



CTAM CALLBOARD

August 2022

September 23 and 24 Details announced for 2022 Fall Convention

Many changes are being introduced for the Fall Convention this year — and the first major change is that we are not all travelling to a specific hotel or meeting location!

CTAM is making access easier and involving three theaters as hosts this year: St. Dunstan's, Village Players of Birmingham and Stagecrafters, all close to each other in the metro Detroit area.

Hotel information will be available soon for those wanting to stay overnight.

Here's the schedule, briefly. See workshop details inside on page 3.

- ☆ Friday evening, 9/23: Come early and join the CTAM board and fellow thespians for a cocktail hour. Great way to meet new friends, networking for common concerns, and learn from each other.
- ☆ Saturday morning, 9/24:
 - Workshop #1—9:30 am to 11 am
 - Workshop #2—11:30 am to 1 pm
- ☆ Saturday Lunch-on-Ups, 9/24. 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Town Hall-style meeting, including Annual Meeting and Elections
- ☆ Saturday afternoon, 9/24
 - Workshop #3—2:30 to 4:00 pm
 - Workshop #4—4:30 to 6:00 pm



Top, Stagecrafters in Royal Oak; middle is Village Players of Birmingham, and, bottom, St. Dunstan's in Bloomfield Hills. All three theatres are located very close within a mile or so of each other.



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HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre
Association of Michigan**

2021-22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Michael Wilson**
Grand Rapids Civic
michaelwilsonprops@yahoo.com

Vice President - **JR Bornemann**
Center Stage, Midland
jbornemann229@gmail.com

Secretary - **Rhonda Lehan**
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
rlehan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - **Jamie Peterson**
Players de Noc, Escanaba
mr.jamiepeterson@gmail.com

At-Large Members of the Board

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Ruthann Liagre.....ruthannliagre@gmail.com
Lebowsky Center, Owosso

Gregory Martini.....gregorydanielmartini@gmail.com
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak

Keith Rikli.....actingpilot@gmail.com
Southeastern Michigan Nomad

Rodel Salazar.....rcsalazar10@yahoo.com
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak

CTAM Administrator

Mary Jo DeNolf.....CTAMthrives@gmail.com
811 Craven Avenue NE, Grand Rapids 49525
<http://ctam.online/>
ctamich@gmail.com Instagram: @ctamich

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.

**Deadline:
August 15**



It's that time again for you to nominate a volunteer (or couple) from your organization to receive a CTAM Volunteer Award. Deadline date has been pushed up to August 15!

Have you seen the video CTAM Board member Gregory Martini put together? If not - check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqfgS4oKfvE>

Or you can go to our webpage for more details: <http://ctam.online/awards/>

Either way, nominate someone today for a state organization award. CTAM board members will present at the Fall Convention or we can come to your theatre to make a public presentation.



CTAM Calendar of Events

September 23-24, 2022 Metro Detroit area	2022 Fall Convention 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



Workshops and Schedule for 2022 Fall Convention

Friday, September 23, 2022

Come early and join the CTAM Board and fellow thespians for a Friday Night cocktail hour and mixer. Great way to meet new friends, networking for common concerns, and learn from each other. Time and location to be announced.

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Workshop Session #1 — at Stagecrafters and Village Players of Birmingham (9:30 - 11am)

- ◆ HOW TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR THEATRE / Alan Semonian
- ◆ SET DESIGN / David Len
- ◆ CREATING, COMMUNICATING AND ENACTING THE DIRECTOR'S VISION / Pam Steers
- ◆ Roundtable on DIVERSITY/INCLUSIVITY - panel TBA

Workshop Session #2 — at Stagecrafters and Village Players of Birmingham (11:30 - 1pm)

- ◆ HOW TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR THEATRE / Alan Semonian
- ◆ SET DESIGN / David Len
- ◆ MAKING MOMENTS – A DIRECTING WORKSHOP / Pam Steers
- ◆ Roundtable on TAKING A SHOW TO AACTFEST - panel TBA
- ◆ Roundtable on WHAT CAN CTAM OFFER FOR FUTURE? - panel TBA

LUNCH - 1:30 to 2:30pm. Join the CTAM Board for lunch on us at St. Dunstan's Theatre

- ◆ The CTAM Annual Meeting and Election will take place during lunch

Workshop Session #3 — at St. Dunstan's and Village Players of Birmingham (2:30 - 4pm)

