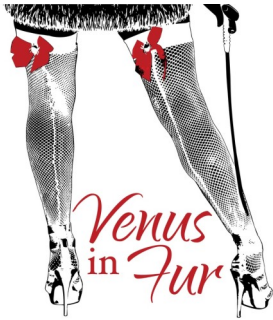


COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

CALLBOARD

June 2017 is busting out all o-o-ver!



Midland Center Stage wins Regionals; moving on to National AACT-fest later this month!

As we might have suspected after seeing their performance of *Venus in Fur* by David Ives in our state-level competition in Bay City, Center Stage Theatre from the Midland Center for the Arts has won the Regional AACTfest and will be representing Region III at the National Competition in Rochester, Minnesota, June 26 through July 1. Midland will perform on Wednesday, June 28.

The play stars Emily Anderson and Jason Applegate; it was directed by Susie Polito. Congratulations all around!

Midland will be offering one additional performance of *Venus in Fur* to help raise funds on Friday, June 23. This could be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see the show again before they go to nationals and to wish them all kinds of luck.

Because Region III (Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois) is so active and had so many participating productions at their state-level competitions, Region III has been awarded an additional wild-card slot at the national competition -- which will be filled by our talented friends from Kokomo Civic Theatre (Indiana) with their production of *Passing Notes* by Joe Cameron.

For a full list of the competing productions at Nationals, go to www.AACT.org and check in under Festivals.

You go, Emily and Jason and Susie! We are so very proud of you! Knock 'em dead!



aaact 2017
fest

2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com

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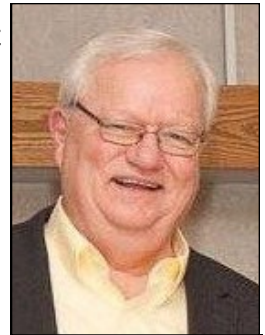
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Proud Member of



Be the champion for adjudication in your group

Many people -- actors and directors, in particular -- are scared of adjudication because they really don't understand how it works. How dare some outsiders 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 next 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

June 26-July 1, 2017 Rochester, Minnesota	National AACTfest
July 1, 2017	Awards Nomination Deadline
July 1, 2017	Deadline for Nomination for election to the Board
July 14-16, 2017 Higgins Lake, MI	Summer Master Class MacMullen Conf. Center
July 16, 2017 Higgins Lake, MI	Board of Directors meeting
Sept. 22-24, 2017 Cadillac	CTAM Fall Conference Evergreen Resort
September 24, 2017 Cadillac	Fall Board Meeting at Evergreen Resort

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.





The Prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

BIG NEWS!! CTAM is moving forward!!

The weekend of May 19th your Board traveled to the Detroit area for two days of meetings and theatre. We were hosted by the Rosedale Community Players. There was such an abundance of theatre going on that we spread out and conquered as much as we could. I tried to see *Beauty and the Beast* at Grosse Pointe but waited too long to get a ticket. Excellent news for them, bad news for me!! Others saw *Sugar* at Players Guild of Dearborn and *Spamalot* at Farmington Players. And a group of us saw *The Gin Game* at Rosedale on Saturday night. It is always a delight to see our Group Affiliates in action.

But the **BIG NEWS** is that during our meetings we made some really significant changes and plans for more changes coming up.

After nearly three years of discussion and looking at images, we voted on a new logo for CTAM that clearly illustrates our goals to represent the entire state of Michigan and to be moving forward to a future that best serves our current and anticipated members. Our current logo served us well over the years. We tried to digitalize it and discovered that we could not replicate it well, and could not enlarge it to do some of the marketing we hope to do in the future. We did, however, continue the tradition of having the logo designed by our own members. Longtime Grosse Pointe Theatre member and well-known artist and sculptor Jac Purdon, (now deceased) designed the circle with the masks and current Board members Heather Todd and Chuck Goddeeris collaborated to reach the final design this time. Come to the Fall Conference September 22 -24 to get your first glimpse!!

And speaking of conferences, we are making some changes there as well. At our long range planning meeting on Saturday, May 20th we decided:

- ✓ Beginning with the Spring of 2018, we will hold at least three mini conferences in different regions of

the state and will offer the same classes at each one on different weekends. You can attend in the Upper Peninsula, on the west side of the Lower Peninsula, or on the east side of the Lower. Yes, we are bringing the conference to you and making the same high quality programming available on multiple weekends, giving you a chance to find the time and location that best suits your needs.

