

COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

CALLBOARD

August 2017



Fall Conference not to be missed this year; something for everyone!

Special treat for musical performers at Fall Conference

You will want to register for the Music Intensive at Fall Conference -- September 22-24 at Evergreen Resort in Cadillac. You love to sing. You want to audition for musicals, but you... need HELP! Bring a song that you are preparing for a musical with your sheet music to the Music Intensive at Fall Conference and you will leave with an audition-ready piece. You will receive direction, choreography and vocal advice from a dynamic trio of exceptional teachers who are willing to share their experience, knowledge and passion with you! There is no extra charge for this special workshop!

The Music Intensive is an all-day workshop from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday with a lunch break. Teens and adults are welcome to participate. We hope that you will join us for the full weekend, but if you cannot, you can choose just to attend the Music Intensive.

We have made a few changes in the Conference this year in response to your comments from past conferences. So when you go to the web page to register, you will pick Music Intensive on the ala carte menu. We have a full menu of ala carte items for our attendees this year. We understand that schedules are crazy and it is difficult to get away for a full weekend (albeit an absolute blast with this group). Now, you can register for meals or events ala carte.

The Fall Conference 2017 Registration form and web-page are online now and the early-bird registration deadline is July 29. Go to <https://communitytheatremichigan.org/index.php/fall-conference-2017-information-page/>

This link takes you to the information page on our website and the conference. It has a red link at the top and bottom that will take you directly to the registration form. All registrations will be handled on line this year.



Don't forget to bring your '50s garb for the Sock Hop on Saturday night!

Don't forget to book your room with Evergreen Resort by calling before August 29. Their phone number is 1-800-632-7302 and ask for the CTAM rate. (Don't try to book on line or through special travel sites as they cannot extend the special rate we receive.)

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1961!

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Proud Member of



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. 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.

CTAM dues due!

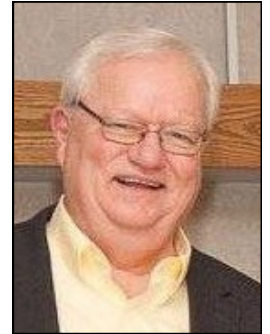
Dues renewals have been sent out to both our affiliate members (groups within the state) and to individual CTAM members! Please do everyone a favor and fill out the forms as completely as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: This includes listing the two Affiliate Representatives whom you have designated as your delegates to the Annual Meeting!



Be a champion for adjudication

Many people -- actors and directors, in particular -- are scared of adjudication because they really don't understand how it works. How dare some outsider come to our show and tell us how bad we were?



*Adjudication Chair
Larry Nielsen*

However, after seeing and hearing the good that comes from adjudication, they are generally all in favor. You need to be the champion in your group and get the wheels rolling for the upcoming season.

Remember that all affiliate groups are entitled to one FREE adjudication each season, so now is the time to start talking it up in your group and schedule at least one of your shows for adjudication next season. CTAM will pay for the first one; the fee for others is \$50. Several groups in Michigan have all of their shows adjudicated in an effort to improve their product.

Contact [Larry Nielsen](#) to find out more about adjudication and schedule one for your group next year.

CTAM Calendar of Events

Sept. 22-24, 2017 Cadillac	CTAM Fall Conference Evergreen Resort
September 24, 2017 Cadillac	Fall Board Meeting at Evergreen Resort
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater



The Prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

CTAM is on the charge!

At AACTFest Nationals in Rochester MN, Michigan was very well represented. Midland's Center Stage Theatre was selected as one of the top four shows of the festival and actress Emily Anderson came home with the top leading actress award. Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Venus in Fur* for their outstanding performance. In addition to the Midland group there were no less than seven other CTAM Affiliate Groups present at the week-long festival, which was a great statement about our level of commitment to community theatre in Michigan. What we heard once again was how other state organizations use Michigan as a model. Do you know we are one of only a handful of states who provide regular adjudication for non-festival productions? That we are envied because in off-festival years we provide two conferences with workshops? That our Theatre Leadership Conference was the first of its kind and was used as a model by Illinois and California and is being looked at by other states? We came home with a fire in our belly for sure!!

Just two weeks later we had a successful Master Class at the MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake with a great class on the roles and responsibilities of Director and Actor and a second stellar two days on Stage Management. There were lots of new faces at the classes, a veteran instructor in Leeds Bird, and a new instructor, Rhonda Lehan from Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. All present reported an enjoyable and informative weekend.

On Sunday your Board met for the first time using our new Strategic Plan as our guide. The plans for Fall Conference were finalized with Conference Chair Suzan Dunham, Board member Chuck Goddeeris put the final touches on the online registration form, and it is now live and ready for you to fill in. You will note that there are lots of new options for an a la carte experience, so you can choose

what best works for your time and your budget. Watch for a new series of email teasers that will tell you about what you can expect at the Conference. A big thank you to Ben Zylman for taking this on.

