

CALLBOARD

January 20 deadline

Raffle being offered for June trip to NYC

CTAM is conducting a raffle for **one free ticket** to join the CTAM Broadway trip to New York City in June 27-July 1, 2018. The raffle tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. The deadline for purchasing a raffle ticket or two is January 20, 2018. All Board members have tickets to sell or contact President Christy Frick or by phone at 989-944-1612. She will have a Board member contact you for raffle ticket purchase. Only 200 tickets are available, so get yours while they last. The trip has a value of \$1999 and the raffle drawing will be February 3, 2018. You need not be present to win!

The trip includes...

- Airfare (from Detroit or Grand Rapids) and transfers to and from hotel to airport in New York;
- Guided sightseeing tour of NYC, with refreshments;
- Four nights at the Millennium Hotel, right at Times Square (shared double room);
- Tickets to *Hello, Dolly!* with Bernadette Peters and Victor Garber, plus



one other spectacular show with best available seating. Also includes time to see other shows that you may want to see on your own nickel;

- Backstage tour at Radio City Music Hall, plus a walking tour of other sites, such as Grand Central Station and St. Patrick's Cathedral; and
- All local taxes and fees.

Arrangements are being made through Executive Travel, out of Lincoln, NE. Deadline for full payment is March 27, 2018. A deposit of \$500 is due when you make your reservation at <http://executive-travel.com/ctam-playhouse-2018>.

For questions and a brochure with more information, contact them at 402/435-8888 or e-mail GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com.

Our host is Morrie Enders, a nationally known community "theatre evangelist," as he calls himself. You may remember him from his days as the artistic director at Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. He is a renowned adjudicator and a devoted lover of Broadway. His insight into the city's history and theatre is unparalleled.

You can also contact CTAM Executive Secretary Nancy Peska (peska@cmsinter.net) with your questions.

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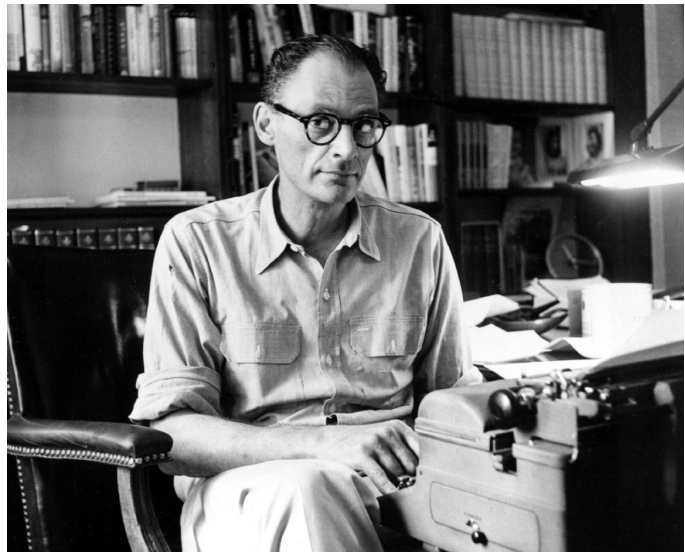
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Arthur Miller never really entered our contest, but he could have if he wanted to!

Playwriting Contest up and running - Deadline May 15

We hope you made a New Year's resolution to start putting all your dramatic creativity to work so you can submit a script to the CTAM Playwriting Contest this year. Don't procrastinate! Scripts are due May 15, 2018.

Rules and judging criteria are on the web-page. (<http://communitytheatremichigan.org/index.php/playwriting-contest-rules/>).

Or contact contest chairs, Pat and Leo Paveglio, if you have any questions.

Proud Member of



Community Theatre Association of Michigan

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 Calendar of Events

April 13, 14 and 15, 2018 Kalamazoo Civic	Spring Conference - West
April 21, 2018 Fenton Village Players	Spring Conference - East
May 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 at MacMullen Center
October 12-14, 2018 Flint/Grand Blanc area	2018 Fall Conference Holiday Inn-Gateway Ctr.
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater



The prez Sez... by Christy Frick

There's lots going on in CTAM in 2018, so mark your calendars now for these dates through the year!

CTAM on the Road -- Also known as Spring Conference: Traditionally, CTAM has held a Spring Conference in even-numbered years, alternating with AACTfest in odd-numbered years.

