



CALLBOARD

December 2024

February 27 to March 2 -- in Bay City

AACTfest registration deadline of December 20 almost here

The holidays are coming....Family visits, Christmas productions and much, much more. But don't forget to complete your AACTFest25 application -- whether your group is competing or if you plan to *attend* the Festival weekend, just for the fun of it!

Michiganders are lucky because the regional competition is also in Michigan this year (March 21-23 in Owosso), so if your group is chosen to move forward, travel is again in our own state. Theatres chosen to move forward to the Regional Festival will receive \$1500 travel assistance from CTAM.

☆ **Individual Registration:**

Individual registrations are \$85. This includes tickets to all performances and social events. Form: <https://forms.gle/9YqymA1ULShkptxZ9>. Registration will close December 20 at 5:00PM. Tickets for individual blocks of performances will be for sale on baycityplayers.ludus.com around mid-January at \$20/block for adults, and \$10/block for students.

☆ **Group Registration:**

\$150 for up to 8 people. *Any competing group over eight people must complete an Individual Registration form for the 9th person onward and pay the Individual Registration Fee for each.*

Form: <https://forms.gle/X531KDPTq8JQ8qB9A> Registration will close December 20 at 5:00PM



☆ **Hotel Booking:**

AACTfest brings a lot of people to town, so be sure to make your room reservations early to assure you have a soft spot upon which to lay your collective heads! <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1721155189257&key=GRP&app=resvlink> **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JANUARY 29, 2025**

For specific questions about the venue, please contact Kady Booth at Bay City Players. kbooth@baycityplayers.org Phone: 989-893-5555. For questions about entering the Festival, please contact CTAM Administrator Mary Jo Denolf at ctamthrives@gmail.com.

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**Community Theatre
Association of Michigan**

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Callboard

EditorMary 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.*

Ways to Fundraise to attend AACTFest25

One of the most common questions that comes up when talking about AACTFest is: We would love to go but we cannot afford it. You cannot afford NOT to go!

So here are some simple ways to offset costs to travel your group to AACTFest25

- ✓ 50/50 raffles. Get the license from the state and do raffles at other performances and designate those funds to AACT travel
- ✓ Ask your board, membership and volunteers to go online to their credit card points. Ask them to donate from their points, gas gift cards, restaurant gift cards, hotel points or just credit cards.
- ✓ Do a free performance or two of your production you are taking to festival. Take the time to educate your audience of what AACT is, how it works and do the whole process from the 10x10 box, set up, perform, and strike. At the end of performance - pass the hat and collect donations
- ✓ Bake Sales, Holiday Sales, Flower sales - all in your lobby. Proceeds go to AACTFest group.
- ✓ In-Kind Find a local vendor who would be willing to donate: \$100/\$250 to your cause. Example: A show used a coffee cup as a prop, so ask went to a local coffee shop to use their cup with their logo for the show. In return they gave \$250 to sell coffee in lobby and do some promotions.
- ✓ Sponsorships - ask all volunteers involved to go to family and friends and ask for a sponsorship to send them. Can start as low as \$25 and get eight folks to sign up.

There are a lot of small and easy ways to raise money for the adventure. Please reach out to ask questions and get started today to raise money and attend AACT-Fest25!

CTAM Calendar of Events

Feb 27 - March 2, 2025 Bay City, MI	AACTfest 2025, plus Adjudication National Workshop
March 21-23, 2025 Owosso, MI	Regional AACTfest
June 25-28, 2025 Des Moines, Iowa	National AACTfest





A person can't be a sourpuss about life. It goes on oob-la-di, oob-la-da, and I've taught myself to believe that everything that happens in this world happens for the best, even if it doesn't.

-Stan (From *Flemming*, by Sam Bobrick)

Life continually presents us with challenges and changes. It's up to us whether or not we let that affect us positively or negatively. I like to take Stan's approach above (from the very underrated mystery/thriller/spoof *Flemming* by the late, great Sam Bobrick).

Recently, our own Vice President, JR Bornemann has experienced his fair share of challenges and unfortunately for us he has had to step down from our board. He will still be lurking in the shadows for us from time to time but could not continue to keep up with our day-to-day demands, especially since he recently took on the role of Technical Director for the 2025 National AACTFest. That change, among others, forced him to step down from the board and we want to wish him all the best moving forward.

JR has been a tremendous source of energy, knowledge and resources for us since joining the board in the fall of 2019. He quickly joined the executive committee in the VP role the following year and had been serving in that capacity until this past month. He has been an integral part of creating our successful On The Road (OTR) workshop program and helping us sustain our conferences. Moreover, in addition to teaching workshops for us throughout the past few years, he has graciously been able to host our Fall Conference at his facility in Midland the past few years and we hope we can continue this partnership in the future.

