

# CALLBOARD

March 2017



## **Bay City Players host with the most!**

## **2017 AACTfest is history!**

What a thrilling weekend of theatre we all just experienced! Ten of Michigan's finest theatre groups met in competition and the two winners were selected to go on to the Regional competition. The ten intrepid groups who laid it all on the line are as follows:

- ✓ Center Stage Theatre, Midland
- ✓ Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
- ✓ Ichabod's Little Theatre, South Haven
- ✓ Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
- ✓ Monroe Community Players
- ✓ Stagecrafters, Royal Oak
- ✓ Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City
- ✓ Tawas Bay Players
- ✓ Twin City Players, St. Joseph
- ✓ WE Players, East Tawas

Congratulations to the three top winners: Center Stage Theatre in Midland, Standing Room Only Theatre in Bay City, and Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. All three performances were star-quality and will surely do Michigan proud in the Regional Competition. (See inside, Page 6, for a complete list of the winners, including the People' Choice winners and the technical awards for the weekend!)

Many, many thanks go to the staff and volunteers of Bay City Players for their considerable contributions by hosting the event. Co-chairs Joy Butler and Joanne Berry (*top photo*) are to be acknowledged for their tireless efforts in pulling the party off with fairly short notice!

Thanks to our Festival Adjudicators (*middle photo*) for their concise and thoughtful comments: Terie Spencer, Allen Ebert and Bruce Jacklin. The AACT Festival Commissioner was Donna Fisher from Casper, Wyoming, in the bottom photo.

And thanks to the many folks who attended the Festival and showed their support for Michigan theater!



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This is the official newsletter of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, issued monthly to all group 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.communitytheatre.org](http://www.communitytheatre.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).

## Getting ready for National AACTfest! Workers sought!

Everyone's heading to Rochester, MN, for the national AACTfest, June 26 through July 1. Our own Jill Patchin from Grand Rapids is heavily involved and has the following message:

*"First of all, AACT is looking for individuals, age 18 and up, to join the Festival Production Team. Yes, they are week-long volunteer positions, but **they are volunteer positions with some very valuable perks!!!** I'll be happy to let you know what's all involved and the perks you receive!*

*Is this you? Do you know someone who would jump at this opportunity? Don't hesitate. Apply now or pass along this information if you know someone who might be interested in this opportunity. Contact me directly.*

*Second, a reminder that AACTFest 2017 will once again include its acclaimed design competition. Design areas included in the competition this year are **Scenic, Lighting, Sound, Costume/Makeup/Hair, Special Effects/ Technical Design, Graphics and Website.** Details on the AACT website."*

Check out both of these opportunities! Or contact Jill Patchin if you have more questions.

## CTAM Calendar of Events

<b>April 27-30, 2017</b> Champaign, Illinois	Regional AACTfest
<b>May 15, 2017</b>	Deadline for Playwriting Committee submission; see article
<b>June 26-July 1, 2017</b> Rochester, Minnesota	National AACTfest
<b>July 1, 2017</b>	Awards Nomination Deadline
<b>July 1, 2017</b>	Deadline for Nomination for election to the Board of Directors
<b>July 14-16, 2017</b> Higgins Lake, MI	Summer Master Class
<b>Sept. 22-24, 2017</b> Cadillac	CTAM Fall Conference Evergreen Resort





## The Prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

What a weekend hosted by the Bay City Players!! The Michigan AACTFest was incredible, with 10 top rate performances, two of which were original scripts by CTAM members. There were people on-stage who represented our more senior population and others who are the future of community theatre – our youth. The two shows moving on and the alternate are all first class representatives of the kind of theatre we are producing in Michigan.

In addition to the adjudicating taking place on-stage, I was teaching a workshop to six people who either wanted to learn how to become adjudicators or who wanted to understand the process better. Each of them had an opportunity to adjudicate a show in front of the others in the class after learning what AACT asks us to consider when adjudicating and how the voting process is conducted. It was a talented group of people, each of whom could easily be added to Michigan's adjudication roster.

