

CALLBOARD

March 15-17

State AACTFest competition in Owosso

It may be just the beginning of our snowy weather, but spring can't come soon enough for the eight theatre teams participating in Michigan AACTFest 2019! Sponsored by CTAM and hosted by Owosso Community Players, this three-day acting festival will take place March 15 to 17, 2019 and will include eight one-hour plays. Competing theatres have 10 minutes to set up their show and set from a 10'x10' area, then one hour to perform their show, and finally, another 10 minutes to break down their set back into the 10'x10' area. The top two shows will advance to the regional competition in Kokomo, IN, April 11-14, 2019; nationals will be held in Gettysburg, PA from June 16 to 22, 2019.

Seven teams are already registered to compete (*see page 3!*) . . . who will be team number 8? Current members of CTAM are eligible to register on a first come, first served basis. There will also be a waitlist in case any of the first eight groups is unable to attend. The registration fee is \$100, which covers eight members of your group. Additional members/participants will pay an individual registration fee of \$65 (this covers attendance to all eight shows, the Friday evening gathering, the Saturday networking event, and the Awards Brunch for competing theatres). This fee will go up to \$75 beginning February 1, 2019, so register early!

Not able to compete this year? Don't let that stop you from attending and enjoying all this weekend has to offer! AACTFest is a great opportunity to network and learn from other shows and organizations. Each show gets an abridged version of their adjudication in front of anyone, which provides you great insight into ways you can improve your productions. Plus, you'll get to see eight shows that may be completely new to you. There is usually at least one or two original works your group may want to consider for a future production. Lastly, AACTFest is a great way to connect with other theatres from all over the state.

For everything you need to know about AACTFest weekend, visit <http://ctam.online/2019-michigan-aactfest/>



2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Betsy Willis**
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City
betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com

Vice President - **Suzan Dunham Nemeth**
Tawas Bay Players, WE Players
info@witzend.co

Secretary - **Shyrl Cone**
Hartland Players
scone1063@comcast.net

Treasurer - **Jamie Peterson**
Players de Noc, Escanaba
Mr.jamiepeterson@gmail.com

At-Large Members of the Board

Chuck Goddeerischarlesgoddeeris@gmail.com
Rosedale Community Players

Patrick Hubbardphubbard33313@gmail.com
Clio Cast and Crew

Michael Wilsonmichaelwilsonprops@yahoo.com
Grand Rapids Civic

Michael Wisniewskiwimjw@aol.com
Bay City Players

Ben Zylmanbenkal@chartermi.net
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

Executive Secretary

Nancy Peskapeska@cmsinter.net
Griot County Players
989-763-0598
<http://ctam.online/>
ctamich@gmail.com
Instagram: @ctamich

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.

Proud Member of

aact
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

CTAM
Community Theatre
Association of Michigan

Your AACTFest "To Do" List

1. *Clear your calendar!* Save March 15 to March 17, 2019 for a drama-packed weekend of experiencing great theatre and making new friends.
2. *Plan your trip!* Owosso has so much to offer. Besides the gorgeous Lebowsky Center, there's no shortage of things to see and do around town in between shows. Visit owossoplayers.com for more details about local activities and discounts for the weekend of AACTFest.
3. *Buy your tickets!* Visit owossoplayers.com for box office information.
4. *Share, share, share!* Help us get the word out with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, email, and smoke signals. The more we share, the bigger the audiences will be for our competing teams.



CTAM Calendar of Events

December 15, 2018 Lansing	CTAM Board meeting, Downeaster Theatre
January 13, 2018 (by phone)	CTAM Board meeting
March 15-17, 2019 Owosso	2019 Michigan AACTfest
March 17, 2019 Owosso	CTAM Board meeting Time TBD
April 11-14, 2019 Kokomo, IN	AACTfest Region III Festival
May 5, 2019 Clio	CTAM Board meeting Clio Cast & Crew
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater
July 19-21, 2019 Higgins Lake	Master Class Weekend MacMullen DNR Center
July 21, 2019 Higgins Lake	CTAM Board meeting MacMullen DNR Center



The prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

As always, being at fall conference rejuvenated my love of community theatre and reminded me how lucky we are to want to dedicate a portion of our lives to bringing theatre to our communities. From the people who were there to learn or better their skills at set painting to those who wanted to add a new dialect or two to their acting kit to the theatre leaders who came to gather new information on how to grow their organizations, we all shared the goal of wanting to enrich our personal lives and the life of our communities through entertainment.