In 2018 we are trying something new. Instead of having one location for our Spring Conference and having you all come to that one location, we are bringing the Spring Conference to you. All three workshops and presenters will be the same at each location so everyone is getting the same information.

The dates will be:

- ✓ West Conference: April 13 thru 15, hosted by Kalamazoo Civic.
- ✓ East Conference: Saturday, April 21, will be hosted by Fenton Village Players.
- ✓ Upper Peninsula Conference: Saturday, May 5, hosted by Players de Noc in Escanaba.

You simply pick the location closest to you and register to attend. How fun to get a bunch of people from your group together for a "road trip" and spend the day together in theatre! In most cases, you won't need to bear the cost of a hotel room because the activities will be centered around a Saturday -- unless, of course, you *want* to stay over!

Please watch the Callboard and our website for more information on what is happening each weekend. We are trying to shorten the time spent at the hotel whenever possible.

Also coming up is our Summer Master Class July 13 - 15, 2018, returning to the MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, just off I-75 near Roscommon. Workshop leaders and subject

matters will be announced after the first of the year, but mark your calendars now and save this special summer weekend for yourself!

Fall Conference 2018 will be held October 12 thru 14 at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Flint. (Actually, it's also just off I-75, near the confluence of US-23 in Grand Blanc!) You will note that the date has been moved several weeks later to avoid opening-weekend for many of our member affiliates!

Something else new for 2018 is that we are holding the Theater Leadership Conference at the same place and time as our Fall Conference. This will be separate activities and meetings for paid executives and paid staff, as well as your lead Board volunteers.

Of course, don't forget about our New York Theatre Trip June 27 thru July 1! See the article on the front page for more information about that wonderful adventure!

The Board has made many changes to try to respond to your needs and to be more accessible to our members. We hope you find the changes helpful and that you will be able to take advantage of more of the services we provide for you!

Christy Frick

Plan ahead for your show's adjudication

CTAM has trained adjudicators ready and eager to visit your group and adjudicate one of your shows. As a benefit of your group CTAM annual dues, each group affiliate gets one free adjudication per membership year. After that, your group pays a modest fee for additional adjudications.

One of the values of having an adjudicator is that this outside, independent person can give your actors and director some insights from a different perspective and bounce back to you what they witnessed on the stage.

Contact Adjudication Chair Larry Nielsen to make arrangements.

The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



This month I am scooping three plays that were introduced to me by the inimitable **Jim Carver**. A couple of years ago, he told me he was planning to direct these three, so I researched them and loved them!

Sylvia by A. R. Gurney; Dramatists Play Service; copyright 1995 Cast: one man, two women, with a third character of either gender playing three small roles. The set is a Manhattan apartment in present time, with a sense of the New York skyline behind. It is recommended that the elements of the apartment are used to set up the other scenes: a park, an urban street, an airport. Music and sound effects also are used to create those scenes.

This outrageously funny play is about the love affair between a man (40s plus) and his dog, Sylvia. Sylvia is played by a (energetic!) woman, and the wife (40s plus) is cold and NOT fun, compared to the vivacious and raunchy Sylvia. Suggestive language can be replaced with changes from the author for directors who feel their audiences would be offended by the original text.

Plot is simple: a man, ripe for a midlife crisis, adopts the canine, Sylvia, who talks to him, understands and reinvigorates him and the wife is jealous. Hilariously, Sylvia goes through all the typical upper middle-class dog experiences: visit to the spa, cone around neck, chasing cats and squirrels, just to name a few.

NOTE: If you want to see this play before committing to produce it, *Sylvia* is being produced by Suzan Dunham's WitzEnd, Inc. in March 2018 in the Tawas area.

Love, Loss and What I Wore by Nora and Delia Ephron, copyright 2008; published by Dramatists Play Services, based on the book of the same name by Ilene Beckerman. Minimum of five women with flexible casting. Tawas Bay

Players produced this show as an "After Hours" production and used 11 women in various roles.

The play consists of a main character, Gingy, who tells the story of her life by displaying and discussing clothes that were meaningful to her. Other women have various scenes and act as a team explaining the female point of view in "What My Mother Said," "The Bra," "The Dressing Room," etc. Although this show is often done as Readers' Theatre, we memorized the script, giving the show a much more intimate feeling as we directly addressed the audience. As with Readers' Theatre, the set is minimal. The script has moments of hilarity, small chuckles, and tragedy. Some audiences may be nervous by the graphic description of sex and breast cancer, while others will relish the authenticity.

