



CALLBOARD

September 2023

2023 Fall Conference

One Day Only -- Saturday, Sept. 23

Central Auditorium, Midland

(305 Reardon, Midland 48640)

***FREE to all affiliate groups, members of groups,
and individual members -- including lunch!***

The 2023 Fall Conference is right around the corner, so be sure you are registered.

- There is no fee for members and members of affiliate groups to register; The link for registering is <https://forms.glebQiQFeKVnvnZyPZcA>
- To register as a non-member and pay only \$25 for the full day, please use the following link: <https://ctam.ludus.com/19730>

The conference opens at 9:00 a.m. with the first round of workshops; a free lunch is offered at Noon and the Annual Meeting begins at 12:30, including the election of Board members. The afternoon workshops, Session #2, begin at 1:15. followed by an hour of everyone-welcome roundtables, and the third sessions of workshops begin at 4:00 and will conclude at 5:30 p.m. If you want to hang around after that for informal Q&A, etc., that will be possible.



Workshops and
Leaders inside!

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre
Association of Michigan**

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 are maintained by the Administrator and should be sent to CTAMthrives@gmail.com.



Business at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 23

At the Annual Meeting on the 23rd, elections for new members of the Board of Directors will be held, as well as being asked to approve a change to the Bylaws of the corporation.

Each registered affiliate group is allowed two voting members to attend the Annual Meeting, as well as any number of members can attend the meeting. Nominations can be accepted from the floor, as long as the nominee is advised of and understands the duties of Board members of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan.

Those running for Board membership this year are the following:

Amy Jo Brown, Owosso MI

Heather Grimes, Escanaba MI

Gary Walker, Grand Rapids MI

The CTAM Board is asking for a vote on the organization's By-laws.

The major change of the By-laws would be to move the organization from a Membership-driven board to a Director-driven board, which would give the Board the ability to make changes and work more effectively.

If you would like to see the changes before the meeting, please notify the CTAM Administrator (CTAMthrives@gmail.com) and she will send you a copy. Otherwise there will be copies at the Annual Meeting for your perusal before the vote.



Schedule for the Day -- Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:30am-9am - Lobby welcome: Coffee and refreshments, networking opportunities.

9am - 10:30am - **WORKSHOPS**

- ✓ Writing Grants for State Funds: Tips & tricks (Amy Spadafore)
- ✓ Let's Talk Fighting: Collaborating with Fight Directors (Tommy Wedge)
- ✓ Propmaking - (Michael Wilson)

10:30 - 12:00pm - **ROUNDTABLES**

- ✓ Roundtable #1 - Re-engaging our Volunteers
 - What is working and not working to bring volunteers back from FOH, backstage, acting. What challenges are you facing?
- ✓ Roundtable #2 - Youth roundtable -
 - What options for theatre careers and occupations are there for our youth in high school and college?
- ✓ Roundtable #3 - Hits and Misses
 - What shows have worked (or not worked) for your group?

12:00 - 12:30 - LUNCH provided

12:15-12:30 - Ludus presentation during lunch

12:30 -1:15pm - CTAM Annual Meeting and Elections

1:15-2:45 - **WORKSHOPS**

- An Actors Approach to Directing - (Emily Anderson and Jason Applegate)
- Introduction to Intimacy Choreography (Elaine Difalco Daugherty)
- Dance Call Techniques - (Christina Compean)

2:45-3:45pm **ROUNDTABLES**

- Theatre Etiquette
- Hit and Misses for shows
- Workshop: Let's Talk Fighting: Collaborating with Fight Directors (Tommy Wedge)

3:45-4:00 - Stretch, grab a snack, meet someone new

4 - 5:30pm - **WORKSHOPS**

- An Actor's Approach to Directing - (Emily Anderson and Jason Applegate)
- Introduction to Intimacy Choreography (Elaine Difalco Daugherty)
- Dance Call Techniques - (Christina Compean)

5:30pm - Auditorium - town hall - ask questions - get involved



Workshop Descriptions and Presenters

Introduction to Intimacy Choreography (Elaine DiFalco Daugherty)

This workshop will provide an overview of the role of an intimacy choreographer, facilitate active consent practices, and have interested participants up on their feet exploring the process of building storytelling through specific choreographed movement. Those who choose to participate in the movement portion will be able to work with a chair and/or another person as their partner. Those who prefer to attend but not participate in the movement portion are welcome to learn through observation.

