peninsula into our CTAM family. We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship.

- ★ Victoria Ann Radke, Players de Noc
- ★ Peter and Jolie Dzanbozoff, Players de Noc
- ★ James Powell, Players de Noc
- ★ Mark and Janice Miller, Dickinson County Community Theatre
- ★ Sara LaMarch from Players de Noc

CTAM has been trying for several years to expand our services to the Upper Peninsula and, thanks to the outreach efforts of Players de Noc in Escanaba, we're finally getting some people interested.

It's a long drive, but a beautiful one ... well worth the benefits of CTAM membership.



The Sauk selected to premiere one of AACT winning plays, 2020

An honor to one of our own, The Sauk in Jonesville has been selected as one of the six theaters nationally to premiere one of the winning AACT NewPlayFest 2020 plays! Quite an honor!

Started in 1961 as the Broad Street Players, the organization purchased the former Jonesville Opera House in 1971 and converted it into what is now the Sauk Theatre. Also known as Hillsdale Community Theatre, they produce a five-show mainstage and a three-show SaukSeconds season, and host both a local improvisational troupe and a professional Shakespeare company annually. Each summer, Plays-in-Development readings are produced and new plays are also presented as part of the annual Sauk Shorts, an evening of 10-minute plays.

In addition, local schools and a local children's theatre company use the theatre for their productions. An annual series of workshops is offered, ranging in topics from stage combat, to improv to understanding Shakespeare's texts.

This is a great honor and CTAM offers our congratulations to The Sauk. It will be a challenging undertaking, to be sure.



Oliver! Outdoors

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook (Bloomfield Hills) mounted a splendid production of Oliver! in their outdoor Greek theater! See here several production photos from this creative group and their current production!



On the Road with CTAM crosses the Mighty Mac

On May 4 and 5 CTAM hosted its final On the Road Spring Conference in Beautiful Escanaba! The conference was a huge success, bringing 60 theater enthusiasts together from 20 different communities to the picturesque lakeside city. The activities for the weekend kicked off with a meet-and-greet mixer on Friday night at the Terrace Bay Hotel.

The evening offered socializing, refreshments, information on upcoming CTAM events and BINGO! Well, it was sort of like bingo. Each attendee had a bingo card filled with names of the various groups attending the conference, and to fill up their bingo card, they had to search out and talk to a member of that group and ask them to sign their bingo card. Once an attendee had a BINGO, they could be entered to win over a dozen fantastic door prizes.

On Saturday, the fun continued during our workshops held at Bay College in Escanaba. Attendees learned how to further their comedic acting skills, build fantastic props on a budget, step into the next age of lighting with cost effective LEDs, fundraise for their organization with grant writing and broaden their theatres patron base with new and creative marketing ideas.

Following the workshops, everyone had time to explore the community and that evening attend the closing performance of *Dinner with Friends*, presented by Players de Noc. Following the show, the conference attendees were welcomed backstage for a tour of the facility. A reception followed hosted by Players de Noc, and exclusive access to a traveling art exhibit from the Detroit Institute of Art hosted by the Bonifas Art Center. Organizers and attendees for the event were extremely satisfied with the strong support and attendance, and can't wait for the next event in the Upper Peninsula!





Faces from the
Escanaba Spring
Conference 2018



Who's doing what for the rest of the season!

Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Annie</i>	May 11-June 3, 2018
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>The Bridges of Madison County</i>	May 18-June 2, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Odyssey and Performer</i>	June 1-2, 2018
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Shrek the Musical, Jr.*</i>	June 1-17, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Dirty Blonde**</i>	June 1-16, 2018
St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, Birmingham	<i>Oliver!</i>	June 1-16, 2018
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Copenhagen</i>	Jun 7-23, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Spamalot</i>	June 7-17, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Annie</i>	June 7-17, 2018
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	June 8-July 1, 2018
Cadillac Footliters	<i>The Producers</i>	June 15-23, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>James and the Giant Peach*</i>	June 15-17, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>42nd Street</i>	June 17-30, 2018
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Hand to God</i>	June 21-23, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>The Addams Family*</i>	June 21-24, 2018
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>Ring Around Rosalie</i>	June 22-July 1, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Johnnie Black, P.I.*</i>	June 22-23, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>Charlotte's Web*</i>	July 13-15, 2018
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Revival at Possum Kingdom Com- munity Church</i>	July 13-22, 2018
STAGE-M Big Rapids	<i>Sound of Music</i>	July 26-29, 2018
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream*</i>	July 27-Aug 5, 2018
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>School of Rock/Little Women</i>	July 29-Aug 5, 2018
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>The Curious Savage**</i>	Aug 9-18, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Big River</i>	Aug 9-19, 2018
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Once on this Island*</i>	Aug 23-26, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>The Flower Girls**</i>	Sept 6-9, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>The Addams Family</i>	Oct 25-28, 2018
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i>	Oct 26-Nov 4, 2018
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Fleming</i>	Oct 26-Nov 10, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Spirit of Christmas Dinner</i>	Dec 3-5, 2018
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Stop Kiss</i>	Jan 25-Feb 9, 2019
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Panache</i>	Apr 26-May 11, 2019

