

CALLBOARD

Fall Conference: October 11-13 at Treetops Resort

Fall Conference happening in two weeks!



Treetops
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Michigan's Most Spectacular Resort
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855-261-8764



Everything's ready! Treetops Resort will be a beautiful location for the Fall Conference. (Photo above!) The workshops are in place and the presenters are practicing their patter. Now, all we need is *you!*

There is still time to register online with a credit card! Remember that all group representatives/delegates are entitled to a \$10 discount. Likewise, all individual members are entitled to the same discount. There is a blank on the registration form to enter qualifying codes. (Contact the webmaster to clarify your code, please.)



Surely with everyone who's done *Pirates of Penzance*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *HMS Pinafore* or *Peter Pan*, we should be able to come up with some stunning pirate costumes for the Friday evening gathering! You don't have to come in costume, but you'll have a lot of fun if you do!

Check pages 4 and 5 for information on the workshops ... and page 6 for other miscellaneous information about the weekend.

October

Aye, lads and lassies ... we'll see you in Gaylord for a great weekend!

2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Betsy Willis**
 Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City
ryonwillis915@hotmail.com

Vice President - **Suzan Dunham-Nemeth**
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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. 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 Administrator and should be sent to ctamthrives@gmail.com

Your 2019-20 dues are due!

Your annual dues to CTAM are now due and payable. That is both for individuals and for affiliate groups. In both cases, you can pay on line, if that's more convenient for you. (You can also include your individual dues payment with your registration for the annual Fall Conference,!)



DON'T DELAY, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



Forget
EVERYTHING
 AND
BECOME A PIRATE

CTAM Calendar of Events

October 11, 12,13, 2019 Treetops Resort, Gaylord	CTAM Annual Fall Conference
October 13, 2019 Treetops Resort, Gaylord	Board of Directors Organizational Meeting

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CTAM
 Community Theatre
 Association of Michigan





The prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

For almost of all our theatres, fall is the beginning of a new season of shows.

I was thinking of that as I spent the Labor Day weekend adjudicating the Ohio Community Theatre Association's (OCTA) Theatre Festival. Each of the 16 (adult and youth) groups presenting was performing an excerpt from a show they produced in their regular season. It is a rule at OCTA that the show must be done in their regular season. And most, if not each, of these groups had competed at a regional level in the state before coming to the festival. Imagine presenting a full-length show, figuring out how to cut it to no longer than 45 minutes, applying for the rights to do the cutting, figuring out how to travel the show, and keeping it in rehearsal all while producing the rest of your season. Of course, many of you can because you do that every other year for AACTFest. In AACTFest years the top shows of the OCTA Labor Day Festival go on to the AACT regionals. In the off year, however, all that work ends with the festival. They simply perform to receive feedback on

how to improve for the future.

It is amazing to me what community theatre people will do in order to practice their craft and take it to new heights. Most of these people are not receiving any payment for what they do; and if they are getting any compensation, it is certainly not enough to support them. That means most of them have jobs, families, and day to day responsibilities beyond their commitment to the theatre. Some of them also serve on the Board of their theatre or the OCTA Board.

Does any of this sound familiar? It certainly should because I know scores of you reading this article, do exactly the same thing as directors, actors, tech people, producers, etc. And that is why I thought of all our Michigan theatres beginning a new season. I know we all are embarking on another year of drama, comedy, musicals, improv, reader's theatre, Board meetings, committee responsibilities, and more.

I just want to say keep up the good work, thank you for making Michigan a better place to live, have fun, learn a lot, and find some time to take care of the rest of your life. BREAK LEGS IN ALL THAT YOU DO!!

Betsy Willis

Autumn in New York – There's nothing like it!

CTAM is planning another New York Broadway trip for mid-September of 2020! The price, to be announced soon, will include airfare to and from Detroit, Times Square hotel, Broadway shows, a city tour and many other things that we will announce as time goes by. We also will schedule time for you to do your thing; i.e. visit a special place, see another show, or go to special museums or wonderful restaurants. Our last trip in 2018 was so successful that we can't wait to go again. Start thinking about it, and saving your money and vacation time. There will be details to follow in each upcoming *Callboard*.



