



CTAM
Community Theatre Association of Michigan

CALLBOARD

April 2022

CTAM hits the road April 22 and 23 for the Great Upper Peninsula!

Join us in Escanaba on April 22 and 23 for exciting and educational topics designed to help your theatre grow and thrive. Workshops during the weekend will be offered in the areas of Intimacy on Stage, Volunteerism, Stage Combat and Prop Food. Attendees can look forward to a Friday night Meet & Greet starting around 7pm at Leigh's Garden Winery. Light snacks will be served with a cash bar, attendees will have the opportunity to meet the workshop facilitators, other attendees, and pick up their registration packets early.



Saturday will feature a mix of all workshops (see page 4 for a list of presenters!), which will conclude in the early evening. A Saturday ticket to Players de Noc's production of

James and the Giant Peach at 7:30pm will be included with your registration. Following the performance, you'll have a chance to connect with your fellow attendees as well as enjoy some refreshments. Registration cost for the weekend will be \$40. Visit [CTAM.online](https://www.ctam.org) to register today.



The final day of the Spring Trilogy will be Saturday, May 14, hosted by Stagecrafters in Royal Oak. Metro Detroiters will enjoy a wonderful day at their building.

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. Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Administrator and should be sent to CTAMthrives@gmail.com.



Only 45 days to Playwriting Contest deadline

As mentioned in a previous *Callboard* we are happy to announce that we are no longer requiring a submission fee for the Playwriting Contest. We are still requiring the acknowledgement letter from a current CTAM affiliate group, but we hope removing the fee will increase interest and the number of submissions moving forward.

Additionally, we are looking into creating staged readings for the submissions this year. This will most likely be just an audio recording of the script, using a collection of actors, but could also be a Zoom video recording. We are planning to provide these recordings to our affiliate groups to help further promote our state's budding playwrights.

Winning scripts get to be performed royalty free by our affiliate members for the next two years. Playwrights have until May 15, 2022, to get their scripts submitted. You can learn more and apply to our contest directly from our website.

Don't forget, there is cash American to the winner, so it could be financially rewarding also! Winners are announced at the annual Fall Conference!

CTAM Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 26 Grand Rapids Civic	On The Road Again Travelling Spring Conference
Saturday, April 23 Players de Noc, Escanaba	On The Road Again Travelling Spring Conference
Saturday, May 14 Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	On The Road Again Travelling Spring Conference
May 15, 2022	Deadline for CTAM Playwriting Contest
July 15, 2022	Deadline for Board of Director nominations and CTAM awards



Thoughts from Mary Jo

By Mary Jo Denolf,
CTAM Administrator



Celebrating Volunteers!

Did you know that April is National Volunteer Month? And better yet - National Volunteer Week is Sunday, April 17 - 23, 2022.

National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage their communities. By working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. Wow, community theatres need this now more than ever!

Recognition is closely associated with motivation. If people are rewarded with things that are significant or relevant to them, then the recognition process is most effective. There are many ways of informal recognition that you can do at your theatre for very little money:



☆ A simple "thank you for everything you do" when you see that person.

☆ Maybe bring in some homemade cookies when they are at the theatre building a set.

☆ Send a hand written note of

thanks to all cast and crew after a show.

☆ How about building a fire in your parking lot and bringing marshmallows in for a late night break?

There are so many things that can be done easily and will mean the world to someone who has given their time, talent and skills to your group.

Recognition can also be done at a state level. CTAM offers several awards that could be presented to your volunteer at a show, board meeting or gathering. The Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service

Award is an opportunity for your group to recognize a volunteer who has long term service within your theatre. CTAM presents six awards each year to special volunteers all across Michigan. For more information or to fill out a nomination form please go to: ctam.online/awards

And.....The CTAM board thanks each of you for all of your hard work you do each year for community theatre. If you have any questions on the CTAM awards please contact ctamthrives@gmail.com AND if you have questions or concerns on volunteers, I'm always available to chat at mjdenolf@gmail.com.

*Mary Jo DeNolf
CTAM Administrator
Former Director of Volunteers & Operations
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre (23 years)*



Songs Unraveled

Using the power of the internet, you usually can find anything you need to know about songs:

History. Type a song title into a search engine, such as Google, and you'll often find a Wikipedia post detailing the song's development.

Lyrics. In addition to a song's words popping up on music streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music, there are dedicated lyrics sites, such as Lyrics, AZLyrics and Genius, that can help your attempts at sing-alongs.

Chord Changes. Subscription sites, like Chordify, provide music for more than 18 million songs. Another site, Chordie, offers charts for free.

Lyric Analysis. A number of sites, including Songfacts, SongMeanings and Lyric Interpretations, feature background info and lyric analysis.