- ◆ INTIMACY WORKSHOP / Caitlin Hart
- ◆ YOU'RE A REAL CHARACTER / Ben Zylman
- ◆ LIGHTING WORKSHOP / CJ Ramseyer
- ◆ GRANT WRITING / Cyndi Len
- ◆ Roundtable on HOW TO START A YOUTH PROGRAM - panel TBA

Workshop Session #4 — at St. Dunstan's and Village Players of Birmingham (4:30 - 6pm)

- ◆ INTIMACY WORKSHOP / Caitlin Hart
- ◆ SING OUT LOUISE... OR LOU! / Ben Zylman
- ◆ LIGHTING WORKSHOP / CJ Ramseyer
- ◆ GRANT WRITING / Cyndi Len



All about the workshop leaders ...

Caitlin Hart - (she/her) is an intimacy choreographer based in Grand Rapids, MI. She holds a B.A in Theatre Arts from Aquinas College and completed the Atlantic Theater Company's Professional Acting Conservatory in NYC. Caitlin has choreographed countless kisses, full nudity, simulated sex, simulated sexual violence and many intimate moments in between. She is certified as an 'Intimacy Captain', in Mental Health First Aid and has By-stander Intervention training. In addition to her practical experience in the field, she attends on-going professional training workshops with Theatrical Intimacy Education to strengthen and expand her knowledge of best practices in the growing field. She has choreographed intimacy for productions such as *Stinney: An American Execution*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Sound Of Music*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Maria Irene Fornes' What of the Night?*, *Tommy Smith's White Hot*, and more. You can learn more about her work at caitlinhartdirector.com.

Cyndi Len - (Grant Writing) Cyndi is a retired Arts Educator with 42 years of experience teaching in and around the Detroit area, Urbana IL and retired from Rockford Public School where she taught for 26 years both elementary and high school. Cyndi has a BFA from Wayne State University, BA ArtEd Michigan State University, MA Arts Education Wayne State University, plus 30 post grad credits. Cyndi has written a large number of grants to supplement her arts programs, special projects and multi curricular projects. She has also written freelance grants for several district projects, and for other Arts organizations including the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.

David Len - (Set Design) David recently retired as the Scenic Designer/Artist at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. David has an MFA in Design from the University of Connecticut and has spent 29 years as the resident scenic designer for the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. During his tenure at GRCT, David has designed and painted more than 200 productions. He has taught classes in scenic painting at the University of Illinois, Aquinas College and in various workshops across the state. His workshops at CTAM have always been a hit.

CJ Ramseyer - (Lighting) No information submitted yet.

Alan Semonian - (Fundraising, etc.) Alan Semonian is currently the Executive Director and Administrative Vice President of Stagecrafters community theatre, located in Royal Oak. He is a Certified Public Accountant and financial advisor who has been President of his own company, Ameritax Plus, for 37 years. He received his B.A. in Economics and French from Albion College and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University. The focus of his accounting and tax practice has been to teach entrepreneurs how to run their business and make them successful. His strong understanding of finance, operations, and management issues has made it possible to make community theatre a successful and thriving enterprise, even during a pandemic. Alan has served on numerous non-profit boards (civic, civil rights, community, artistic, and religious) in which he has motivated volunteers and spearheaded large fundraisers. In addition, he has been a leader in the local business community in which he has served as President of the Berkley Chamber of Commerce, as well as chair of the Berkley Downtown Development Authority.

Pam Steers (Directing) Pam is a director and educator. She has directed both at the community theatre and high school level for more than 30 years including Grand Rapids Civic Theater, Circle Theater Grand Rapids, Creston High School, Kenowa Hills High School, and East Grand Rapids High School. She has conducted directing, stage managing, acting and college audition workshops over the last 25 years, partnering with Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Aquinas College's and Grand Valley State University's teacher education programs, Broadway Breakthrough, Amway's Tour Guide department and the Grand Rapids Voice Collective. Pamela is currently a Communications teacher for East Grand Rapids High School where in addition to theatre she has also taught multiple film studies classes and public speaking. Her degrees from Grand Valley State University and Aquinas in Political Science and Communications (emphasis in Theatre) and a Master's in Library Science from Wayne State University have assisted her in researching and exploring all aspects of theatre.



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Ben Zylman - (Acting) Zylman, a multi-award winning actor/director with more than 125 productions to his credit, has conducted workshops and master classes throughout the Midwest. He has worked with Jerry Seinfeld, Chita Rivera, Mayim Bialik and Renée Taylor, as well as with Grammy award-winning artists Meredith Arwady and Timothy Nordwind.