WORKSHOPS FOR SATURDAY

Writing Your Play and Getting It Produced

This is a workshop on not only how to write a play, but how to get it produced. In the first half of the workshop, we will cover ideas, one-act plays, full-length plays, formatting, scriptwriting programs, and the various resources that will give you leads on where to send your plays for production and/or publication. In the second half of the workshop, we will workshop/discuss story ideas provided by the participants.



David MacGregor

David MacGregor is a playwright and screenwriter, currently in residence at Jeff Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, where six of his plays have been produced. His play, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear*, recently enjoyed a sold-out run, and its sequel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé*, will open the Purple Rose's 2019-2020 season. He has written many films and TV shows and also teaches writing at Wayne State University in Detroit. Mr. MacGregor will also be our keynote speaker Saturday evening!

Butts-in-Seats: Growing Your Audience Through Dynamic Programming and Marketing



Emily Anderson

Is your home theatre ready to shake things up? Do you want to draw a new and vibrant audience? Not sure where to start? Join self-proclaimed "big idea person" Emily Anderson as she breaks down her approach to programming and marketing for community theatres of all sizes.

Emily Anderson has been involved in community theatre for 20 years, having acted in more than 40 productions as well as working backstage, and serving in a governance capacity. She currently serves on the programming committee for Midland Center for the Arts as well as on the national board of the American Association of Community Theatre. (AACT). She is a mom to two wonderfully theatrical boys, Liam and Kellan.

Special FX Makeup: The Horror, The Trauma, ZOMBIES!

Get the deranged and undead looks that are so in this year! In this special FX makeup course, you will be guided through every step of the special FX makeup application process. You will learn a variety of cutting-edge techniques and 3D effects, from the basics of applying blood to creating raised skin & scars.

Special FX Makeup: The Beauty of Growing OLD!

Old age is the number one special effect makeup you will do and it's a great process. In this course, you will be guided step by step through everything you need to know about creating old age makeup, from the subtle to the extreme. Learn techniques of Old Age stippling (subtle aging) to body breakdown (extreme aging). NOTE: *To get the most out of the makeup classes, please bring a Ben Nye Old Age Makeup Kit (Approximately \$20), a Ben Nye Zombie Wheel @\$28; and/or a Ben Nye 3D Effects kit (approximately \$26.)*



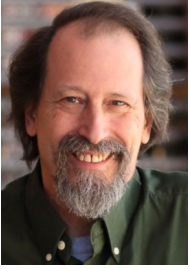
Carrie Butler

Carrie Butler is a trained makeup artist from Bay City whose passion blossomed while participating in an independent zombie film in 2005. After attending Saginaw Valley State University, Carrie worked in live entertainment within the Amusement Park industry and then spent the next ten-plus years as the resident makeup artist at Bay City Players and enjoys teaching makeup techniques/styles to their Stages of Discovery students.



(Continued, page 5)

Basics of Unarmed Stage Combat



Steven Schwall

We'll look at basic techniques in unarmed stage combat, stressing safety and good partnering. Included techniques are the back fall, push/pull, slap, punch, kick, hair/ear pull, and front and rear choke. The format is demonstration/drill, with a short choreographic example at the end. Open to beginners, as well as a brush-up for more experienced performers.

Steven M. Schwall, *Fight Choreographer/Violence Designer/Fight Director*, has been staging fights professionally since 2006. He is a Certified Teacher of Stage Combat with the Society of American Fight Directors. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Fine Arts and did his graduate work in Theater/Performance Studies at Eastern Michigan University.

Presenting: Filling in the blanks in your venue performance schedule

A theatre's stage is its greatest asset. The vast majority of a theatre's income is derived from selling tickets to the events happening up there. And yet almost every theatre has long stretches when there isn't a show onstage. But those utility bills and insurance payments keep coming whether the stage is filled or not. So what tools do theatres have to increase the number of curtains in their season without overburdening the staff and volunteers? Dexter will provide an overview to the world of presented programming, exploring how theatre's can use touring music acts, comedians, magicians and other performers to provide a wide spectrum of programming for any budget.

