

# CALLBOARD

## Three Spring Conferences offered:

## Schedules and registration for all three sessions now available on line!

Take a few minutes to register today! You have three Spring Conferences to choose from, Kalamazoo Civic, Fenton Village Players and Players de Noc! Three locations! Three weekends! All the same presenters and workshops. All the same but different! Wait! What? The extracurricular activities, theatre productions and food choices will be based on the choices of the host theatre but you will have three chances to learn about Grant Writing, Marketing, Comedic Timing, Props and Lighting. See more information and full workshop descriptions on the [CTAM web page](#).

Take one of these opportunities to further your theatre education, network with fellow thespians and have an absolute blast! Registration forms are on our web page for your convenience. Register today! Don't wait! Get your registration in! Bring your family! Bring your friends! Invite anyone that loves theatre no matter the experience level!

While we are talking about conferences, the CTAM board is looking for someone to pass the chairperson crown to for Fall Conference. If you love theatre, planning events, fun and would like to give it a shot, please [contact Suzan Dunham](#).

Our Fall Conference has a new venue! We will be at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint/



Kalamazoo Civic -- April 14 & 15  
Fenton Players -- April 20 & 21  
Players de Noc, Escanaba -- May 4 & 5

Grand Blanc. At the 'vee' where I-75 and US-23 meet, it is a much more convenient location for many and the facility is dynamite! Don't forget to include your youth program participants in our Fall Conference. We will have classes for them and we will also be having the Theatre Leadership Conference (TLC) at the same time for your executives, either paid or volunteer.

And.... The date has been moved into October, hoping more people will be out of their opening show and able to attend. October 12 to 14!

The theme this year is...It's All Greek to Me! We always welcome suggestions for events, workshops, drink specials, food, etc. [Let Suzan know](#) if you have any ideas you would like to share or if you would like to help!

## 2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Christy Frick**  
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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 at [www.community-theatremichigan.org](http://www.community-theatremichigan.org). 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).

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 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
 OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

**CTM**  
 Community Theatre  
 Association of Michigan

## Like us on Facebook

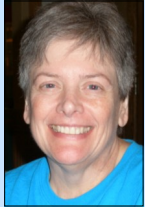
Slowly but surely, the CTAM Facebook page is climbing higher and higher! We're up to 1,179 people 'liking' us now. We hope you enjoy and appreciate the news, information and laughs we share with you.

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!



## CTAM Calendar of Events

April 14 and 15, 2018 Kalamazoo Civic	Spring Conference - West
April 15-21, 2018 Everywhere	National Volunteer Week
April 20 and 21, 2018 Fenton Village Players	Spring Conference - East
May 4 and 5, 2018 Players de Noc, Escanaba	Spring Conference - U.P.
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



## The prez Sez... by Christy Frick

Next up – CTAM on the Road – Area Spring Conference. Get your registration submitted for one of the three area Spring Conferences. The presenters and topics are the same for each area, so you won't miss out on anything. The schedule is posted on our website. One thing we are looking at is during one of the free time blocks is to have a round table discussion. So register today! The dates are: April 13 – 15 in Kalamazoo; April 20 – 22 in Fenton; and May 4 – 6 in Escanaba.

Other happenings throughout the rest of the year are:

Master Class will be July 13 – 15 at the MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake. Two classes will be going on at the same time. Watch for more information on our website and our newsletter.

CTAM Fall Conference – October 12 – 14 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in Flint. Remember the date has been changed along with the place. We hope that you will enjoy the new venue and that by changing the date will allow more people to attend.

CTAM Theatre Leadership Conference – October 12 – 14 going on at the same time as our Fall Conference

Continue to watch the website and our upcoming newsletters for more information about the events.

*Christy Frick*



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**  
**Celebrate Service**

April 15-21, 2018 | Powered by Points of Light

## SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR VOLUNTEERS

By Mary Jo Denolf



### Have you planned your Volunteer Month events?

Remember that April is National Volunteer Month! What have you planned for your volunteers in the theatre?

Here are some quick ideas that anyone can do with any type of budget.

- Find a local restaurant, bar or theatre hangout and ask them to do a “special” drink, or give a % off for anyone involved with your theatre. Each theatre person in turn would need a coupon to redeem at the location for the month of April. Coupon could read “Thank you for your volunteer time”
- Have a special meeting for the theatre group and make it a Thank You party.
- Bring in treats for everyone during work sessions or rehearsals -- with a note of thanks.
- Find a local florist who might “give away” a carnation during the month of April. Win for you, Win for florist who might get some additional sales.
- Have an after-the-show party....or if you do not have a show in performance, an after-dinner party. Everyone brings a dessert and shares fellowship. Have the board president do a special thank you to all volunteers.

