



# CTAM CALLBOARD

April 2023

## Michigan Moves on to Region III AACTfest competition

Congratulations to our AACTFest23 Michigan Theatres! On Saturday, March 18 - CTAM traveled to Holland Community Theatre for the first of two presentations for our AACTFest23.

*A Soldiers Legacy*, written by local playwright Max Bush, started our day off with a great beginning. This production featured Olivia Randall, Brian Everitt, Sanra Griffin, Jason Reimink and Phil Quinn. This play is based on actual historical events in the United States. It was a wonderful production.

From Holland, we journeyed in white-out snowstorms to Jonesville to The Sauk Theatre. (See article on page 3.) The Sauk presented *Desert Storm*, written by Mark Cornell and featured Summer Housler and Darren Taylor. This play is about "discovery" of ourselves and compassion for each other.

Our adjudicators for the day were Larry Nielsen and Jamie Peterson. Once both shows were presented, they awarded the following certificates:

**Phil Quinn/Ezra - Holland Community Theatre**  
*Outstanding Achievement in Acting*

**Summer Housler and Darren Taylor -The Sauk**  
*Outstanding Achievement for Ensemble Work*

**The Sauk**  
*Outstanding Achievement with Special Effects*

And the CTAM group that will be moving forward to the Regional Festival in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, will be: The Sauk with *Desert Storm*. If you can, plan for a wonderful weekend of theater in Wisconsin and support our Michigan company from The Sauk in Jonesville. More information on Page 3!

Regional Festival: Beaver Dam WI - April 27 - 30



**HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE THRIVE IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!**



**Community Theatre  
Association of Michigan**

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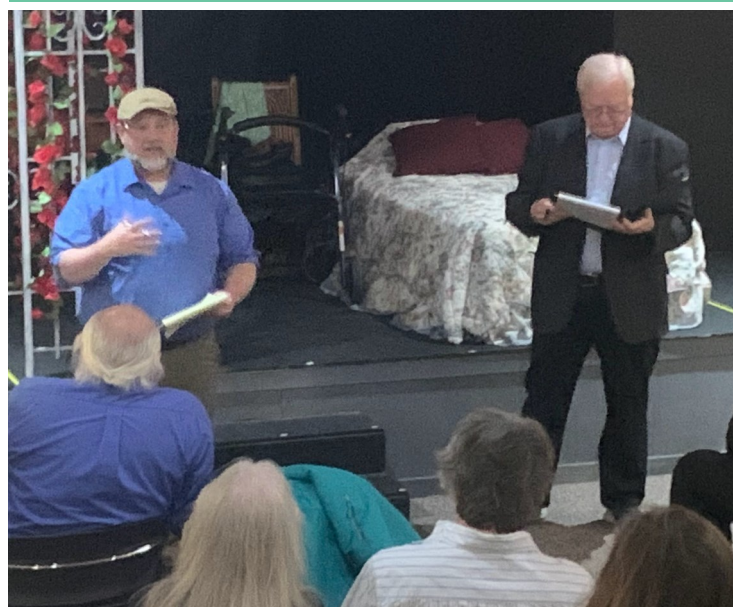
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**Callboard**

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).



*Our two Michigan adjudicators hard at work at our 2023 AACTfest: Jamie Peterson (left) from Escanaba and Larry Neilsen from Twin City Players in Benton Harbor-St Joseph.*

**CTAM Calendar of Events**

April 14-17, 2023 Hartford, WI	Region III AACTfest
June 12-17, 2023 Louisville, KY	National AACTfest





## The Sauk to take Michigan to AACTfest Regionals

Life isn't the same around The Sauk, Hillsdale County's community theatre, since they were selected to represent Michigan at the AACTfest Region III competition!

The Sauk will compete with *Desert Song* by Mark Cornell. The theatre has a history with both Playwright Cornell and the play. The Sauk produced the world premiere production of Cornell's play *On Pine Knoll Street* in February 2020 as part of the AACT NewPlayFest. *Desert Song* was part of The Sauk's 2021 Plays-in-Development program prior to a world premiere, fully-staged production in September 2022. Cornell adapted his play to fit the competition's 60-minute time limit.

*Desert Song* is about a young, struggling musician who seeks out the reclusive muse for one of the most famous love songs ever written, an early seventies tune called "The Ballad of Eliza." It's a song that he has

loved all his life. This muse, a woman who would now be in her sixties, has long retreated from public view. Can he find her? Set in the sparse lodgings at Ghost Ranch, a remote retreat in Northern New Mexico, the play explores the elusive and magical nature of inspiration.