- ✓ Beginning the fall of 2018, the Fall Conference will move to a weekend in October as we hear from many of you that the last weekend in September conflicts with the opening of your seasons on a regular basis.
- ✓ We are also looking at the possibility of moving to a more centrally located venue on a major highway for ease of access for all. The Theatre Leadership Conference (TLC) will be combined with the Fall Conference to save on travel budgets and time commitment. The administration portion of our conference workshops will be covered in the TLC, allowing more space for acting, directing, and technical workshops.
- ✓ To look at a new concept of workshop streams, where registrants could choose something like musical theatre for actors, building the perfect tech package for a show, or the stages of direction; and then take a series of workshops at the conference that would build continually on those ideas. You would go home with a comprehensive picture taught by like-minded instructors.
- ✓ Finally, we got a first look at a brand new Members Only section of our website. As soon as you renew as either a Group Affiliate or Individual Member for fiscal year 2017-18 you will get a User Name and once you set up your password you will gain access to information that is for members only. You will find the script library with an online form for ordering and paying for the rental, a new resource directory with lists of workshop leaders and places for costume rentals, and a bulletin board where you can post your own needs. This is just the start of what will be coming "behind the curtain".

There you have it! We are trying our best to serve your needs. We sincerely hope you like the new look of CTAM. You will have a chance to express your thoughts in an email survey you should receive in late summer, so watch for it and please tell us what you need from your CTAM.

**NEW LOGO
APPEARING AT FALL
CONFERENCE 2017**

Summer Master Class registration open

How about enjoying a weekend in the woods with folks who share your enthusiasm for theatre? How about bettering your theatre skills and learning new ones in this setting?

Then sign up for a CTAM Master Class! The Education Committee has recruited two outstanding community theatre artists who are eager to share their expertise with you. Choose a class that suits your interests, or that can train you in an area that will benefit you and your theatre group.

- ★ ***If acting or directing is your main interest, sign up for “Actor vs. Director – Eliminating the Struggle of Individual Success.” Leeds Bird brings a trove of knowledge from his long career as actor, director, and teacher in educational, community, and professional theatre. The class will crystallize what the director and the actor expect of one another, and how each can benefit from this tension.***
- ★ ***The second class is “Stage Management: Pre-Production to Post Show.” Rhonda Lehan carries her many professional credits as stage manager into this format. She stresses organization and clarity of purpose for this vital theatrical task. Learn what carries the show before the first curtain, wraps it up after the final one, and all that happens in between.***

The class is held at the Ralph MacMullen Conference Center at Higgins Lake (Roscommon), very convenient to I-75.

The registration fee for individual CTAM members is \$85 and the fee for non-members is \$95. That



includes the instruction and facility use fees. A shared room (two single beds) and four meals

is \$167 per person and a room for one person with four meals is \$187. You will find details about the classes, registration, lodging/meals and in the May issue of *Callboard.*, available on our website. You can register online or use the form on Page 8 and mail it to the CTAM office (4619 W. Van Buren Rd., Alma, MI 48801). The registration deadline is June 30. If you have to cancel after that date, there is no refund.

Don't forget that CTAM has scholarships available to help with registration fees. Many groups give financial help to their members who take a master class. Save your receipts! Ask your tax consultant about deducting the cost of education that benefits a 501(c)(3) organization.

If you have questions about the Master Classes, contact Education Chair Joanne Berry.

Deadline is fast approaching!

Nominations for the Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award and the Robert McKenna Award are due by July 1, 2017.

Send nomination to
tjolink@ameritech.net

or

Terry Jolink
3768 Socorro Dr. SW
Grandville, MI 49418

Check out our website for more information on these awards. Now is the time to nominate someone from your group to be recognized state-wide.



Bay City Players receive AACT award

Michigan's oldest community theatre, Bay City Players, has been recognized by AACT and presented with the Diamond Crown Organization Award. The award recognizes longevity and vitality of AACT member theatres. Recipients must have been in continuous operation for 75 years and organizational members of AACT for the past ten years. BCP certainly meets those criteria, as this is their 100th season!

BCP's life force has always been its volunteers, and it celebrates 100 years of great community theatre because of 100 years of great community volunteers, according to the article about their award in the May-June issue of AACT's *Spotlight*.

We add congratulations from CTAM, also!

Grosse Pointe Theatre loses performance space after 55 years

Nary a dry eye when Grosse Pointe Theatre closed Disney's *Beauty & the Beast* on May 20. That was their last performance at the beautiful Grosse Pointe War Memorial which has been the group's home since 1962.

