



# CTM CALLBOARD

JULY 2023

## 2023 Fall Conference

*In-person this year after several years virtual, please plan to attend the weekend of August 26-27 at a location yet to be announced! Stay tuned for all the exciting details!*



*Left, presenter Kelli McLoud-Schingen, with co-organizers Emmajeane Evans with Grosse Pointe Theatre and, right, Alan Semonian, President of Stagecrafters.*

### **Detroit Collaborative hosts national speaker on Fostering an Inclusive Theatre**

Under the leadership of Stagecrafters (Royal Oak) and Grosse Pointe Theatre, the Community Theatre Collaborative of Metro Detroit hosted speaker **Kelli McLoud-Schingen** on Tuesday, June 20, at Stagecrafters. After a light supper, 80 or so guests gathered to participate in an enlightening workshop, encouraging member community theatres to get their act together (pardon the pun!) and make some meaningful changes to their programming to be more inclusive, more welcoming, and less judgmental.

Presenter **Kelli McLoud-Schingen** is Artistic Director of World Stage Theatre Company, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of Tulsa and President of KMS Intercultural Consulting. She is a global diversity and inclusion specialist, as well as a theatrical actor and director. She specializes in storytelling, cultural competence, and healing racism.

Participating members of the Collaborative are Farmington Players, Birmingham Village Players, Ridgedale Players, Players Guild of Dearborn, Bloomfield Players, St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild in Cranbrook (Bloomfield Hills), Grosse Pointe Theatre, and Stagecrafters,

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



**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).

**Michiganders receive national AACT awards**

Grosse Pointe Theatre (GPT) is extremely proud to have been included among the winners of the national awards presented at AACT in Louisville in mid-June. For a complete list of winners, go to <https://aact.org/national-awards>

GPT, itself, received the designation of a Diamond Crown Organization, recognizing more than 75 years in business, AACT membership of more than 10 years, and a plan to carry the eminence forward into the future.

Three GPT members were also recognized for their volunteer involvement for many years:

- **Kathy Conlon** and **Sal DeMercurio** (married in real life after meeting at a rehearsal many years ago) received Special Recognition for their special efforts on many fronts. Both teachers, they helped start GPT's Youth on Stage program; designed, painted, directed, and starred in many main stage productions; and served their share of terms on the Board of Directors.
- **Dennis Wickline** received the Robert Gard Superior Volunteer award. He has been with GPT since 1974, including serving two terms as President of the Board of Directors, and chair of several committees. He has directed 13 main stage productions, and has designed sets, lighting, and sound. He also has been a memorable actor in both dramas and musicals through the years.



Wickline



Conlon



DeMercurio





## The Sauk high contender at Region III AACTfest

Michigan was well represented at the Region III AACTFest competition held in Beaver Dam WI on April 28 - 30, 2023. This festival welcomed participants from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Congratulations to Kokomo Civic Theatre from Indiana and the Kettle Moraine Players from Wisconsin for advancing to AACTfest nationals in June.

CTAM Member Affiliate, The Sauk, traveled over six hours to represent Michigan in this festival. They presented *Desert Storm*, written by Mark Cornell and featured Summer Housler and Darren Taylor. They gave it their all with a fabulous performance and had great comments from the adjudicators. However, they were not chosen to move forward to the National AACTFest23 in Louisville KY June 12-17. Congratulations to The Sauk for achieving this honor and again to Holland Civic for their production at the State Festival.

Region III winners were Kettle Moraine Players from Slinger WI, presenting two selections from *Three Viewings*, including *The Thief of Tears* and *Thirteen Things About Ed Carpolotti*, written by Jeffrey Hatcher. Also representing Region III was Kokomo Civic Theatre from Kokomo IN. They presented *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson.

It's time to start planning for the next cycle --AACTFest25. Michigan will be host of both the State and Region 3 festivals. Now is a great time to think about participating in this great educational event. Dates will be determined, but we are looking at a possible Fall 2024 festival date so that we don't have to travel twice in winter weather.

If you have suggestions or would like to enter a bid to host the 2025 State or Regional Festival at your theatre, please let the CTAM board know at [ctamthrives@gmail.com](mailto:ctamthrives@gmail.com).

# Shows this summer in Michigan theatres!

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
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Little Red Robin Hood*</i>	July 6-15, 2023
Fenton Village Players	<i>Rent</i>	July 14 - July 30, 2023
Dexter Community Players	<i>Wonka</i>	July 20-23, 2023
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Run for Your Wife</i>	July 21-30, 2023
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Secret of Redwall Abbey *</i>	July 27-29, 2023
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Joseph/Dreamcoat</i>	July 27-Aug 6, 2023
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Cabaret By the Lake</i>	July 28-30, 2023
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Honk, The Musical*</i>	Aug 3-12, 2023
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Rounding Third</i>	Aug 24-27, 2023



## *In My Opinion:* *An Editorial*

By Mary Lou Britton, Editor

### What do you do with your old show shirts?

I've been troubled for years about what to do with my old show shirts! I've been a very active member of 'my' group for more than a half century – and that's a lot of shows. Back in the beginning, I felt I had to buy a shirt for each production to show my support for the efforts of all my friends. So I did.

