



CTAM

CALLBOARD

October 2023

New outreach directed to affiliate member groups **On-the-Road-to-You workshops now available for booking this season**

Our new outreach program will give our member affiliate theaters the opportunity to choose and bring expertise and artists to their home theater for a program/workshop, designed specifically for their needs!

How will this work? CTAM Responsibilities:

- CTAM agrees to pay \$100 workshop stipend and all mileage for workshop leader (up to 400 miles round trip).
- CTAM will facilitate the contacting and arrangements through the application process.
- CTAM will assist in promotion with other theatres in your area.

Theatre Affiliate Responsibilities:



- Theatre agrees to pay \$100 workshop stipend.
- Theatre agrees to pay for any meals and lodging needed for the workshop leader.

- Any fees collect by the theatre will be theirs to offset costs. CTAM will facilitate the initial contact and arrangements through an application process.

CTAM is compiling a list of available workshops/leaders that we hope will continue to grow as we learn what needs are out there. CTAM hopes to include ALL facets of what we do in theatre, back to front. Anticipated workshops would be 2-4 hours as agreed upon by the artist and contracting theater.

Example of workshops (but not limited to - we will provide workshops of all kinds)

- Board Development
- Fundraising and Grant Writing
- Front of House, Ticketing and Box Office
- Technical: Sound / Lights / Set Building / Props
- Directing and Acting

How to apply!

How it will work: Interested members may fill out the application form; email CTAM at ctamthrives@gmail.com and ask for the proper form.

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre
Association of Michigan**

Incomplete 23-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President - Michael Wilson
Grand Rapids Civic*

michaelwilsonprops@yahoo.com

*Vice President - JR Bornemann
Center Stage, Midland*

jbornemann229@gmail.com

At-Large Members of the Board

Chuck Goddeeris...charlesgoddeeris@gmail.com
Michigan Nomad

Amy Jo Brown.....
Lebowsky Center, Owosso Community Players

Keith Rikli..... actingpilot@gmail.com
Southeastern Michigan Nomad

Gary Walker.....
Grand Rapids Civic

Heather Grimes.....
Escanaba Players de Noc

Ruthann Liagre..... ruthannliagre@gmail.com
Lebowsky Center, Owosso Community Players

CTAM Administrator

Mary Jo DeNolf CTAMthrives@gmail.com
811 Crahen Avenue NE, Grand Rapids 49525

<http://ctam.online/>

ctamich@gmail.com Instagram: @ctamich

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.

**New Board members
elected at Fall Conference**

Three new Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting on September 23 in Midland.

Gary Walker, Grand Rapids Civic

Heather Grimes, Escanaba Players de Noc

Amy Jo Brown, Owosso Community

Joining them on the board are the continuing members of the board:

JR Bornemann, Center Stage, Midland

Chuck Goddeeris, Michigan nomad

Keith Rikli, Southeastern Michigan nomad

Michael Wilson, Grand Rapid Civic

Ruthann Liagre, Owosso Community Players

Officers of the Board of Directors had not been elected by the other Board members, as of the date of publication.

The Board acknowledges and thanks the retiring members of the Board who are or have completed their service:

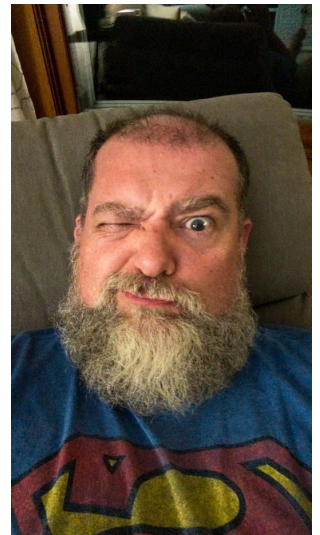
Rhonda Lehan, Secretary, Grand Rapids Civic

Jamie Peterson, Treasurer, Escanaba Players

Greg Martini, Stagecrafters

Rodel Salazar, Stagecrafters

It isn't easy to fully serve CTAM, while maintaining your active theatre involvement in your home group. There often just aren't enough hours in the day to do both. We appreciate the time and expertise received from all of the retiring Board members. Our Board meetings just won't be the same without you!



