



CTM CALLBOARD

December 2022

January 2023

2023 Michigan AACTfest

March 17-19, 2023

**hosted by Owosso Community Players at The Lebowsky Center,
122 E. Main St., Owosso, MI 48867**

What is AACTfest?

The Owosso Community Players are proud to host the 2023 American Association of Community Theaters State Festival for Michigan: AACTfest!

AACTfest is the festival process that concludes in a national theatre festival. Sponsored by the [American Association of Community Theatre](#), the festival is held in odd-numbered years. AACTfest presents a forum for community theatres from AACT's ten regions to enter productions for adjudication and advancement from the state level to the regional level and finally, to the national level.



Each competing team will have a 10×10 foot space on the stage. In each box is everything that can be used for a show – set, props and costumes. A signal is given, and the first show is off and running. Actors and production crew hustle to set up their show in less than 10 minutes – because that's when their show must begin. Each team's performance must be no longer than 60 minutes. They then have exactly 10 minutes to put it all back in their box and leave the stage.

How can I attend?

Competing groups can register for \$150. Your registration covers 8 participants. If your participating group is larger than 8 people, then each additional individual will need to complete an individual registration. Individual registration costs \$65 until February 1, 2023, at which point it goes up to \$75 per person. If you want to ATTEND as an audience member then you will also use the INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION option and that will get you in to all shows and networking events. (See page 4 for hotel information.)

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre
Association of Michigan**

2021-22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.



We had 14 quality submissions this year reviewed by our esteemed judges. There was a clear winner and congratulations goes to **Maureen Paraventi's** script *Cora Lynn Beauty Can Change Your Life*. There was a runner up selected as well, awarded to **Art Nemitz** for *The Passing Over*.

All playwrights will be receiving feedback by December 15, 2022. Summaries of the plays will be on the website by January 15th, 2023 with contact information for the playwrights. If you are a CTAM member theatre you can present either the winning play or the runner-up play for free for the next two years (though we encourage you to pay some royalties to the playwright).

The playwriting contest for 2023 will open for submissions on March 1, 2023 and will close on May 31, 2023.



CTAM Calendar of Events

March 17-19, 2023 Owosso, MI	Michigan AACTfest
April 14-17, 2023 Hartford, WI	Region III AACTfest
June 12-17, 2023 Louisville, KY	National AACTfest

CTAM announces new workshop programming opportunities for affiliates

Starting this year, we are proud to announce CTAM's **On the Road to You!** This new twist on our traditional conference format allows affiliate groups to bring a presenter to them for a specific area of development and at a minimal cost to the group. On the Road to You is designed to address a theater's needs in any area you can think of. Perhaps your group needs some tools for volunteer recruitment, makeup design, stage lighting, board development, strategic planning, or any other area you can think of. All you have to do is reach out to ctamthrives@gmail.com and tell us you want to schedule an On the Road to You.

Jamie Peterson reports that Players deNoc (Escanaba) will be the first theater testing out this new program. Lighting Design is what they need at this moment and CTAM has assisted in finding a workshop leader to come to their theatre and work with them, one on one.

How payment will work: Hosting theater will supply \$100 as a stipend and then provide lodging if the workshop leaders needs to travel and stay the night. CTAM will cover all cost of mileage and then an additional \$100 for a total of \$200 stipend.

Workshop leaders will spend about four hours with your theatre on a 1:1 basis and work with your volunteers.

Topics for workshops - we can provide workshop leaders on most any subject but ones we have thought about would be: Lighting, Sound, Volunteer Management, Board Development, Fund Raising, Grants, and the list goes on and on.

If interested contact ctamthrives@gmail.com With a letter of intent and we will send you an application to fill out with information for your theater, dates, subject matter and other information needed to find the right presenter for your theatre.

Many of you are already familiar with CTAM on the Road. This event was a way for theater

groups to host a conference, bring workshop instructors, other theaters, and a bit of fun to their members, all while saving money on travel. During each one of these events, members commented on how great it would be if a presenter could share their knowledge and passion directly with their home theater group. Members wanted more one-on-one training and in their own theaters to make the experience more attainable for those that could not travel to a conference. You asked for it, and CTAM is delivering it.

Simply tell us the area of theater that you wish to have a workshop in, and we will coordinate the arrangements to have an experienced presenter come to you. On the Road to You is designed to bring customized assistance to every affiliate group. CTAM covers the cost of milage for the presenter as well as a \$100 stipend for the workshop. The hosting theater is responsible for a \$100 stipend to the presenter and arranging suitable housing should the distance traveled justify and overnight stay. The personalized workshop allows for up to 4 hours of dedicated instruction and hosting theater groups are encouraged to welcome neighboring theaters to join them for the day, should they choose to do so.

Don't delay, and contact CTAM today to arrange your own **On the Road to You**. You and your entire theater group will be so glad you did.