The CTAM Board cannot thank the Bay City Players, Joanne Berry, Joy Butler, and all of their volunteers for hosting such a wonderful weekend. Several groups came to me and told me how impressed they were with how well organized everything was and how welcomed they felt by everyone at Bay City Players. You may not know that Joanne Berry's home group stepped up to host after Joanne, who as Vice President of CTAM was in charge of finding a location for the AACTFest, exhausted her list of possible locations. Even though Bay City is planning their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration they made time to help out. Joy Butler, an adjudicator and strong AACTFest advocate, said she would be happy to co-chair with Joanne. They

were a formidable team!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Every festival I come home re-energized and reminded why I love community theatre! If you haven't ever attended I strongly encourage you to put it on your bucket list. Your next opportunity to see Michigan compete is in Champaign, IL April 27-30. Follow this link <http://www.region3aact.org/> to find details and a registration form. That weekend you will see two of our three finalists compete with advancing groups from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. It will be another fabulous weekend of outstanding community theatre. Congratulations and good luck to our advancing groups! And congratulations to all the volunteers at Bay City Players for a stellar weekend for all!



Happy St.Patrick's Day !

## MAKE IT CHAMPAIGN! A Toast to Theatre Excellence

Our Region III AACTFest will be April 27-30 at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. Plan to attend to support our Michigan entries:

- *Venus in Fur*, Center Stage Theatre, Midland
- *Hamlet*, Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City

You will see some of the best community theatre productions from the region with the possibility of ten productions from the five states (MI, OH, IN, IL, WI). Treat yourself to a broad range of engaging workshops, networking, and socializing with like-minded theatre people.

This will be another opportunity to see a lot of great theatre-- at least one will be selected to advance to the national community theatre festival in Rochester, MN (AACTFest June 26 - July 1, 2017)

Registration and tickets links via <http://www.region3aact.org/> or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Community-Theatre-Illinois-255771034794236](http://www.facebook.com/Community-Theatre-Illinois-255771034794236).



## Plan Ahead: April Is Volunteer Recognition Month

April is Volunteer Service Recognition Month with emphasis on April 23-29, 2017 as National Volunteer Week.

President Richard Nixon established National Volunteer Week with an executive order in 1974, and every sitting U.S. president since Nixon has issued a proclamation during National Volunteer Week, urging Americans to give their time to community outreach organizations. While originally sponsored by The Points of Light Institute, the week has grown to include hundreds of organizations, and thousands of volunteer projects.

The original proclamation reads as follows:

By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation

“The spirit of voluntarism, one of the hallmarks of American life, has rarely been stronger than it is today. It has been estimated that one out of every five Americans is contributing time and talent in some kind of voluntary service. American volunteers are improving the quality of life in remote villages and in urban slums in the United States and working to improve the quality of life for others in distant corners of the world. These efforts most frequently touch the lives of the poor, the young, the aged and the sick, but in the process the lives of all men and women are made richer.

There are abundant opportunities for every concerned American to reap the rewards that come from helping others. More than 90,000 are serving in programs sponsored by ACTION, the Federal agency for volunteer service. Others are helping to organize volunteer efforts with the help of the National Center for Voluntary Action. We must continue to support these vital activities, and we must work to extend and enhance the valuable and satisfying services of our volunteers.”



*Terry Jolink,  
CTAM Awards Chair*

National Volunteer Month also provides a great opportunity to reflect on how much volunteerism has changed since President Nixon created the first National Volunteer Week in 1974.

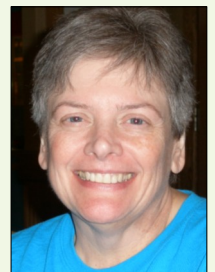
- ★ Since 1989, the number of people who volunteer has increased by 60 percent.
- ★ Older Americans from the Baby Boom generation are 40 percent more likely to volunteer than the same age groups were in 1989.

So as we celebrate National Volunteer Month, let's recognize those who give themselves to help others. Let's motivate others to join the effort. And let's stay focused on how volunteerism can continue to evolve to bring maximum value to our communities.

Last month Mary Jo Denolf suggested ways to say thank you to your theatre volunteers. One last way to honor someone is to nominate someone for the Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award or the Robert A. McKenna Award. Information about these CTAM Awards was also in last month edition of the Callboard and is on the [CTAM website](#). Nomination deadline is July 1. Let's nominate many of your volunteers and let them know that they are truly appreciated. Please [contact Terry](#) if you have any questions.

### CTAM Scholarships can be used for educational events

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



*Christy Frick*

The deadline is two weeks prior to the event and the scholarship covers the cost of registration. 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](mailto:cfrick9898@charter.net).

