

We are  
Thankful for  
YOU!



CTM

CALLBOARD

November 2023

## Meet your new Board of Directors

**Gary Walker** has served as board president of the American Association for Community Theatre, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids, as well as in other positions including treasurer and secretary. He has also performed and/or crewed in a number of community theatre productions. Gary has retired from his career in technical management positions, most recently with Lacks Enterprises in Grand Rapids. Gary holds a BS in Chemistry from the University of Louisville and an MBA from GVSU. Gary lives in Grand Rapids.

**Heather Grimes** just finishing serving on the Players De Noc (Escanaba) board as President. Heather has been in over 50 productions starting at the age of 11. She first appeared on the Players stage in 2000 as an ensemble member in the production of *Guys and Dolls*. She works in many capacities within the theater group. Besides acting, singing and dancing, she also works in hair/makeup, sound design/board, and light board operation. She has lead



teams as backstage manager, and production stage manager. She directed her first show in 2007.

Heather spends her free time enjoying the outdoors fishing and playing disc golf with her husband and dog. She also loves singing in a band with her father.



**Amy Jo Brown** has been involved in the Michigan theatre scene for more than 30 years. She worked as the technical director for the Charlotte Performing Arts Center from 2007 until 2021 when she made the move to the Owosso Community Players at Lebowsky Center. Amy Jo has performed, directed, designed lights and sound, operated boards, served as crew, stage manager, costuming, just about every role in front of and behind the curtain!

She is familiar with writing grants and their implementation, recently having been awarded two grants to fully fund the summer youth camps at Lebowsky Center which she ran this past summer. Amy Jo holds bachelor's degree in journalism and masters in public relations. She is a writer, photographer and previously was managing editor for a newsroom that published five weekly newspapers and online homes for those publications.



Top, Gary Walker, Heather Grimes, center, and Amy Jo Brown and friend, bottom.

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre  
Association of Michigan**

**23-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Heather Grimes**.....  
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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).*

**Ten Minute plays become very popular in Michigan**

A new phenomenon is sweeping across the nation's community theatres and Michigan is leading the pack! Ten Minute plays have been around for 10 or 15 years but are becoming more popular lately because they expand opportunities for participation for many individuals. More playwrights, more actors, more directors, etc. They also make great entry points for people to step into our group activities to see if they can memorize lines, remember blocking, or if they even like the whole experience -- all without jeopardizing our major productions.

**It's amazing what you can do in 10 minutes!**

It all starts with the playwright! Writing ten minute plays takes a particular skill. A typical ten minute play happens within about ten type-written pages. In a play that length, you don't have a lot of time to dwell on exposition, idle chatter, and extra characters. Starting next month, this Callboard publication will list upcoming play submission deadlines, as well as 10-minute play festivals. Please send your information by November 15 to the Editor, [maryloubritton@gmail.com](mailto:maryloubritton@gmail.com).

**Play Festivals in Michigan**

- ✓ Ludington Area Center for the Arts.
  - \* Submission deadline: Feb.4, 2024
  - \* Festival date: May 17-19, 2024
  - \* [www.ludingtonartscenter.org/10-minute-play-festival](http://www.ludingtonartscenter.org/10-minute-play-festival)
- ✓ Grosse Pointe Theatre
  - \* Submission deadline: Dec. 31, 2023
  - \* Festival date: June 13-15, 2024
  - \* [Take Ten | Grosse Pointe Theatre \(gpt.org\)](http://Take Ten | Grosse Pointe Theatre (gpt.org)).







Michael Wilson

## Making a rack of ribs for *Beauty and the Beast*

As Grand Rapids Civic prepared for their *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* in October, Michael Wilson, our intrepid CTAM President, undertook the role of Property Master for this iconic show. Below are a series of photos, documenting his process in making the ribs ready for the banquet scene! We should all have someone in our group who has the creativity and patience to create these most complicated props for us. Congratulations to you and your Props Team, Michael; job well done! Props Team includes Zoe Meyering, Gabriella Holmberg, Andrew J. Harwood and Roberta Rossi.



1

1. The first step is to carve the meaty section out of foam. You can see it roughly sketched on the end.

2. Next, an electric carving knife is used to trim the foam into an approximate shape and divots are cut in the foam to hold the bones in place. (They used real beef bones here from a very large cow!)