Remember, we should always thank those who are working hard to make the great productions that we do all year long. But as spring unfolds, take a moment and truly appreciate each other and celebrate your accomplishments.

Questions? Contact Mary Jo Denolf at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.



*July 13 to 15, 2018 at Higgins Lake*

# Master Classes this summer to cover acting, directing and costuming!

Two master classes on crucial theatre production topics with top-notch instructors are offered in July, 2018. What more do you want? All we need are eager participants who are willing to devote a weekend to improving their skills .

## Actor and Director: Working Together

will be taught by Penny Notter, the recently retired Associate Director of Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. She was also the director of GRT's School of Theatre. She had extensive experience as an actor and has directed dozens of shows, most at theatres in the Grand Rapids area. Penny received a BA in theatre from Indiana University and a MA with a focus on directing from Indiana State University. She has previously conducted workshops for CTAM and AACT. This master class is for both actors and directors. It will explore the relationships of actors and directors to each other and the preparation required by both to co-exist in a productive environment. During this class directors will have an opportunity to direct and actors will act. This class is about the collaboration needed for a successful production.



## So You've Agreed to Design Costumes. Now what?

will be conducted by Joy Butler. This class will explore the steps used to communicate through costume design and execution beginning with building a foundation through script analysis and building a production team. You will learn how to give the actor some of the tools needed to visually communicate his/her



character, creating the look of an ensemble piece, and sourcing your ideas. Organizational tools and budget will also be considered. Joy has an MFA in theatre from Western Illinois University and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in several areas including history of theatre, costume design, costume construction, and costume crafts. Although she has worked extensively in educational and professional theatre, for the past several years she has been the volunteer chair of costumes at Bay City Players.



**Please note:** Both instructors will ask that participants in their classes read a few plays before taking their class. You will receive a short list after you have registered.

The class sessions will begin early Friday evening, July 13, and continue through Sunday morning, July 15. You will be done by noon!

The class registration fee is \$85 for individual CTAM members and \$95 for non-members. The fee for two nights' lodging and four meals is \$167 for a shared room (two people) and \$187 for one person in a room. The registration deadline is June 29 and there will be no refunds for the MacMullan lodging and meals fee after that date. Check [the website](#) for an online registration form — which will be available soon. Or you can contact [Nancy Peska, Executive Secretary](#), directly and register with her.

The RAM Center is located at 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653. It is 1.5 miles east of US 27 and five miles west of I-75. If you go to the Department of Natural Resources website and click on the MacMullan Center on the left side, they provide maps and a delightful video, showing you the facilities.

Make that investment in yourself and join us for the 2018 Master Classes at Higgins Lake!



# Getting ready for next year's AACTfest!

It's never too early to start thinking about your entry for AACTfest next spring! Sponsored by AACT (American Association of Community Theatre), AACTfest is part of a multi-year process that culminates in a national festival, held in odd-numbered years. Community theatres from AACT's 10 regions enter productions for adjudication and advancement from state to regional to national level. AACTfest is thus a celebration of theatre and a learning experience for those who take part.

Michigan is in Region III (Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio). Our state festival will be in Owosso next spring; regionals will be in Kokomo, IN and nationals will be in Gettysburg, PA. (Check the calendar on Page 2 for exact dates.)

Our 2017 Michigan winner, *Venus in Fur* from Midland Center Stage, went on to nationals and -- although they didn't win first place -- were widely lauded for their moving and difficult show. We're so proud of them!

You and your Board should be looking at your options and getting people, money and scripts into place. The deadline for application to state is generally at year-end. We asked several Michiganders how they go about all this and here are their responses.

## **From Tara Western, Tawas Bay Players.**

Tawas Bay Players, my home group, has entered AACTfest twice. Based on observing that process, I see that choosing a condensed version of a regular season production is the easiest. Although, our 2017 entry, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* was not in our regular season, but a second-stage show.

Regarding the logistics: check on rights immediately, get a commitment from the cast for the long haul: state, regional, national (a girl can dream!), design a set that is simple-ish and transportable, and get your community on board, as you will probably need some fundraising.

What kind of show? Selfishly, I like to see things that I haven't seen. Examples: *The God of Carnage*, *Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church*, *Lone Star* or *Freud's Last Session*. Personally, I love seeing a "hidden (to me) gem" that might be a possibility for future seasons at Tawas Bay Players.

## **Mary Jo Denolf, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.**

We have a volunteer committee who raises funds for AACTfest all year and narrows suggested scripts to six. From there we look at how those six can be cut and what restrictions we have on the cutting. We then look at length, set requirement, how many in cast and the travel expense for such.