The War Memorial's decision to install a movie theatre, rather than live theatre, left GPT without performance space for the upcoming season, so GPT negotiated space with three local schools with great stages and sufficient parking. A community effort is underway to build a large arts complex which could include GPT in some capacity, but the reality is that it probably is 4-5+ years away.

In the meantime, GPT will become roving gypsies and take their talent to the community at many different locations. Fortunately, their rehearsal/storage/ticket office building remains and will continue to be the heart of the organization.

The photo below was taken after the final curtain and the ghost light was turned on. Cast, crew and members of the audience gathered on stage to record the memorable moment!



Children's theatre guru wanted for Fall Conference

If you are a regular fall conference-goer, you know that we have introduced a concurrent youth theatre program for the past several years. It runs same time, same place but is special programming for youngsters about 8 to 14 and builds their skills in an area of life that we crazies find so addicting!

We're looking for one or several people to take over that project this year from conceptualization to planning to administering that activity for the weekend: September 22-24 at Evergreen Resort in Cadillac. Like the rest of us, this will be a volunteer situation with a small budget for supplies.

If this sounds like an interesting offer, please contact [Conference Chair Suzan Dunham](#) to find out more.



2016 Conference Kids



Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing is taking their audience on a merry romp... [Catch Me If You Can](#), the musical version!



One of their TV stage crew sneaks on stage with the [Kitchen Witches](#), offered by Alpena Civic Theatre in May!



Clarkston Village Players had fun with [Self Help](#) in May this year!



The rest of the season in Michigan theater !

Ann Arbor Civic	<i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>	June 1-4, 2017
Heart of the Hills, Troy	<i>G.I. Jukebox</i>	June 1-4, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Driving Miss Daisy</i>	June 2-3, 2017
St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, Birmingham	<i>42nd Street</i>	June 2-17, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Catch Me If You Can</i>	June 8-18-2017
Fenton Village Players	<i>Much Ado about Nothing**</i>	June 10-12, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Dorothy in Wonderland*</i>	June 15-18, 2017
Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Criminal Hearts **</i>	June 16-18, 2017
Cadillac Footlites	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	June 16-24, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>The House of Yes**</i>	June 16-25, 2017
Owosso Community Players	<i>Sister Act</i>	June 16-25, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>R.I.P. *</i>	June 17-18, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Dorothy in Wonderland</i>	July 13-22, 2017
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Out of the Frying Pan</i>	July 14-23, 2017
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Greater Tuna</i>	July 14-23, 2017
Tin Shop Theatre, Buchanan	<i>Beauty is a Beast*</i>	July 15-24, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Coraline*</i>	July 20-23, 2017
All-of-Us-Express Children's Theatre	<i>Shrek the Musical, Jr. *</i>	July 28-Aug 5, 2017
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
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
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
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Nov 11-Dec 4, 2017
Southgate Community Players	<i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i>	Nov 11-19, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Santa Shapes Up*</i>	Nov 18-19, 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
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
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>1940's Radio Hour</i>	Dec 3-16, 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! 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 also available on the CTAM website.

September 22, 23 and 24 in Cadillac

Fall Conference taking shape; workshops announced

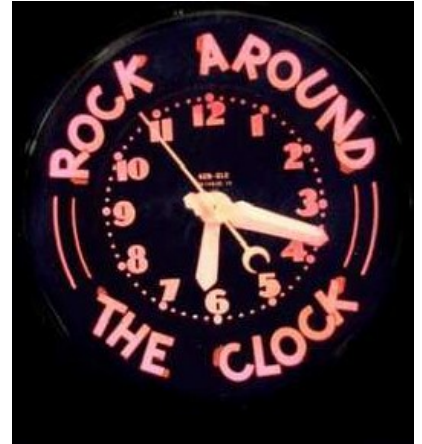
One, Two, Three O'clock, Four O'clock Rock! We will be rocking around the Evergreen Resort at the CTAM Fall Conference. Although the format will be similar to previous years, we have new ideas coming your way.

Mark your calendar to attend the Friday night Meet & Greet with Keynote speaker, Jim Carver. Then enjoy workshops from Steve Carver, David Wahr, Frank Peot, Mike Wisniewski, Bonnie Grooter, and Larry Nielsen. In addition to the workshops, guests will have the opportunity to preview scripts from the playwriting contest through reader's theatre style presentations.