What's going on in the workshops ...

ACTING

You're a Real Character (2:30-4pm)

Participants in this workshop will move well beyond the fundamentals of acting. With an emphasis on multi-faceted character creation we will focus on the impacts of environment, relationship and back story. Additionally, we will focus on the art of performing comedy. Experiential in nature, this workshop will be comprised of lecture and scene work. If you want to be a better actor, this is the workshop for you! Ben Zylman,

Sing Out Louise... or Lou! (4:30 - 6pm)

Let's be honest; auditioning is hard! During this "hands on" workshop, those attending will learn from Ben Zylman how to best prepare for an upcoming musical theatre audition. Topics will include song selection, audition etiquette and scene study. During the workshop participants will be given the opportunity to perform 16 measures of a Broadway song after which they will receive feedback. Be sure to bring your sheet music. An accompanist will be provided!

Introduction to Intimacy Choreography for Actors - have you ever had an awkward experience with sexual or intimate content in a play? This workshop will cover why the "old approach" isn't ideal and tools for identifying and communicating your boundaries in a theatrical space without an Intimacy choreographer like Caitlin Hart.

DIRECTING

Introduction to Intimacy Choreography for Directors and Producers - Caitlin Hart will cover the evolving industry standard, including the role of the intimacy choreographer and why the "old approach" isn't ideal. We will cover basic tools for promoting a consent-based process, setting boundaries and desexualizing the process when an Intimacy Choreographer isn't available to you.

Creating, Communicating and Enacting the Director's Vision (9:30-11:00am)

Much of a director's work starts prior to rehearsals with the actors. Tips for the process of creating and exploring your directorial concept for a script and how to communicate that vision to first a creative team and then the actors will be the basis of this workshop with Pam Steers. You will then work in teams to apply those skills and begin to create, communicate, and enact a vision by working on a short play. Bring your imagination!

Making Moments – A Directing Workshop (11:30-1pm)

Directors are storytellers and finding those moments within each scene and how to share those with the audience will be explored. Participants will have time to work out moments for scenes from the same play explored in the "Creating, Communicating an Enacting Workshop." Participation in that previous workshop is not required but could be a fun combination for the day. You will be requested to get on your feet and interact with others. Be prepared to be creative with Pam Steers!

(Continued, page 6)



Registration form and pricing on page 7!

ADMINISTRATIVE

Grant Writing— With Cyndi Len, we will dive into the process of writing a grant. Reading the grant criteria, are you eligible? We will be building a proposal and working on clearly defining your purpose in narrative form that meets the grant criteria. Budgets and match, how to find the information and make it work for your grant needs. If you have ideas or grant applications please feel free to bring them along. _

Fundraising - In this workshop Alan Semonian will set the stage (no pun intended) for where Stagecrafters was financially at the moment that the pandemic began and what the dire outcome would have been without additional fundraising efforts. He will explore and explain what kind of fundraising is effective and which kind of fundraising is worthless. He will explain the vital roles that board members should play in fundraising. He will give several examples of fundraising techniques that were wildly successful at Stagecrafters which could be used in your community theatre. He will introduce the concept of “piloting” new ideas for greater organizational acceptance.

He will discuss how best to cultivate relationships with donors. Most importantly, he will raise the awareness of why community theatres cannot rely on ticket receipts as the core component of revenue and the importance of multiple streams of income.

TECHNICAL

Lighting — Workshop content not received at press time.

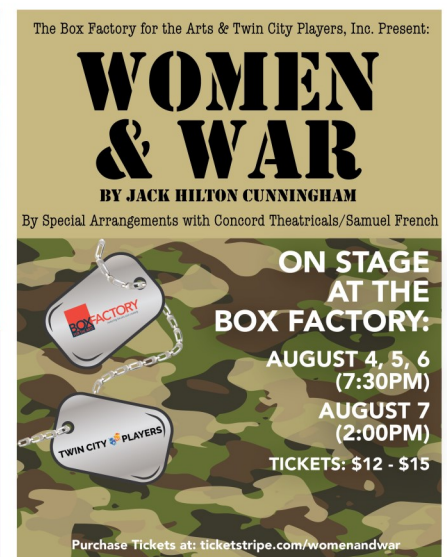
Scenic Design - During this workshop David Len will demonstrate a variety of scene painting techniques. And be prepared to get dirty!!!! Participants will be able to do a scaled down guided scene painting sample of their own. Materials will be supplied. Dress for a mess....we mean successful mess!

