



CALLBOARD

August 2024

Upcoming dates announced

PLAN NOW FOR THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING CTAM ACTIVITIES

Fall Conference - Join us **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**, at the Midland Central Auditorium. We are working hard at getting this lined up for workshops and leaders but we would like to have your input of what you would like CTAM to present. What workshops and activities would you like to attend. Please fill out this survey to share your thoughts.

Link: <https://forms.gle/wiuj7kdyEUzAnbB38>

Registration and information will be coming your way by the end of the month. This facility is perfect for our conferences; plenty of parking and easy to get to!

StateAACTFest 25 - **February 28 - March 2, 2025** and will be held in Bay City Mi at the Bay City Players. This bi-annual event is in conjunction with AACTFest25. AACTFest is a festival process that provides an optimum learning experience in artistic, technical, and management areas for people in attendance through the performances and adjudication process. The Outstanding

Production from Michigan will move forward to the Regional Festival. Information will be coming soon to sign up or attend.

National Adjudication Workshop - Led by National Adjudicator, Betsy Willis and will include instructional assistance by Kathy Pin-



gel, this workshop will be held at the State AACTFest25. Learn how to look at productions from an adjudicator's perspective. This workshop is beneficial to new directors, seasoned directors, actors and anyone interested in the adjudication process.

Please watch our website and social media posts for registration information coming soon!

Regional AACTFest25 - Michigan will be hosting the Regional AACTFest25 in Owosso Mi on **March 21 - 23, 2025**. What a great opportunity to enter the State Festival as Regional is in our state next year, so less cost of travel. However, what an opportunity to see other theatres from Region 3 (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio) come to perform here. More details to come. Individual tickets will be on sale to see the performances. Plus, Owosso does such a great job as Host; you are sure to have a great, fun Festival.



HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre
Association of Michigan**

23-24 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.*



Thoughts from Mary Jo

*By Mary Jo DeNolf,
CTAM Administrator*

We need your input - CTAM would like to continue with Virtual Education Opportunities, but attendance has been less than overwhelming! We're happy to do the legwork, but we want to present topics that you want to learn more about. Please send your requests of subject and ideas to ctamthrives@gmail.com

CTAM on the Road is a great opportunity to bring workshops to your theatre for your volunteers, staff, and patrons. Just let us know what you think would be most beneficial for you and your members and we'll line up the speakers and help in whatever way possible. Maybe join forces with a neighboring group and double the advantage!

Please let us know if you add productions to your calendar as we list these on our website, social media and the CTAM Callboard so others know what theatre is happening and support each other in our productions.

Also, please note that the dues billings for the upcoming season have been issued and are now due. If you haven't received the information for your affiliate group, please contact the CTAM office at ctamthrives@gmail.com

Help us make Michigan Theatres Thrive. Coming together at these events will help us all with education, programming and the continuation of great theatre across Michigan.

CTAM Calendar of Events

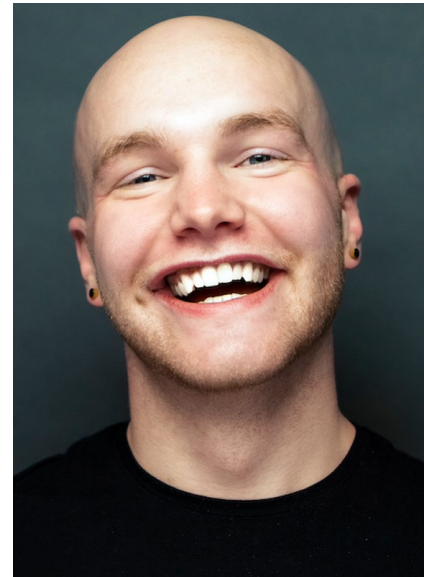
Saturday, Sept 21, 2024 Midland	2024 Fall Conference
Feb 27 - March 2, 2025 Bay City	AACTfest 2025, plus Adjudication National Workshop
March 21-23, 2025 Owosso	Regional AACTfest



AACT recognizes six Michigan volunteers

Continuing their aggressive campaign to recognize community theatre volunteers, American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) announced the 2024 awardees in early summer.