*Outgoing Treasurer Jamie Peterson,
our very own Superman.*



Successful and fun 2023 Fall Conference in Midland

Thank you to everyone who attended the CTAM Fall Conference held at Midland Central Auditorium on Saturday, September 23. What a great space for us to gather. Thank you JR Bornemann and his staff for making us feel so welcome. Also, many thanks and much appreciation to our wonderful workshop leaders:

- ☆ WRITING GRANTS FOR STATE FUNDS: Amy Spadafore
- ☆ LET'S TALK FIGHTING: Collaborating with Fight Directors: Tommy Wedge
- ☆ AN ACTOR'S APPROACH TO DIRECTING: Jason Applegate
- ☆ INTRODUCTION TO INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHY: Elaine DiFalco Daugherty
- ☆ DANCE CALL TECHNIQUES: Christina Compean
- ☆ PROBLEM SOLVING DIFFICULT PROPS: Michael Wilson

In addition to the Workshops, we had several Roundtable discussions that presented ideas of how things are done at other theatres around the state:

- ☆ Re-engaging our volunteers.
- ☆ Hits and Misses, shows that work and those that didn't
- ☆ Theatre Etiquette

And while we are thanking folks - let's give a huge shout out to our sponsor of the day: Ludus Ticketing. It was great seeing Zachary Collins and Kevin Schneider. If you are looking for new ticketing software, please email this company! They help community theatres thrive!

If you didn't attend this conference - we are wondering why? CTAM exists to serve its members and we need to know what it is that you are looking for. Was it the time? Was it the travel? Why didn't someone from your theatre represent your group? Did you share the info about the Fall conference with your membership, board and volunteers? If not, what can we do to help make sharing that information easier for you? CTAM will be offering more and more workshops FREE of charge for our Group Member Groups. Please take a couple minutes and drop us an email so that we can better serve you our members. Look for upcoming webinars and roundtables that will be coming your way. If you are not a member of a group or individual member of CTAM, email us today at ctamthrives@gmail.com and we will get you signed up so you can take advantage of these.



Above, thank you to CTAM Fall Conference sponsor Ludus Ticketing. It was great spending time with you and we thank you so much for sponsoring the conference lunch. Mucho delicioso!