There were, of course, familiar faces who have attended for generations, there were some representing the second generation or third generation of family involvement, and then there were lots of new, young faces who represent community theatre's future. I loved hearing their excitement at learning new things, meeting new friends, and finding out how theatres in Michigan can work together through CTAM. Everyone seemed to enjoy the play breaks featuring our own playwriting contest entrants, and the shows, which represented a variety of theatre styles, provided a wonderful source of conversation.

It is gratifying to see that the changes the CTAM Board put into motion are reaping benefits for our members. I am returning as President for one more year to help complete the transition proposed in our strategic plan and implement the succession plan the Board put into place in July 2018. We are always interested in your feedback as we move toward a 21st Century brand of community theatre.

Thank you for all you bring to CTAM. We are grateful to each and every one of you!

Enjoy your holiday season,

Betsy Willis



Who's doing what at AACTFest this spring!

Don't miss these amazing theatres competing in AACTFest 2019 in Owosso. (See article on Page 1.):

- ☆ Bay City Players performing *35mm: A Musical Exhibition*
- ☆ Grand Rapids Civic Theatre performing *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*
- ☆ Kalamazoo Civic Theatre performing *Red*
- ☆ Monroe Community Players performing *The Tempest*
- ☆ Players de Noc (Escanaba) performing something amazing! (title coming soon)
- ☆ Rosedale Community Players (Southfield) performing *Turbulence*
- ☆ The Sauk (Jonesville) performing the first act of *The Flower Girls*
- ☆ And . . . you? We have room for one more theatre!

Register here: <http://ctam.online/2019-michigan-aactfest/>



2015 AACTFest photo of Center Stage Theatre (Midland) performing their production *The Sugar Bean Sisters*. See the tiny little Santa in the corner...just for this Christmas issue?

A Christmas Movie Quiz

Famous lines, who said it, what movie, and who played that role! On the answer block, for each quote in the first column, simply mark the number of the character, movie and actor who said that line! So your answer *might* be Line 1: 5,9,4 The real answers are elsewhere in this issue! Enjoy.



The Line	Character	Movie	Actor
1-“It’s Christmas, Theo, it is a time for miracles.”	1-Susan Walker	1- <i>Scrooged</i>	1-Natalie Wood
2-“It’s all humbug, I tell you, humbug!”	2-Ghost of Christmas Present	2- <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	2-Alastair Sim
3-“You know I like the rough stuff, don’t you, Frank?”	3-Ebenezer Scrooge	3- <i>Home Alone</i>	3-Carol Kane
4-“Merry Christmas! Holy shit, where’s the Tylenol?”	4-Clarence Obody	4- <i>National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation</i>	4-Peter Billingsley
5-“Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives. When he isn’t around he leaves an awful hole, doesn’t he?”	5-Sparky Griswold	5- <i>Die Hard</i>	5-Sandra Bullock
6-“I think we’re getting scammed by a kindergartener.”	6-Harry Lime	6- <i>It’s A Wonderful Life</i>	6-Will Farrell
7-“If you’re really Santa Claus, you can get it for me. And if you can’t, you’re only a nice man with a white beard like mother says.”	7-Hans Gruber	7- <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i>	7-Alan Rickman
8-“No! No! I want an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two Hundred Shot Range Model Air Rifle!”	8-Buddy the Elf	8- <i>Elf</i>	8-Chevy Chase
9-“\$45 for a Christmas tree and they don’t deliver? You order \$10 worth of chow mein from Mr. Wong, they bring it to your door.”	9-Lucy Moderatz	9- <i>A Christmas Story</i>	9-Henry Travers
10-“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”	10-Ralphie Parker	10- <i>While You Were Sleeping</i>	10-Joe Pesci

ANSWER BLOCK

Line 1: _____, _____, _____
 Line 2: _____, _____, _____
 Line 3: _____, _____, _____
 Line 4: _____, _____, _____
 Line 5: _____, _____, _____
 Line 6: _____, _____, _____
 Line 7: _____, _____, _____
 Line 8: _____, _____, _____
 Line 9: _____, _____, _____
 Line 10: _____, _____, _____



World Theatre Day coming up on March 27

World Theatre Day, created in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), is celebrated annually on the 27th of March, this year a Wednesday.