2

3. The bones are then glued to the fake roast with construction mastic.

4. The fake roast is then coated in a generous covering of wood glue and left to dry well overnight (or more!)

5. Then the bone side of the roast was covered with another layer of wood glue and, this time, crumbled paper towel and some sawdust to give it some believable texture.



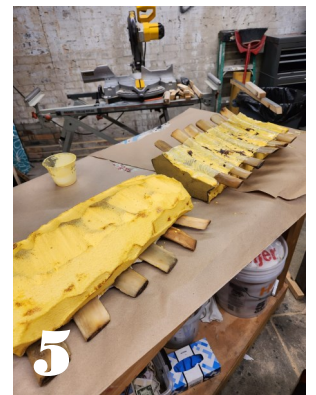
3

6. A final coat of paint or two is added with a great deal of care.

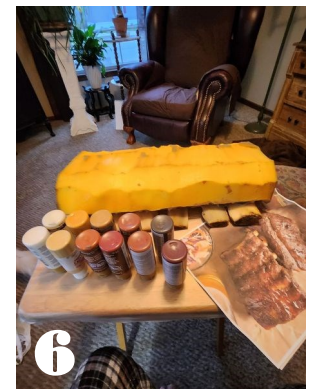
7. Some additional texture is added, every thing is glazed, and the rack of ribs looks good enough to eat!



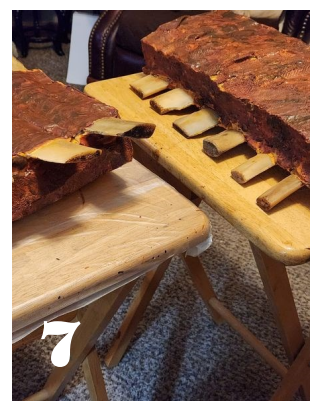
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5



6



7

# Holiday productions in Michigan

Oct 27 - Nov 12, 2023	VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM	<i>Jersey Boys</i>
Oct 27 - Nov 5, 2023	OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE	<i>Marian, the True Tale of Robin Hood</i>
Oct 27 - Nov 5, 2023	KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE	<i>Whose Life is it Anyway?</i>
Nov 3 - 19, 2023	STAGECRAFTERS	<i>The Great American Trailer Park Musical</i>
Nov 3-18, 2023	CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS	<i>Farndale Ave....Christmas Carol</i>
Nov 10-19, 2023	PIT AND BALCONY	<i>Cinderella</i>
Nov 10-19, 2023	GROSSE POINTE THEATRE	<i>Anything Goes</i>
Nov 10-26, 2023	PLAYERS GUILD OF DEARBORN	<i>Christmas Carol</i>
Nov 10-12, 2023	MONROE COMMUNITY PLAYERS	<i>The Anti-Heroes (Local Playwright)</i>
Nov 10-12, 2023	BAY CITY PLAYERS	<i>Love, Loss, &amp; What I Wore</i>
Nov 10 - 19, 2023	KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE	<i>Barbeque</i>
Nov 10-19, 2023	KIDZ THEATRE KOMPANY	<i>Seussical, Jr.</i>
Nov 11-12, 2023	NORTHERN LIGHTS READERS THEATRE	<i>Bird of Passage</i>
Nov 24 - Dec 9, 2023	HOLLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE	<i>The Rented Christmas</i>
Nov 16-18, 2023	GLEN ARBOR PLAYERS	<i>The Weir</i>
Nov 24 - Dec 9, 2023	OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE	<i>Christmas Schooner</i>
Nov 24 - Dec 17, 2023	KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE	<i>Sound of Music</i>
Nov 30 - Dec 16, 2023	MASTER ARTS	<i>Seeking the Child</i>
Dec 1 - 10, 2023	CLIO CAST AND CREW	<i>12 days of Christmas</i>
Dec 1-10, 2023	OWOSSO COMMUNITY PLAYERS	<i>Holiday at Lebowsky</i>
Dec 1-12, 2023	TWIN CITY PLAYERS	<i>Parfumerie</i>
Dec 1 - 16, 2023	FARMINGTON PLAYERS	<i>A Nice Family Christmas</i>
Dec 6-10, 2023	THORNAPPLE PLAYERS	<i>A Good, Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas</i>
Dec 7-10, 2023	VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM	<i>Disney's My Son Pinocchio Jr.</i>
Dec 7 - 17, 2023	THE SAUK	<i>Prancer</i>
Dec 8 & 9, 2023	PIT AND BALCONY	<i>The Eight Reindeer Monologues</i>
Dec 8-17, 2023	MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS	<i>Irving Berlin's White Christmas</i>
Dec 8-10, 2023	MONROE COMMUNITY PLAYERS	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>
Dec 10, 15-17, 2023	BAY CITY PLAYERS	<i>A Good, Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas</i>
Dec 8-17, 2023	CENTRAL PARK PLAYERS	<i>Parfumerie</i>
Dec 12, 2023	TAWAS BAY PLAYERS	<i>Christmas Songs &amp; Stories</i>
Dec 14 - 17, 2023	STAGECRAFTERS	<i>Disney's Descendants, the Musical</i>
Dec 15, 2023	AUDIO AIR FORCE	<i>Audio Air Force Holiday Special</i>
Dec 15-17, 2023	GROSSE POINTE THEATRE	<i>Annie, Jr. *</i>
Dec 15-17, 2023	MONROE COMMUNITY PLAYERS	<i>The Christmas Carol</i>