Making Art In a Different Way: The regional Mamma Mia Project

Over the past year, Midland Center for the Arts, Pit and Balcony Theatre and Bay City Players, along with the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, came together to produce a regional mega-production of Mamma Mia! that impacted over 9,000 patrons and 100 community artists across the nine county region. This presentation will provide a look at how and why this project was undertaken, the challenges and surprises along the journey, and the benefits of making art collaboratively.



Dexter Brigham

Dexter Brigham serves as the Director of Theatre Programs at Midland Center for the Arts. In addition to producing the community theatre season, he programs the center's monthly comedy series, film series and summer Matrix Festival. The highlights of his performing career include Fred/Petruchio in the 2003-4 Broadway national tour of Kiss Me, Kate, Dewhurst/Percy cover in the 2002 tour of The Scarlet Pimpernel and the title role in the Off-Broadway revival of The Robber Bridegroom. He serves on the board of the directors for the Michigan Presenters Network.

Hamlet – To Be...or NOT!

An opportunity for participants to look at the text of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and explore language, breath, and context. Participants will focus on the voice and spoken word in numerous practical activities such as hot-seating to understand the character, thought-tracking to discover turmoil and language details to recognize motive. No prior experience of Hamlet is necessary – just a willingness of energy, effort and enthusiasm is needed!



Nitasha Rajoo

Nitasha Rajoo is currently the Interim Director of Education at the Stratford Festival. Nitasha has over 20 years of experience in the performing arts as an actor, director and as an educator. Her love for the creative arts, education, travel and adventure has allowed her to work all over the globe leading workshops, adjudicating, teaching, directing and programming- including countries such as South Africa, India, Jamaica, the UK (where she lived for more than 10 years!) and now back home in Canada. Nitasha holds a Master of Arts in the Advanced Teachings of Shakespeare (Warwick, UK) and most recently delivered workshops at the Teaching Shakespeare Program at the Stratford Festival, at the ABCDE Conference entitled "Whoosh into Shakespeare" and at The Good Will Shakespeare Festival.



DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO TREETOPS



Treetops is very convenient to I-75, so it should be easy access, per the following:

- ✓ Leave I-75 at Exit 282.
- ✓ Head East on M-32 (West Main Street) for 1.6 miles.
- ✓ Bear left on to Wilkerson Road (CR-F44) for 3 miles.
- ✓ Turn left on to Four Season Drive for .04 of a mile.
- ✓ Bear right on to Suite Lane and check in at The Lodge!

TIMING FOR THE CONFERENCE WEEKEND

- ✓ On Friday, check-in at Treetops is after 3:00 p.m. at “The Lodge.” (There are two components at Treetops and, although we check in at the Lodge, our rooms and activities are at The Inn.) CTAM registration also begins at 3:00 p.m.
- ✓ You are on your own for Friday dinner; our Pirate Party activities begin about 8:00 p.m. BYO, snacks provided. Dress in your best pirate gear, if you wish, or not. (But please leave the blimey parrot at home or, at least, in your room!)
- ✓ Saturday workshops run from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. See below.
- ✓ Sunday morning Annual Meeting, elections and raffle begin around 9:00 a.m., breakfast is on your own! Convention activities should be done before noon, so you have the rest of the day to drive home through Pure Michigan fall color!

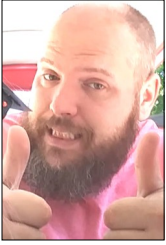


SATURDAY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Basics of Unarmed Combat <i>Steven Schwall</i>	Hamlet: To be...or Not! <i>Nitasha Rajoo</i>	Writing your play and getting it produced <i>David MacGregor</i>		Presenting: Booking outside artists to fill the blank <i>Dexter Brigham</i>
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM		Hamlet: To be...or Not! <i>Nitasha Rajoo</i>	This is a 2 session workshop with David MacGregor	Special Effects Makeup: The beauty of aging <i>Carrie Butler</i>	Butts in Seats: Growing your audience <i>Emily Anderson</i>
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Basics of Unarmed Combat <i>Steven Schwall</i>		Regional Mamma Mia! Project <i>Dexter Brigham</i>	Special Effects Makeup: The horror, the trauma, ZOMBIES! <i>Carrie Butler</i>	Butts in Seats: Growing your audience <i>Emily Anderson</i>



Nominees for Election to the CTAM Board of Directors



JR BORNEMANN - Center Stage, Midland

JR has been involved in his local theatre community for 20 years and currently manages a Public School Auditorium, where he shares his passion and knowledge with the youth in the

area. His love of the art started on a whim in high school and he never looked back. Since then, he has worked in almost every aspect of theatre, both on and backstage.