Elaine DiFalco Daugherty - Elaine DiFalco Daugherty is a director, intimacy choreographer, and writer and has been teaching at CMU since 2010. She has led intimacy and consent sessions for KCACTF, Community Theatre Association of Michigan, MI Thespian Festival, University of Idaho, Casper College Wyoming, Millersville University, and has introduced consent practices to theatre, dance, costume, and sound classes. Her play, *Watermelon in Wartime*, was featured in the 2022 Voices of Truth Festival at Powerstories Theatre and earned her an Author Fellowship to The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. She has published articles in *Theatre Topics*, *Journal of Applied Arts and Health*, and is currently under contract with Intellect Books to co-author a book on consent-based practices in performing arts education. Elaine has been on the Programming Committee for Midland Center for the Arts in Midland, MI since 2016. She is originally from Brockton, MA and has an MFA in theatre pedagogy from University of Idaho.



Writing Grants for State Funds: Tips & tricks (Amy Spadafore)

An overview of the many grant programs available from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council as well as some tips and tricks for success from the point of view of a grant reviewer. There will be time during the workshop for writing and mock peer-review. It will be the most fun you have in a grant writing workshop. Promise!

Amy Spadafore is the Managing Director of Pit & Balcony Community Theatre in Saginaw. She holds a BS in Arts Management from Western Michigan University, is a stage manager by trade, a director by choice, and an actor by force. Amy was an active Pit & Balcony volunteer prior to taking the helm in 2016 and is a member of the Michigan Arts & Culture Council's 2019 class of Rising Leaders. Amy is thoroughly engaged with the arts community and enjoys advocating for arts & culture initiatives on local, regional, and state levels, collaborating with economic developers, and creatively working toward a more vibrant, inviting, and inclusive community. Amy believes in the power of art to inspire, create, connect, heal, and celebrate and is continuously seeking opportunities to creatively solve problems through collaboration and artful innovation. When she is not using art to change the world, Amy loves sports, cooking, painting, and any reason to be outside with her husband, Dylan, and her loyal sidekick, Orville the Theatre Pug.



Let's Talk Fighting: Collaborating with Fight Directors (Tommy Wedge)

"They fight!" Whether you're an actor, director, designer, or producer, that stage direction signals one thing: you'll soon be working with a fight director. But what does that process look like, and where do you fit in? In this 45min session, we'll unpack their process of choreographing violence. Through each step we'll discuss effective ways to collaborate and communicate with these artists: what you can expect, what you can ask, and, at the end of the day, how you can utilize a fight choreographer to make your production safe while telling a killer story. Come with questions, and let's talk fighting! Open to theatre artists of all experience.

Tommy Wedge is an Associate Professor of Theatre at SVSU and has fight directed 30 theatre productions. Active in stage combat, teaching, and stage management, his recent directing credits include *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Top Girls*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *Mamma Mia!*. Tommy holds an MFA in Directing from The University of South Dakota and a BS in Theatre from South Dakota State University. Professional memberships include Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), The Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), and The Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) where Tommy has held the rank of Advanced Actor Combatant since 2017.



An Actor's Approach to Directing - Emily Anderson and Jason Applegate

Jason and Emily were both actors before they began directing. In this workshop you'll learn how their storytelling perspective shaped their directorial style to lead to engaged cast and crew from the first day of auditions through the final performance.



Emily Anderson (She/Her) - Emily has been "theatrical" since she was born (just ask her mom.) She put her penchant for the dramatic to good use at the age of 13 and hasn't looked back since. She has racked up a list of over 50 productions at her home theatre, Midland Center for the Arts, but has also enjoyed performing with Creative 360, Central Michigan University, and Six Eleven Theatre Company in Chicago. A self-described "double threat", Emily's primary passions are acting and singing but she also loves directing and has worked in props, costumes, and stage management. Emily has devoted her career to Arts Management, having served on the boards of Midland Center for the Arts, CTAM, Teenage Musicals Inc, and the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). She is the Coordinator of Marketing and Outreach for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Central Michigan University where she spends her days pretending she's still 20 years old. When she's not at the theatre, Emily enjoys hanging out with her husband, Jason, and their four kids. She loves to travel, eat cheese, and cheer for the Green Bay Packers!



