

# CALLBOARD

## More information about the 2017 Playwriting Contest winners!

As announced at the Fall Conference, here are the winners of the 2017 CTAM Play Writing Contest:

- ★ 1<sup>st</sup> place – Erin Osgood for *Family Pains*, a play that explores family relationships and the struggles of a gay daughter “coming out” to her Catholic family.
- ★ 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Art Nemitz for *Down on the Farm*, another play about family relationships, sibling rivalry and expectations.

(Remember that you can perform these plays for the next two years, royalty-free! Descriptions and contact information will be available on the [web site](#) soon.)

Several of this year’s playwrights “rocked” the audience when they presented readings from their entries during performance breaks at Fall Conference. Thanks to these playwrights and their readers for giving us a chance to see their words come to life:

- ✓ *Life in the Middle Ages* by Richard Hingst, presented by Lapeer Community Theatre

- ✓ *A Very Open House* by Bonnie Grooters, presented by Cadillac Footlites
- ✓ *Nothing But the Truth* and *The Summer Cottage* (last year’s 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner) by Priscilla Cogan, presented by Glen Arbor Readers’ Theatre
- ✓ *Is He Dead Yet?* by Mary Lou Britton, presented by Tawas Bay Players
- ✓ *Family Pains* by Erin Osgood, presented by Farmington Players

Pat and Leo Paveglio, contest co-chairs, would like to thank all the playwrights who entered the contest. They also give big thanks to the contest judges, who remain anonymous, for their unenviable job of scoring all the entries – a big time commitment.

Now, sharpen your quills and get your creative juices flowing – the deadline for the 2018 Play Writing Contest is May 15, 2018. Who knows, This could be your lucky year!



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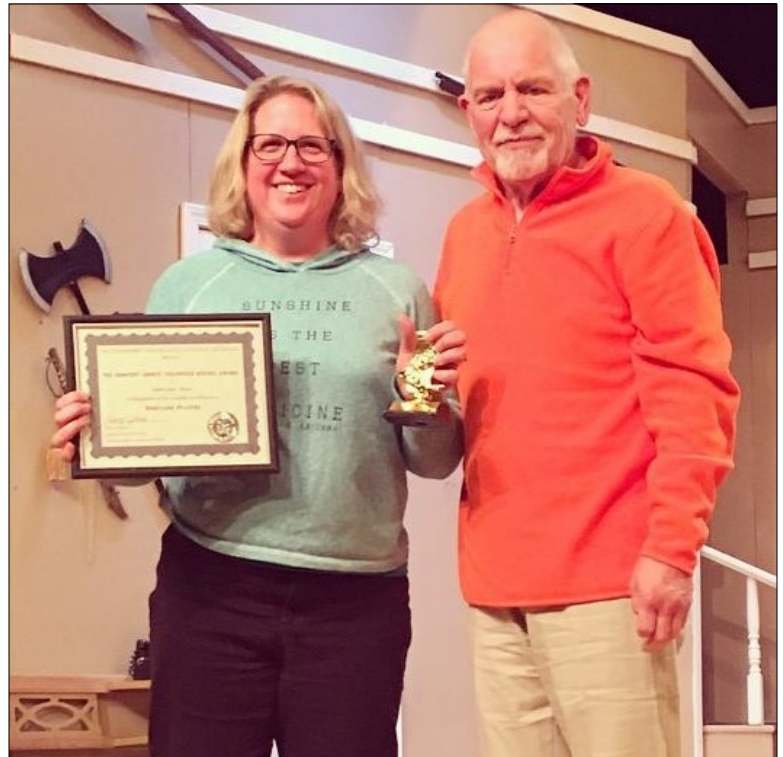
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*Awards Chair Terry Jolink reports that "On Saturday, October 14, I had the pleasure of going to Hartland Players to present the Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award to **Jennifer Ross**. Jennie is a very dedicated and dependable member of the Hartland group. Even if she is not cast, she is willing to do whatever is needed for a show, from tech to set to selling tickets. She has been the organization's Treasurer, as well as Ticket Manager and, while no longer serving on the Board of Directors, continues to work behind the scenes at events and perform when the opportunity arises. She truly has a servant's heart and is a great sport!" Congratulations, Jennie!*

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](http://www.community-theatremichigan.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).

## CTAM Calendar of Events

May 4, 5 and 6, 2018 Escanaba, MI	Spring Conference for the 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

We have many things coming up in the near future. Please mark your calendars!

**CTAM Road Trip (Spring Conference)!** We are trying something new this year for our Spring Conference; instead of everyone trying to get to one location, we are planning on taking it on the road! We will be offering the same workshops in three different locations at three different times. We are shooting for North, Lower East side and Lower West side. Our North location has been finalized – we will be heading to Players de Noc in Escanaba so mark your calendars for May 4, 5 and 6, 2018. The idea is to have the workshops all in one day so that travel and hotel expenses are kept to a minimum. Continue to watch the Callboard for more information and if you are interested in hosting one of these “road trips” please let Suzan Dunham know.