Over the years, he has found a love and niche for lighting and has been rewarded for his designs on multiple occasions, including AACTFest State Competition Outstanding Lighting Design for Midland, Michigan's portrayal of *Venus in Fur* (2017). Recently JR was recognized for his dedication at his home theater by his peers with their Capron Award for above and beyond performance in Technical Theater. JR has been married to his wife, Melissa, for 11 years. They have a 9-year-old daughter, Addison, and they are the epitome of a theatrical family. JR's favorite part of theatre life is connecting with people whom you may never have crossed paths with otherwise.



TRINITY BIRD -- The Sauk, Jonesville

Trinity Bird studied theatre at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) where he was a four-year recipient of the Shakespeare Scholarship and received the Alexander Calder Scholarship, the University's

highest artistic honor. He has received a Certificate of Merit in Directing from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, and a Grand Award for Outstanding Actor in a College Production. He has directed for GVSU, Holland Civic Theatre, Avalon Theatre, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Tibbits Summer (and Popcorn) Theatre, Center Stage Jackson and the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. His greatest theatrical love is The Sauk, Hillsdale County's Community Theatre, where he has volunteered since 1998 and been employed as executive director since 2015. At The Sauk, he has been instrumental in encouraging the development of new theatrical works through the annual "Sauk Shorts" and "Plays-in-Development" programs.



CHAD WILLIAM BAKER - Pit and Balcony, Saginaw

Chad has a BA in Theatre from Saginaw Valley State University. He is the Social Media Chair on the Board of Directors for Pit and Balcony Theatre in Saginaw.

He has directed *RENT*, *Heathers the Musical*, *The Stonewater Rapture*, *Green Day's American Idiot*, *The Cockfight Play*, and will direct the upcoming production of *The Toxic Avenger the Musical* in May for Pit and Balcony and also recently directed *Ordinary Days* for Passion Theatre Group. He has appeared onstage at Pit in *Hairspray* (Edna Turnblad), *Anything Goes* (Moonface Martin), *It Shoulda Been You* (Marty Kaufman), and *Glengarry Glen Ross* (James Ling), as well as *The 39 Steps* (Clown 1) at Midland Center for the Arts, and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance production of *Mamma Mia!* (Harry Bright).



BEN ZYLMAN -- Kalamazoo Civic

Ben Zylman has served as a CTAM Board Member since 2016. His career in sales, management, marketing and development encompasses both the profit and non-profit sectors. During his 16 year tenure as Director of Marketing and Development for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Ben developed a Corporate Sponsorship Program, created a marketing strategy for all programs and productions and branded the organization in a meaningful way. His years of experience proved to be most beneficial as he worked to market the theatre effectively and helped to lead the Civic through the economic turmoil of the great recession. Currently the Development Director for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Ben also works as a consultant in the areas of non-profit marketing and business development.

A multi-award-winning actor and director, Ben's theatrical career spans 40 years and 130 productions. A veteran of the stage, radio, television and film he has worked with Jerry Seinfeld, Chita Rivera, Mayim Bialik, Renee Taylor and Claire Bloom. His training includes work with Paul Sills, the co-founder of The Second City. Ben has conducted his well-received acting workshop, which focuses on the art of comedic acting, at the local, state and regional levels.

Thanks to our outgoing CTAM Board Members!

This year the CTAM Board is losing three Board members who determined that they need to concentrate on keeping their lives closer to home. Suzan Nemeth (formerly Dunham) and Chuck Goddeeris are at the end of their terms and are choosing not to run again. Shyrl Cone has two more years left in her term, but a year full of difficult changes in her life caused her to reconsider continuing to serve.



