

# CALLBOARD

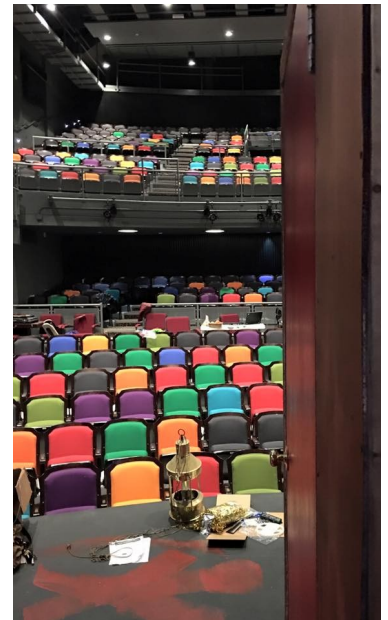
**Ready, Set, Go to Owosso!**

## **AACTfest Adjudicators announced**

Final preparations are being made for Michigan AACTFest 2019, happening in Owosso March 15-17! Owosso Community Players' AACTFest planning committee has secured three highly talented and sought-after adjudicators for the acting festival: Ron Cameron-Lewis, Larry Nielsen, and Kathy Pingel. (Please see page 4 for details on these special people.)

You can register for the full conference package -- all performances and parties -- by checking out the [CTAM website](#). Click on the black bar at the top of the home page. Tickets to see the individual shows are also available at the Owosso box office on a walk-up basis.

This is an event you won't want to miss because we'll be talking about it for years!



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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](mailto: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](mailto:peska@cmsinter.net).

Proud Member of

**aact**  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
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**CTAM**  
Community Theatre  
Association of Michigan



## In Memoriam Shirley Harbin

We received belated news of the January 17<sup>th</sup> death of our long-time good friend, Dr. **Shirley Harbin**. Shirley was instrumental in theatre activities for decades in Detroit, in Michigan with CTAM, nationally with AACT and on the international scene with IATA . Shirley taught many of our Adjudication Classes through the years and was a fixture at AACTfest competitions. She became an AACT Fellow in 1983.

She will be greatly missed and Shirley Harbin stories will remain in the hearts and lore of Michigan theatre lovers for many years.

## CTAM Calendar of Events

March 15-17, 2019 Owosso	2019 Michigan AACTfest
March 17, 2019 Owosso	CTAM Board meeting Time TBD
April 7-13, 2019 Everywhere!	National Volunteer Week
April 11-14, 2019 Kokomo, IN	AACTfest Region III Festival
May 4, 2019 Clio	CTAM Board meeting Clio Cast & Crew
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater
July 20-21, 2019 Lansing	Master Class Weekend
July 21, 2019 Lansing	CTAM Board meeting



# The prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

Have you been thinking about going to the state AACTFest at Owosso but just couldn't make up your mind? Well, I have a deal maker for you.

The adjudicators that Owosso Community Players are bringing in are all veterans of national AACTFest and some of the best in North America. That will lead to a stimulating festival with lots of new ideas to take home. From our very own state we have Larry Nielsen who also happens to be the chair of our state Adjudication Committee. Ron Cameron-Lewis is coming from Canada where he regularly adjudicates and trains others in the skill. Kathy Pingel is traveling from Florida to complete the team. Kathy often teaches the Adjudication Workshop at nationals when she is not on the stage offering her excellent opinion. There is much to be learned from these three well respected panelists.



I cannot wait to see all the shows and compare my opinion with theirs. That is the way I learn to be a better director, actor, and adjudicator. I listen to see if we agree and when we don't, I listen more carefully to see what they saw differently and how I can learn from that. I may or may not change my opinion, but I leave my mind open to the possibility.

I encourage you to do the same.

If you haven't already reserved, do it today. You will spend a weekend immersed in great theatre, will learn from each and every adjudication, and will see or meet friends who share your love for everything theatre. In addition, Owosso Community Players are great hosts who are excited to share their beautiful theatre that has quite a dramatic history itself.

