

CALLBOARD

Three Spring Conferences offered:

Spring registration now open on line!

Registration is now open online for the three Spring Conference(s) on the Road! We wanted to make our fantastic classes more accessible for everyone across the state so we are bringing you the same great offerings from a fantastic group of instructors in three different locations. (More information on the workshops is listed on pages 5 and 6.)

- ✓ For people on the west side of the state, the conference will be hosted at Kalamazoo Civic Theatre (April 13 - 15),
- ✓ For the east side it will be hosted by Fenton Village Players (April 20 - 22), and
- ✓ For our thespians to the north/upper peninsula area, the conference will be hosted by Players de Noc in Escanaba (May 4 - 6).

If you can't make the conference in your area, feel free to attend one of the others as our gracious host theatres have worked out discounted rates with hotels in their area. For more information please visit our website.

<https://communitytheatremichigan.org/index.php/spring-conference-2018-on-the-road/>

All registrations are being accepted online this year. If that is inconvenient, please contact Executive Secretary Nancy Peska (by clicking the underlined name) or at 989-463-1252.



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

Summer Master Classes announced

A special treat awaits those who register for the Master Classes this summer. July 13-15 in Roscommon/Higgins Lake. Two theatre giants have agreed to lead the sessions:

- ★ Joy Butler will walk you through handling COSTUMES for a show from start to end.
- ★ Penny Notter will spend the weekend helping ACTORS AND DIRECTORS work together better.

More information on the classes and the instructors will be included in future issues of this Callboard, but an article of Page 6 gives you more information about the weekend, including the cost. What a great opportunity to retreat for a weekend and spend time with friends!

2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Gratiot County Players
cfrick9898@charter.net

Vice President - **Suzan Dunham**
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info@witzend.co

Secretary - **Shyrl Cone**
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scone1063@comcast.net

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 Players de Noc, Escanaba
Mr.jamiepeterson@gmail.com

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Michael Wisniewski wjmjw@aol.com
 Bay City Players

Ben Zylman benkal@chartermi.net
 Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

Executive Secretary

Nancy Peska peska@cmsinter.net
 Gratiot County Players
 989-463-1252

www.communitytheatremichigan.org
ctamich@gmail.com Instagram: @ctamich

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.

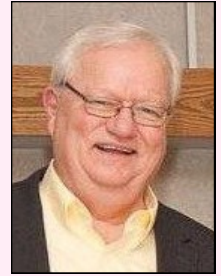
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CTM
 Community Theatre
 Association of Michigan

Adjudicators available to respond to your show!

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



Adjudication Chair
 Larry Nielsen

Adjudicators are an independent second pair of eyes, looking at your production and seeing things you may not have noticed. Adjudications are not 're-directing' or a pass/fail situation, but rather a starting spot for improvement in future shows.

Contact Adjudication Chair Larry Nielsen to make arrangements.

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



Congratulations to Patrick Hubbard who won the raffle for the free trip to New York in June. There is still time for the rest of you to get your deposit in for the trip. The deposits are due by the 25th of March. There is more information in this newsletter and on our website.



There is a lot happening over the next few months:

On the Road with CTAM – it's our Spring Conference. We are taking the Spring Conference to your area! All three dates will be covering the same information. The workshops are: Comedy Acting with Ben Zylman; Grant Writing with Betsy Willis; Lighting with Aaron Butler; Marketing with Ben Zylman; and Properties with Michael Wilson. These workshops will be held in one day (Saturday), this gives you the option of driving to the location on Saturday, or if you wish, come Friday night and get settled in. Registration forms can be found on our website. The dates are: April 14 & 15 at Kalamazoo Civic, April 20 & 21 at Fenton Village Players and May 4 & 5 at Players De Noc in Escanaba.

National Volunteer Week is April 15 through 21. This is a good time to recognize your volunteers for all of their hard work. Bring this up to your Board of Directors and come up with ideas on how to recognize your volunteers. Don't forget to take pictures and share them with our newsletter editor so we can share with everyone!

Also coming up later this summer are our Master Classes which will be July 13 -15 at the MacMullan Center in Higgins Lake. Continue to watch the newsletter and website for more information on this.

Looking forward to seeing you at some of these events as CTAM provides for your benefit!