* indicates youth productions; ** indicates second stage productions, if submitted.

Please be sure to fill out your Dues Renewal Form completely, as that is the source for this information on shows! If your information is incorrect or missing, please send the correct information to The Editor to be corrected or included in the next issue. A more complete list is available on the CTAM website.

The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Hello, Summer! Boy, do we deserve it! Little time warp on my part: in the last column, I said Tawas Bay Players was doing *Messiah on the Frigidare* this summer. Not! We are doing *Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church* mid-July (check “Who’s Doing What” in the Call-board for dates). Come see it! It’s a delightful script and Tawas rocks in the summer time!

Leaving Iowa: A Comedy about Family Vacations by Tim Clue and Spike Manton ©2008, (Dramatic Publishing) is a delight. As I was reading it reminded me of *The Office*, and *The Middle*. *The Middle* for setting and family and *The Office* because of the unique characters and witty repartee. Cast includes two men: Don Brown as an adult and a boy.....same actor however; and Don’s father.....an actor who looks old enough to be Don’s dad. Don’s mother and his sister, past and present, finish the nuclear family. Twenty-seven other characters appear throughout the play and can be played by a minimum of one man and one woman, 27 actors or somewhere in between. Don, a middle-aged writer, returns to his Iowa home to retrieve his father’s ashes so he can return them to Dad’s childhood home. As the old homestead has been turned into a grocery store, Don travels around Iowa looking for a suitable place to distribute the ashes. The action traverses time with Don’s mom and sister appearing on the classic family road trip from twenty years ago. The 27 characters that the family meet along the way add lots of humor to this tale of family squabbles and love. A minimum set is recommended with the actors making the moves, and avoiding tedious scene changes. Your audience will hoot as they are reminded of their own family tips!

Radium Girls is a historical drama by D. W. Gregory, written in 2001 and needs an ensemble of at least four men and five women.

The cast can be expanded as needed. Only one man and one woman are not double cast. Set in Orange, New Jersey between 1908 and 1928, set design must be fluid. Eight wooden chairs and 2-3 narrow tables remain on stage through out and the cast sets up the scenes, often while a conversation is occurring. Scenes are defined by lighting, props, sound and accessories added to the very simple costumes.

The plot revolves around Grace, who at 15 starts painting dials at the US Radium plant. World War II looms and luminescent radium is being painted on timepieces to save the soldiers in their foxholes. But as girls start getting sick and dying, the company fights culpability and Grace’s tenacity makes for a powerful story. It’s a serious play, but topical to this day.

Quilters, A Musical by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, Dramatists Play Service, ©1992 is based on a book of the true stories of quilters who were American pioneers. In the play, the author uses an imaginary Sara Bonham and her six daughters to tell this oral history of joy, heartache, love, jealousy, bravery, guilt, pride and regrets. Although there are no big numbers, the music and stories are charming. Seven



women from late teen thru 60 are needed and five musicians (some taking bit parts). A short ballet sequence is part of the play also. An

empty stage is turned into many different scenes by the actors. Each story is represented by an iconic quilt block pattern. Tawas presented this show several years ago and our director, Carol Kusion, recruited quilters from five counties to display their quilts, and two quilts were made; one to be displayed at the end of the play and one was raffled off with the proceeds going to a local women’s shelter. If you are looking for a small musical and an opportunity for outreach, you might want to take a look at *Quilters*.

I am taking a break. Have a wonderful summer, and see you in September’s issue.