



# CALLBOARD

September 2021

**Saturday, October 2, 2021, in Midland**

## **Fall Conference Returns In-Person**

**A**s theatres reopen around the country, CTAM Board of Directors would like to invite you, your theatre and theatre friends, to join us for the Fall Conference.

The conference will look a bit different this year, as we know everyone is working hard to bring theatre back. For this reason, the CTAM Board wanted to work with you to achieve the best learning experience, in the most accommodating way.

CTAM is planning a one-day in-person conference. To make travel easy for everyone, we chose centrally located Midland for the conference. Central Auditorium has graciously offered to be our host facility. Central Auditorium is incredibly spacious and offers plenty of room to spread out.

Following national and state guidelines, we ask everyone to wear masks, and social distancing will be taken into consideration for all workshops and gatherings.

### **Saturday, October 2 schedule**

- 8:00 — Registration, donuts and coffee
- 9:00 — Town Hall meeting Bring your questions and concerns. Regarding re-opening procedures, mask wearing, social distancing, budget concerns. We will post the top topics before the meeting and add/delete as needs change.
- 10:00 — (Morning break)
- 10:15 — Morning workshop sessions with topics pertaining to Youth Theatre, Technical Theatre, Administration, Acting and Directing

11:30 — Lunch break on your own. At registration we will provide a list of nearby places to grab a great lunch.

1:00 — Annual Meeting, elections, awards. All member groups please send two delegates from your theatre to attend this meeting, but everyone is welcome to attend!

1:30 — (Afternoon break)

1:45 — Afternoon workshop sessions. Round two of Youth Theatre, Technical Theatre, Administration, Acting and Directing workshops.

3:00 — Q & A, farewell

3:30 — Adjourn

Plan to see your old friends, face-to-face, and make new friends in this shortened, one-day format. The Conference will be held at Midland's Central Auditorium, 305 East Reardon Street, Midland 48640. Photos and directions can be found on their website.

Price for Conference: \$32 for Individual Members

\$36 non-Members

(All CTAM individual members will receive a code to use for their discount; registration opens on September 7.) Once registered we will send hotel information, in case you want to come early and spend the night.

Please join us as it is important for our Community Theatres to work together to come out of this pandemic stronger than ever.

For questions regarding the conference, please call 616-822-0006 or email [ctamthrives@gmail.com](mailto:ctamthrives@gmail.com).

**HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!**



**Community Theatre  
Association of Michigan**

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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 [maryloubritton@gmail.com](mailto:maryloubritton@gmail.com).

Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Administrator and should be sent to [CTAMthrives@gmail.com](mailto:CTAMthrives@gmail.com).

**CTAM Resource Roster**

CTAM is working towards providing members with access to a resource roster online from our website. In order to start a state roster, we are looking for individuals who might be interested in being a resource in the following areas. Please forward to [ctamthives@gmail.com](mailto:ctamthives@gmail.com) the names and contact information of anyone who you feel would be a good fit with any of these areas.

“Being a resource” could take many forms. You could be asked a specific question or asked to consult on a particular challenge someone is having, you might be asked to speak at a group or Board meeting about an upcoming question, or you might be asked for a reference or information to help another CTAM member solve a problem.

- Board Development / Management
- Box Office and/or Front of House Management
- Budget Planning / Finance
- Education Programs
- Fundraising / Grants
- Marketing / Communications
- Play Selection Process
- Rights / Royalties
- Long Range Planning
- Technical Questions (sets, lights, sound, stage management)
- Volunteer Management

Although the details need to be worked out, simply your name and contact information will be available on our website when it's up and running!

**CTAM Calendar of Events**

October 2, 2021 Midland	CTAM Fall Conference
Sept. 22-25, 2022 Gaylord	CTAM Fall Conference @ Treetops Resort





*President's Message:*

## Why Join CTAM?

When asked about why membership to CTAM is important to me, these four words pop into my head: Support, Community, Resources, and Networking.

**Support:** CTAM allows us to support each other as we continue our mission of bringing community theatre to our respective communities. Within CTAM we have the ability to communicate with each other and cross pollinate ideas that enable us to fulfill our missions.

**Community:** CTAM provides a forum that enables us to reach out to other theatres. Through your CTAM membership, you can find similar theatres who may be dealing with the same issues and concerns as your theatre and find the solution sooner.

**Resources:** One of the most important things to me about our CTAM members is that we all have the ability to be a resource for each other. Either in the materials or items we have available that others might use, or the ideas that we share about how we might have approached or solved a particular challenge in a production or within our organization. We also have individuals within our organizations that we turn to because of their knowledge and experience in different aspects of our theatre craft and these individuals



may be able to help other organizations with a challenge they find themselves up against.