**New Logo.** By now most of you have seen the new logo. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank **Heather Todd** for all her hard work on creating this logo and to **Chuck Goddeeris** for working with her to tweak it. Continue to check our website to see information about purchasing merchandise with our new logo.

**New York Trip.** CTAM is offering a five day/ four night trip to New York next June. (See the details directly to the right on this page!) This is a grand opportunity for you to see some great shows with some great people! We hope you will join us to make some wonderful memories!

**Board Communication.** At our annual meeting last month it was mentioned that the affiliate groups are being split among the board members so that we can stay in contact with everyone. This will enable us to share information with you. We have just received the list from our membership committee and we should be contacting you soon.

*Christy Frick*



## Broadway... Here we come!

CTAM is offering another group trip to visit Broadway for next June 27 (Wednesday), returning on Sunday, July 1. (Five days, four nights.) That leaves you more time to plan for the trip and to save up the money! The trip includes the following:

- Economy air fare from either Detroit or Grand Rapids airport,
- Transfers to and from hotel to airport,
- Guided sightseeing tour of NYC, with refreshments,
- Four nights at the Millennium Hotel,
- Two Broadway shows, plus time to see others that you may want to see on your own nickel,
- Backstage tour at Radio City Music Hall,
- All local taxes and fees.

Cost: Per person in shared double room: \$1,999; per person in single room, \$2,599.

The planners strongly suggest that you also get trip insurance, starting at \$118.

Morrie Enders, familiar to many, will be our guide. Arrangements are 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, you can call them at 402/435-8888 or email them directly: [GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com](mailto:GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com).

# The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



After several years serving as the chair of the Tawas Bay Players' script selection committee, searching for fresh, quality scripts, I was encouraged by Suzan Witt to share my finds with a wider audience.

Due to our current demographic, I focus on single or simple sets, smallish casts, more women than men and slightly senior. That said, I hope you can find something of value for your home group.

- **DANCING LESSONS** by Mark St. Germain—  
Dramatists Play Service, © 2005, drama with humor, one man, one woman, one set: interior apartment, present day, some explicit language, sexual situations and special effects.

The thirtyish Evers has Asperger's syndrome, and seeks the instruction of a Broadway dancer to learn enough dancing to survive an awards' dinner. Senga, the dancer, is recovering from a possible career ending injury. As their relationship unfolds, they learn a lot about themselves, and discoveries are both heart-warming and hilarious. Germain wrote the 2015 National AACTfest's winner, *Freud's Last Session*, and his dialogue in this is laugh out loud funny. Because of the language and pretty explicit sexual situations, this show might be best for a second stage or after-hours venue.

- **PAINTING CHURCHES** by Tina Howe—  
Samuel French, Inc., © 1984, comedy with drama, present day, one set with some challenges including arched windows, and lighting effects, Gardner, 60 years plus, Fanny, 60 years plus, and Mags, their 30ish daughter. Winner of the 1984 Outer Circle Critic Awards for best new off-Broadway show, *Painting Churches* is the three Churches. Mags, an almost famous artist plans to paint her parents' portrait and help them with the difficult task of downsizing. Warning signs that Gardner

and Fanny aren't aging well abound. Fanny valiantly tries to keep them afloat as Gardner slips in and out of senility. As Mags faces the truth of her parents' fraught situation, the characters speak of dreams and memories, something many of us Baby Boomers are familiar with. This play has it all: it will make you laugh, cry and think.

- **LOVE LETTERS** by A. R. Gurney, Dramatists Play Service, © 1989
- **POST-ITS (NOTES ON A MARRIAGE)** by Paul Dooley and Winnie Holzman, Playscripts, Inc., © 1998
- **HATEMAIL** by Bill Corbett and Kira Obolensky, Playscripts, Inc., © 2004

These three scripts are similar because all three have a man and a woman love interests, little to no staging required, no memorizing. All three of these are easily produced with very little time and/or preparation necessary.

In *Love Letters*, Andy and Melissa's correspondence starts when they are in second grade. Their relationship moves along at a quick pace, taking them through teenage angst, family divorces, and lots of sexual tension between the two of them (Will they ever be single at the same time?!)

*Post-It Notes* tells a similar story, through much shorter missives. These relationship notes start with a one-night stand, through courtship, marriage, children, grandchildren, and death. Much shorter than *Love Letters*, this can be performed in about 40 minutes and again, no memorization, set etc.

*Hate Mail* is 80-90 minutes, minimal set, a man and a woman in their twenties to forties, but balancing the ages is recommended. Preston writes The Big Apple Shop to ask for a refund for a broken snow globe. Dahlia answers shortly and acerbically, beginning a witty exchange of emails. As the situation gets tenser, the two cycle thru anger, name-calling, finding common interests, to love!