Tawas Bay Players started their current season out with a bang, presenting *Disaster, the Musical* for everyone's enjoyment. This production, one of the first in Michigan, was written by Seth Rudetsky of Sirius fame!

OUT AND ABOUT Theatre in Michigan

CTAM Administrator Mary Jo Denolf had the wonderful opportunity to attend Holland Civic Theatre's production of *Babes In Toyland* on December

1. What a wonderful production which was filled with the Holiday spirit from the beginning of the show to the very end. The cast was made up of all ages and each one of them did an excellent job of bringing their characters to life. Congratulations to Cathy VanLopik and her production team for a job well done.



Where can we stay for AACTfest?

Have no fear, our friends at Owosso Community Players have gotten great discounts at the following locations so book your rooms now before they fill up! Contact either of the following two hotels and

let them know the reservations are being held under The Owosso Community Players to get the best rates!

The Comstock Inn and Conference Center

www.thecomstockinn.com

300 E. Main Street, Owosso, 48867 -- 989.725.0999

The Pines Country Inn

www.thepinescountryinn.com

1730 E. Main Street, Owosso, 48867 -- 989.723.9000; email: mackenzie.thepines@gmail.com



Thoughts from Mary Jo

By Mary Jo Denolf,
CTAM Administrator



We are all busy....with theatre, life, jobs, theatre.....because theatre just needs to be said twice. And there are more opportunities statewide that we would love for you to be involved in.

AACTFest23 will be held in Owosso MI, March 17-19, 2023. Why do I encourage you to participate? Yes, it's a competition of sorts. The group(s) chosen here will move onto a regional festival, but there is so much more as an educational component for everyone to participate in... I encourage you all to think about bringing a performance to the festival. Be adjudicated and listen to what they have to say about how you performed, how you directed, how your process worked. Listen and learn from creating a team of volunteers to travel a show and how your show was perceived by someone else outside of your own community. The first time I traveled with a group to a state festival I had many say it won't be worth the time or money. Afterwards, the group was ready to go to the next one! The process taught them so much they were ready to go to the next festival. Check out the CTAM website and come to AACTFest23.

Group Registration <https://ctam.ludus.com/200430704>

Individual Registration <https://ctam.ludus.com/20043101>

Adjudication Workshop: We are honored to have Larry Nielsen, a National AACTFest Adjudicator, present an adjudication workshop at the State AACTFest. Larry has been an adjudicator on the State, Regional and National level for many years and has agreed to present a workshop during the festival. This workshop will be a mini version of the AACT workshop which will be presented at the National Festival in June. *"AACT adjudication is threefold: to accurately reflect to the performing company what has been successfully achieved; to outline reasonable steps that might be taken to enhance interpretation of the story; and, finally, to select which company will receive awards"* As a director you will learn how to interpret your productions differently and as an audience member you will watch the productions with a different understanding. Registration for the workshop can be obtained by visiting our website, or by emailing: ctamthrives@gmail.com

New Programming: CTAM is making an announcement at the Annual Meeting on a new program that we hope will allow our member affiliates more access to workshops. Please watch your emails and share this information with your board members and take advantage of this opportunity.

Communicating: CTAM needs to hear your voice. The CTAM board will be once again meeting in person and planning out 2023. Things have changed for all of us, including this board. We need to know how we can serve you better. Do you want conferences? Do you want more online programming? Do you need more resources? How can this organization serve you and your members? Please watch your email for a short survey from the CTAM Board asking for your input.

Marketing position to be filled: CTAM Board of Directors would like to thank Marcus Chapman for their service to CTAM for the past several years as the social media and marketing guru. They have done a great job of getting CTAM in front of our membership and communicate effectively for upcoming events and theatre activities in the state. But it's time for them to move on - CTAM congratulates them on their new position as East Grand Rapids High School Drama Activities Director.

CTAM board is looking for someone who would like to take on this position.

Job Summary:

CTAM Marketing Administrator is responsible for all CTAM promotional materials and strategies. They require skills in basic graphic design, social media management, and advertising marketing.

- Attend CTAM Board meetings once a month
- Work closely with CTAM President and CTAM Administrator
- 10-15 hours per month (some months less)
- This is a Volunteer position, but CTAM offers a small stipend.
- Creative, energetic, friendly personality

Interested parties please contact CTAM Administrator at ctamthrives@gmail.com for full job description and more details.



What's going on in Michigan theatres?