Suzan Nemeth has chaired the last three CTAM Fall Conferences while overseeing all conferences and workshops as the Vice President of CTAM. In addition to her duties with CTAM Suzan was developing and running Witz End, a new youth theatre in East Tawas. She also worked to bring a youth theatre initiative to CTAM. Last year she married Heath, just recently she returned to working full time in sales, and continues to lead Witz End. We are so grateful to have had Suzan's dedication for so long, and we appreciate that she has new frontiers to explore.



Chuck Goddeeris, or as we like to call him, Prince Chuck, has been in charge of keeping the CTAM website vital and up to date for the past three years. He worked diligently to bring us into the 21st Century, added online registration possibilities, and made the website much easier to be edited by people who are not IT people. You may not know just how important that is, but after years of struggling with the site, the Board is painfully aware. In addition, Chuck also worked to expand our presence on social media. He helped all of us whenever we needed to better understand technology. Now Chuck is President of Rosedale Community Players, working tech and acting in various Southeast theatre groups, and is trying his best to have a personal life. We hope our prince will continue to help with our website and stay in touch with us as his shoes will be hard to fill.



Shyrl Cone has been our board secretary for the past three years and also served as the chair of the CTAM membership committee. She was a vital part of the alterations we made to how we identify members and the bylaws changes that accompanied them. As a PHD candidate studying the merits of online surveying, Shyrl developed survey instruments for us that better informed us as to the needs and wants of our membership. With her PHD in Education complete, Dr. Shyrl is working hard to educate our Michigan students, spending time with husband Bob and their two children, and trying to remain lovingly patient with their new puppy. Shyrl, too, will be missed as we move forward.

The Board of CTAM wishes to thank Suzan, Chuck, and Shyrl for all their hours of service to the state organization. We appreciate all you have given up in order to commit your time, talent, and treasure to making sure CTAM continues to grow and improve.



Fall Shows around Pure Michigan!

Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Rabbit Hole</i>	Sep 9-Oct 6, 2019
Master Arts Theate	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Sep 12-Oct 5, 2019
Manistee Civic Players	<i>Miss Holmes (Michigan premiere)</i>	Oct 1-10, 2019
Farmington Players	<i>Ripcord</i>	Oct 4-19, 2019
Players deNoc, Escanaba	<i>Jake's Women</i>	Oct 4-12, 2019
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	Oct 10-20, 2019
Pinckney Players	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Oct 12-20, 2019
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Peter Pan, Jr.*</i>	Oct 12 & 13, 2019
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Deer Camp, The Musical</i>	Oct 17-27, 2019
Cadillac Footliters	<i>The Addams Family</i>	Oct 17-26, 2019
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Church Basement Ladies</i>	Oct 18-27, 2019
Hartland Players	<i>Addams Family Musical</i>	Oct 12-20, 2019
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>Marvin's Room</i>	Oct 20-Nov 3, 2019
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>A Piece of My Heart</i>	Oct 24-Nov 3, 2019
Twin City Players, Benton Harbor/St. Joe	<i>Marjorie Prime</i>	Oct 25-Nov10, 2019
Center Stage Theatre - Kalamazoo	<i>Into the Woods, Jr.*</i>	Oct 25-27, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The Outsiders*</i>	Nov 1-3, 2019
Richmond Community Theatre	<i>You Can't Take It with You</i>	Nov 1-10, 2019
Clarkston Village Players	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Nov 8-23, 2019
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>South Pacific in concert</i>	Nov 9-10, 2019
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Annie</i>	Nov 15-24, 2019
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Rumours</i>	Nov 15-24, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Elf, The Musical</i>	Nov 15-Dec 14, 2019
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Nov 15-Dec 1, 2019
Master Arts Theate	<i>Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley</i>	Nov 21-Dec 14, 2019
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Forever Christmas</i>	Nov 29-Dec 14, 2019
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>The Giver</i>	Nov 29-Dec 8, 2019
Players deNoc, Escanaba	<i>Fruitcakes</i>	Nov 29-Dec 7, 2019
Richmond Community Theatre	<i>Elf, Jr., The Musical*</i>	Nov 29-30, 2019
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>	Nov 29-Dec 8, 2019
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>The Best/Worst Christmas Pageant Ever*</i>	Dec 5-15, 2019
Manistee Civic Players	<i>Elf, The Musical</i>	Dec 5-7, 2019
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 5-15, 2019
Farmington Players	<i>Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley</i>	Dec 6-21, 2019
Hartland Players	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant*</i>	Dec 6-8, 2019
Twin City Players, Benton Harbor/St. Joe	<i>Kris Kringle, the Musical</i>	Dec 6-15, 2019
Bay City Players	<i>The Snow Queen</i>	Dec 6-15, 2019
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Red vs. the Wolf*</i>	Dec 7-8, 2019

* 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.



