



CTM CALLBOARD

March 2023

Michigan AACTfest on Saturday, March 18

As announced previously, the Michigan AACTfest which was scheduled for the weekend of March 17-19 has evolved into a one-day event on Saturday, March 18. There are only two entries this year, so the adjudicators are traveling to the home stages for the performances. Visitors are welcome to observe the performances, as well as the adjudication following the performances.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

9:45am - arrival at Holland Civic Theatre

10:00 - 11:00pm - Performance

11:15-11:45 - Adjudication and questions

12:00 - 3:30pm - Travel time to Jonesville, and lunch.

4pm - 5pm - Performance at The Sauk

5:15-5:45pm - Adjudication and questions

Each theatre will be opening their doors for outside patrons to come watch. Here are both websites where you can order and pay for tickets.

Holland Civic Theatre

<https://www.thehollandcommunitytheatre.org/>

The Sauk

<https://www.thesauk.org/>



*Top, Holland Civic Theatre, and, below,
The Sauk Theatre, Jonesville.*



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. Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Administrator and should be sent to CTAMthrives@gmail.com.



**This March issue of CTAM Callboard
is presented by**



A Michigan-based ticketing service.



CTAM Calendar of Events

March 18, 2023 Jonesville and Holland	Michigan AACTfest
April 14-17, 2023 Hartford, WI	Region III AACTfest
June 12-17, 2023 Louisville, KY	National AACTfest



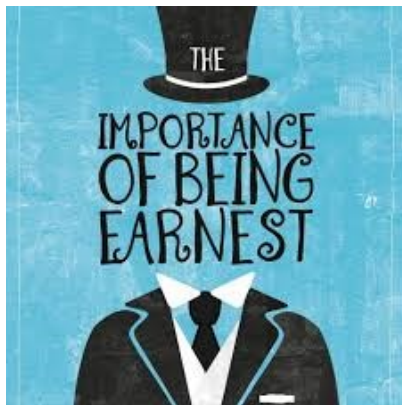
Twin Cities looking for an adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Twin City Players (Benton Harbor/St. Joseph) has produced *The Importance of Being Earnest* three times. For its fourth production, TCP is looking to produce an original adaptation of the classic. Playwrights are asked to submit their adaptation by the end of March 2024. Persons may submit their script any time before the deadline. TCP's Play Reading Committee will review and hopefully select one for production in its 2025-2026 season. TCP's season runs September through the following June. People seeking more information about TCP's search for an adaptation may contact Larry Nielsen by email at larrynielsen6619@gmail.com. Submissions may be mailed to Twin City Players, PO Box 243, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

"We are open to any and all adaptations that playwrights can imagine" said TCP's Play Reading Committee Chair and Treasurer Larry Nielsen. "We know there is great playwriting talent across Michigan and the USA." Nielsen said some may already have an adaptation completed while others may use the time to complete their script. Nielsen indicated the group is open to paying royalties. Nielsen concluded, "We look forward to receiving excellent scripts."

Twin City Players is one of Michigan's oldest theatres. TCP was founded in 1932 and has continually presented seasons of quality theatres.

While many theatres ceased productions during WWII, TCP continued to present plays. TCP serves the twin cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Michigan. TCP has participated in AACT Fests and hosted the 1998 AACT International Theatre Festival. More information about Twin City Players can be found on its website, www.twincityplayers.org or on its Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages.



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

Take a few minutes out of your schedule to think about what volunteering means to you, personally. Why do we volunteer for our theatres? Then, thank someone who volunteers with you.

How do you celebrate your volunteers? Here are some simple ideas! We'll bet you'll be able to think of many others that will resonate with your volunteers and make them feel special!

- Have a **Potluck** during Volunteer Week and thank everyone for being part of your theatre family.
 - ✓ Then take a picture of the potluck and post on Facebook and other social media. This would be a good way to post a volunteer shout out to those who attended - and - at the same time promote that you need more volunteers. Make sure to include how to become a volunteer within your organization, and then follow up with each person who responds.
 - Bake some cookies for rehearsals!
 - ✓ Remember an army travels on its belly, so food will always be a good thing and always remembered!