Players deNoc, Escanaba	<i>Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	Dec 1-10, 2022
Players deNoc, Escanaba	<i>It's a Wonderful Neverland</i>	Dec1-10, 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
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Meet Me in St. Louis</i>	Dec 2-18, 2022
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>	Dec 2-4, 2022
Midland Center for the Arts	<i>A Christmas Story, the Musical</i>	Dec 2-11, 2022
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley</i>	Dec 2-18, 2022
Glen Arbor Players	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 8-10, 2022
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Matilda, Jr.*</i>	Dec 8-22, 2022
Bay City Players	<i>A Child's Christmas in Wales</i>	Dec 9-18, 2022
Central Park Players, Grand Haven	<i>Guys on Ice</i>	Dec 9-17, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>The Holiday Channel Christmas Marathon</i>	Dec 9-18, 2022
Northern Lites Readers Theatre	<i>It's A Wonderful Life: Radio Play</i>	Dec 10 & 11, 2022
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Who's Holiday</i>	Dec 10 & 17,2022
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Christmas Songs & Stories</i>	Dec 13, 2022
Pinckney Players	<i>Holiday Variety Show</i>	Dec 17 & 18, 2022
Bay City Players	<i>The Normal Heart</i>	Jan 6-8 2023
Clarkston Village Players	<i>With This Ring</i>	Jan 6-23, 2023
Flint Community Players	<i>The Spitfire Grill</i>	Jan 12-22, 2023
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee</i>	Jan 12-22, 2023
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Tony n' Tina's Wedding</i>	Jan 13 -14, 2023
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Jan 13-29, 2023
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Sister Act</i>	Jan 13-29 2023
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Harold & Maude, the Musical</i>	Jan 13-29, 2023
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Last Train to Nibroc</i>	Jan 19-28, 2023
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Once On This Island</i>	Jan 20 - Feb 5, 2023
Ridgedale Players, Troy	<i>Baby</i>	Jan 20-Feb 5, 2023
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Clue</i>	Jan 20 - Feb 5, 2023
Rosedale Community Players	<i>The Game's Afoot</i>	Jan 22-Feb 11, 2023
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Broadway Bound</i>	Jan 27-Feb 5, 2023
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Clybourne Park</i>	Jan 27-Feb 5, 2023
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Ramona Quimby</i>	Jan 27- Feb 5, 2023
Dexter Community Players	<i>Wizard of Oz Jr</i>	January 27-29, 2023
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Sweat</i>	Feb 2-18, 2023
Bay City Players	<i>By The Way, Meet Vera Stark</i>	Feb 3-12, 2023
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Feb 3-12, 2023

** 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 included in the next issue.

The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



What's your group doing for the holidays? Ta-was Bay Players has a single night of "Christmas Songs and Stories" and our WE Players performed *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

Playscripts' *The Spoon River Project* ©2021 adapted by Tom Andolora is a compelling play that would be a perfect endeavor for fall. It can be performed in your theatre or staged in a cemetery. The playwright provides lots of tips or contact Jamie Peterson at Players de Noc. A minimum of five women and six men are needed with up to ten of each. Again, Andolora shows you how to double or triple-cast. Other "notes to the director": no applause until the end, prioritize actors who can sing, no fourth wall, direct all dialogue to the audience aka the "Passersby", no intermission, use simple props and accessories to change actors to another character. And here's my favorite: all women wear hats!

The original Edgar Lee Masters' work is set in small-town Illinois circa 1890. Andolora condenses the original work from 200 plus poems to an 85–95-minute production. If not set in a cemetery, the play should have the feel of one. All actors make a slow entrance from different areas of the venue, carrying lanterns. Benches of the time period are scattered about.

The stories told by the characters reveal a small community's scandals, heartbreak, infidelity, alcoholism, and at least two murders—a veritable soap opera!

The music is integral to the story. Andolora has chosen eight songs written in the mid to late 1800s. I researched the songs and found them quite charming. "Softly and Tenderly", "In

the Gloaming", "When You and I Were Young", "Rally 'Round the Flag", "Just Before the Battle, Mother". Two dances are set to the music of "After the Ball" and "No More Hard Times Come Again" by Stephen Foster. The play ends with the full cast singing "Shall We Gather at the River" as they collect their lanterns.

Suitable for all ages, although the amount of poetry may be difficult for young children.

Blown Youth by Dipika Guha is a three-part play written in 2016 and published by Playscripts. It tracks seven women from a few years after college (Part 1), ten years after, and twelve years after. Playscripts only let me read two-thirds for free, FYI.



Four of the women create "an international feminist commune" outside Boston in an old house. The set is simple, and space is used flexibly as the scenes and actors change quickly with the aid of a projection screen announcing the actors. A "fast forward" sound effect is used to show the passage of time. The seven women are 25 to 32 years old at the beginning. Four are American, Shia is Lebanese-Arab, Margaret is French, and Jo is Tanzanian. Celia, an unemployed actress who is ambivalent about her chosen vocation, owns the house. Margaret, her girlfriend, runs the place. Ray, ambivalently gay and pregnant, is the practical one. Anne spends every cent she earns, finds, or is given. Shia, new to the house is in the fashion industry. Audre, an actor whom Celia meets at auditions, is enamored with the house and its tenants. Jo, Tanzanian, is a neighbor with a young child.

Through the first act, we learn about the relationships and are offered a window into the lives of women in their early adulthood. Part two ends with all the characters performing a scene from Hamlet. This show would be an ideal opportunity to cast some young women from your community. Few props, lights, sound, or costumes. 16 and up.