Christy Frick

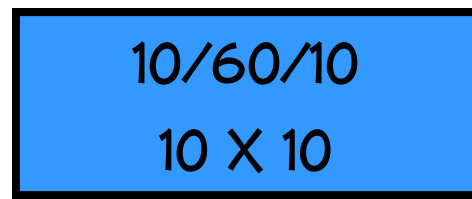


The mind boggles at the significance of the wig in the packing carton in White Buffalo, presented by Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing recently. (Ariniko Artistry Photography)



Getting ready for the AACTfest 2019 cycle

All you really need to know to get started with AACTfest is...



Your production is allowed 10 minutes to set up, 60 minutes to perform, and 10 minutes to strike; and basically, everything you use in your production needs to fit into a 10' by 10' area!

Michigan Festival will be in Owosso (dates to be announced); Regionals will be in Kokomo, Indiana (April 11-14); and Nationals will be in Gettysburg, PA (June 16-22).

Get your Board of Directors busy with all the necessary decisions and budgetary work to make your entry happen. You will need to have everything ready to go by the end of this year, 2018!

REGISTER FOR THE SPRING CONFERENCE CLOSEST TO YOU!

The same five workshops to be presented at all three of the 2018 CTAM Spring Conferences have been announced and there is buzz aplenty about the Spring gatherings. Here is the basic workshop information; further details will be announced on the [CTAM website](#).



Dying is Easy, Comedy is Hard - with Ben Zylman

No one knows exactly who coined this well-worn phrase, but we can all attest to the sentiment! During this fast paced, fun-filled half-day workshop we will discuss acting technique in general and the art of comedic acting more specifically. Why is comedy so challenging? Can anyone do it? Can comedic timing be taught? These and many more topics will be addressed. If you're looking to develop your comedic acting skills, this is the workshop for you!



Ben Zylman is a multi-award-winning actor and director whose career spans 40 years and 130 productions.

Grant Writing 101 - with Betsy Willis

By the end of Betsy's all-day workshop, you will understand the basics of writing grants, how to pen a compelling story that tells your story in an emotional and factual way, and know how to approach grantors to find out the likelihood of receiving funding.



With over 15 years of theatrical management to her credit, Betsy Willis is one of the most highly regarded community theatre Development Directors in the state.

New (and Old!) Challenges in Lighting Design - with Aaron Butler

In this workshop you will learn how to integrate new technologies in lighting design and equipment within the restraints of community theatre budgets. We will also explore some methods for effectively communicating the capabilities of existing and emerging technologies to non-technical team members. This will be a half-day workshop.

*Aaron has designed lighting for many shows in many venues, most recently for Bay City Players (*Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *All My Sons*) and for their Stages of Discovery Youth Program, as well as for *Pit and Balcony*. He attended Illinois State University and worked on many shows there. In real life, he is employed at WLNS/WLAJ Television in Lansing.*

(continued next page)



Props, Props and More Props! - *with Michael Wilson*

This workshop will discuss common and uncommon prop needs and how to go about fulfilling them. We will also look at challenging props and prop flops with discussion and show and tell. (Attendees are encouraged to bring their one challenging prop and/or flop.) Michael will also demonstrate how he built a type-writer from foam board for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Michael is the Prop Master for Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and has been working with properties for more than 20 years.



The Art of Marketing - *with Ben Zylman*

New media! Traditional media! What's the best, most effective way to reach patrons and volunteers? It's never been more important to have a clear, dynamic message and a marketing plan that is designed for maximum impact. This informative half-day workshop will provide insight into what it takes to market your theatre while examining some of the obstacles all of us must overcome.

Ben's career in sales, management, marketing and development encompasses both the profit and non-profit sectors. He is currently Development Director for Kalamazoo Civic Theatre.



Final Arnett Volunteer Award presented

At the February membership meeting of Grosse Pointe Theatre, our final recipient of the 2017-18 Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award received her award. Board member Chuck Goddeeris made the presentation to Arlene Marie Schoenherr.

Arlene has been a busy, involved, dedicated member for 47 years, having joined in 1970. She is involved in every aspect of theatrical production, except perhaps hanging lights! She has directed five shows, choreographed 16 shows, chaired make-up, properties or set dressing for another 50 shows, and appeared on stage in more than 15 shows. Arlene has been GPT's Ticket Chair for many years and comes to the ticket office every day, including most Saturdays. As you may

know, GPT lost their performance space at the close of last season and the current season of five shows is being held in three different venues in the community. As Ticket Chair, Arlene reassigned all season ticket holders to similar seats in the new auditoriums, trying to accommodate their specific needs and wants. She has served on the Board of Directors for many years, helping to provide the institutional memory necessary for such a large organization. Arlene is a retired high school math teacher and still enjoys working with the young people at several area high schools where she directs their annual musicals. Arlene has a whole shelf full of GPT's Clarence Awards for excellence in many facets of Grosse Pointe Theatre, but the prestigious CTAM Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award is the icing on the cake for this extremely dedicated volunteer.