The authors recommend very little staging, but simple sound and light cues for segues etc.

Hope you enjoyed reading this. Please send comments, suggestions and bad jokes to me at [tarawestern@hotmail.com](mailto:tarawestern@hotmail.com).

## 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 member group 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.



Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing, presented Master Harold and the Boys. In a quote from their newsletter, *Ripples*, Justin Banks says, "Even in these modern times, after the demise of apartheid and segregation, racism is still a spectre that lurks quietly beneath the surface. It will require great work and commitment to overcome it. Thanks to all who brought Master Harold to the Black Box!"

## Like us on Facebook

*Slowly but surely, the CTAM Facebook page is climbing higher and higher! We're up to 1,130 people 'liking' us now. We hope you enjoy and appreciate the news, information and laughs we share with you.*

*Ask your friends to join us on "Community Theatre Association of Michigan-CTAM" so they, too, will know what's going on with CTAM.*



## Kalamazoo Civic offering Shakespeare in repertory

Mychelle Hopkins, Education Director of the Old Town Playhouse in Traverse City and former Kalamazoo Civic Theatre staff member, returned to the Civic as a Guest Artist to direct both a Civic Youth Theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and an adult production of *Macbeth*. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has been set in a modern day prep school (below), while *Macbeth* (above) takes place in an unspecified Central American country to explore its themes of evil and corruption of the human soul. Staged in the Parish Theatre, the productions are running in repertory between October 20 and November 5 on a set designed to be reminiscent of London's Globe Theatre.





Bay City Players is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this season and they had a fancy Gala for members and audience members. They had 250 guests who celebrated to a fare-thee-well. Congratulations, Bay City Players!



Above left, is cast and crew of Bay City Players' show, Nice Work If You Can Get It, directed by Bill Anderson from Midland! Above right, the heavenly Sister Act from Stagecrafters in Royal Oak.

Bottom left, is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, presented by Tawas Bay Players. Lower right, he is a very model of a modern Major-General from Grosse Pointe Theatre's Pirates of Penzance in September.





Above, the classic *She Loves Me* is presented by Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing...just prior to its revival on PBS! Great timing.



Above The Dickinson County Community Players presented *Dracula Retold* at the Braumart Theatre in Iron Mountain MI. The play was written and directed by Mark Miller, second from left in back row.

## Escanaba opens season with original work

Imagine a love child between Stephen Colbert and Robin Williams. Now take that love child and turn it into a play directed by Bertolt Brecht. The result would be *Wall: A Product of Resourcefulness and Efficiency in America's Never-Ending Battle for Absolute Supremacy and General All-Around Kick-Assedness*, written by hometown hero and Players-member J. R. Spaulding, and presented by Players de Noc, Escanaba.



# Who's Doing What This Fall!

Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Macbeth</i>	Oct 21-Nov 5, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	Oct 26-29, 2017
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Don't Hug Me County Fair</i>	Oct 27-Nov 5, 2017
Rosedale Community Players	<i>It Came from Mars</i>	Oct 27-Nov 11, 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
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Book of Job</i>	Nov 2-18, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>On Golden Pond</i>	Nov 2-12, 2017
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*</i>	Nov 10-19, 2017
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>Pippin</i>	Nov 10-18, 2017
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Promises, Promises</i>	Nov 10-Dec 3, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol*</i>	Nov 17-19, 2017
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Annie</i>	Nov 17-Dec 17, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i>	Nov 17-Dec 3, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Morning's at Seven</i>	Nov 17-Dec 2, 2017
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>	Nov 17-Dec 3, 2017
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Nov 24-Dec 9, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Annie</i>	Nov 24-Dec 16, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Nuncrackers</i>	Nov 24-Dec 9, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Emperor's New Clothes*</i>	Nov 24-Dec 3, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	Nov 25-Dec 10, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>The Brethern*</i>	Nov 25-27, 2017
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>	Nov 30-Dec 10, 2017
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Willy Wonka</i>	Nov 30-Dec 3, 2017
Bay City Players	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Dec 1-10, 2017
Farmington Players	<i>Greetings!</i>	Dec 1-17, 2017
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</i>	Dec 1-10, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>1940's Radio Hour</i>	Dec 3-16, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Spirit of Christmas Dinner</i>	Dec 4-6, 2017
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas*</i>	Dec 7-17, 2017
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Seussical the Musical, Jr.*</i>	Dec 7-10, 2017
Little Traverse Civic Theatre, Petoskey	<i>The Christmas Schooner</i>	Dec 7-16, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Elf, the Musical*</i>	Dec 8-17, 2017
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>The Marvelous Wonderettes</i>	Dec 8-16, 2017
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Dec 8-17, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>SantaLand Diaries</i>	Dec 14-17, 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! 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.



# More faces in the crowd at the Fall Conference