Song Identification. Don't know a song's title? Apps, such as Shazam, SoundHound and Musixmatch, can identify tunes by listening to a snippet of the music.

- Roger Catlin

Pictures of a Saturday afternoon in Grand Rapids ... at the CTAM Spring Conference (March 26)



Two photos top left: CTAM President Michael Wilson excels at making props. Here he leads attendees in making their own tacos for on-stage consumption.

Top right: Caitlin Hart talks to her session about the importance of intimacy direction for actors.



Three photos far right: J. R. Spaulding, Jr. covers a lot of

different aspects of Hand-to-Hand Combat on stage, stressing the need for safety in all actions.

Bottom left: Mary Jo Denolf talks about the vital elements of volunteer management in our ever-changing, post-pandemic world.



Spring workshop leaders announced

We're in the middle of 2022 Travelling Spring Conferences — to many exclamations of great success! This every-even-year event, featuring workshops, roundtables, networking opportunities, entertainment, and more, is making three stops around the state! And, as always, each host organization will be able to put their own spin on the event, but each stop will feature the same workshops!

Our first road trip stop was in Grand Rapids Civic Theater on March 26, then we are going to Escanaba's Players de Noc on April 23, and last but not least, we will be in Royal Oak at Stagecrafters for May 14.

The repeating workshops this year are as follows:

- ☆ **J. R Spaulding** will be presenting a workshop on stage combat, both Hand-to-Hand and Blades.
- ☆ **Caitlin Hart** joins us to present her workshops on Intimacy Choreography from the director's, producer's and actor's perspective.
- ☆ **Mary Jo DeNolf** will be doing a workshop on Volunteer Management.
- ☆ **Michael Wilson** will be doing a props workshop on making fake food look real, especially tacos!
- ☆ We will also have Roundtable discussions: One on **Casting with Diversity** and another on **Increasing Sponsorships**.

In addition, where can you meet and talk to crazy people who love theatre as much as you do? It's not really a sickness as some people say, but rather a love of sharing good theatre with other like-minded people who live in our great state!

Register soon here: <http://ctam.online/ctam-on-the-road-2022/>



Are you on schedule for AACTfest?

AACTfest 2023 is sneaking right up on everyone and we're just checking to see if you and your group are on schedule! We can't announce the date and location for the Michigan competition yet, but you can be assured it will be mid-February to mid-March sometime.

- ✓ Therefore, the entry deadline will most likely be around the end of this year.
- ✓ So, that pretty much leaves you during this summer to select the show you're going to do, to accomplish the initial portable set design, and start your plan for raising the funds to travel.
- ✓ Starting in the fall, then, you can be doing your fundraising to pay for getting you to state and regional competition. (*Think positive, as they say!*)
- ✓ Late fall, then, is the perfect time to cast your show and begin rehearsals...not an easy thing to accomplish when your regular season is running at full tilt!

Don't ignore all this advance planning and find yourself again in the spot of saying "Oh, there just isn't enough time."

The April issue of CTAM Callboard
is presented by



A Michigan-based ticketing service.



What's going on in Michigan theatre?

Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream*</i>	Mar 23-Apr 3, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Tony N' Tina's Wedding**</i>	Mar 24-Apr 2, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza</i>	Mar 25-Apr 3, 2022
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Run for your Wife</i>	Mar 18-Apr 2, 2022
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>I Hate Hamlet</i>	Apr 1-10, 2022
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>[title of show]</i>	Apr 1-10, 2022
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Seussical The Musical*</i>	Apr 7-10, 2022
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Apr 15-24, 2022
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Guys on Ice</i>	April 21-May 2, 2022
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	Apr 21-May 7, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Sauk Shorts**</i>	April 21-24, 2022
Bay City Players	<i>Follies</i>	Apr 22- May 1, 2022
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>Clue: The Musical</i>	Apr 22-May 1, 2022
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Hero and the Hag</i>	Apr 22-May 7, 2022
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Angel Street (Gaslight)</i>	Apr 22-May 8, 2022
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>The Wiz</i>	Apr 29-May 22, 2022
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>The SpongeBob Musical</i>	May 5-13, 2022
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Chicago</i>	May 5-June 4, 2022
Thornapple Players, Hastings	<i>Young Frankenstein</i>	May 5-8, 2022
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Move Over, Mrs. Markham</i>	May 6-21, 2022
Farmington Players	<i>Deathtrap</i>	May 6-21, 2022
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Anything Goes</i>	May 6-23, 2022
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	May 6-29, 2022
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Professor, How Could You?</i>	May 6-15, 2022
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Tulip Time Shows</i>	May 7-14, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>24-Hour Theatre Project</i>	May 7, 2022
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Drowsy Chaperone</i>	May 13, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>bare, A Pop Opera</i>	May 13-22, 2022
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Evita</i>	May 27-June 11, 2022
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i>	June 3-26, 2022
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Over the River and Through the Woods</i>	June 9-25, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	June 9-19, 2022
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>Something Rotten</i>	June 17-26, 2022
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i>	June 10-19, 2022
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>High School Musical* (outdoor)</i>	June 23-25, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>A Funny Thing ...at the Sloan Kettering</i>	June 23-25, 2022
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>The Sound of Music</i>	June 24-July 2, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Plays-in-Development</i>	July 1-2, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>How to Eat Fried Worms*</i>	July 15-24, 2022
Tawas Bay Players	<i>I Love Lacy</i>	July 22-31, 2022
Bay City Players	<i>The Who's Tommy</i>	July 28-31, 2022