Registration form and pricing on page 7!

Giving Back is summer theme for Twin City Players

Each year, Twin City Players raise funds/friends for another non-profit that also serves their St. Joseph/Benton Harbor community. Twin City Players is doing our "Give Back" performances this summer to benefit the Box Factory for the Arts. They are doing two shows (see posters here) for them. The Box covers the basic expenses (royalty and scripts) and then gets all the proceeds from the productions. The Box Factory can seat about 120 people. They have an excellent track record of filling those seats. Ticket revenue along with the cash bar receipts will most likely offer them a sizable benefit.

This year we are doing *Scotland Road* and *Women & War*. Co-Directors for *Scotland Road* are Bob and Candace Myers; Director for *Women & War* is Peggy Harrington.





Registration

2022 CTAM Fall Convention

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Affiliate Theatre _____

_____ FULL PACKAGE - Friday night mixer, 4 workshop sessions, Saturday lunch and snacks - \$65 per person

_____ GROUP PACKAGE - send a group from your current CTAM Affiliate Theatre and get additional savings!

- 2 people from same theatre group = \$110 (save \$10 per person)
- 3 people from same theatre group = \$180 (save \$20 per person)
- 4 people from same theatre group = \$150 (save \$15 per person)

Names and addresses of attendees. Additional names on reverse side, please!

#2 Name _____	#3 Name _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Address _____	Address _____
City/State/Zip _____	City/State/Zip _____
Email _____	Email _____
Theatre _____	Theatre _____

_____ A LA CARTE - Do you want to attend one or two workshops? No problem! \$25 per workshop session. # OF _____ workshops desired X \$25
 Name of workshop(s) attending _____

Total registration enclosed: \$ _____

Mail form and check to:
 CTAM, 811 Craven Ave NE; Grand Rapids MI 49525
 Electronic registration with credit card will also be available on our website,



What's going on in Michigan theatres?

The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>R&H Cinderella</i>	Aug 11-21, 2022
Glen Arbor Players	<i>Radio Days</i>	Aug 11-13, 2022
Gaylord Community Productions	<i>Shrek</i>	Aug 11-14, 2022
Kidz Theatre Kompany, Fenton	<i>Footloose</i>	Aug 12 - 14, 2022
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>The Wizard of Oz *</i>	Aug 18-21, 2022
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Aug 19-21, 2022
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Junie B. Jones*</i>	Sept, 2022
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Quilters</i>	Sept 1-24, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Desert Song** (World premiere)</i>	Sept 8-11, 2022
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Monty Python's Spamalot</i>	Sept 9-25, 2022
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Arsenic & Old Lace</i>	Sept 9-25, 2022
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Joseph/Dreamcoat</i>	Sept 16-25, 2022
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Encore: A Musical Revue</i>	Sept 16-Oct 2, 2022
Ridgedale Players, Troy	<i>Cabaret</i>	Sept 16-Oct 2, 2022
Farmington Players	<i>Suite Surrender</i>	Sept 23-Oct 8, 2022
Cadillac Footliters	<i>39 Steps</i>	Sept 23- Oct 1, 2022
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Sept 23 -Oct 8, 2022
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Sept 30-Oct 23, 2022
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Disaster, The Musical</i>	Oct 14-23, 2022
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>An Evening of Mime and More</i>	Oct 6-8, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson musical)</i>	Oct 7-16, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Oct 13-23, 2022
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>The Psychic</i>	Oct 21-Nov 6, 2022
Glen Arbor Players	<i>Anatomy of a Murder</i>	Oct 27-29, 2022
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Moon over Buffalo</i>	Oct 28-Nov 6, 2022
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>The Addams Family, the Musical</i>	Oct 28-Nov 13, 2022
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Nov 2 -Dec 17, 2022
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>9 to 5</i>	Nov 4-13, 2022
Ridgedale Players, Troy	<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Nov 4-20, 2022
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>The Game's Afoot</i>	Nov 11-27, 2022
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The SpongeBob Musical</i>	Nov 18- Dec 10, 2022
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Nov 25-Dec 4, 2022
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Elf</i>	Nov 25 - Dec 18, 2022
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Dec 1-11, 2022
Farmington Players	<i>The Game's Afoot and Holmes for the Holidays</i>	Dec 2-17, 2022
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley</i>	Dec 2-18, 2022
Midland Center for the Arts	<i>A Christmas Story, the Musical</i>	Dec 2-11, 2022
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Matilda, Jr. *</i>	Dec 8-22, 2022
Glen Arbor Players	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 8-10, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>The Holiday Channel Christmas Marathon</i>	Dec 9-18, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Who's Holiday</i>	Dec 10-17, 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.