# Leprechauns rule March in Michigan!

Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Feb 17-Mar 4, 2017
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>I Hate Hamlet</i>	Feb 17-Mar 4, 2017
Owosso Community Players	<i>Joseph/Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	Feb 24-Mar 5, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Lady Day at Emerson's Bar &amp; Grill **</i>	Feb 24-Mar 12, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>Curious Savage</i>	Mar 2-12, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>House on the Cliff</i>	Mar 3-18, 2017
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>The Kings of Unionville</i>	March 3-12, 2017
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>9 to 5</i>	Mar 3-11, 2017
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Mar 9-19, 2017
Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Almost, Maine</i>	Mar 9-12, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Venus in Fur</i>	Mar 10-11, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Home on the Radio</i>	Mar 10-18, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Mousetrap</i>	Mar 10-25, 2017
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>The Lion in Winter</i>	Mar 10-26, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Red</i>	Mar 10-19, 2017
The Village Players, Birmingham	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Mar 10-26, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Glass Menagerie</i>	Mar 12-25, 2017
Bay City Players	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Mar 17-26, 2017
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Magic Treehouse: Dinosaurs before Dark*</i>	Mar 17-19, 2017
Hartland Players	<i>Shrek, the Musical*</i>	Mar 17-19, 2017
St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, Birmingham	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Mar 17-Apr 2, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>The Red Velvet Cake War</i>	Mar 24-April 9, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*</i>	Mar 24-31, 2017
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Mar 24-Apr 2, 2017
Southgate Community Players	<i>Fairy Tale Courtroom * **</i>	Mar 24-Apr 1, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	Mar 25-Apr 2, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>	Mar 30-Apr 15, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Wonder of the World</i>	Mar 30-Apr 9, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Collected Stories**</i>	Mar 31-15, 2017
Cadillac Footlites	<i>Five Tellers Dancing in the Rain</i>	Apr 7-15, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i>	Apr 7-23, 2017
Tin Shop Theatre, Buchanan	<i>Way Out West in a Dress</i>	Apr 15-24, 2017
Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Morning's at Seven</i>	Apr 20-23, 2017
Little Traverse Civic Theatre, Petoskey	<i>Fools</i>	Apr 20-29, 2017
All-of-Us-Express Children's Theatre	<i>Pinocchio*</i>	Apr 21-30, 2017
Monroe Community Players	<i>Social Security</i>	Apr 21-23, 2017
Owosso Community Players	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Apr 21-30, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Pinocchio</i>	Apr 21-30, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Seascape**</i>	Apr 21-30, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Shrek, the Musical*</i>	Apr 22-23, 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.

# AACTfest Awards presented

At the closing ceremonies for 2017 Michigan AACTfest, the following awards were presented to the participants. In addition to the individuals and groups mentioned below, we also recognize and thank Ichabod's Little Theatre and their production of *American Coffee*, Monroe Community Players and their production of *Romance Guaranteed*, and the WE Players, East Tawas, and their production of *The Book of Everything*. All ten shows were fabulous theatre and the talent and skill you shared are much appreciated.

Congratulations to one and all for participating.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing affiliate</b>
<b>People's Choice: Best Actress</b>	Suzan Dunham Love, Loss and What I Wore	Tawas Bay Players
<b>People's Choice: Best Actor</b>	Jason Applegate, Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>People's Choice: Best Show</b>	Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>Excellent Original Work</b>	Larry Nielsen, Make It Home	Twin City Players, St. Joseph
<b>Excellence in Set Design</b>	Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>Outstanding Set Design</b>	25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Grand Rapids Civic
<b>Outstanding Sound Design</b>	Hamlet	Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City
<b>Outstanding Lighting Design</b>	Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>Outstanding Costume Design</b>	Hamlet	Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City
<b>Outstanding Actress, Featured</b>	Suzan Dunham Love, Loss and What I Wore	Tawas Bay Players
<b>Outstanding Actor, Featured</b>	Carlos Westbrook, Trevor	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak
<b>Outstanding Actress, Support</b>	Carol Zombro, Sylvia	Kalamazoo Civic
<b>Outstanding Actor, Support</b>	Brian Lauer Putnam County Spelling Bee	Grand Rapids Civic
<b>Outstanding Ensemble</b>	Hamlet	Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City
<b>Outstanding Actress</b>	Emily Anderson, Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>Outstanding Actor</b>	Matthew Wojcinski, Trevor	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak
<b>Excellence in Acting</b>	Jason Applegate, Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>Excellence in Direction</b>	Susie Polito, Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland
<b>Outstanding Director</b>	R. Jeanne Gilbert, Hamlet	Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City
<b>Third Place, Regional Alternate</b>	25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Grand Rapids Civic
<b>Second Place, going to Regional</b>	Hamlet	Standing Room Only Theatre, Bay City
<b>Best Show , going to Regional</b>	Venus in Fur	Center Stage Theatre, Midland

## ***Editor's notebook:***

# **Adjudicators' comments sum up good acting**

If you listened closely to the Adjudicators' comments at AACTfest, you can learn a whole lot about the craft of acting. Being of an age where I need to write things down, my notes on the various shows could be consolidated into Acting 101!