* 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.



The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Need a huge musical blockbuster with a large cast and lots of challenges? You're in luck; that's what I'm scooping this month.

MTI International's *Disaster* ©2017 by Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick is an over-the-top musical set on a disaster-prone cruise ship, punctuated with evocative tunes from the '70s. Remember *The Poseidon Adventure*? This is *The Poseidon Adventure* times ten! Name a disaster-- it's there: Earthquake, tidal wave, explosion, fire, flood, piranhas, ceiling falls in, boat capsizes, and chandelier crushes "Wealthy Woman." Do we need a separate list of lighting and sound needs? Extrapolate from the above list.

Eleven main characters plus singers, dancers, and small speaking roles are needed. Chad, Scott, and Marianne, need to be the same age, somewhere between 20-40. Chad is a leading man type, Scott is his goofy friend, and Marianne is Chad's ex-girlfriend, and an aspiring, serious journalist.

Tony, (35-50) the scheming owner of the cruise ship, is in debt and trying to make big money on this cruise by overloading the boat—disaster! Jake is Tony's body guard. Jackie (30s-40s), a veteran show girl, is Tony's longtime, long-suffering girlfriend. Authors say she is a "Goldie Hawn" type. Jackie's twins, Ben and Lisa, are played by one eleven-year-old boy. Ted, 35-50, is a disaster expert, on board to warn the oblivious, money-hungry Tony. Note: Ted does a balance beam routine during one of the many disasters!

Lavora Verona is a flamboyant, but faded disco diva. She befriends Sister Mary Downy, a judgmental, awkward nun who is addicted to gambling. Senior citizens, Shirley and Maury Summers, a loving (song: "You're Still the One") Jewish couple. Shirley is a great role. She has a fatal disease that causes involuntary pelvic thrusts and eye blinking. She also tap dances the Morse code, sending the lock combination to open a hatch.

Disasters, large and small, personal feelings,

love lost and found are all accompanied by a song. The pairings are terrific: "I Will Survive" sung by man with shark devouring his arm; "Knock Three Times" sung to trapped people; "Never Can Say Good-bye" sung by Sister Mary leaving a slot machine; "Once, Twice, Three Times a Lady", sung by Wealthy Husband as he tosses his wife's body parts into a watery grave; and "Hooked on a Feeling" for the helicopter rescue.

Stage settings include: Jackie's dressing room, Tony's office, a casino, hallways, dance floor in the casino, an elevator, entrance to the Coral Bliss restaurant, a lifeboat, ship's kitchen, piranha-filled water off side of boat, and of course, the ship's deck. Set pieces: slot machine, falling chandelier, and a laundry basket to hide Ted.

Here's part of the huge list of props, costume challenges and dead bodies:

- * Three piranha puppets
- * One royal blue fish puppet that gets eaten
- * Ben/Lisa dummy
- * Man dummy
- * Fire for when door opens
- * "Baby" Levora's dog
- * Piranha-eaten skeleton and hand
- * Shark arms for Tony
- * Betsy Wetsy doll
- * Cotton candy for Levora to hide in
- * Rat puppet for "Muskrat Love"
- * Rat blanket that covers man
- * Rats for when door opens
- * Rats for wall of elevator
- * Two rats for attacking random victim
- * Rat attacking man whose arm subsequently falls off
- * Two shark fins that swim behind Tony during "Don't Cry Out Loud"
- * Two hands and a foot for "Once, Twice, Three Times a Lady"
- * Ben/Lisa hands for "When Will I Be Loved"

Well, that should give you an idea of the challenges of producing *Disaster* and maybe the impetus to cancel your next cruise.

Tawas Bay Players will be presenting *Disaster* this fall, October 14-23. Go see it!