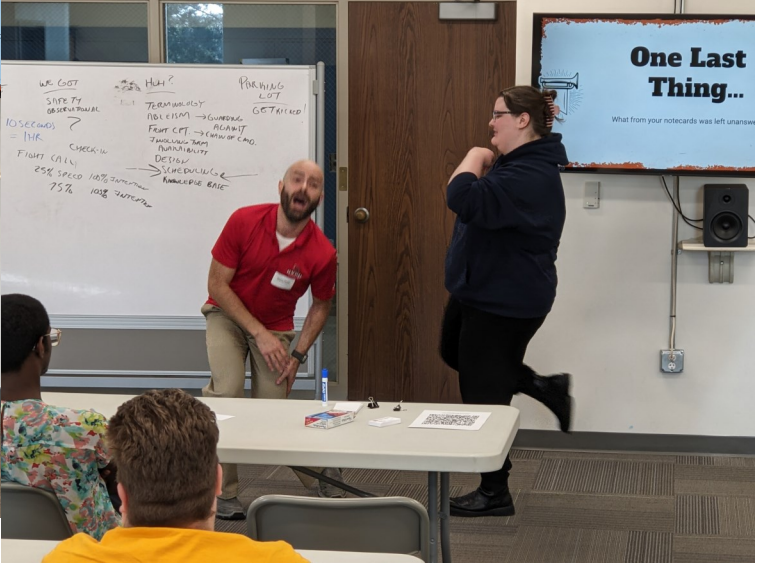
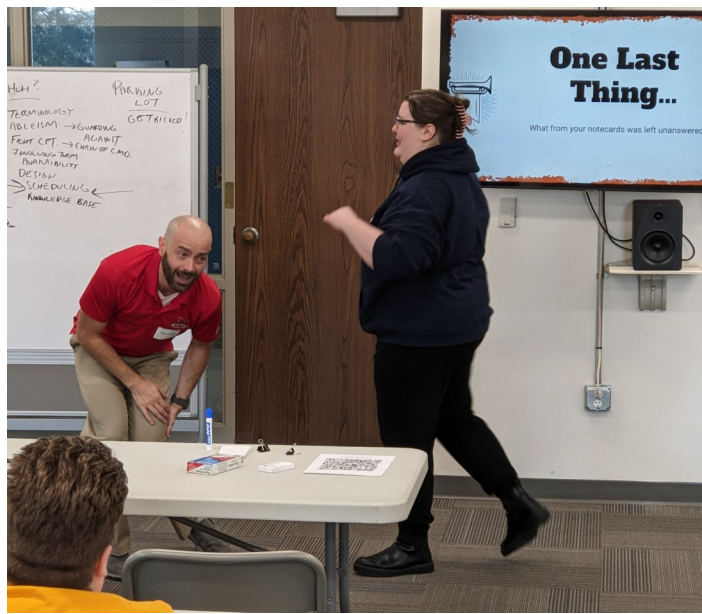
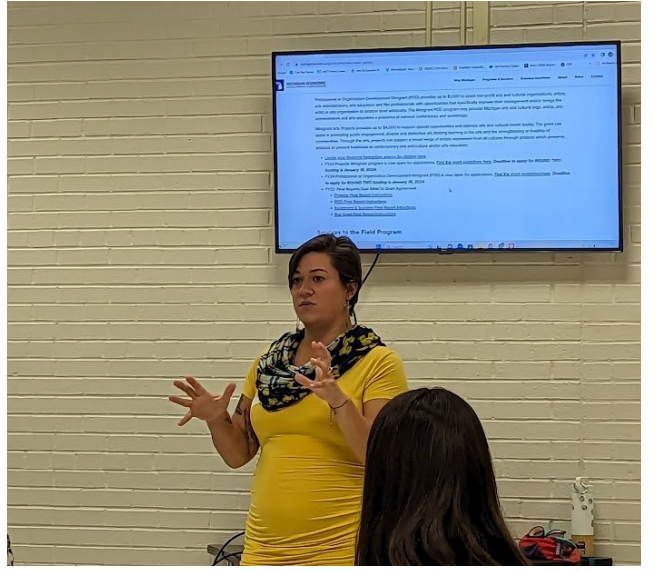
We also want to encourage you to look into and consider a new program that we are offering: CTAM ON THE ROAD TO YOU! This is a workshop tailored for your theatre group brought directly to your theatre based on what you feel you need. Check out the article on the front page for all the particulars.

Michael Wilson
CTAM Board President



Faces in the crowd at the Fall Conference







Michigan autumnal productions

Sept 29 - Oct 14, 2023	FARMINGTON PLAYERS	<i>A Jukebox for the Algonquin</i>
Sept 29 - Oct 14, 2023	OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE	<i>Ripcord</i>
Sept 29 - Oct 8, 2023	FENTON VILLAGE PLAYERS	<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>
Oct 4-8, 2023	THORNAPPLE PLAYERS	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>
Oct 5-21, 2023	HOLLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE	<i>Young Frankenstein</i>
Oct 6 - 15, 2023	CLIO CAST AND CREW	<i>Absolutely Murder</i>
Oct 6 - 15, 2023	KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE	<i>All of Us</i>
Oct 12-15, 2023	MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS	<i>Doubt: A Parable</i>
Oct 12 - 22, 2023	THE SAUK	<i>The Sound of Music</i>
Oct 13 - 22, 2023	STAGECRAFTERS	<i>The Spitfire Grill</i>
Oct 13 - 22, 2023	TAWAS BAY PLAYERS	<i>Reader's Theatre</i>
Oct 13-15, 2023	MONROE COMMUNITY PLAYERS	<i>Time Stands Still</i>
Oct 13-22, 2023	CENTRAL PARK PLAYERS	<i>Wait Until Dark</i>
Oct 20 - Nov 5, 2023	TWIN CITY PLAYERS	<i>The Revolutionists</i>
Oct 20-22, 27-29, 2023	BAY CITY PLAYERS	<i>Some Enchanted Evening</i>
Oct 20-23, 2023	FENTON VILLAGE PLAYERS	<i>An Act of God</i>
October 27, 2023	AUDIO AIR FORCE	<i>Audio Air Force Halloween Special</i>
Oct 27 - Nov 12, 2023	VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM	<i>Jersey Boys</i>
Oct 27-29, 2023	MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS	<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</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>
Oct 27-28, 2023	FENTON VILLAGE PLAYERS	<i>Rocky Horror Picture Showcast</i>
Nov 11-12, 2023	NORTHERN LIGHTS READERS THEATRE	<i>Bird of Passage</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, & 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 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>

* 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.