The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Happy Halloween, fellow theatre lovers! Have you dusted off your pirate costume for the fall conference at Treetops? Hope to see you there. Remember, if you have any scripts you think would be worthy of a “scoop,” bring it to me!! Having access to many of the scripts I have scooped (not all, however), email me if you would like to read a script. I could bring it to the fall conference. Put “Borrow Script?” in the email.

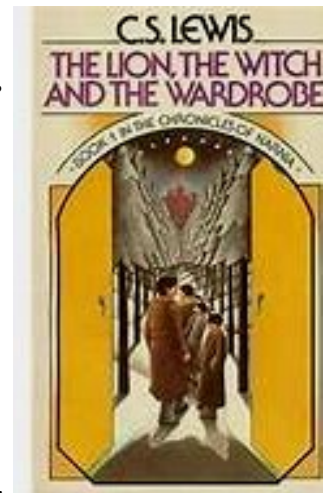


Pulitzer prize nominee *Seminar* by Theresa Rebeck is a witty dramatic comedy. Four aspiring writers sign up for six weeks of professional guidance from literary giant, Leonard. Simply put, Leonard is a pompous egotist. Alan Rickman played Leonard on Broadway, if that helps you picture him. Any other Alan Rickman fans out there? Here are the student writers. Martin is middle-aged and unpublished. Douglas is well connected through an uncle who is a publisher who drones on about the “interiority of inner life.” (Yikes!) Izzy is extremely attractive and manipulates both Leonard and Martin with her sex appeal. Kate’s family owns the opulent nine room rent-controlled apartment where the group meets. When Leonard trashes Kate’s first shared work, she turns to food. (Most of the props are food, drinks, and manuscripts.) By giving so much power to Leonard, he both motivates and infuriates the four. Their relationships between the friends ebb and flow as they deal with Leonard. It’s funny and fraught with twists and turns. In the end, Leonard sees the talent in Martin’s work and that he seems to be, maybe, a pretty good guy. Leonard does however,

sleep with Izzy and Kate! Published by Samuel French ©2012, Seminar is NOT for children. Perhaps 18 and up, and a mature 16-year old would be okay. Two interiors: the lavish living room and Leonard’s apartment which appears in the last act. It must be preset as it is “a rat’s nest of papers and books” including an African mask and a portable Buddha statue capable of beaming someone. Sound and lights are tres simple.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

dramatized by Joseph Robinette from the story by C.S. Lewis was published in 1989 by Dramatic Publishing. Eighty minutes long with a cast of sixteen, it is a perfect vehicle for a children’s group. Children from lower elementary through high school can be cast, assuring good houses! Assuming you all know the story; I’m going to focus on the special needs. Scenes are easily created on a bare stage with lighting and a few set pieces: a lamppost, trees, a table and chairs. The Stone Table upon which Aslan dies must hold the actor playing the lion and crack in two pieces. The magic of Aslan’s resurrection on the Table is hidden by a large banner. Levels are suggested and would be effective, but certainly not necessary. “Wood nymphs” move the furniture. Sound? A reed pipe, harness bells, and a hunting horn. Several battles between the Witch, Aslan, and the four lead characters (Edward, Lucy, Peter, and Susan) will need careful and well-rehearsed choreography. Also, Aslan’s mane is cut off and regrown—easy peasy!



Costumes may be the most important and labor-intensive area: a majestic lion, a winter witch, beavers, a faun, a centaur, unicorn, wolf in military garb, a dwarf, various other animals, and wood nymphs. Father Christmas appears, but not the Coca-Cola version. Although abridged, this script has all the memorable events, and is an inviting show for all ages.