We also worked on shaping the new Spring Conference initiative which brings the experience to you. Instead of one weekend long conference there will be three regional mini conferences held in the Upper Peninsula, the eastern Lower Peninsula, and the western Lower Peninsula. These will be on three different weekends with the same workshops available so you can attend when and where it works best for you. Each will be hosted by a local Group Affiliate and will just be a day-long event although we encourage you to come in a day early and stay for Saturday evening if you can.

Next, we began plans for a CTAM trip to New York in June of 2018. Nancy Peska spent time talking to a travel company at AACTFest and the result will be a chance to see Broadway shows with your CTAM friends. Watch for more information on this. You may even win a chance to attend.

And finally, we took the first steps to move both the dates and location of the Fall Conference in 2018. We heard from many of you that the conference too often coincided with the opening weekend of your season and that the location was too out of the way. We already have a new more easily accessible location tentatively reserved for a weekend in October. We are also planning to merge the Fall Conference and the Theatre Leadership Conference into the same weekend to bring more people together at once and lessen the cost and time commitment for our Affiliate Members. We will roll out the complete plan at Fall Conference 2017, so if you didn't have reason enough to attend before, you do now. And I assure you there will be more surprises in September as well!

I told you we are on a charge!! Please come and be a part of it!! We look forward to seeing you in September and beyond!!

Meet the Fluppets at the Fall Conference



Bonnie Grooters, Shyrl Cone, and their fabulous assistants have a wonderful weekend planned for our youth! On Friday evening, upon arrival, teen assistants will lead improvisation games and

provide fun-filled learning activities. On Saturday, the workshops begin with a morning of imagination and production.

A class for creative minds will be led by Bonnie who will provide an assortment of fun fabrics and accessories for those willing to try their hand at Fluppet-making. Keeping in mind that these are one-of-a-kind puppets and no two are even similar, the youngsters can make their own Fluppet to their heart's desire.

These characters will come alive at the end of the session. We hope to have a short skit involving the zany looking Fluppets, performed by their creators

Sunday morning. If you like puppetry, you'll enjoy this class.

In the afternoon, children and teens may attend an audition workshop to hone skills in monologues, cold readings, music, and more. This will be tailored to individual needs, with break-out sessions by age level. While parents attend the banquet Saturday night, children and teens not attending the banquet will enjoy pizza and a movie together. The film will be one suitable for and enjoyable by all ages!

After rehearsing the completed Fluppets production on Sunday morning, our talented youth will



Youth program leaders Bonnie Grooters, left, and Shyrl Cone.

present their skit to all conference attendees. After the entertainment, families may enjoy the closing brunch and raffle drawing together. The weekend promises to be rich with learning opportunities, fun and new friends!

CTAM Scholarships can help underwrite your attendance for CTAM Conference

Scholarship Chair Christy Frick wants to remind you that scholarships are available for all CTAM-sponsored educational events. This includes the Summer Master Classes at Higgins Lake and our Fall Conference in September in Cadillac.

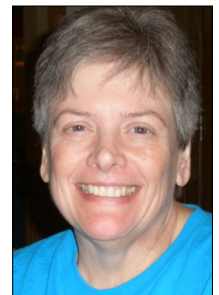
The deadline is two weeks prior to the event and the scholarship covers up to the cost of registration. There is a short application to fill out and we hope that our affiliate groups will also help their members find the resources to attend. We do have a stipulation that no more than two people from the same theatre group would be eligible.

You can contact Christy by emailing her at cfrick9898@charter.net.

AS A REMINDER, the raffle to raise money for our Scholarships is only possible if everyone remembers to bring a raffle prize of at least \$35 value. Many groups and individuals supply the wonderful prizes we



award each year. Be sure to bring your personal donation and one from your theatre group!



*Christy Frick,
Scholarship Chair*

2017 Summer Master Classes very successful!

A total of 15 people spent a wonderful weekend in the woods, learning more about their craft! This photo is from the Director/Actor class, but the Stage Management Class (with no photo) was equally pleased with the experience, per some of the comments below from the evaluation forms:



Great fun; great info. Headed home rejuvenated and ready to implement ideas. -- Instructor was very knowledgeable and had a lot of practical experience. -- Rhonda was excellent as an instructor. -- I did appreciate the open format of the class that allowed for sharing and unique anecdotal experiences from other theatres. -- Leeds is an amazing asset to the theatre education program and the community of theatre. -- The instructor was always ready to answer questions and discuss in more detail. -- The feedback and "playing" with acting and directing was very helpful (and fun). -- Thanks for these wonderful experiences.

In case you need ideas for your Saturday night costume...



Plenty of Workshops to choose from for the Fall Conference

All Things Set - Michael Wisniewski

Where do you start with the set for a show? Who comes up with an initial concept? Who designs your set? Who builds your set? And last but not least, who decorates your set? In this workshop we will discuss these important aspects of putting on a show. We will discuss how each group is different, share ideas and come up with solutions to obstacles we may face. The goal is to take away ideas that you may incorporate in your own theatre group.