Lastly, we are working to put together a music intensive that would teach musical theatre performers how to prepare for an audition. This will be an all-day intensive that will cover music, dance and directing. Participants will leave with a solid audition piece!

Mark your calendars for September 22nd, 23rd & 24th and book your room at Evergreen Resort in Cadillac. Registration forms will be out by the end of May. You have until July 31st to get the early bird discount.

So get out your glad rags and get ready to rock around the clock for a great weekend!



Fall Conference Workshops

All Things Set

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.

***MICHAEL WISNIEWSKI** is from Bay City Players and has been Committee Chair for Set Design, Construction and Decoration for many years. He has directed musicals and plays for Bay City Players, has directed at Pit and Balcony and recently directed Assassins for Center Stage Theatre at Midland Center for the Arts. Michael also directed Hair at Bay City Players in the summer of 2017 and is directing Anything Goes for Pit and Balcony this fall. Michael resides in Bay City with his two adorable Boston Terriers.*



Blocking Using Subtext

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.

***JAMES CARVER** was educated at Michigan State University and worked in television for a while before he joined the staff of The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in 1958. As a Production Assistant he built and painted scenery, taught classes and started directing. In 1974 Jim was named Managing Director. Jim has directed hundreds of plays and acted almost that many roles. Jim has served as President of AACT, currently lives in Colorado and directs for community theatres nationwide.*



Directing from the Technical Point of View

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.

FRANK PEOT began working in theatre when he was in high school. He has acted, directed, designed, built, painted, and has been a board member of several theatre organizations. He is currently secretary of the American Association of Community Theatre and chief US delegate to the World Congress of International Amateur Theatre. Other experiences include adjudicating community theatre festivals and conducting workshops with community theatres around the nation.



Playing the Action through Communication.

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.

STEPHEN CARVER, Executive Director with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, brings 38 years of experience in theatre, TV and film. He is an award winning director, and has guest starred on such shows as Golden Girls, Star Trek, Deep Space Nine, General Hospital, and Melrose Place. His film credits include Liar, Liar, Housesitter and Die Trying.



Rocking the Festival: Entering AACTFest

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 one of the most exciting endeavors your group can experience.

DAVID P. WAHR has been active in community theatre for more than 30 years and has participated in AACTFest for more than two decades as an actor, director and playwright (including one state AACTFest win). He has also served on the CTAM Board in multiple roles, including president and is a recipient of the McKenna Award.



Wild and Crazy Marketing Ideas for Audience Development

This 'round table' workshop explores marketing ideas geared to building audiences, building audience diversity, and various marketing efforts that members have used successfully. We will use 'idea generation' techniques; Larry's 66 fleshing-out technique, and explore 'Champions.' Attendees will share ideas and everyone will go home with at least one good idea to help them get more butts in the seats!

LARRY NIELSEN has been involved with community theatre since 1980; first an actor and stagehand. Now, this old dog mostly directs and adjudicates/responds. However, to keep his theatrical passion soothed; he remains active in his home group, Twin City Players (TCP). His most recent directing experiences with TCP have been Doin' Time at the Alamo, Proof, Book of Days, A Piece of My Heart, The Cover of Life, A Streetcar Named Desire, and, earlier this year, Assassins. As an Adjudicator, Larry has adjudicated state and regional AACT Fests and a national AACT Fest. Larry is also a playwright and has received honors for two of his plays.



Community Theatre Association of Michigan 2017 Summer Master Class Registration Form



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Affiliate Group _____

I would like to register for Actor vs. Director

Stage Management

CTAM Individual member registration = \$85 \$ _____

Non-Individual member registration = \$95 \$ _____

Purchase CTAM individual membership = \$35 \$ _____

Lodging/Meal Package at MacMullan Conference Center:

• One person per room (two nights and four meals) = \$187 \$ _____

• Two people per room (two nights and four meals) = \$167 ea. \$ _____

• Roommate's name _____

• Facility charge for commuters, meals extra = \$35 \$ _____

(Contact CTAM Executive Secretary for arrangements)

TOTAL DUE WITH REGISTRATION \$ _____

PAYMENT:

Check enclosed , payable to CTAM

Master Card

Visa

Card # _____ Expires _____

Name on Card _____ Three digit security # _____

Registration deadline is June 30! There will be no refunds for meals or lodging after that date.

Mail completed registration to CTAM, c/o Nancy Peska, 4619 West Van Buren Road, Alma, MI 48801.