Jason Applegate - At the age of twelve, Jason vividly remembers being imprisoned in the cabin of a pirate ship. In the dark, he loudly whispered to an adult pirate that he had forgotten his prop glasses. That striped shirt savior taught Jason that theatre is a team sport - an art form that depends upon everyone, actors and crew, to create a narrative world for us all to live in for a short time. Since then, Jason Applegate has been involved in more than 25 productions as an actor or crew member and more than 50 productions as a director. Jason has been teaching theatre to young artists for over 20 years. Outside of theatre, Jason loves to write, watch football, and geek out about superheroes, fantasy, and science fiction. In all his creative adventures, he has been supported by his partner in crime, Emily. Their biggest adventure has been raising four kids who, thankfully, are all as fascinated by the creative arts as their parents are.

Dance Call Techniques - Christina Compean

Learn techniques, fun choreography, and how to nail your dance audition. Whether you are brand new or skilled in the performing arts, this dance workshop is a great tool for all levels of experience. Dancers will learn how to stay calm and confident in the audition room by participating in a mock audition. Dance, athletic shoes, and clothes you can move freely in are highly recommended. This workshop is every-one of all ages adult and youth school grades (6-12).



Christina Fitch-Compean - Christina graduated from Point Park University with a BA in Musical Theatre. She had the pleasure to dance with Elmo in a live Sesame Street performance and various dancing events at Orlando's SeaWorld. Christina now shares her experiences as a choreographer and dance instructor in the bay area. Christina dances and performs everywhere she goes. She has directed and choreographed many children shows in metro Detroit. In 2021 she created her own dancing studio with Midland community center. Her most recent project was choreographing "A Christmas Story" for Midland Center for the Arts. When she is not dancing on the stage or in a studio, she loves to spend time with her husband and two dogs.

Making Spectacular Props (Michael Wilson)

Many people think you can just go out and buy the special props you see on stage. Michael will be the first to tell you that most everything you see needs to be specially adapted for use on stage. He's a master of doing it for many years and will happily share his tips and tricks with you!



Michael Wilson - Michael has been creating props for stage productions for over 25 years, and is currently Prop Master for Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has also created props for Opera Grand Rapids, Circle Theatre, Grand Valley University, Aquinas College, and Mason Street Warehouse. Michael currently serves as President of Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM). Over the years, he has developed a special focus on the creation of specialty and faux food stage props, sharing his ideas and techniques in workshops like this.

What's going on in Michigan theatres!

Sept 8 - Oct 1, 2023	STAGECRAFTERS	<i>Monty Python's Spamalot</i>
Sept 8-17, 2023	GROSSE POINTE THEATRE	<i>The Addams Family</i>
Sept 8-23,2023	CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS	<i>The Gravedigger</i>
Sept 8-24, 2023	TWIN CITY PLAYERS	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
Sept 9-17, 2023	OWOSSO COMMUNITY PLAYERS	<i>Wizard of Oz</i>
Sept 14 - 30, 2023	MASTER ARTS	<i>Jane Eyre - The Musical</i>
Sept 15 - Oct 1, 2023	PLAYERS GUILD OF DEARBORN	<i>Young Frankenstein</i>
Sept 15-24, 2023	VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM	<i>A Raisin In The Sun</i>
Sept 15-24, 2024	PIT AND BALCONY	<i>A Streetcard Named Desire</i>
Sept 15 - Oct 1, 2023	KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE	<i>Big Fish</i>
Sept 23, 24, 30, Oct 1, 2023	BAY CITY PLAYERS	<i>Junie B. Jones Jr.</i>
Sept 28-30, 2023	GLEN ARBOR PLAYERS	<i>Three One Acts</i>
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>
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 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>
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>
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 24 - Dec 9, 2023	HOLLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE	<i>The Rented Christmas</i>
Nov 16-18, 2023	GLEN ARBOR PLAYERS	<i>The Weir</i>

* indicates youth productions; ** indicates second stage productions, if submitted.