Various national and international theatre events are organized to mark the occasion, but many events are local with the purpose of drawing attention to theatre and international harmony.

The International Amateur Theatre Association (IATA) and American Association of Community Theaters (AACT) embrace and urge celebration of World Theatre Day. Your celebration can be simple or complex. Here are a few ideas.



- Go see a play and take a friend.
- Offer backstage tours of your theatre to the community.
- Offer free tickets to veterans, first responders, teachers or any other segment that is important to you.
- Invite your donors and patrons to a FREE performance of some sort. Smooze 'em up.
- Give some tickets to an assisted living home near your theater.
- Host a World Theatre Day reception after your show.
- Gather a group to write and stage a play in 24 or 48 hours.
- Pay tribute to a playwright.
- Let your members or volunteers know they are part of a huge international movement for the arts.
- Announce World Theatre Day on Facebook or other social media.
- Be nice to your neighbors around your building or rehearsal space. Invite them to a performance or open house.



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR VOLUNTEERS

By MaryJo Denolf



Don't wait to recognize your volunteers

It is important to recognize the volunteers' hard work and dedication they devote to your group. From a ticket seller, set painter and crew –everyone plays a vital “role” in making that production come to life.

Here are some simple suggestions to making recognition part of your daily, weekly or monthly routine at your theatre.

- ✓ Give free passes to local events -- or to your productions on slow-ticket sales performances.
- ✓ Ask local coffee shop if they would donate some coffee passes to be a give away.
- ✓ Write thank you notes after each show to each person who volunteered.
- ✓ Give out candy during work sessions (or donuts, or popcorn,....or another local favorite).
- ✓ Give outstanding volunteers challenging responsibilities to show that you trust them.
- ✓ Make a display board for your lobby of volunteers doing their jobs.
- ✓ If it's their birthday or anniversary – Make it a BIG deal!
- ✓ Know everyone's name -- and use it when speaking to them.
- ✓ Take time to talk and Listen. Listening is more important than the talking.
- ✓ Smile....and say “thank you”

Christmas Quiz answers
Line 1: 7, 5, 7.
Line 2: 3, 2, 2
Line 3: 2, 1, 3.
Line 4: 5, 4, 8.
Line 5: 4, 6, 9.
Line 6: 6, 3, 10
Line 7: 1, 7, 1.
Line 8: 10, 9, 4.
Line 9: 9, 10, 5.
Line 10: 8, 8, 6.

The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Great time at the conference at the Holiday Inn in Flint! A big thanks to Pat and Leo Paveglio for some new “scoop” titles.

Nana’s Naughty Knickers by Katherine DiSavino is a serious drama.....NOT! This 2010 Samuel French farce has three men and five women, with some doubling possible. Women: two play late 70s-early 80s; one-woman mid-20s to 30s; one woman who plays mid-60s, and one of any age. Three men: mid-20s-30s, 60s, and a cute, lonely UPS man. The interior set of a NYC apartment needs five hiding places for the “naughty knickers”.....rather complicated. Bridget, a future law student moves into her Nana’s apartment only to find out Nana is running a sexy lingerie boutique for women “of a certain age.” Farical complications arise as Nana, Vera, her BFF (a walker and two hearing aids!) try to hide the business from the landlord and a handsome beat cop.

I’ll Be Back Before Midnight, written by Canadian Peter Colley and published by Samuel French, has a small cast: a married couple plays late twenties to forties, another woman about their age, and another man considerably older. One interior set of a cabin in rural Ontario can be decorated easily but includes a pass thru from the living room to the kitchen and an exploding wood stove. Furniture/prop needs: A break away table, a contraption to fracture rocks (breaks a coffee mug), a pane of glass broken by a hand, and a half-decomposed body hanging from a rope. One highly choreographed fight scene ends the play. Lots of challenges for the tech crew and director!