**Networking:** Within CTAM we have the opportunity to develop lifetime personal friendships and contacts that enable us to more fully serve our home theatres as well as the other theatres in our area. Part of this networking is served by attending CTAM conferences, webinars, workshops, master classes, and special events. CTAM's Web and Facebook pages and the monthly Callboard newsletter also offer important information.

If the Covid pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we need each other to survive. By joining CTAM, you support CTAM development and strengthen community theatres across the state.

If you have questions on membership for your group or as an individual, please contact CTAM Administrator, Mary Jo DeNolf at [tamthrives@gmail.com](mailto:tamthrives@gmail.com) or 616-822-0006.

Michael Wilson  
CTAM President



# This Fall in Michigan theatre

Glen Arbor Players	<i>Pygmalion</i>	Sept 2-4, 2021
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Escanaba in da Moonlight</i>	Sept 9-25, 2021
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>The Cemetery Club**</i>	Sept 9-12, 2021
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Fun Home</i>	Sept 9-26, 2021
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Escanaba in da Moonlight</i>	Sept 10-25, 2021
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>Five Women Wearing the Same Dress</i>	Sept 10-19, 2021
Bay City Players	<i>Portraits</i>	Sept 11 -12, 2021
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Life Derailed</i>	Sept 16-Oct 2, 2021
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>Once</i>	Sept 17-Oct 3, 2021
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Don't Drink the Water</i>	Sept 17-Oct 3, 2021
Thornapple Players, Hastings	<i>The Odd Couple (Female Version)</i>	Sept 23-26, 2021
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Night of January 16</i>	Sept 24-Oct 9, 2021
Bay City Players	<i>Present Laughter</i>	Sept 24-Oct 3, 2021
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Oct 1-10, 2021
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Murder in Uptight Abbey</i>	Oct 1-10, 2021
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>Black, Bold, &amp; Beautiful</i>	Oct 14-24, 2021
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Godspell</i>	Oct 14-23, 2021
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Clue: The Musical</i>	Oct 14-24, 2021
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>The Curious Savage</i>	Oct 15-24, 2021
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Some Enchanted Evening</i>	Oct 15-24, 2021
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>Evita</i>	Oct 15-24, 2021
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>The All Night Strut</i>	Oct 21-24, 2021
Center Stage Theatre, Kalamazoo	<i>Moana, Jr.*</i>	Oct 22-24, 2021
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>	Oct 22-Nov 7, 2021
Glen Arbor Players	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	Oct 28-30, 2021
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Ed Asner in A Man and his Prostate</i>	Oct 28-29, 2021
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Men on Boats</i>	Oct 29-Nov 7, 2021
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Messiah on the Frigidaire</i>	Oct 29-Nov 7, 2021
Bay City Players	<i>Ten November</i>	Nov 5-14, 2021
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Bus Stop</i>	Nov 5-20, 2021
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Bonnie &amp; Clyde, the Musical</i>	Nov 5-14, 2021
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Measure for Measure (Pigeon Creek Shakespeare)</i>	Nov 6, 2021
Center Stage Theatre, Kalamazoo	<i>All Together Now</i>	Nov 12-14, 2021
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>R&amp;H Cinderella</i>	Nov 12-Dec 5, 2021
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>	Nov 18-Dec 4, 2021
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>	Nov 18-Dec 4, 2021
Farmington Players	<i>A Hunting Shack Christmas</i>	Nov 19-Dec 4, 2021
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>The Sound of Music</i>	Nov 19-Dec 19, 2021
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>It's a Wonderful Life, the Radio Show</i>	Nov 26-Dec 11, 2021
Bay City Players	<i>Cole in your Stocking</i>	Dec 2-4, 2021
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Dec 2-12, 2021

\* indicates youth productions; \*\* indicates second stage productions, if submitted.



If your information is incorrect or missing, please send the correct information to [The Editor](#) to be corrected or included in the next issue.



*In My Opinion:*  
**An Editorial**

By Mary Lou Britton, Editor

This month, we're focusing on Membership in the broader term ... and your Individual Membership in particular. Did you even know that there are two kinds of CTAM membership?

The main membership category is the Group Affiliate membership. This is for theatre groups across the state (called 'affiliates'). It's renewal time for your group to join CTAM in protecting and encouraging community theatre in Michigan.

But we also have an Individual Membership category, made just for people like you and me who love theatre and want to support the efforts of people all across the state.



Without thinking, people sometimes get the two categories confused and I can understand that. Just remember that only Individual Members get the event discounts, not members of the Affiliate Groups.

Also, only Individual Members can participate in the Accreditation Program and accumulate essentially CE points toward their accreditation status.

Individual members also receive their own copy of this monthly newsletter. No more waiting for someone in your group to send it to you. You get it directly from the source!