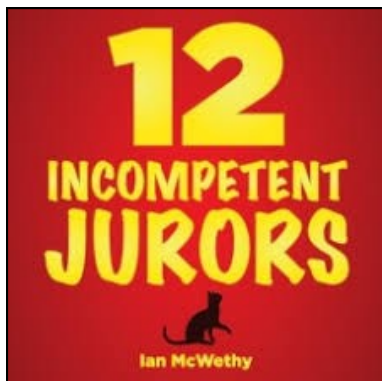


The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western

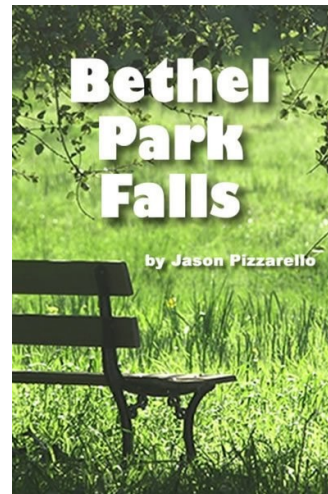


Twelve Incompetent Jurors by Ian McWethy ©2015, (Playscripts) is a farcical parody of the iconic *12 Angry Men*. Twelve actors are needed, male or female. McWethy admits that he wrote this show in order to work with his favorite actors! He made sure each juror had a point of view, “with moments to shine and be funny.” It would be a great opportunity for new and/or inexperienced actors. McWethy’s quote should be memorized by every director and actor: “....so have fun with these characters. Find the truth in them, be honest, but feel free to made bold and interesting choices.” There is an abundance of well-defined personalities. You’ve got needy, bratty, lonely, creepy, a bickering couple and a foreperson who takes improv classes and tries out a Cockney accent every now and then. McWethy encourages each production to find its comfort level of complexity. Minimal set: long table, twelve chairs. Want to go bigger? Add a water cooler and a window. The evidence against Mr. Pleats for abducting six cats, is on a video. Choices: record the four vocal actors, wheel in a TV, or lay out a laptop, or go big and make a video. Lights are on and off; sound a bit more complex. Props? One taxidermized cat! (I imagine your prop people who have taken Michael Wilson’s workshop are salivating at this point!) The wacky characters, insane plot with lots of nonsense, and physical schtick makes for a happy endeavor. *(Reprinted from July 2020.)*



Bethel Park Falls by Jason Pizzarello is published by Playscripts. With a very simple set: a park bench, this 80–90-minute play has 15 roles

which can be played by 5-17 actors. In the nine short scenes, random couples meet at Bethel Park, which will soon to be destroyed due to rezoning. During the interactions of these 15 individuals, two people, sometimes strangers, connect in a tiny microcosm of humanity. The characters are rich and relatable without being stereotypes. There are a father and son, twin brothers, teacher and student, two struggling parents, a jogger and a wanna-be jogger, a homeless person and a “lost” veteran heading home.



Each interlude/season is introduced by a retired park ranger who rakes leaves, shovels snow, and plants flower while reciting a few lines from Charles Dickens, Emily Bronte, Robert Frost, George Eliot and T.S. Eliot. Props are brought on

by the actors, letting the play move seamlessly from one scene to another. As the play progresses, we see connections between the characters in different scenes. We meet the student that the teacher found cheating, the homeless man whose twin brother has been looking for him, the soldier whose wife is longing for him, the two joggers who meet after weeks of watching each other. The play begins and ends with a blind bird watcher and a stressed business woman. Happily, the Park, which was facing imminent closure has been turned into a nature preserve.

Besides normal park noises like children playing, sound is a “symphony of birds chirping”, plus the specific songs of several species. Special props: a baby carriage, a red wagon, a broken guitar, a Kuwaiti dollar, a smashed cellphone, snow, and leaves.

This is a heart-warming play about the rejuvenating effect of nature with many poignant moments, truly funny dialogue and sometimes surprising dynamics between characters. I LOVE this script! Ages 13+ *(Reprinted from June 2021.)*

