



# CALLBOARD

May 2022

## Third Traveling Spring Conference planned for May 14 at Stagecrafters

Last, but certainly not least, the third iteration of the On The Road Traveling Spring Conference is planned for Stagecrafters in Royal Oak, on Saturday, May 14, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and offers a full day of workshops, roundtables and titillating theatre talk (and a little gossip!)

The repeating workshops from the previous two versions of this travelling dog-and-pony show are as follow:

- ☆ **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**.

You'll love seeing Stagecrafters' theatre building — and all the wonderful restaurants within walking distance for lunch. Being in mid-May, the weather will undoubtedly be bright, sunny and cloudless, the perfect day for lunch outside!

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



### *New structure for Fall Conference*

*The committees are hard at work, putting together a new concept for our traditional Fall Conference, which includes our Annual Meeting and Election of new members to the Board of Directors.*

*With attendance dwindling over the past decade, your Board felt that concerted effort was needed to change things so people would **want** to attend.*

*Although plans are not complete, this year's conference will be held in the Metropolitan Detroit area **the weekend of September 23**, with attendees going to several theatres for performances and workshops.*

*Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates and more information as soon as it's available.*



**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).

# Only two weeks until 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.

Playwrights have until **May 15, 2022**, to submit their scripts for consideration this year. 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, May 14, 2022 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
September 23, 2022 Metro Detroit area	2022 Fall Conference at several area theatres
March 17, 2023 Owosso, MI	Michigan AACTfest
April 14-17, 2023 Hartford, WI	Region III AACTfest
June 12-17, 2023 Louisville, KY	National AACTfest





## AACT cycle for 2023 announced

With the Michigan location now confirmed, CTAM is pleased to announce the complete 2023 cycle for the AACTfest competition:

### Michigan: Weekend of March 17, 2023

To be held at the Lebowsky Center in Owosso. This is a perfect location for the competition because the hotel is located only a block or so from the performance venue, so it's very convenient. Plus their newly redecorated theatre is a perfect size for our event.



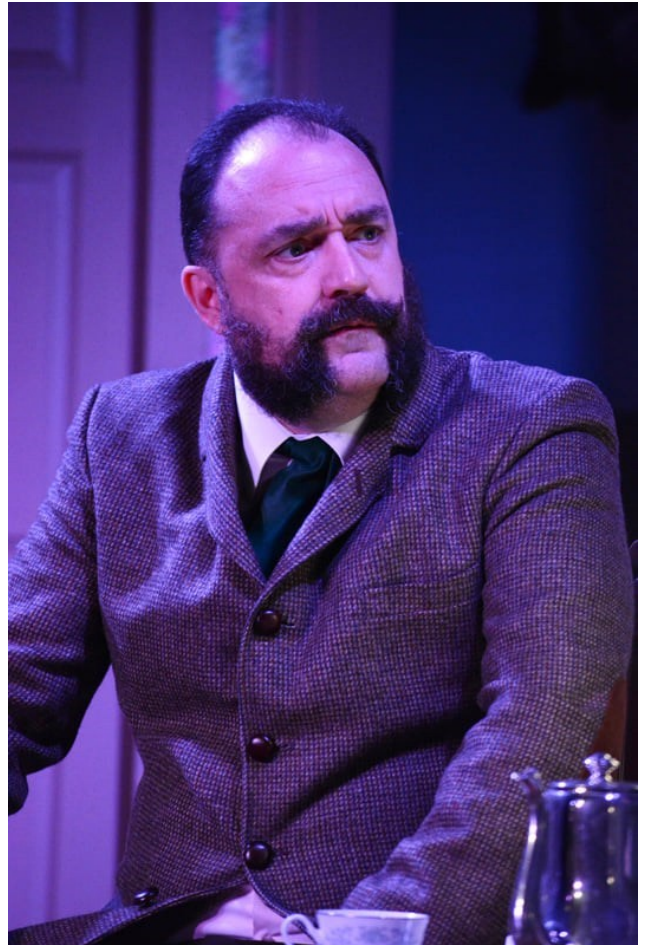
### Region III: Weekend of April 14-17, 2023

To be held in Hartford, Wisconsin. (Region III encompasses Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana.) No details yet but you can start

planning now to attend this exciting event. At least one and maybe two Michigan winners will be performing here.

### Nationals: Week of June 12-17, 2023

The grand-daddy of them all is almost a full week of performances, workshops and parties. You'll see some of the best theatre around and hang out with some of the nicest people you'll ever meet.



*Twin City Players, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, are up with Gaslight at the end of April and until May 8. Looks like a costume and make-up extravaganza. Don't miss it, if you live on the west side of our great state!*





Well, here we are at the First of May already! New green leaves are beginning to break out of the buds and the first brave flowers are brightening the winter dulled landscape.

The last half of April and the first half of May always seem like such a frantic time. The temperatures start to warm, and we get some simply gorgeous days and then wham, we get slammed back to cold temps and a bit of snow or freezing rain. The buds swell noticeably and then seem to just hang there waiting, teasing before finally opening and beginning their head long rush to summer.