It doesn't have to be a large event or cost a lot of money. But do something to tell your volunteers how much they mean to your organization!



Grosse Pointe Theatre includes two Sensory Friendly Performances this season

Grosse Pointe Theatre received a generous grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation that allowed them to create a Sensory Friendly Performance Program this season. Sensory-friendly performances are designed to create a welcoming and comfortable arts experience for people with autism, sensory sensitivities, or other social, learning, or cognitive disabilities. Special features include the following:

- ☆ Reduced ticket price (\$15 for adults and \$10 for students),
- ☆ Social narrative with pictures in advance,
- ☆ House lights remain on,
- ☆ Reduced special effects, sound levels and lighting,
- ☆ Ability for attendees to move around auditorium as needed.
- ☆ Quiet space in the lobby,
- ☆ Personal headphones, cushions and fidgets welcome,
- ☆ Complimentary allergy-free snacks, and
- ☆ A visual schedule and simplified synopsis available at performance.
- ☆ Also, it is a perfect opportunity for young first-time theatre goers to experience a live performance.

GPT Executive Director Linda Zublick conceived this unique program, sought out the experts, fought to make it happen, and chased down funding and grants. She explained that “this first-ever Sensory Performance was a mainstage show (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*) and the upcoming one is a Youth on Stage production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, on Saturday afternoon, April 22. We worked with two consultants, Caitlin Collins and Scott Davis, who are both trained in working with special needs/autistic individuals. Following their suggestions, we implemented changes to the atmosphere of the performance without changing any of the content of the show. We also added important touches such as a Social Narrative that was emailed in advance to patrons and visual schedules, plus a simplified synopsis with pictures available at the performance. We considered every detail from appropriate silent clapping/hand waving down to the gluten

-free/dye-free/allergy friendly concession options.

“This first sensory performance was incredibly gratifying. The audience members were excited to have the opportunity to attend a live theatrical show, and their families were thrilled to find a welcoming environment for their special-needs loved ones. Many left in



Left, Linda Zublick, Executive Director of Grosse Pointe Theatre, and Danielle Caralis, President.

tears because they were so elated to be part of this special event and they didn't want it to end.”

“Our sensory performance for *Joseph/Dreamcoat* was really a moving experience for the cast. It was our pleasure to bring the magic of theatre to our patrons in a welcoming and comfortable way,” explained GPT President Danielle Caralis, who also played the Narrator for *Joseph*.

The audience was also very appreciative of this special experience. One patron -- mother of an adult daughter with special needs -- even wrote a Letter to the Editor in the [Grosse Pointe News](#), expressing her delight with the arrangements. “I would love to thank the very gracious cast members, musicians and support volunteers. Everyone was warm and welcoming to all. The grant money was very well spent in preparation for the patrons to be able to enjoy and understand their magic outing, including a preparatory packet, mailed to the home, and Velcro activity cards handed out at the theater, to name a couple of efforts. Thank you all very much.”

Executive Director Linda Zublick would be happy to share with anyone interested more information about what Grosse Pointe Theatre learned this year in mounting their program on sensory-friendly productions. Contact her at executivedirector@gpt.org.

Spring in Michigan theatres!

Players deNoc, Escanaba	<i>The Marvelous Wonderettes: Dream On</i>	Feb 23 - March 4, 2023
Fenton Village Players	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>	Feb 24 - March 5, 2023
Flint Community Players	<i>Who Dunit?</i>	March 2-12, 2023
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Puffs</i>	March 2-12, 2022
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Clue On Stage</i>	March 2-12, 2023
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Crucible</i>	March 2 -18, 2023
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Jungle Book - Youth</i>	March 2-5, 2023
Central Park Players, Grand Haven	<i>Four Places</i>	March 3-11, 2023
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>The Outsider</i>	March 3-19, 2023
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind</i>	March 10-18, 2023
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	March 10-25, 2023
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Becky's New Car</i>	March 10-27 2023
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	March 10-26, 2023
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Rainbow Fish Musical</i>	March 13-12, 2023
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i>	March 17-19, 2023
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i>	March 16-26, 2023
Bay City Players	<i>Enchanted April</i>	March 17-26, 2023
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Ten for All</i>	March 17-19, 2023
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Witness for the Prosecution</i>	March 24-April 1, 2023
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>Sweat</i>	March 17-26, 2023
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>	April 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>	April 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>	April 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 & Murder</i>	April 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