All fund must be raised by the committee as Grand Rapids Civic Theatre does not have a line item in our budget for this outreach. Fundraising is done mostly by lobby table sales at other GRCT productions such as *Beauty and the Beast* (roses), *Seussical* (hats) and *Fancy Nancy* (tiaras and boas). They also secured a \$1,000 sponsor which helped in travel costs to the State festival. Ticket sales for their rehearsals/performance on our stage are by donation and that helps with expenses.

## **David Wahr, Monroe Community Players.**

We look for something that is different and unique and/or something someone has a passion for. Nothing is off limits and if it's a new work, even better!

## **Mary Lou Britton, Grosse Pointe Theatre.**

We have a hard time focusing on something that seems so far away because we're always busy stamping out fires on our home turf. However, we generally survey the membership for someone who would like to suggest a property to the Board and agree to see it through to the end. Very minimal funds are allocated to AACTfest, so fundraising is an important responsibility.

Unless it's an original, getting permission to cut seems to be a stumbling block for us, too. We had all the ducks lined up last time...and the author denied permission at the last minute! Very disappointing, so we need to start sooner this time.

# Write that Play Today!

Fame and fortune await you! Pick up your pen, pencil, or keyboard and put your creative muses to work. The 2018 playwriting contest is underway and you can/should enter. The contest is open to any Michigan author and almost any type of play will be considered - comedy, tragedy, melodrama, psychological thriller, history . . . (no musicals or children's plays, though).

Plays will be judged on:

- **Feasibility** – could this play be done by a typical community theatre group?
- **Essentials** – Is there a protagonist? Antagonist? Is there a believable dramatic conflict? Is there resolution?
- **Mood and Genre** – Is the mood clearly developed? Does the audience “get” it?
- **Characters** – Are they developed? Necessary to the play? Is the dialog believable? Does the resolution fit the character?
- **Structure and Plot** – Does the play move well from beginning to end? Is each scene relevant and important? Will the plot hold an audience?
- **Overall Rating** – Is the dramatic situation engaging for the audience? Are the characters real? Can you “see” the play being performed?

Submission deadline is May 15. Visit the CTAM web page for all the details. Questions? [Contact chairs Leo and Pat Paveglio.](#)



Muskegon Civic Theatre did *Raisin in the Sun* in January this year, to great reviews!



## NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR BOARD POSITIONS SET FOR 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 Nominating Chair [Mary Jo Denolf](#).

## Broadway Bound!!

A hearty group of CTAM devoted theatre lovers is headed for Broadway at the end of June. We will see *Hello, Dolly!* with Bernadette Peters and Victor Garber,



right, and currently Santino Fontana (in the checked suit and straw hat!); and *The Play that Goes Wrong*, an award-winning London-

transplant backstage comedy! Another highlight will be a backstage

tour of Radio City Music Hall and we will be admiring the famous skyline on an evening cruise. The amazing Morrie Enders will be our host. There is plenty of time for sightseeing and seeing additional shows.

If you are interested in a trip like this at another time, please contact [the CTAM office](#). We can always explore the possibility of doing this again in a few years. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy what the city has to offer and have the travel agency do all the legwork. It's fun to go with a group of passionate theatre lovers and old friends.

Congratulations to Patrick Hubbard from Clio Cast & Crew who won the free trip raffle. We all envy him and are happy for him!



# Who's doing what this Spring!

Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>Betrayal</i>	Mar 23-Apr 1, 2018
STAGE-M Big Rapids	<i>I Never Saw Another Butterfly</i>	Mar 29-Apr 1, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Marvin's Room**</i>	Mar 29-Apr 1, 2018
Cadillac Footliters	<i>12 Angry Men</i>	Apr 6-14, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods</i>	April 6-22, 2018
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Doubt, A Parable</i>	April 6-22, 2018
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>	Apr 12-21, 2018
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Orphan Train</i>	Apr 12-May 5, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The Father**</i>	Apr 13-31, 2018
Pinckney Players	<i>Curtains</i>	Apr 13-22, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Metamorphoses**</i>	Apr 13-22, 2018
Little Traverse Civic Theatre, Petoskey	<i>August: Osage County</i>	Apr 19-28, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Apr 19-29, 2018
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Princess and the Goblin*</i>	Apr 20-29, 2018
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Akeelan and the Bee*</i>	Apr 20-29, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>High School Musical, Jr. *</i>	Apr 20-22, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Good Doctor**</i>	April 20-29, 2018
Bay City Players	<i>Annie</i>	Apr 26-May 6, 2018
Farmington Players	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Apr 27-May 19, 2018
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Dinner with Friends</i>	April 27-May 5, 2018
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>50 by IV (Anniversary Revue)</i>	Apr 27-28, 2018
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun</i>	Apr 27-May 12, 2018
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Spamalot</i>	May 3-6, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Sauk Shorts**</i>	May 3-6, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Leading Ladies</i>	May 4-19, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Billy Elliott, The Musical</i>	May 4-20, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Young Frankenstein</i>	May 4-26, 2018
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Sweet Charity</i>	May 4-27, 2018
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Beer for Breakfast</i>	May 4-13, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>She Loves Me</i>	May 4-20, 2018
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	May 5-19, 2018
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	May 5-19, 2018
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	May 10-20, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>Victor/Victoria</i>	May 10-20, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Scotland Road**</i>	May 10-20, 2018
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Green Day's American Idiot</i>	May 11-20, 2018
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>Seussical the Musical, Jr. *</i>	May 11-19, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Annie</i>	May 11-June 3, 2018
Tawas Bay Players	<i>And There Were None</i>	May 11-20, 2018
Hartland Players	<i>Annie</i>	May 12-20, 2018