I asked some of CTAM's Individual Members what they feel is the greatest benefit for them. I got some surprising answers; what do you think?

☆ So I can be among people who talk my

language and have wonderful stories to tell.

- ☆ So I can ask the old-hands (more experienced?) for advice.
- ☆ To attend such great, information-filled workshops.
- ☆ Conference! Conference! Conference!
- ☆ To get the monthly newsletter so I know what's happening and where, to read Tara's reviews and the other good stuff.
- ☆ The greatest benefit I receive is keeping in touch with other theatre groups and being inspired and energized by their efforts.
- ☆ I love seeing who's doing what shows and planning road trips!
- ☆ I just found out that I can get discounts on CTAM events by being an Individual Member. I didn't know that!
- ☆ We found part of "Audrey II" from another group who did *Little Shop* and they told us how to build the rest of it. What a lifesaver their help was!

With everyone now getting back in action and resuming their regular production schedule, it's a busy time for theatre. In addition to paying dues to your home group, don't forget to support CTAM by joining as an Individual Member.

Your Affiliate or Individual CTAM dues for fiscal 2022 are due now! Our fiscal year began on August 1, so to remain current, your dues are due, so to speak!

Check out the website for application forms and more information about all the great benefits of membership!

**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

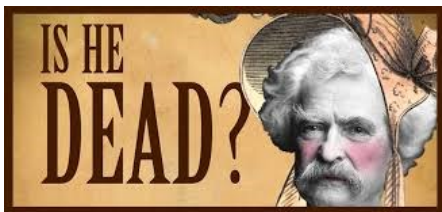


# The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



It's back to school and community theatre! I cannot tell you how happy the list of coming productions in the *Callboard* made me! And Fall Conference LIVE next year!! Hoping and praying that all goes well between now and then and we can meet again.



Recently, I saw a delightful comedy performed by Suzan Nemeth's WE Players. **Is He Dead?**, an

unfinished short story by Mark Twain, was adapted by David Ives ©2008 (Playscripts). Set in Paris in 1846, one set, two acts, a cast of 11 with doubling, this is a fresh, hilarious show. Act I the set is a shabby art studio, with many canvases lying about and in Act II the room is now the sumptuous salon of the rich "Widow."

The plot is fairly basic: starving artist, Jean Francois Millet, fakes his own death in order to increase the value of his paintings. Then, creates "The Widow," his "sister," in order to reap the benefits of his new popularity. After the Widow takes the stage, the plot doesn't exactly thicken, but all hell breaks loose as several men fall in love with her. Each character adds spark to the play — from the ladies that Millet rents from, to his love interest, to Millet's friends (an American, a German, and an Irishman.) British, German and French accents required.

Subtle wit and clever dialogue are balanced with enough physical comedy to entertain a wide spectrum of ages. If you decide to produce it, let me know...I'll be there!

**Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille** by Bruce Graham ©1979,1989 now published by Concord Theatricals is another hilarious but curiously dark comedy set in a worn-out small-town bar. With a cast of truly original charac-

ters, this "shot n' a beer" place has a few tables and chairs, a juke box, a dartboard, and over the bar, a TV facing upstage. There is a door from the street and one behind the bar leading to the kitchen. On the upstage back wall is a grimy picture window.

First, we meet Shep, a mild-mannered bartender/writer. He's a sitting duck for the locals who appear throughout. Small, grumpy Roy enters, and their conversation is odd. Shep is giving away free beer and scruffy, unemployed Roy is planning a trip to Disney World. We hear that Willy has shot his wife and is stalking his dentist. Lenny broke into the pet store and let all the animals out. After a "barrage of gunfire" Willy enters fully armed, dressed in fatigues; his intention is to kill all his enemies and "irritants." Curious.

Aluminum siding salesman, Bullard arrives (late 50s+) reporting "people out there are all panicked." We still don't know the cause of this lunatic behavior. Shirley (40s+), a hardened but attractive woman enters carrying a cage with a small white rat. Shirley's goal is to have sex with Shep. Virginia (30s), a confident gym teacher, arrives trying to call her family in Colorado. Shep tells her it's futile because everyone is dead. Shep and Virginia kiss, and as they start to head for Shep's place, Joe arrives. He offers to save the couple's lives. He's God. Of course, this changes everything. Joe/God gets "real" with hilarious results. A gunfight and a catfight break

out. We learn how Joe/God views the Earth. You may not agree with his interpretation, but it will make you think, and laugh.... mostly laugh.

Since 1979, attitudes towards the portrayal of things like gun violence, alcohol abuse

and suicide have changed. As these issues are dealt with lightly but straightforwardly, some may shy away from the play and its doomsday vibe. But give it a read and consider it. It's laugh out loud funny!