It sure seems like this type of energy is reflected in my daily life also. I find myself rapidly preparing for the opening of our last show of the season, the scripts have arrived for next season's shows and I begin to venture into them and discover what lies ahead.



And here at CTAM, our On the Road events start. This year so far we have been to Grand Rapids, hosted by Grand Rapids Civic Theatre on March 26 where we had the opportunity to once again gather in person and enjoy learning more in the areas of safe stage combat, how to stage intimate scenes and allow actors to feel safe and comfortable, some always valuable insights into working with the volunteers we all depend on, and we had a bit of fun making some stage food props. We also held a couple wonderful Roundtable discussions that allowed us to all share and learn from each other.

We next took the show on the road and were in Escanaba hosted by Players de Noc May 22-23 (see photos on the next page of this newsletter), and we head over to Royal Oak May 14 where we will be hosted by Stagecrafters. So if you were unable to attend in Grand Rapids or Escanaba, get yourself registered to attend in Royal Oak.

We are also finishing up the planning stage for what promises to be a exciting, revamped version of Fall Conference to be held in the Detroit area the weekend of September 23-24.

So there you have it! Things have been really, really busy for everyone as we get ready to conclude our first season back in business after the pandemic shut-down.

But busy is good, right?



Rogers City Community Theatre offered *The Addams Family* in March 2022, to great cheers from the audiences!



# Images from a great CTAM weekend in Escanaba! April 22 and 23, 2022



# What's going on in Michigan theatre?

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
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Apr 28-May 1. 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
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Anatomy of a Murder</i>	May 6-14, 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
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Take Ten Play Festival (10-minute plays)</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
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Potato Gumbo</i>	May 14-15, 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
Fowlerville Community Theatre	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	June 16-18, 2022
Lebowsky Center, Owosso	<i>Something Rotten</i>	June 17-26, 2022
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Dads &amp; Dogs</i>	June 19, 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 Cancer Center</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
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	July 21-23, 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
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Magician's Nephew*</i>	July 28-30, 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



Happy May! According to this wonderful newsletter, it appears Community Theatre is back and thriving. I know that it has shaped my life in so many ways. People I meet at conferences, AACT-Fest, summer camp (loved summer camp!) express the same sentiment: Friendships made through community theatre are immediate, meaningful and long-lasting. You may only see a person once a year, or even every five years, but, bam! You'll "always have Owosso."

Playscripts' *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation by Jon Jory is a wonderful vehicle for teaching this popular (you know, they're not all popular LOL) classic. Written as a stage play, this version is long (120-130 minutes), but amazingly touches on every important plot point. Set in and around Hertfordshire, England, in 1813, eight women and six men are needed although with double casting as few as 13 or as many as 40.

Jory recommends two levels with three openings on each level. The bottom levels' openings are entrance/exits. The top-level openings are used to reveal the character of whom the lower-level actors are speaking; a clever way to help audiences keep the characters straight. The bottom level is bare, with furniture moved on and off swiftly by the cast members. The basic set is the Bennets' home, Longbourn, moving furniture to indicate different rooms.

Set pieces include ten chairs, tables, a park bench, writing desk, stools a chaise, and a pianoforte, if possible. To speed this play along, each actor has one costume with simple additions/subtractions throughout. Nothing unusual for sound (except Pianoforte music!) or lights, but a horse drawn carriage, dancers, and Darcy's Pemberly are suggested by lit silhouettes pulled across the stage.

The action starts with Elizabeth and Darcy's first encounter, which establishes Elizabeth's prejudice against Darcy when she overhears him making derogatory comments about the quality of women he sees at the ball. An important subplot is the eldest Bennett daughter, Jane's immediate mutual attraction for Bingley. Characters talking directly to the audience is effective and charming. If you are unfamiliar or have forgotten the basic premise of Pride and Prejudice, here it is: Mr. and Mrs. Bennet must find suitable i.e., wealthy, matches for their five daughters. From the start, Jane and Bingley seem to be a done deal, but true love never runs in a straight line—at least not in fiction. Second daughter, Elizabeth is matched with cousin Collins who is

the heir to Longbourn. If Elizabeth marries him, nobody has to move, but he is dull and not for Lizzie. Next is Wickham, untrustworthy and not rich...not going to fly.

Elizabeth and Darcy's animus deepens through the various subplots. Many obstacles are overcome to get them together mostly related to her prejudice and his pride. Darcy's family doesn't believe she is a worthy mate, having no money or in some mind's: no breeding. Eventually Elizabeth learns that Darcy has been quietly helping her family through its travails, without bragging, gossiping or using it to impress her.

I haven't read *Pride and Prejudice* since ninth grade, so I thoroughly enjoyed reading this

lovely version. Jory highlights Elizabeth's common sense, confidence, strong opinions and the fact that she makes no apologies for herself or her family. She too is proud. In fact, you see that Elizabeth and Darcy have very similar personalities and you predict a long and happy marriage between equals. The script can also be purchased as a one-act (really!?) and I see potential as a Readers' Theater vehicle also. In Jon Jory's able hands, *Pride and Prejudice* will be enjoyed by audiences of many ages above thirteen or so. In this format, Austen's wit and beautiful language can be introduced to young people in an engaging way.