I look forward to seeing you March 15th – 17th.

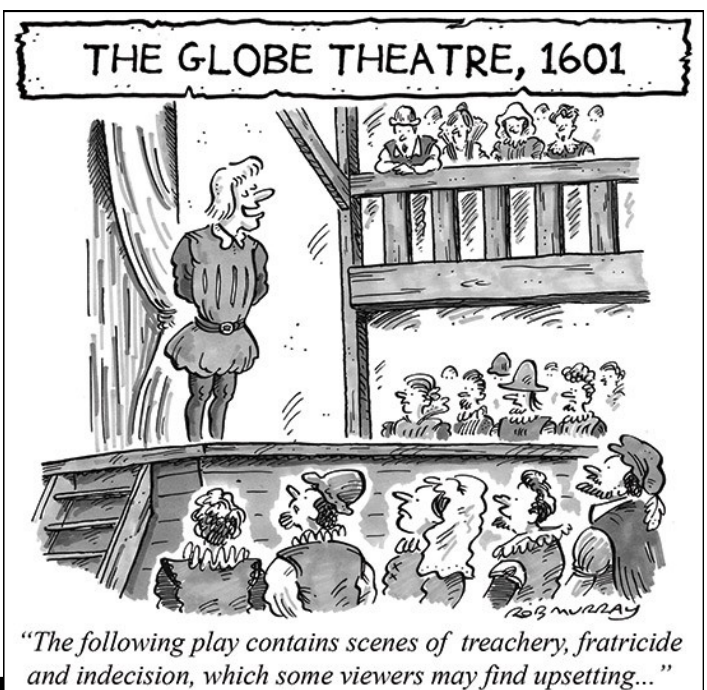
## WE Players invites you to Scenic Painting workshop

WE Players in East Tawas cordially invites everyone to a class on Scenic Painting! This class on **Saturday, March 9**, will cover topics such as color theory in scenic art and specific textures used in scenic painting. There will be a short lecture on the basics of scenic design and painting, followed by a demonstration and instructional period of four of the main textures used in interior scenic painting in which the class will participate.

The workshop is from 10am to 2pm at the (retired) Tawas Middle School at 825 Second Street in East Tawas. There is a \$35 charge and light lunch is included. Visit the [CTAM website](#) for more information.



Instructor Katherine R. Mishler is a recent graduate of Saginaw Valley State University Theatrical and Arts Department. This past December she graduated with her bachelorette degree in technical theatre, with a focus in lighting design, electrics, scenic art, and illustration.



# All about the AACTfest Adjudicators

**Ron Cameron-Lewis** has judged AACTFest productions at the state, regional, national, and international levels. He has also taught the art of adjudicating twice at AACT National Festivals and five times in Canada.

In his home province of Ontario, Ron taught and coordinated the Music Theatre Department at Sheridan College in Oakville since its inception 46 years ago. It is now the largest and most successful Music Theatre program in Canada, with an international reputation. Many of Ron's former students work on Broadway, the West End in London, on cruise ships around the world, and at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and Shaw Festival in Canada.

Ron has served as Member-at-Large for AACT since 2012 and has worked for regional theatres in Ontario, the Canadian Maritimes, and major TV networks. He has a degree from Western University, and he trained in theatre at the Banff Centre, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the University of London.

**Larry Nielsen** has been involved with community theatre since 1980, when he started as an actor and stagehand. Now, Larry mostly directs and adjudicates/responds. To keep his theatrical passion soothed, he remains active in his home group, Twin City Players in Benton Harbor/St Joseph, MI. His most recent directing experiences have been *Assassins*, *Book of Days*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *The Cover of Life*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Larry is an experienced adjudicator of state, regional, and national AACT-Fests. He is also the CTAM Adjudication Chair. Larry retired after 32 years

*Tickets for this three-day theatre competition will be available to the public at the door. For show times and more information on Michigan AACTFest 2019, visit [owossoplayers.com](http://owossoplayers.com). Michigan AACTFest 2019 is sponsored by Community Theatre Association of Michigan and hosted by Owosso Community Players at the Lebowsky Center.*