\* 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



April is the cruelest month.....April Fool! Although it can be, weather-wise! This month: a nostalgic musical, an over the top comedy and a comedy with drama.

***Moonlight and Magnolias*** by Ron Hutchinson ©2004 is set in 1939, in the office of movie mogul, David O. Selznick, 37 years old. The movie, *Gone with the Wind*, has been shut down because the script is awful, and the director is clueless. Selznick, commands director Victor Fleming, 50, and famed writer, Ben Hecht, 45, to his office, where he locks them in for five days, rewriting the first half of the movie. The lone female, Miss Poppenghul (age flexible), is Selznick's long-suffering secretary, a small but delightful role.

As Hecht hasn't read the novel, Selznick and Fleming re-enact the plot (hilarious!), bicker and swear on a diet of bananas and peanuts. Lots of BAD language flies, side-splitting and frequent physical schtick ensues, and a huge mess is created as the screenplay is written, and rewritten, and re-written. Technical challenges include *Gone with the Wind* lighting and sound effects, and did I mention bad language? Race and the precarious position of Jewish executives in Hollywood are also discussed.



***The Marvelous Wonderettes*** by Roger Bean ©1999 published by Steele Springs Stage Rights, is a delightful musical for baby boomers and anyone else who likes oldies. The setting is the high school gymnasium in 1968 and 1978. The Wonderettes are four girls who are about 18 in ACT I and 28 in ACT II at their ten-year reunion. The music is at times sheer entertainment (Mr. Sandman, Lollipop, Heatwave) and sometimes reflects each

girl's personal story (It's My Party, You Don't Own Me, Leader of the Pack, R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Lipstick on Your Collar) The audience participates, as they vote for prom queen, and a Mr. Lee is chosen from the audience for the song "Mr. Lee, Mr. Lee." Costumes are pretty easy: a 1958 prom dress for Act I and a 1968 vibe for Act II. Suitable for ages 10 plus, the music rocks!

Many iterations of the Wonderettes exist, but as I saw the *Winter Wonderettes*, I will tell you it is a delightful Christmas show. Published in 2003, the four girls are still 28, home for Christmas to entertain at Harper's Hardware holiday party. A slim, but charming plot once again, with melodic Christmas songs fitting in nicely. Challenges for both musicals: four women to play 18 and 28 that can sing solos, harmonize, exude personality and exhibit skillful physical comedy. Once again, one costume each, but much more set décor in *Winter Wonderettes*.

***The Messiah on the Frigidaire***, a dramatic comedy by John Culbertson, was published by Samuel French in 2008. The setting is a trailer park in small town South Carolina, where the shadow of Jesus' face appears every afternoon on the fridge which is on the front porch of a young couple's trailer. The small town goes crazy with visitors daily including a City Councilman wanting to turn it into a tourist attraction, and a mother who believes her blind son will be healed by visiting the shadow of Jesus. Four men (2-30+, one 40+, one 50+) and one nine-year-old boy, two strong women characters (30+) and a



woman slightly older are needed. Setting is present time, with an exterior set of the yard in front of a trailer home. The southern trailer park lifestyle is not mocked but treated with humor and a lovely message is imparted. The scene with the blind boy is tragic when his mother slaps him for not being healed, but the ignorance of the mother is highlighted, rather than child abuse. Suitable for ages 14 plus, the Tawas Bay Players are producing this show in July of this year. Come see us! And as always, contact me at [tarawestern@hotmail.com](mailto:tarawestern@hotmail.com)