Cody Colvin (*pictured immediate right*) from Grand Rapids founded Colvin Theatrical in 2020, with the goal of helping performing arts companies weather the pandemic through the use of film and broadcast. His most defining and rewarding work came in 2021, when he and his company created a digital solution for AACT's pandemic-impacted National Festival. Rather than the traditional in-person event, Cody worked with AACT to film all of AACTFest's outstanding production winners in their own theatres. The result was a once-in-a-lifetime, 27-day journey from coast to coast, recording 11 U.S. productions for streaming release



on Broadway on Demand. Cody is proud that Virtual AACTFest 2021 helped prove the unshakeable resilience of theatre and its makers—and that new forms of media could help grow artists' reach. He has since produced a number of impactful film, television, and commercial projects, but says



his relationship with AACT has remained the highlight of his professional career.

Pictured above are five recipients from Grosse Pointe Theatre. Left to right, **Stan Harr, Dale Pegg, Dianne Pegg, Mary Lou Britton** and **Arlene Schoenherr**. All were individually recognized for their long and valued contributions to GPT. Dale and Dianne Pegg received Special Recognition for their many years of dedication. Harr and Schoenherr received the Robert E. Gard Superior Volunteer Award for their many years of involvement in GPT productions -- Harr with conducting and vocal leadership; Schoenherr for unlimited positions backstage, onstage and administrative. Britton received the David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award for long-term (more than a half-century) participation in GPT, CTAM, and nationally with AACT.

Details announced for Michigan AACTfest next Spring -- February 27 to March 2 -- in Bay City

The clock is ticking and the 2025 AACTfest cycle is getting closer and closer each day. The cycle starts with the state festival in Bay City next February 27 through March 2. The deadline to register to enter the competition is this December 20 -- just a few days before Christmas!

Individual Registration:

\$75 Early Bird Pricing until October 31, 2024. Price will then increase to \$85.

Form: <https://forms.gle/9YqymA1ULShkptxZ9>

Registration will close December 20 at 5:00PM.

Group Registration:

\$150 for up to 8 people.

Any competing group over 8 people must complete an Individual Registration form for the 9th person onward and pay the Individual Registration Fee for each.

Form: <https://forms.gle/X531KDPTq8JQ8qB9A>

Registration will close December 20 at 5:00PM

Meet the Adjudicators:

To glimpse the background of the three adjudicators, click on this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TnFXa-8JwHokrdW0t3ojUqvSNYaLVUGeTyguXOJ_y0/edit?usp=sharing

Hotel Booking:

AACTfest brings a lot of people to town, so be sure to make your room reservations early to assure you have a soft spot upon which to lay your collective heads! <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1721155189257&key=GRP&app=resvlink> **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JANUARY 29, 2025**

For specific questions about the venue, please contact Kady Booth at Bay City Players. kbooth@baycityplayers.org Phone: 989-893-5555. For questions about entering the Festival, please contact CTAM Administrator Mary Jo Denolf at ctamthrives@gmail.com.



A director's take on *Leaving Iowa*

By Ed Krebs, Tawas Bay Players

We just wrapped up a fun production of *Leaving Iowa*. Billed as “The Comedy About Family Vacations,” it was a perfect summer topic. I’m not sure who laughed more – the audiences every night, or the actors every rehearsal! Every show has a challenge or two for a director. If you are like me, that’s part of the fun of directing!

For most shows, the objective is to engage the audience into the story. For this show, my objective was to trigger fond memories of their own stories.

When we remember events from decades ago, and tell the story to others, it often is bigger than life. Embellishment is an understatement – it’s like the game “telephone” except we’re the ones telling it over and over, and it gets bigger and wilder each time.

- ✓ The story is told through the eyes of adult Don as he remembers family vacations as a child. Not only does the actor have to play both his adult and child self, he also steps out as a narrator. Getting one actor to seamlessly step in and out of these versions of himself is one challenge.
- ✓ Next is getting Mom and Sis to also play both adult and younger versions of themselves – with a twist. They had to develop their characters both as their adult persona, yet their younger role had to be as they were remembered through Don’s eyes instead of their own. Those moments need to be bigger than life – Sis more irritating, Mom calmer than any mom might normally be (until, of course, she gets really mad!).
- ✓ Dad gets to play both himself and his spirit, but not in a ghost-like way.
- ✓ And the other characters all have to be bigger than life, as remembered by Don.

Another challenge is there are no scenes per se – the characters move from one part of the stage to the next, changing back and forth from



young to old on the fly. The fast paced nature of such a show helps suspend reality for the audience – they simply don’t have time to scratch their heads about one thing or another. They are compelled to just follow along. And, since I am a technical director at heart, we get to throw in some projections to create a “billboard the size of battleships” to help tell the story. Lighting, sound, props and costumes are also important to help the audience move from one element to another – a simple hat that’s on or off, an apron for older mom, and even an urn to represent the journey with dad after he’s passed.