T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, badges (for a while), carry-alls and all other sorts of paraphernalia. Finally, one day I realized I had one whole dresser in the basement where I stored all this merchandise – and only pawed through it when trying to find something *different* to wear. What a waste of space and, of course, clothing.



One of the show shirts I was never able to add to my collection was our shirt for our entry in a mid-80s AACTfest. Our entry that year was *Agnes of God* and the shirt was a lovely brown with a tasteful white logo. After rehearsal on the evening of the day they arrived, the whole box of them was swiped from the Producer's car outside the bar where we were celebrating ourselves. I wonder what ever happened to those shirts. To this day, I still look at third-world documentaries on TV to see if any of those shirts are on the gangs of children jumping around for the camera!

But I digress! What **do** you do with your old shirts? Make them into rags to wash your car? Turn them into sleep shirts? Donate as used clothing for resale? (I am always reluctant to do this because I'd hate to see it walking down the street on the body of a stranger who hadn't earned the privilege of wearing it.) I made a quilt out of about 12 of them. But what else? Surely I'm not the only one with the problem.

Let me know your ideas because I need help! I've gotta clean that dresser out before the kids have to do it for me!

# The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle ©2019 by David MacGregor published by Telegraph Media Group, UK. This fun show had its World Premiere at our own Purple Rose Theatre in 2019!

This play is full of sophisticated, witty characters, erudite banter, swordplay, boxing, waltzing, and laugh out loud funny at times.

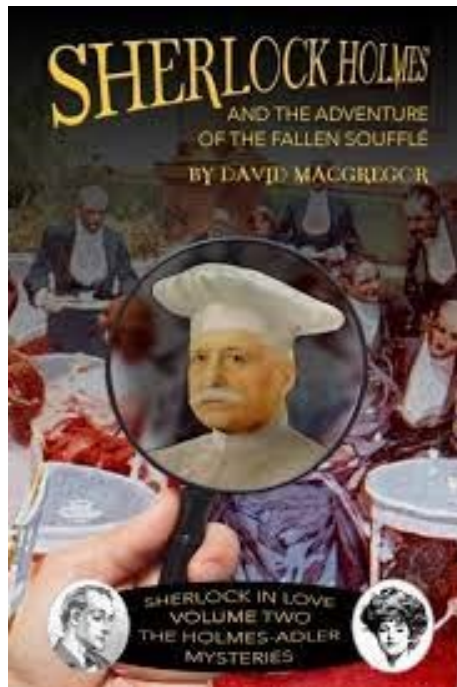
This is a set designer/decorator's dream. The rooms of Sherlock Holmes: you've seen many iterations, I'm sure. MacGregor encourages the utmost excellence with an extensive description. Basic: a large living room area, with a small breakfast table and two chairs, two doors to separate bedrooms, and one the stairs. One large picture window. A must: a large portrait of Queen Victoria. For fun: the self portrait of Van Gogh with his ear bandaged.

Some exceptional props: Food related: many trays of food covered with the dome shape metal cover you see in hotel hallways, a hill of scrambled eggs with a candle in the center, a fallen soufflé (note title) with a bomb inside made out of sugar and a kipper. Weapons: boxing gloves, dueling pistols, a sword, meat cleaver, blowpipe, and several guns, including a derringer with a thigh holster, handcuffs, and the plum-sized Koh-I-Noor diamond.

Sound: A Victrola plays "The Merry Widow's Waltz," a chiming bomb, and a champagne bottle pop. (Can you trust the bottle to do this every night?)

Cast and costumes:

- ✓ Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson are both 30s-40s, dressed in typical upper-class gentleman's togs. Dr. Watson needs his medical bag and Sherlock his deerstalker hat, of course.
- ✓ Irene Adler, 30s-50s, Sherlock's lover, an adventuress but dressed as a lady.
- ✓ Marie Chartiere, 20-30s, Dr. Moriarity's daughter, also an adventuress with a fresh dueling scar, is pretending to be the Irish Duchess of Killarney. She is dressed as a vision of style and loveliness.



- ✓ Chef Auguste Escoffier, 50s, chef's uniform complete with a toque.
- ✓ Prince of Wales, heir to Queen Victoria's throne, Albert Edward, "Bertie," is 55, a stout man dressed as a British Field Marshall.

Accents: Sherlock, Watson, Bertie—British; Irene—American; Marie Chartiere—French, at times, assuming Irish; Escoffier--French.

The plot is simple: Marie Chartiere is attempting to blackmail Bertie in order to get the Koh-I-Noor diamond signed over to her. To reach this end, Marie re-

cruits Dr. Watson's help by promising him her "story", if he goes along with her acting as the Irish Duchess. Marie also has threatened Escoffier in order to get him to create a bomb in a fallen soufflé. A lot of gun play, threats, sherry, bedroom exits keep the plot moving along. I said it was simple, not easy!

Highlights: the discussions of Queen Victoria's idiosyncrasies, Bertie's failings, and anarchy vs. monarchy. Playing Bertie will be the role of a lifetime for the right actor. He is proud, sexist, whiny but "extremely punctual"; he is unapologetic about his love of wine, women and song and knows his mother has no use for him.