- Be careful of accents; difficult to maintain and be consistent.
- Find levels of energy and vary what you show to the audience.
- Listen and react! That's what acting is.
- Figure out the difference between "retelling" and "reliving" and then do the appropriate one at the appropriate time.
- Decide who you are talking to and why you are telling them this.
- A play is a story, made up of moments.
- Don't pull focus from whomever is speaking at the moment. Respect other actors on stage with you.
- Determine what you want the audience to be looking at ... then, don't divert their attention.
- Let the moments of joy shine through.
- Pay attention to voice levels on stage so there is not so much screaming and/or yelling. Be more controlled.
- Although some emotions draw your face and head down, remember to keep your face and eyes up so that the audience can see your expression.
- Beware of repetitive movements.
- Take breaks in heavy continuous action to give audience time to breathe.
- The speed of lighting fades before and after scenes should fit the scene.
- Beware that the character doesn't overshadow the message.

- Less is more. Have the courage to pull back a bit.
- Add some vocal variety: Loud and soft, high and low, fast and slow.
- Breaking the fourth wall works sometimes and other times it doesn't. Consider it carefully before using.



**2017 Playwriting Contest  
deadline is May 15, 2017  
(See article on page 10)**

## **"Dramatic" changes coming to the CTAM website**

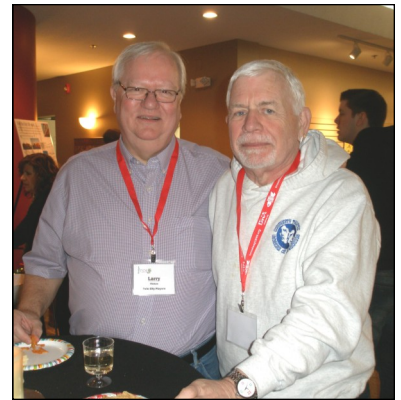
After a few delays we are finally happy to report the website is well on its way to much needed and fantastic new improvements. The groundwork has been completed by moving us to a much easier-to-manage platform and we are feverishly updating the content and look, while building the long-awaited members only site: Behind the Red Curtain.

Starting in April, individual and affiliate members will have direct access to the discounted registration forms for events and scholarships, the script catalog and a bulletin board to communicate and collaborate with all the other members. We will eventually be adding a variety of best practices, workshop materials, how-tos, etc to the members-only site as well, so there are lots of exciting things to look forward to.

Our goal is to build the website as a tool to strengthen the network of community theatres and help everyone create, communicate and collaborate successfully and we can't do that without your help and input. So, if something is missing, incorrect or you have something to add, please reach out to Board member [Chuck Goddeeris](#) and he will attempt to remedy your concerns.













## It's time for the CTAM Annual Play Writing Contest!



Send us your unpublished plays. They will be judged by at least three judges who will score and critique them. The two winning entries and a possible honorable mention will be announced at the 2017 CTAM Fall Conference.

Prizes are: 1st place—\$500

2nd place—\$250

Honorable Mention—\$50

The deadline is **May 15, 2017 - Don't delay!**

Winning plays will be available to CTAM member groups to perform for two years without royalty fees—a wonderful opportunity for all!

**And, new this year,** excerpts from some of the play writing contest entries will be part of the entertainment at this year's CTAM fall conference. These Premier Previews at Fall Conference will be a great opportunity to showcase Michigan playwrights and a great opportunity for your group to discover new works to perform.

Contest information is on the [CTAM website](#).

## Our future's in good hands!

Based on what we saw at AACTfest, our future is in good hands! The entries from Standing Room Only Theatre from Bay City (top photo) and from WE Players from East Tawas were fantabulous!

Standing Room Only presented *Hamlet*, condensed to 60 minutes (!) in a fascinating steam-punk fashion and they won second place and the right to go on to regional competition. The WE Players presented *The Book of Everything* (bottom photo) and won great kudos for their enthusiastic and daunting show.



Right, *The February show* at Riverwalk Theatre in East Lansing is *Superior Donuts*.

(Photo by Ariniko O'Meara.)

Left, the Grosse Pointe Theatre production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in January featured their 8 1/2-foot Fruma Sarah, Deborah Frontczak.

(Photo by R. Dale Pegg.)