\* 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



Thinking of Leeds Bird lately: What a gift to Community Theatre! His influence continues in the hearts and minds of all of us who knew him.

**One Slight Hitch** by Lewis Black ©2013 is one funny play. Cast: Four women, three men. Plot: oldest daughter's wedding day. Set: a stylish 1984 living room with a fireplace and several doors.

Courtney has just broken up with long-time beau, Ryan, and seems to be settling for the uptight Harper. Dad, "Doc", wife Delia are the parents to Courtney, a freelance writer in her early thirties, Melanie, a 20ish nurse and PB, almost 16. Doc and Delia are especially excited about the wedding as they never had one. Delia starts stressed and gets increasingly manic. Doc tries to roll with the punches, but there are a lot of punches. Doc spends two acts trying to hide ex-boyfriend Ryan who shows up and doesn't know about the wedding.

Lots of wedding panic: the florist/drug dealer must be bailed out. The shrimp boats are delivered too early (food poisoning, anyone?) the male fertility statue (a gift!) loses its penis, and Delia over does the happy pills. A hilarious monologue has Doc talking to Harper's parents who are on the doorstep—never seen. Let your imagination fill in the blanks. Eventually, Doc has PB drive them to their hotel—even though she doesn't have a license.

Sound: Teenage PB's ever-present Walkman adds a cool 80's vibe as she dances under a disco ball (the only exceptional lighting requirement). Examples: "Bette Davis Eyes", "Jessie's Girl", Blondie's "Call Me", and of course, "Going to the Chapel".

Black is a master of witty dialogue; the conversations between the characters are exceptionally funny. Each character is well drawn through these exchanges. 16+ with adult language.



Stage Partners' **Little Red Reboot** by Sonya Sobieski ©2020 is a 25–30-minute one act "rebooting" the classics folktales: Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The modernization is charming, funny, and would appeal to ages 3+.

Easily produced: between 12-20 actors, a bare stage, no lights or sound, a few simple props: a 1913 fairy tale book and a gaming console. Costumes can be elaborate or simple.

Two sassy Narrators tell the story. Little Red is asked by Mother to take Grandma some banana bread. Mom warns Red about the woods and to not play her video game as she walks—because of the wolf, of course. The woods are represented by a minimum of two Trees, also sassy. The classic scene ensues: Wolf meets Red, he proceeds ahead of her to Grandma's house, eats Grandma. A Ms. Lumpit enters, tells Red's mother that Red is disobedient and should be punished. The Narrators call

for a redo: "speed mime." This reenactment has Ms. Lumpit killing Wolf with a 1913 fairy tale book. Second "Speed Mime." This time Grandma enters, is eaten by the Wolf. A passing Trauma Surgeon hears Red's martial arts warm up. The surgeon cuts the Wolf open, lets Grandma out, then says they will sew up the Wolf if he promises to change his ways. The Wolf and Red fight. The Trees



block the escape route. Goldilocks to the rescue as the others freeze. The Narrators describe her visit to the Three Bears house: the snacks: Nacho chips, zesty ranch chips, memory foam bed, waterbed. The Bears arrive, chase Goldi, break through the "door" allowing Grandma, Ms. Lumpit, and the Surgeon to escape. Red fights the Wolf again and wins. Red and Goldi realize they are a team and the "adults", minus the Wolf and The Trees share "lessons learned" platitudes. Corny and yet, many snarky moments, but it's a lot of fun!