* 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



Happy March! This month I have the CTAM Playwriting Contest winners for you. Winning plays can be produced royalty free for the next two years (before March of 2025.)

Winning first place is **Maureen Paraventi's *Cora Lynn Beauty Can Change Your Life***. It's the story of two very different women thrown together in unusual circumstances and if their lives aren't changed, their minds *are* opened.

Two Cora Lynn Beauty (a direct sales company) Ambassadors are attending a conference and are assigned to be roommates. Harlene is 30, white, dressed extremely femininely, with a Southern accent. Stacy, 30s, is Black, Midwest accent, with an urban look. The set is a basic hotel room. Lights show day and night.

Harlene is here to change her life by making a lot of money as salesperson. Stacey is a journalist here to expose the fraudulent Cora Lynn Beauty (CLB) machine. They share their lives and become friends until Harlene finds out that Stacey is gay. After a Bible Verse Battle (delightful!) defending their points of view, Harlene leaves. Stacey finds the \$10,000 that Harlene intends to "invest" in CLB. When Harlene returns to get the money, Stacey talks her out of pursuing her CLB dream. Stacy loses her job.

Ending: Harlene gives Stacey a make-up makeover, which is one of many charming moments. Need I say More? 16+. If you want to read this, email moparaventi@yahoo.com.

Passing Over by **Art Nemitz** is the runner up. This is a story of a lonely old man who has nothing to live for but finds love in the most unusual way.

Set in a decrepit, neglected inner city apartment, the outside door has several locks, and another door goes to the (assumed) bedroom/bathroom. A partial wall separates the living room from

an unseen kitchen. Everything is shabby: sofa, chair, table, TV, bookcase. Important: a small table with two chairs, a half empty whiskey bottle, empty glasses, dirty dishes and a full ashtray. The inhabitant of this dump is the unkempt Travis, 70s, dressed in dirty pajama bottoms, tank top, and dingy socks.

Lights up and Johnny, a well-groomed twenty something, sits on the couch dressed in a military hospital gown, circa 1968, staring happily at the bedroom door. He is happy because he was called there to accompany Travis to the Other Side. Travis and Johnny were best friends from seventh grade through high school. Johnny died in Vietnam.

Johnny explains that at the last second, the dying person signals to the person they loved the most in their life.

As the two friends reminisce, Travis shares his sad history: he couldn't enlist, fell into being a mechanic, settled for a nice woman, the niece of the mechanic who gave Travis his shop. He has two children: Brenda, who has four children, brings groceries and takes her dad to the doctor. Raymond, his son, was very successful at sports and school but Raymond and Travis never got along. Travis watched Raymond's accomplishments from afar. Raymond is now a wealthy Hollywood lawyer.

Act II: Brenda and Raymond arrive. Raymond is running for California's Attorney General, insisting that Travis will be cleaned up and shipped off to assisted living. Raymond has brought Father Santiago (70s plus) to help...it doesn't. The priest does join Travis in a couple of shots.

Travis is infuriated and suffers a fatal heart attack. The play ends with Johnny and Travis hugging and singing "All You Need Is Love." Earlier in the play, Travis and Johnny also sing: "I'm a Believer" and "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay"—charming.

Easily staged with no challenges to speak of. Quite a bit of salty language so, 16+. If you'd like to read Art's play, email him at anemitzjr@gmail.com.