The cast for *Desert Song* consists of Summer Housler as The Maid and Darren Taylor as The Musician. The production is directed by Trinity Bird with stage management by Mande Leigh Howard. The design team consists of Bruce Crews (set), Gianna Green (costumes), Bird (lighting), Joella Hendrickson (sound), Cyndi Baldermann (properties) and MJ Dulmage (makeup). The production crew includes Allison Tappen and Moriah Livingston.

The Sauk will travel to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin for the Regional III (Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois) competition April 28-30. The group will have a technical rehearsal in the evening of April 28 and perform at 1:30 p.m. (Central time) on Saturday, April 29. A public final dress rehearsal will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 at The Sauk, 240 E. Chicago St., Jonesville, Mich. Although the dress rehearsal will be free, donations will be accepted to help offset the cost of travel. Please note, this production contains strong language, stage blood and self-harm.

"We are so honored to represent the state and our vibrant theatre community at Regionals," Bird said. "We take the responsibility very seriously and hope we will present a show that will make our entire state proud." More information can be found at [www.thesauk.org](http://www.thesauk.org).

The Sauk also received two special awards for their production – Outstanding Ensemble Work and Outstanding Special Effects.





## Rosedale Community Players holding Director's Workshop

Rosedale is hosting a Director's Workshop with Eric Goldstein and everyone is invited! And the good news is that it's FREE!

**May 20th, 2023, at 10 am**

Have you ever wanted to be the director?

Or are you interested in new perspectives on how to put it all together to see your vision of a play come to life? Now is your chance to hear from a seasoned director and actor Eric Goldstein.

Topics covered will include:

- ✓ Guiding actors to exceed their own expectations
- ✓ Coping with unexpected and surprising challenges, and
- ✓ Juggling the interests of actors, crew, the show, and the institution

There is no charge to attend, but we welcome donations to benefit Rosedale Community Players.

Sign up for your spot here:

[https://  
www.signupgenius.com/.../9040f4caaab2aa1fd0...](https://www.signupgenius.com/.../9040f4caaab2aa1fd0...)

The workshop will be held in RCP's home: The community room of Peace Lutheran Church located at 17029 W 13 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48076,



## Thoughts from Mary Jo

By *Mary Jo Denolf*,  
CTAM Administrator



**April is National Volunteer Month this year; National Volunteer Week is April 17-21, 2023**

As I suggested last month, I hope you have taken a few months to plan an event or two to thank your volunteers for their help this year. In case you've been too busy, here are a few more easy ideas! In the couple weeks left:

- Find a local restaurant, bar or theatre hangout and ask them to do a "special" drink, or give a % off for anyone involved with your theatre. Each theatre person may, in turn, need a coupon to redeem at the location for National Volunteer Week. Coupon could read "Thank you for your volunteer time"
- Have a special meeting for the theatre group and make it a Thank You party.
- Bring in treats for everyone during work sessions or rehearsals -- with a note of thanks.
- Find a local florist who might "give away" a carnation during the Volunteer Special Week. Win for you, Win for florist who might get some additional sales.
- Have an after-the-show party -- or if you do not have a show in performance -- an after-dinner party. Everyone brings a dessert and shares fellowship. Have the board president do a special thank you to all volunteers.

Remember, we should always thank those who are working hard to make the great productions that we do all year long. But as spring unfolds, take a moment and truly appreciate each other and celebrate your accomplishments.

Questions? Contact [Mary Jo Denolf](#) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.



# Shows this spring in Michigan theatres!

Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	April 7 - 22, 2023
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Matilda</i>	April 7-23, 2023
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Nana's Naughty Knickers</i>	Apr 13-29, 2023 + Tulip Time
Midland Center for the Arts	<i>These Shining Lives</i>	April 14-23, 2023
Pinckney Players	<i>Cinderella</i>	April 14-23, 2023
Ridgedale Players, Troy	<i>Enchanted April</i>	Apr 14-30, 2023
Fenton Village Players	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	April 14 - 23, 2023
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Polkadots</i>	April 21-30, 2023
Players deNoc, Escanaba	<i>Circus Olympus</i>	April 21-29, 2023
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>	Apr 21-May 7, 2023
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Hamlet</i>	April 27-May 6, 2023
Bay City Players	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	April 28-May 7, 2023
Farmington Players	<i>A Gentleman's Guide to Love &amp; Murder</i>	Apr 28-May 20, 2023
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Something Rotten</i>	April 28-May 21, 2023
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Flung</i>	April 28-May 13, 2023
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Sex Please, We're Sixty</i>	May 5-20, 2023
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Something Rotten</i>	May 5-14, 2023
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	May 5-21, 2023
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Always a Bridesmaid</i>	May 5-14, 2023
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Into the Woods</i>	May 5-21, 2023
Flint Community Players	<i>The SpongeBob Musical</i>	May 11-21, 2023
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Little Women</i>	May 11-21, 2023
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	May 11-21, 2023
Central Park Players, Grand Haven	<i>Rumors</i>	May 12-20, 2023
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Sound of Music</i>	May 12-21, 2023
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Something Rotten</i>	May 12 - June 3, 2023
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>First Date</i>	May 12-21, 2023
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>All I Need to Know I Learned Kindergarten</i>	June 1-17, 2023
Midland Center for the Arts	<i>The Sparrow</i>	June 1-4, 2023
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>First Date</i>	June 2-25, 2023
Clarkston Village Players	<i>The Blonde, Brunette and the ... Red Head</i>	June 2-4, 2023
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Gathering Blue</i>	June 8-11, 2023
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Matilda</i>	June 16-24, 2023
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Sunday on the Rocks</i>	June 22-24, 2023
Flint Community Players	<i>God or Carnage</i>	June 23-25, 2023
Glen Arbor Players	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	June 23- 25, 2023
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Singin in the Rain</i>	June 2 -25, 2023
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Pinocchio</i>	June 30-July 9, 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