If your information is incorrect or missing, please send the correct information to the CTAM office to be included in the next issue. That address is CTAMthrives@gmail.com.



The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Hope your summer is going swimmingly. This month I have an “vintage” drama that really holds up and a Law and Order Spin-off. And you thought there couldn’t be another! FYI: I have been an avid L&O fan since 1989.

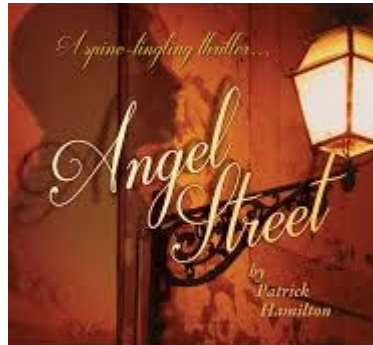
Angel Street aka *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton was published by Samuel French, now Concord Theatricals in ©1939, 1942, and renewed in 2016. This “Victorian Thriller” has four women, and two men.

The setting is a 1880 Victorian living room in a four-storied house in London. Interesting note: the script calls for “the room ...furnished in all the heavily draped and dingy profusion of the period...yet, there is an air of “poverty, wretchedness, and age.”

Above the down right fireplace, are two gaslights very important to the plot. Entrances: a door to the street, to the maids’ quarters/kitchen, and to the Manningham’s’ bedroom.

Happily, you’ll find a page about the very important lighting requirements and five (!) pages for “Furniture-Draperies—Properties”. You can handle it!

Cast: Bella Manningham (30-40s) feels she is going mad. She hears footsteps, pictures are removed from the wall, and the gaslights dim without explanation. Her husband, Jack (40-50s) is overbearing and manipulative. When Rough (50-60s), a retired policeman arrives, we feel that he will help her, but the play is written such that you are always in a state of tension. Two maids, Nancy (20s-30s) a pretty, flirtatious maid who aspires to replace Bella and Elizabeth (any age), a faithful sort who supports Bella but obeys Jack, round out the cast. 16+



Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit by Jonathan Rand ©2008 is published by Playscripts. Dozens of fairy tale characters with unique nicknames such as Zelle, Merm, H. D., Wick, Peep, and my favorite, Ugly

D populate this Law and Order spoof. Can you figure out what fairy tale characters these are? *

Scenes are created with lights and virtually no set pieces. The iconic CHU-CHUNK is an actor, as are TIME and PLACE. A very, and I believe, effective way to tell the audience where and when.

The Facts: Three pigs’ houses have been destroyed. Witnesses saw a wolf carrying an industrial-quality fan at the scene. In the first few scenes, detectives, H.D. and Zelle, question many bystanders: the joggers, Jack and Jillian; a team of seven short people named the “Snowmen” and Pinocchio, whose nose only aches when he lies because he just had nose reduction surgery! (Thank you, Mr. Rand, for making it simple!)

Eventually, B.B. Wolf is arrested. The following scenes move through the justice system: arraignment, plea bargain, jury selection, etc. Prosecuting attorneys, Stiltskin and Merm, go up against the BBW’s defense attorney, Peep. Jury selection allows for many more fairy tale characters creating more puns, plays on words, and groaners!

After hearing testimony from the witnesses, victims, and the accused, Stiltskin experiences a dream sequence where the testimony echoes through her mind and she realizes-- CHU-CHUNK—the Pigs destroyed their own houses for the insurance.

Rand says: “Use any level of set, props, costumes that fits your budget, but simplicity tends to be ideal. Also, the author has an approved script for smaller casts.

Many scenes were created with lights and virtually no set pieces. The iconic CHU-CHUNK is an actor, as are TIME and PLACE. If you are a Law and Order fan, you’ll realize this is the equivalent of the iconic sound and setting titles from the TV series. A very simple and I believe, effective way to tell the audience where and when.

*Zelle is Rapunzel; Merm is the Little Mermaid; H. D. is Humpty Dumpty, Wick is the Wicked Witch, Peep is Bo Peep, and Ugly D is the Ugly Duckling.