Master Class location and registration details!

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.

The rooms are often referred to as ‘dormitory style’ with two single beds per room; the bath is shared with the next two-bed room. You can pay extra for a single room, of course. The expensive amenities of a hotel are not present, such as making your bed and a candy kiss on your pillow!

If you wish to stay elsewhere in the area and just attend the Master Class, you must add a facility fee of \$35 to the registration fee. If you want to share the family-style meals with everyone else, Nancy Peska can give you those additional prices. We try to be accommodating and make the weekend as affordable as possible.

Things to bring: A small fan for your room if the nights get sticky, your favorite bug spray for the campfires, and a flashlight to keep Sasquatch at bay, should you encounter him/her on your way back from the evening beach fire!

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



Scholarship funds available for CTAM educational opportunities

This issue of the Callboard is filled with many opportunities for you to learn and grow in your craft. Along with support from your home group, CTAM scholarship funds are available to help cover the cost of registration.

Please check out the website for more information or contact [Christy Frick](#), President and chair of the Scholarship Committee for more info.



Grosse Pointe Theatre had a good time with [Peter and the Stargazer](#) in January.

Tracking down our lost members

Many affiliate groups have not renewed their dues in the past several years ... and we're looking for them! If you know anyone in these groups, please remind them about the benefits of belonging to CTAM. Also, please send whatever information you may have to our Executive Secretary Nancy Peska, especially if you know they are out of business! She'll carry on from there. Thank you.

Actors' Theatre	<i>Grand Rapids</i>
Algonac Community Theatre	<i>Algonac</i>
Allegan Community Players	<i>Allegan</i>
Beckwith Theatre Company	<i>Dowagiac</i>
Calumet Players	<i>Calumet</i>
Central Park Players	<i>Grand Haven</i>
Dickinson County Community Theatre	<i>Kingsford</i>
Dogwood Community Players	<i>Fremont</i>
DYPAC Trenton Theatre	<i>Trenton</i>
Gaylord Community Productions	<i>Gaylord</i>
Lakeland Players	<i>Waterford</i>
Lakeside Civic Players	<i>Ludington</i>
Lion Heart Productions	<i>Grant</i>
Marshall Civic Players	<i>Marshall</i>
Our Town Players	<i>South Haven</i>
Port Huron Civic Theatre	<i>Port Huron</i>
Red Barn Players	<i>Saugatuck</i>
Richmond Community Theatre	<i>Richmond</i>
Ridgedale Players	<i>Troy</i>
Saline Area Players	<i>Saline</i>
Shoreline Players	<i>Oscoda</i>
Spotlight Players	<i>Canton</i>
Stage Door Players	<i>Fremont</i>
The Livingston Players	<i>Brighton</i>
The Park Players	<i>Detroit</i>
Thebes Players	<i>Lowell</i>
Thumb Area Community Theatre	<i>Sebewaing</i>



Contest Deadline May 15 **Reflections on a Winter Morn**

by Leo Paveglio

As I sit looking out my window and enjoying the sunny end to February, I begin to wonder what the Michigan weather will be as you read these words. It's like a well written play. I am engaged in the moment and anticipating the unknown.

Well, that's about as eloquent as I get, but I know there are any number of you reading this who know your writing skills are on higher plane than mine. Well, don't just sit there. Get those pens going because the deadline for the CTAM playwriting contest is fast approaching (May 15). The judges are waiting and we are all looking forward to seeing the fruits of your labors (excerpted) at the fall conference.

And did I mention there is prize money involved? See all the details at the CTAM website.

Rules and judging criteria are on the webpage. (<http://communitytheatremichigan.org/index.php/playwriting-contest-rules/>). Or contact contest chairs, Pat and Leo Paveglio, if you have any questions.

Don't procrastinate! Scripts for the CTAM Playwriting Contest are due May 15, 2018. Prizes are awarded at the annual Fall Conference.



Who's doing what this Spring!

Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Imaginary Invalid</i>	Feb 15-Mar 3, 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
Port Austin Community Theatre	<i>The Kitchen Witches</i>	Feb 23-Mar 4, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Bug**</i>	Feb 23-Mar 4, 2018
Hartland Players	<i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>	Feb 24-Mar 4, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>Dial "M" for Murder</i>	March 1-11, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Red</i>	Mar 2-17, 2018
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Curtains</i>	March 2-10, 2018
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Shrek the Musical</i>	Mar 2-11, 2018
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Dial "M" for Murder</i>	Mar 9-24, 2018
Bay City Players	<i>On Golden Pond</i>	Mar 9-18, 2018
Hartland Players	<i>Mary Poppins, Jr.*</i>	Mar 9-11, 2018
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Lost in Yonkers</i>	Mar 9-25, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Mar 9-25, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Act One</i>	Mar 9-25, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>How to Succeed in Business without...</i>	Mar 11-24, 2018
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Our Town</i>	Mar 15-25, 2018
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Lily, the Felon's Daughter</i>	Mar 15-25, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Swan Song</i>	Mar 16-31, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Seussical the Musical, Jr.*</i>	Mar 16-23, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Alibis</i>	Mar 16-24, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Mar 16-31, 2018
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Moon over Buffalo</i>	Mar 16-25, 2018
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	Mar 16-24, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>The Quality of Life**</i>	Mar 18, 2018
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>Approaching Zanzibar**</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

* 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



Happy March! I have wanted to address this for a long time: When I find a script I really like, I, the eternal optimist, picture it on our stage with the best set, cast, costumes, sound, lighting, props, etc. Needless to say, it doesn't always happen. But, I do believe that a so-so script can be great with a talented, enthusiastic director and production crew. On the other hand, I have seen a great script become mediocre with less than brilliant choices. It all goes back to Jim Carver's speech last September at the Fall Conference: Are you doing your best work?

More food for thought: how do we get butts in the seats and yet stay fresh, current and relevant? Boards want well-known titles that bring in patrons on title alone, but we know we need to attract new patrons and new talent, especially the 20-40-year olds, in both cases. Wish I had an answer; any input would be welcome.

This month—a little more drama!

First is *The Fabulous Lipitones* by John Markus and Mark St. Germain ©2015, published by Dramatists Play Service. The setting is London, Ohio, 40 minutes west of Columbus. The authors recommend using one set: that of a mid-western basement with other scenes depicted including the Reno Grand Regency Auditorium with a curtain at the back of the stage (be creative!) Cast: three men in their 50s and Baba Mati Singh (Bob) in his 20s. Challenge: these men are competitive barber shop quartet singers! In this heartfelt, but light musical, one member of the quartet dies leaving the other three to quickly find a replacement before the big competi-



tion. The middle-aged white men are surprised (to say the least) when “Bob” shows up to audition. The story focuses not so much on the differences between us, but how we are more alike than we ever thought

The cast of *The Cemetery Club* by Ivan Menchell ©1995, published by Samuel French, consists of one man and three women playing late fifties to early sixties, and one woman somewhat younger. The time is mid-autumn in the present and requires two sets: a living room and a cemetery in Queens. In this dramatic comedy, three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Sweet Ida is ready to move on, feisty Lucille just wants to have fun (I played this role!) and Doris is priggish and judgmental especially when Sam, the butcher, enters the scene. When Lucille and Doris squash the budding romance between Ida and Sam, almost breaking Ida's heart, they are guilt stricken. More drama ensues, punctuated with laughter and pathos, with an ending that will bring out the laughs and the hankies.

Mass Appeal by Bill C. Davis is a two-man show written in 1981 and published by Samuel French. The setting is Father Farley's office and the pulpit of the St. Francis church. This is a story of the clash of ideology and personalities between an old (plays 50+) priest and a hot-headed seminary student (plays 20+). I believe it should be played in the 1980's, not affecting the costumes or set much, but social mores have changed so much, the audience will be more invested if they feel that the conversation takes place almost 40 years ago. That said, the script deals with issues that are still important today, maybe more so. As these two men butt heads, they learn “the nature of courage, friendship, and the infinite varieties of love.” Because of its content, this show is definitely for mature audiences, thought-provoking, yet full of benign humor.

Happy March! May your days be more lamb-like than lionish! As always, contact me at tarawestern@hotmail.com. If you e-mail me, I promise I will answer!