Becky's New Car by Steven Dietz, copyright 2008 (also through Dramatists Play Service!); a dramatic comedy; 4 men, 3 women; set in an American city "much like Seattle," present day, summer. One interior set, Becky's living room, which also becomes her work cubicle, her car, and the terrace of Walter Flood's estate. The author says, "simplify...it is not necessary, nor is it desirable to fully depict any of the play's locales." Clever lighting design required!

- ✓ Becky, late forties,
- ✓ Joe, her husband, late forties,
- ✓ Their son, Chris, a psychology student, 26,
- ✓ Walter Flood, a wealthy, widowed businessman in his sixties,
- ✓ His daughter, 23,
- ✓ Steve, Becky's widowed co-worker (40 +), and
- ✓ Ginger, a single fiftyish neighbor of wealthy Walter.

Becky hardly leaves the stage, charming the audience as she makes them part of her mid-life crisis. The audience witnesses Becky contemplating fleeing, as a new car comes to represent her imagined new life. Son, Chris becomes her philosophy, Walter, her fantasy, Steve, her malaise with work, and Joe, her anchor.

Once again, send comments, suggestions, and bad jokes to me at tarawestern@hotmail.com. Have a Happy!

Who's doing what in the New Year!

Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Stirrups</i>	Jan 11-21, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Escanaba in Love</i>	Jan 12-17, 2018
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>All the Way</i>	Jan 12-28, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Baskerville-A Sherlock Holmes Mystery</i>	Jan 12-27, 2018
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Fools</i>	Jan 12-28, 2018
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Disenchanted</i>	Jan 13-27, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Buried Child</i>	Jan 18-28, 2018
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Boeing Boeing</i>	Jan 19-Feb 3, 2018
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Guys on Ice</i>	Jan 19-27, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Arsenic & Old Lace</i>	Jan 19-Feb 3, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Jan 19-Feb 12, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Ain't Misbehavin'</i>	Jan 19-Feb 4, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Jan 21-Feb 3, 2018
Bay City Players	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Jan 26-Feb 4, 2018
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Almost Maine</i>	Jan 26-Feb 3, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Rock of Ages</i>	Jan 26-Feb 11, 2018
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Jan 26-Feb 4, 2018
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Assisted Living</i>	Jan 26-Feb 10, 2018
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Jake's Women</i>	Feb 1-17, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>An Intimate Evening with Jack, Boots & George</i>	Feb 2-10, 2018
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Nana's Naughty Knickers</i>	Feb 2-18, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Escanaba in da Moonlight</i>	Feb 8-18, 2018
Farmington Players	<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Feb 9-25, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Feb 9-24, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Romance Guaranteed**</i>	Feb 9-24, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Bridge to Terabithia*</i>	Feb 9-18, 2018
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Weekend Comedy</i>	Feb 9-18, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Other Desert Cities</i>	Feb 15-25, 2018
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Imaginary Invalid</i>	Feb 15-Mar 3, 2018
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Oedipus, the King</i>	Feb 16-25, 2108
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Magic Flute*</i>	Feb 16-25, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>No Way Out**</i>	Feb 16-25, 2018
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Feb 16-Mar 4, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>White Buffalo**</i>	Feb 22-Mar 4, 2018
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>My Fair Lady</i>	Feb 23-Mar 18, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Bug**</i>	Feb 23-Mar 4, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Red</i>	Mar 2-17, 2018
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Curtains</i>	Mar 2-10, 2018
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Shrek the Musical</i>	Mar 2-11, 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 Downeaster Theatre in Lansing had a good time with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory late last year. Here's the future of Michigan theatre, folks!



Being part of the community is what it is all about for 'community' theatre! The photo above is from the Players Guild of Dearborn's Starshine Theatre Workshop. According to Players Guild President John Sczomak, "This was our 8th workshop, which is a collaboration with the Neighborhood Services Organization, a local Detroit-based non-profit. During the workshop, young adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities participate in a week-long theatre experience, culminating in a show. This year we had 25 young people participate and many members from the Players Guild came to mentor the participants or help in any way they could. The show this year was Pirates-The Musical, and it was presented at no charge to a very appreciative audience. The kids love the headshots, program and afterglow."