The story: Jan, Greg’s wife has been hospitalized for a nervous breakdown. He takes her to an isolated cabin, where a seemingly harmless neighbor, George, tells them stories about the murder that occurred there many years ago.

When Greg’s sister shows up, Jan who hates her becomes apprehensive. Soon audiences will feel uneasy and suspect everyone. Is Jan crazy? Are Greg and Laura in love? Are they really brother and sister? (This could be an issue, but the playwright wisely left it ambiguous.) Is George a harmless old fool? The actors must play their roles with realism and not become clichés. Colley writes, “The audience should walk a tightrope of hysteria—not knowing whether the next minute will contain a laugh or a scream.” The challenge: give the audience enough clues to be suspicious, but not enough for them to guess the conclusion.

Written in 1985, it’s best in my opinion to do it in that time period, due to changes in technology and culture. I find it disconcerting to have people using rotary dial phones in 2018 garb!

Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church by our own Michigan playwright Linda LaRocque was written in 2010 and published by Playscripts Inc. (Linda won this year’s Playwriting Contest, too!) This heart-warming comedy with a wonderful but subtle message has five characters and they are all characters! Two middle-aged women, and three men, middle-aged to elderly. Set requirements: a small bus station and a revival hall. Set in Texas in the fifties, two con men, Alvo and Buddy, arrive in hot, dusty Possum Kingdom where they meet Ella Faye Tanner in the bus station. When the two incompetent con men hear that a revival has been canceled, and the preacher was going to be paid \$15, Buddy sets up Alvo as a born-again minister. As Alvo and Buddy stumble through a sermon and hymns, Ella Faye and her friend, Iris Crumb, are delightfully sympathetic and enthusiastic participants. Buddy is set on getting the \$15, when Phillip Yates, Jr. arrives. Recently released from prison, when he tells his tale of his lonely life and unjust incarceration, all are touched. When acted with sincerity and innocence, this lovely play is a crowd pleaser.



Hope you all have a wonderful holiday and see you again in 2019!

Who's doing what around the holidays?

Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Nov 9-Dec 2, 2018
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>	Nov 15-Dec 8, 2018
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>Disney's Little Mermaid</i>	Nov 16-Dec 16, 2018
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	Nov 23-Dec 8, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang</i>	Nov 23-Dec 9, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Nov 23-Dec 8, 2018
Hartland Players	<i>Escanaba in da Moonlight</i>	Nov 24-Dec 2, 2018
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Nov 24-Dec 7, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Nov 25-Dec 9, 2018
Bay City Players	<i>A Carol of the Birds</i>	Nov 29-Dec 9, 2018
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>Romeo and Juliet*</i>	Nov 29-Dec 9, 2018
Farmington Players	<i>Let Nothing You Dismay</i>	Nov 30-Dec 15, 2018
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>A Little Piece of Heaven</i>	Nov 30-Dec 1, 2018
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Don't Talk to the Actors</i>	Nov 30-Dec 8, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Nov 30-Dec 16, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>A Good Old Fashioned Redneck Country Christmas</i>	Dec 1-2, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Spirit of Christmas Dinner</i>	Dec 3-5, 2018
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>God rest ye, Gerry Mentleman</i>	Dec 5-9, 2018
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>A Seussified Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 6-16, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Dec 6-16, 2018
Ionia Community Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 7-16, 2018
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Scrooge!</i>	Dec 7-16, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Elves and the Shoemaker*</i>	Dec 8-9, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Disney's Aladdin, Jr. *</i>	Dec 13-16, 2018
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Willy Wonka</i>	Dec 14-22, 2018
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>	Jan 10-20, 2019
Flint Community Players	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i>	Jan 10-20, 2019
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Laura</i>	Jan 11-26, 2019
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Jan 11-27, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical</i>	Jan 11-27, 2019
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*</i>	Jan 11-12, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Fun Home</i>	Jan 11-26, 2019
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	Jan 11-27, 2019
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Murder at the Howard Johnson's</i>	Jan 11-20, 2019
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Marvin's Room</i>	Jan 18-Feb 2, 2019
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Inspecting Carol</i>	Jan 18-Feb 3, 2019
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Jan 20-Feb 2, 2019
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	Jan 25-Feb 2, 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.