This is my 59<sup>th</sup> Scoop. I started in November 2017 when Suzan Nemeth suggested this as a substitute for reading plays for just Tawas Bay Players. It has been a joy. My purpose is to find those hidden gems and a variety of genres. Many plays I found ab at CTAM conferences and AACTfest. I have enjoyed scooping the CTAM playwrighting contest winners. My goal has been to discover plays that are off the radar; I read them so you don't have to.

*Clue*, not the musical, was written by Sandy Rustin and based on a screenplay by Jonathan Lynch. Published by Playscripts in 2019,

this board game turned self-aware farce is great fun.

Scenes are many; it is Boddy Mansion, after all. (OMG! The Boddy/body puns are insane.) The Grand Hallway of a Gothic Victorian house on a dark and stormy night is the framework. This gloomy, almost menacing, hallway is lined with doors leading to the Study, the Lounge, the Library, the Kitchen and so on; in the author's words "various rooms...easily pulled out in surprising ways".

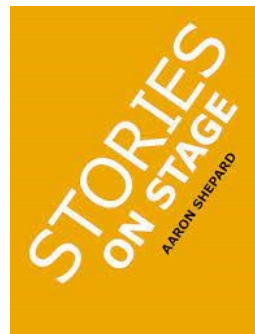
Costumes are important (Miss Scarlett! Mrs. White! Professor Plum!) and lots of props (the candlestick! the rope!). Other challenges/opportunities are special effects such as paintings that become animated, a trap door, etc. Sound effects for "a dark and stormy night" and a 1954 radio broadcast about the Red Scare/McCarthyism, set the 1950's tone.

Minimum cast is five females, five males, with 10-20 actors possible. Casting: ages are unimportant, but energy is super important, especially for Wadsworth, the butler. He owns this show.

Each actor is given the name of one of the

game's characters. They have a "real" name and a big secret. Mr. Boddy is blackmailing each one.

Years ago I tried to read this play but the stage directions just about killed me. In January I saw a wonderful production at the Osceola Center for the Arts (OCA) in Kissimmee, Florida. This is a semi-professional theatre but with a talented cast and a director who enjoys fast pacing, this would be a hit. Note: OCA attained the audience numbers they had before the pandemic, as well as attracting a younger demographic. Seems the millennials have fond memories of this board game and the 1985 movie. Yes, an ambitious undertaking, but a real audience pleaser for ages 12 and up.



The book, *Stories on Stage: Twenty-two Readers' Theatre Scripts Adapted from Children's Literature for Elementary and Junior High School Students* by

Aaron Shepard ©1993 is filled with short, amusing scripts for classrooms and youth theatre.

On the flyleaf, it says "The scripts are reproducible for easy

use." And yes, they are 8" by 11". In the foreword, Shepard says his primary goal is to promote reading. The plays are written for kids to perform, but obviously, older children and adults could have fun. The table of contents states each play's genre, culture, theme, grade level for performing, number of roles, and length. Variety in cultures, genres, and themes make this a treasure trove. I appreciate Shepard's note in the foreword: "Although special effort has been made to include scripts with strong females, *Stories on Stage* still reflects the dominance of male characters in literature for both children and adults. I recommend that you compensate for this by casting females in male roles." Pretty advanced thinking for 1993, I'd say.

The chosen stories display a wide range of classic children's books like *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag, *Three Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar, *The Twits' Revenge* by Roald Dahl, and *McBroom's Fourth of July* by Sid Fleischman, along with ancient tales from many cultures. Several new pieces are also included.