Blocking Using Subtext - Jim Carver

As theatre people, we are story tellers. The audience has come to hear a good story and we want to tell the story so that they really “get it.” We have lots of tools and devices we use to tell the story. One of them is the way in which the actors portray what their characters are thinking. We call that subtext. As directors, we can help the audience “get inside the head” of characters by the way we have them move in relationship to each other. This workshop will explore use of subtext in making blocking decisions. Participants will be actively involved in blocking dialogue sequences.

Creating the Back Story - Suzan Dunham

When you first meet your next character at, perhaps, a read-through or your first read of the script, you know that you will need to bring your character to life on stage by creating a history for the character -- or a back story -- using the script, your imagination and technology. Create the motivations that drive your character to perform the words written on the page and that reveal the wide range of emotion that you will be asked to create for the character. That’s your job as an actor. This workshop will suggest different ways to analyze the script and insert your own decisions into the playwright’s words.

Directing from the Technical Point of View - Frank Peot

Finally, a workshop focusing on the director’s relationship with the technical staff. The workshop will deal with those things a director often forgets to include in their directing responsibilities. Discussion will include attributes and details often overlooked and that may cause tension between the director and the technical staff. Opportunities for discussion, questions, and feedback will be included.

Playing the Action through Communication - Stephen Carver

This workshop will explore the two essential elements that will bring a play to life and captivate your audience. We will focus on analyzing the action a character takes to achieve his/her goal within a scene and how the character adjusts strategies in the face of opposition to achieve that goal. Once these strategies are clear, the actor now has a roadmap in which to play the scene, freeing them up to focus on living the character through playing the action of the scene. Volunteer participants will use improvisational scenes and scripted material to illustrate the points of the workshop.

Rocking the Festival: Entering AACTFest - David Wahr

It’s not as simple as you first think! It is a massive undertaking to enter your group in the AACTfest movement. This workshop will provide an overview of how to prepare your play for an AACTfest competition. Topics will include script consideration, directing tips, and an overview of AACTfest itself. So, although 2019 seems a long way off, it’s never too early to begin planning for your group’s entry into one of the most exciting endeavors your group can experience.

Who's Doing What This Season, so far

Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>The Outsiders*</i>	Aug 3-5, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Dracula-The Nautical</i>	Aug 10-19, 2017
Hartland Players	<i>50th Anniversary Variety Show</i>	Aug 19-20, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>The Underpants</i>	Sept 7-16, 2017
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Sept 8-24, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Sister Act</i>	Sept 8-Oct 1, 2017
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Sept 9-Oct 1, 2017
Farmington Players	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Sept 9-Oct 14, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Wait Until Dark</i>	Sept 15-30, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>	Sep 17-30, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>She Loves Me</i>	Sep 17-24, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Master Harold and the Boys**</i>	Sept 28-Oct 8, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>In the Next Room (Staged reading)**</i>	Oct 2, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Here on the Flight Path</i>	Oct 5-15, 2017
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Oct 6-15, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Detroit '67**</i>	Oct 13-22, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>An Adult Evening with Shel Silverstein</i>	Oct 13-28, 2017
Fenton Village Players	<i>Diaries of Adam and Eve**</i>	Oct 14-16, 2017
Hartland Players	<i>Clue</i>	Oct 14-21, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Home Team</i>	Oct 19-29, 2017
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Seussical the Musical, Jr.*</i>	Oct 20-29, 2017
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Leading Ladies</i>	Oct 27-Nov 12, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Nov 3-18, 2017
Southgate Community Players	<i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i>	Nov 11-19, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Morning's at Seven</i>	Nov 17-Dec 2, 2017
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Annie</i>	Nov 17-Dec 17, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol*</i>	Nov 17-19, 2017
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Hands on a Hardbody</i>	Nov 18-Dec 4, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Emperor's New Clothes*</i>	Nov 24-Dec 3, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Annie</i>	Nov 24-Dec 16, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>The Brethern*</i>	Nov 25-27, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	Nov 25-Dec 10, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>A Christmas Story: The Musical</i>	Nov 25-Dec 11, 2017
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</i>	Dec 1-10, 2017
Farmington Players	<i>Greetings!</i>	Dec 1-17, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>1940's Radio Hour</i>	Dec 3-16, 2017
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Seussical the Musical, Jr.*</i>	Dec 7-10, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Elf, the Musical*</i>	Dec 8-17, 2017

* 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! (This list reflects those affiliates who have paid, as of July 24, 2017.) 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](#).



Michigan well represented at national AACTfest by Center Stage, Midland



It was a proud moment for Michigan at the national AACTfest. Although we didn't win, place or show with our production, our leading actress, Emily Anderson, was well recognized for her outstanding performance! Congratulations all around!

Above is the whole fan family from Midland who travelled to the nationals in Rochester MN. What a great ensemble ... with director Suzie Polito in the middle of everything! Plus the other half of the acting team, Jason Applegate who played Thomas.

Top right, Emily receives AACTFest 2017 Best Actress Award by Jim Walker, AACT Vice President of Festivals.

Lower right, Emily receives the People's Choice Award (Leading Actress) from Jon Douglas Rake, left, AACT Board, and Chris Boucher, Benefactor.org

Lower left, the audience is enthralled with one of the adjudications! Do some of them look familiar?