Props for the ages!

This month, we are featuring the dedicated folks who make the properties for our shows. We often feature the singers and dancers and actors, but now it's time to honor the 'props.'

We happen to have received information from two different groups facing props issues for upcoming productions.

Tawas Bay Players are doing *Disaster, the Musical* this October and are taking advantage of the summer slow-down to make the rats that go down with the ship! What a fun way to spend some time together, with superb results.

Then Prop Master Michael Wilson from **Grand Rapids Civic** was experimenting with making fake ice cream:

He "tried a different recipe to make fake ice cream. The one in top photo is the original (cornstarch and hair conditioner); the other was (light weight spackle and cornstarch). I like the original better. It set up faster, has better color, and held its shape better. The second one might be a better recipe to use for making fake soft serve ice cream. Also tried to add chocolate and caramel syrup to one. I think I got the chocolate OK, but the caramel should be a bit more translucent."



The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Food for thought: I am devastated by the passing of Leeds Bird. If you have anyone in your life who is a mentor and inspiration to you, tell them now. I am happy to say that I am sure Leeds knew how I felt about him.

Dramatist Publishing's *The Orphan Train* by Aurand Harris ©1995 is a 65-minute drama based on the true story of the movement that arose to address the problem of the many orphaned children in New York City. In 1852, Charles Loring Brace's planned to send the children on trains to farm families in the Midwest. The first trains were successful in placing the children, and between 1854 and 1929 approximately 250,000 children were sent on these trains. I was expecting heartrending tragedy and sadness, but there is a liveliness, spunk and hopefulness throughout the play.



Using a cast of six boys (three minimum), six girls (three minimum), playwright Harris creates eight scenes illuminating the circumstances that these children found themselves in.

Seven women and six men are needed also, although one of each could be used to play all the parts. Not all of the people who took the orphans were not doing this out of the goodness of their hearts. Some wanted company, but most wanted someone strong to help with the constant and difficult work of farming. The adult characters also are varied and interesting.

The children: "Frank," a girl surviving dressed as a boy; crippled Raymond who escapes to the carnival; Evie, a "street girl;" Lucky, a pickpocket; Pegeen, an Irish girl who faces prejudice; Danny, a singer and dancer (several public domain songs

are included such as "East Side, West Side", "Bicycle Built for Two", and "I'm a Yankee Doodle Boy") and Annie, a large plain girl, who is protecting the mute Little Lucy.

The set can be a bare stage, with stools for the children. Sound includes carnival music, train whistles and rumblings, a few props, which can be pantomimed, and virtually on/off lights. Suitable for touring and for all ages.



Always a Bridesmaid by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten (authors of *Dearly Departed* and *Red Velvet Cake War*), published by Dramatists in 2013. The cast is six women, five of whom age over seven years.

The sixth woman is twenty-ish Kari, the bride who appears at the beginning of each scene—each time a little tipsier and a lot funnier. The setting is the elegant upstairs sitting room of the historic Laurelton Oaks, a wedding venue, near Richmond Virginia. For each wedding/scene, some updating of the décor happens.

The plot and the cast: In third grade Libby Ruth, Monette, Charlie and Deedra promised to be each other's bridesmaids. These four will age over the span of seven years, starting in the late forties along with Sedalia, the veteran host of the Oaks.

Costumes are a fun challenge. Kari wears the same wedding dress in each scene, and Sedalia always rocks a flamboyant caftan with ropes of pearls. Four weddings are prepared for, one per scene. For the first wedding of Monette, the three bridesmaids have 24-hour notice to find something coral to wear. Libby's is dowdy, Deedra's is stolen, and Charlie has no coral. Next wedding the women are told to choose a bridesmaid dress from the past. Here you'll see Little Spouse on the Prairie, a Christmas dress complete with jingle bells, and a skin-tight, gold lame, ankle-length gown. Deedra tells the women to wear something French: a sexy maid, a can-can girl, and Marie Antoinette show up. Last is Kari's wedding and all four women wear floor length lavender. Whew! Not a lot of plot, but lots of fun. Suitable for ages 16+.