Ron Cameron-Lewis



Larry Nielsen



Kathy Pingel

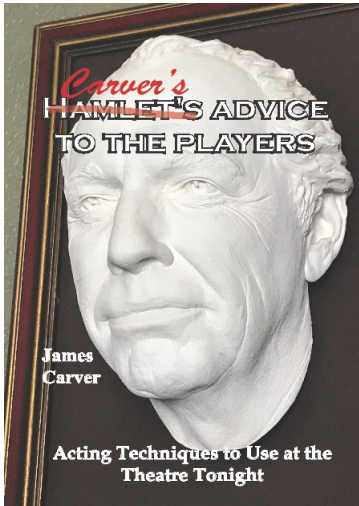
of public service. He is married and has two grown daughters.

**Kathy Pingel** retired in 2015, after serving as the Director of Education and Youth Programming at the Des Moines Community Playhouse for ten years. She also served as Artistic Director of the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. She holds a BA in Theatre from Eastern Michigan University and an MA from Northwestern University in Performance Studies. At the Des Moines Playhouse, Kathy directed more than 50 productions, including *Anne of Green Gables*, *Holes*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Cinderella*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Peter Pan*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Sound of Music*.

Kathy has adjudicated AACTFest at the state, regional, national, and international levels, and in 2015 and 2017 she taught AACT's Adjudication Workshop at the national festival. She facilitated AACT's Theatre Education Directors' Conference in 2010 and 2016. In 2016 she and her husband, Ron Ziegler, won the Cloris Leachman Award for best direction of *The Hobbit*. Kathy's newest role is dramaturge for AACT's NewPlayFest. CTAM is fortunate to have three such stellar and accomplished adjudicators for AACTfest this year.

## Carver's advice to actors now in book form

We received word from Jim Carver, long-time CTAM supporter and former President, that his new book, *Carver's Advice to the Players -- Acting Techniques that can be Used at the Theatre Tonight* was just published on February 23rd. It is directed at the new actor.



"It's a bunch techniques I've used over the years to get new actors to a performance-ready level. Pretty basic stuff. It starts with acting is more than learning your lines and not falling over the furniture," Jim reports.

"I love what Lynn Nelson had to say: 'He

certainly puts the corn where the mules can get it,'" Jim opines.

This greatly needed book should be available on Amazon soon.



## Feeling Lucky? Looking for a pot of gold?

With the luck of the Irish and some hard work, you could win a bit of that gold in the 2019 CTAM Playwriting Contest.

Here's how:

1. Just get it down on paper. Start **now**; the deadline is May 15.
2. Read it out loud . . .several times. Get some friends to help you out so you can listen.
3. Find someone else (or several someones) to read it over.
4. Spell check, grammar check, and find a good proof reader.
5. Be sure it's in proper manuscript form to submit.
6. Read the rules on the CTAM website and follow them

Good luck!



*March 27 (every year!)*

*Not sure where this photo is from or what play it is, but they surely are celebrating National Theatre Day in their own way! Theater folks around the world will be celebrating. What will you and your group do to celebrate this year?*



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**Save the date  
2019 Master Classes!  
July 20-21 in  
Lansing!**



Getting ready for AACTfest is a family affair in the Peterson household: Here, Jamie Peterson, our trusty CTAM Treasurer, is building the set with his son, Gabe! They are from *Players de Noc* in *Escanaba!*

### Props Corner

## Making edible documents

In the October 2018 *Stage Directions* magazine, Jay Duckworth's Answer Box column explained several wonderful properties techniques we thought you might enjoy!

"There are times that actors must literally eat their words. In *Measure for Measure*, the prisoner that refused to get executed grabbed the execution warrant out of the warden's hand and ate it, downing it with a frothing ale. In Luis Alfaró's *Oedipus El Rey*, the actor has to rip out pages of the Bible and eat them. So how do you feed an actor their lines? Glad you asked:

"For the warrant, I bought potato starch paper and black cookie icing from Michael's crafts. I watered down the icing into a coffee cup and used a fine paint brush to do faux calligraphy onto the paper. I made a stamp out of craft foam and used red cookie icing to make an official-looking wax seal.