That's just a small sample size of his contributions



JR Bornemann



Suzan Nemeth

to CTAM. Regardless, we would like to thank JR for his undying dedication, commitment and support to CTAM and send him all the positive energy to ensure his success as Technical Director for the 2025 National AACTFest. Please join me in giving him a standing ovation.

Now, obviously that left a hole in our executive committee, but thanks to divine providence, as well as Stan's aforementioned approach to life, we are grateful to welcome Suzan Nemeth back to the fold. She has served as VP of CTAM in the past (and planned some amazing fall conferences for us) and has graciously agreed to fill out the last year of JR's term. Welcome back Suzan and thank you for stepping in as VP!

She is hitting the ground running, teaming with our amazing admin, Mary Jo DeNolf, to coordinate OTR workshops for our numerous theatres requesting them. Thanks to our MACC grant funding and our budget committee we are targeting a goal of at least 12 OTR workshops this year (we already have at least 7 being planned!) and promoting our adjudication program just as much, with at least 10 adjudications this year, if not more (we've already completed 3!).

Additionally, since Regional AACTFest will be held in Owosso and Nationals are being held in Des Moines, we are capitalizing on their proximity to bolster our pool of adjudicators with an adjudication training program to kick off in early 2025.

So, as you can see, even though the tides of change may be constant, we are continually evolving to meet the needs and demands of our member theatres. If we take Stan's approach, not just from an organizational standpoint but from a personal perspective and focus on the positive we can help ourselves grow and help those around us grow as well.

With that said I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to the year ahead and what tomorrow holds for us all. And remember, we are here to help your theatre thrive!



Do You Know This Woman?...If Not, You Should

You have probably seen Kathy Pingel adjudicating a state, regional, or nation AACTFest over the years. Now you could have the chance to learn from her in CTAM's Adjudication training that is happening as part of Michigan's state and regional AACTFest events in 2025.

Here is a little bit more about her. Kathy wrote the curriculum for the AACT Adjudication Workshop and adjudicated theatre at the state, regional, national, and international levels. She facilitated the AACT's Theatre Education Directors' Conference, was a dramaturg for the NewPlayFest competition, and served as AACT's Co-Coordinator for Education. Kathy holds an M.A. in performance studies and teaching from Northwestern University; and taught and directed in Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Iowa, Michigan, and Ansbach, Germany. In 2017 Kathy was named an AACT Fellow by her peers.

Kathy was the third instructor I had in my mission to become a better adjudicator, and I learned many things from her. She is a wonderful teacher and communicator.

Kathy and I are teaming up to conduct training at the state and regional AACT Festivals, which both take place in Michigan in 2025. Kathy will introduce the AACT guidelines and teach the structure we use via a Zoom session prior to the first festival date in February (likely a Saturday or Sunday afternoon to avoid work and rehearsals). I will be your in person session leader at the festivals where all participants will have the opportunity to conduct their own adjudication of at least one of the festival shows for their classmates. Cost of the two part training is \$50 per person and you can choose to come to the training in February or March as space allows. There will be space for no more than 12 participants for each festival, and



the training will be open to all five states in our AACT region. CTAM's additional costs will be paid for with grant funds. Your additional costs will be festival registration and accommodation if needed.

By the way, CTAM scholarships are available for the training and just one CTAM adjudication will add \$50 plus mileage reimbursement to your bank account. You can help improve theatre skills in Michigan, better your own acting and directing prowess, see some great theatre, and help theatres to thrive through CTAM.

If you want to get on the list now, please email me at ryonwillis915@gmail.com. If you are already an adjudicator and would like a refresher, please contact me and we will include you, if space is available.

*Betsy Willis
CTAM Adjudication Chair*

Have you scheduled your adjudication yet?

Grant money has become available for CTAM to provide a free adjudication for our affiliate member groups! There is plenty of season left, so schedule an adjudication soon. Get your date on the books so we can send a trained Michigan adjudicator to your performance. Contact ryonwillis915@gmail.com today.

Pay attention to what's going on in Washington

We want to inform you about a bill currently in the Congress, **H.R. 9495**, also known as the *Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act*. While its intent to combat terrorism is important, the legislation includes provisions that could significantly harm nonprofits—including community theatres—by giving the government unprecedented power to revoke nonprofit status without clear due process. If passed, this legislation could jeopardize the future of community theatre by:

- ◆ **Revoking Nonprofit Status:** Organizations could risk losing their tax-exempt status, based on subjective or unfounded designations, threatening their ability to operate.
- ◆ **Diminishing Funding Opportunities:** The bill's vague criteria could deter donors and supporters from investing in nonprofit arts.
- ◆ **Restricting Advocacy and Free Expression:** Theatre organizations involved in advocacy or storytelling that challenges norms may face unfair scrutiny.
- ◆ **Undermining Programs:** Increased restrictions could stifle creativity and limit the ability to respond to community needs.