So what’s my take as a director? Fast paced flow through scenes with bigger than life acting and equally talented production designers make a show like this a real joy! And maybe, just maybe, you’ll get a taste of our production at AACT Fest 2025!



Above, we stumbled upon a Traveling Amish Flea Market. Pictured Left to Right: Reesie Whitford, Adam Davis, Mindy Davis, and Eric Toth.

Below: Seated front row, Andrew Young and Mindy Davis; Back row, Stacy Perrot and Eric Toth.



First Look at the new MI seasons

August 1 - 10, 2024	Holland Community Theatre	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
August 2 - 5, 2024	Tin Shop Theatre	<i>James & the Giant Peach</i>
August 2 - 18, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
August 7 - 16, 2024	Midland Center for the Arts	<i>Rock of Ages</i>
August 15 -17, 2024	Southgate Community Players	<i>Still Life With Iris</i>
August 8 - 24, 2024	Circle Theatre	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
August 16 - 18, 2024	Fenton Village Players and	<i>Bye Bye Birdie</i> *
August 16 - 25, 2024	Kidz Theatre Kompany	<i>Godspell</i>
August 22 - 25, 2024	Clio Cast & Crew	<i>The Lifespan of a Fact</i>
August 30 - Sept 22, 2024	The Sauk	<i>Young Frankenstein</i>
September 5 - 8, 2024	Twin City Players	<i>Nunsense</i>
September 5 - 21, 2024	Bay City Players	<i>Urinetown</i>
September 6 - 21, 2024	Circle Theatre	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>
September 6 - 21, 2024	Avon Players	<i>Moonlight & Magnolias</i>
September 6-22, 2024	Clarkston Village Players	<i>The Mad Ones</i>
September 6 -22, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>Memphis</i>
September 7 - 8, 2024	Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Beauty and the Beast Jr</i> *
September 12 -14, 2024	Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Private Lives</i>
September 12 - 28, 2024	Glen Arbor Players	<i>Pygmalion</i>
September 13, 2024	Master Arts Theatre	<i>Plays-in-Development: Nothing Gold</i>
September 13- 15, 2024	The Sauk	<i>One Act Festival</i>
September 13 - 22, 2024	Rosedale Community Players	<i>Ride the Cyclone</i>
September 13 - 22, 2024	Flint Community Players	<i>And Then There Were None</i>
September 13 - 20, 2024	Tin Shop Theatre	<i>Six - The Musical, Teen Edition</i>
September 13 - 20, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic	<i>The Philadelphia Story</i>
September 13 - 29, 2024	Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Crazy for You</i>
September 13 - 21, 2024	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>
September 13 - Oct 6, 2024	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Rent</i>
September 13 - Oct 6, 2024	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Plays-in-Development: Holidays & Sweet Life</i>
September 14, 2024	The Sauk	<i>Spellbinding Suspense</i>
September 14-15, 2024	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	<i>The Best Laid Plans</i>
September 20 - Oct 5, 2024	Farmington Players	<i>Waitress</i>
September 20 - Oct 12, 2024	Old Town Playhouse	<i>Bathroom Humor</i>
September 27 - Oct 6, 2024	Fenton Village Players	<i>The Wedding Singer</i>
September 27 - Oct 6, 2024	Pit & Balcony	<i>Moonlight & Magnolias</i>
September 27 - 29, 2024	Monroe Community Players	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>
October 4 - 12, 2024	Central Park Players	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
October 4 - 12, 2024	Players de Noc	<i>Curse of the Starving Class</i>
October 4-13, 2024	Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Let It Be: A Musical Celebration of the Beatles</i>
October 4 - 13, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>
October 4 - 19, 2024	Holland Community Theatre	<i>Legends of the Hollow</i>
October 4 - 20, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>Anastasia: The Musical</i>
October 10 - 20, 2024	The Sauk	<i>Sideways Stories</i>
October 11 - 13, 2024	Dickinson County Community Theatre	<i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>
October 11 - 19, 2024	Southgate Community Players	

* Indicates youth production.

✓ If your information is incorrect or missing and you are an affiliate group of CTAM, please send the correct information to CTAMthrives@gmail.com to be included in the next issue.