"For the pages of the Bible, there was a large amount of paper being eaten, and the font size had to match the pages of a Bible. We bought an Icinginks printer, which is a printer that prints edible images either on frosting sheets that can be put right onto a cake or wafer sheets that are just like paper." Perhaps you could work a deal with a local baker to print out several pages for you, rather than buy such a specialized printer!



Grosse Pointe Theatre is offering some specialty costume items from their recent production of *Legally Blonde*. Whole package for \$550: 4 royal blue band jackets and matching hats, 7 cheer outfits plus 3 extra skirts, 11 orange scrubs. Our Elle is a size 6: 1 pink Harvard T-shirt, 1 faux leather pink jacket, 1 pink velour outfit, 1 pink plaid skirt, 1 pink print dress, 2 pink knit dresses. Contact costumer Ginger Keena at [gingerkeena0@gmail.com](mailto:gingerkeena0@gmail.com).



Slowly but surely, the CTAM Facebook page is climbing higher and higher! We're up to 1,259 people 'liking' us now. We hope you enjoy and appreciate the news and information we share with you.

Ask your friends to join us on "Community Theatre Association of Michigan-CTAM" so they, too, will know what's going on with CTAM across pure-Michigan!



# Spring Time for Theatre in Mich-ee-gan!

Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>When Calls the Heart</i>	Feb 14-Mar 2, 2019
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Women of Lockerbie</i>	Feb 15-Mar 2, 2019
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Feb 22-Mar3, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Once On This Island</i>	Feb 22-Mar 10, 2019
Port Austin Community Players	<i>I Hate Hamlet</i>	Feb 22-Mar 3, 2019
Hartland Players	<i>Rumors</i>	Feb 23-Mar 3, 2019
Ionia Community Theatre	<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Mar 1-10, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Moon over Buffalo</i>	Mar 1-16, 2019
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Gypsy</i>	Mar 1-9, 2019
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Sondheim on Sondheim</i>	Mar 1-10, 2019
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Rumors</i>	March 7-17, 2019
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Wait Until Dark</i>	Mar 8-23, 2019
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Something to Hide</i>	Mar 8-23, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Madagascar JR *</i>	Mar 8-15, 2019
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Mar 8-24, 2019
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Over the River and Through the Woods</i>	Mar 8-24, 2019
Hartland Players	<i>Seussical, Jr. *</i>	Mar 9-10, 2019
Flint Community Players	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Mar 14-24, 2019
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Singin' in the Rain, Jr. *</i>	Mar 15-17, 2019
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Glengarry Glen Ross</i>	March 15-24, 2019
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>We Live Here</i>	Mar 21-31, 2019
Bay City Players	<i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	Mar 22-31, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Ripcord</i>	Mar 22-31, 2019
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Flanagan's Wake</i>	Mar 22-23, 2019
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Boeing Boeing</i>	Mar 22-Apr 7, 2019
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Shrek The Musical</i>	Mar 24-Apr 6, 2019
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>The Laramie Project**</i>	Mar 28-31, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Marjorie Prime</i>	Mar 29-Apr 13, 2019
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Curious Incident of the Dog ...</i>	Mar 29-Apr 4, 2019
STAGE-M Big Rapids	<i>An Agatha Christie Mystery</i>	April 4-7, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Psycho Beach Party</i>	April 5-14, 2019
Tawas Bay Players	<i>The Odd Couple, Female version</i>	Apr 5-14, 2019
Pinckney Players	<i>Alice in Wonderland*</i>	Apr 6-14, 2019
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Calvin Miller's The Singer</i>	Apr 11-May 4, 2019
Cadillac Footlites	<i>Shrek, Jr. *</i>	Apr 12-20, 2019
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Disney's Cinderella Kids*</i>	Apr 13-14, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Harvey (Senior Theatre)</i>	Apr 19-28, 2019
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Swan Princess*</i>	Apr 25-May 5, 2019
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Sauk Shorts**</i>	Apr 25-28, 2019
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Apr 26-May 5, 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.