American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is our national network of community theatres, artists, and advocates dedicated to empowering local theatre organizations. H.R. 9495 poses a direct threat to this mission, impacting not only per-

forming arts organizations but also the communities they serve.

What You Can Do to Help

The Senate could vote on this bill at any time. We urge you to join AACT in opposing H.R. 9495 to protect the nonprofit arts sector. Send a letter of support to your Washington representatives, letting them know about the importance of community theatre to the fabric of our lives.

The Time to Act Is Now!

Community theatre enriches lives, inspires collaboration, and strengthens the bonds of our communities. Together, we must protect the nonprofit arts sector from harmful legislation that could silence voices, disrupt services, and diminish the transformative power of the arts.

Thank you for standing with AACT and community theatres nationwide. Your voice is essential in ensuring we continue to thrive and create lasting impact



CTAM adding Ten-Minute Play category to annual playwriting contest

With great excitement, CTAM is adding a ten-minute play category to the long-standing annual playwriting contest. Heretofore, we have only accepted full length plays, normally two or three acts that combine for a full evening's entertainment. Jumping on the bandwagon of the ten-minute plays, we will accept the shorter plays this year and perform several of the best at the Fall Conference in September 2025. Watch for details in upcoming issues of Callboard.



The Holidays in Michigan Theatre

November 29 - Dec 14, 2024	Holland Community Theatre	<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>
November 29 - Dec 23, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella</i>
November 30 - Dec 1, 2024	Port Austin Community Theatre	<i>The Littlest Reindeer *</i>
December 5 - 8, 2024	Southgate Community Players	<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr *</i>
December 5 - 15, 2024	The Sauk	<i>A Christmas Carol (adaptation)</i>
December 5 - 15, 2024	Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Present Laughter</i>
December 5 - 20, 2024	Twin City Players	<i>It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play</i>
December 6 - 8, 2024	Dickinson County Community Theatre	<i>Little Women</i>
December 6 - 8, 20-24	Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical</i>
December 6 - 14, 2024	Central Park Players	<i>Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical</i>
December 6 - 14, 2024	Players de Noc	<i>It Runs in the Family</i>
December 6 - 15, 2024	ANN ARBOR CIVIC	<i>Uncle Vanya</i>
December 6 - 15, 2024	Manistee Civic Players	<i>Matilda The Musical</i>
December 6 - 15, 2024	Monroe Community Players	<i>Every Christmas Story Ever Told</i>
December 6 - 15, 2024	Tin Shop Theatre	<i>Plaza Suite</i>
December 6 - 21, 2024	Farmington Players	<i>Humbug</i>
December 6 - 22, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story</i>
December 7 - 15, 2024	Bay City Players	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>
December 8, 2024	Port Austin Community Theatre	<i>Bill Denbrock Big Band Concert</i>
December 8 - 16, 2024	Northland Players	<i>Spirit of Christmas</i>
December 10, 2024	Tawas Bay Players	<i>Christmas Songs & Stories</i>
December 11 - 15, 2024	Clio Cast & Crew	<i>How I Met Mrs. Claus</i>
December 12 - 15, 2024	Midland Center for the Arts	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
December 13 - 21, 2024	Old Town Playhouse	<i>Holiday Channel Christmas Wonderthon</i>
December 13 - 22, 2024	Pit & Balcony	<i>A Miracle on 34th Street</i>
December 14 - 15, 2024	Community Theatre of Howell	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>
December 14-15, 2024	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	<i>Holiday Ho-Hos</i>
January 10 - 12, 2025	Bay City Players	<i>Amelia Lives</i>
January 10 - 18, 2025	Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Silent Sky</i>
January 10 - 19, 2025	Flint Community Players	<i>Fun Home</i>
January 10 - 25, 2025	Avon Players	<i>Farce of Habit</i>
January 10 - 25, 2025	Clarkston Village Players	<i>Jake's Women</i>
January 12 - 26, 2025	Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i>
January 16 - 26, 2025	Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>It's my Wedding Dear Grandpa</i>
January 17 - 26, 2025	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Well</i>
January TBA	Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Funeral for a Gangster</i>

* Indicates youth production.

✓ If your information is incorrect or missing and you are an affiliate group of CTAM, please send the correct information to CTAMthrives@gmail.com to be included in the next issue.