# The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



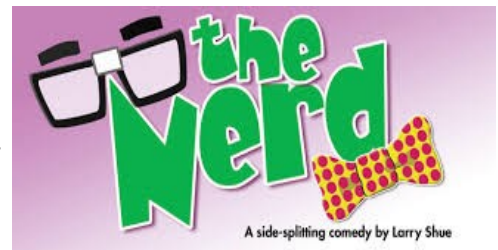
**Winona's Web** by Priscilla Cogan is the second-place winner of the CTAM Playwriting\* contest 2018. Cast : three women in their mid to late 30s, and one 40-year-old Native American man. Winona Pathfinder is a 69-year-old Lakota Sioux, widowed medicine woman. Set requirements: a psychiatrist's office with waiting room, the interior of a bedroom, and two separate areas in the woods. ACT II presents several challenges: In the woods, snow falls, a character uses snowshoes, a tree branch falls on a character, and a dead porcupine falls from an offstage tree. Light challenges for the ambitious director: campfire, truck headlights, and a power outage. Sound design needs: a crying baby, a barking dog, a howling wind, a gunshot, and chain saws and a truck. The overlying theme is the Native Americans' perception of death as just one more stage of life and not to be feared. When Winona declares she is "crossing over" in two months, her daughter is alarmed and sends her to a psychiatrist. Reluctantly, Winona opens up to Meggie, and Winona sees that this kind woman is a willing student to learn Winona's ways. Meggie's love interest, Hawk/Slade, and Winona's, cousin, seeks to learn Winona's medicine before she passes. Many Lakota Sioux words and props are incorporated in the play and audiences interested in Native American culture will be enthralled.

*\*As a winning play, groups can produce this show royalty-free through October 2020. To read the script, go to the CTAM website, then to Playwriting Contest.*

**The Nerd** by Larry Shue, published by Dramatists Play Service, ©1981, has probably been produced by thousands of community theatres (including Tawas Bay Players, and I was in it), but I just saw it, and decided it deserved a "scoop." Set is interior of an architect's apart-

ment that includes a window that opens, two levels and three doors. It's Terre Haute, Indiana in 1979, with a suitable (can I use the word, "vintage"?) phone, and working answering machine. The only sound challenges come from frequent use of those two items. Cast consists of four men, one boy and two women. Willum, the architect, owes his life to Rick Steadman, a man he's never met. When Rick arrives during Willum's birthday party, Willum, Axel, his drama critic friend, and Tansy, his almost girlfriend are amazed. Rick is the consummate nerd, with no social skills, tact, or apparent intelligence. The arrival of Willum's boss, War-nock Waldgrave, his wife, Celia, and their son, Thor, doubles the targets for the nerd! Rick ends up staying six days, adding to Willum's angst and the

audiences' joy. I don't want to wreck the surprise ending for you, so get a copy



and read the last few pages!!! Caveat: First scene is the typical set up, and can drag.....a challenge for all directors. But the party game, Shoes and Socks is worth it! Saw it a week ago and my husband and I are still doing bits from the play! The show is suitable for kids 8 and up.

**Running Mates** (or, The Family Party) by Beth Kander ©2014, is published by Steele Springs Stage Rights. Cast includes three women playing 52, mid-30's and 22; three men playing 20's, 50's, and 20-30's. Set in Anderson, Georgia in 2010, Mayor Sam Storm has the world by the tail. His elegant and massive living room, with a breakfast nook is the bottom floor, and a second story is needed. Sam's current campaign for re-election gets down and dirty when Sam's wife runs against him. Will their marriage survive? At the end, a surprise candidate enters the race: the Storms' daughter! Strong women versus the good ole' boys, a #MeToo moment and a male yoga teacher! Doesn't get much better than that!