



CALLBOARD

February 2025

AACTfest schedule announced

It's getting close now ... AACTfest 2025 is only a couple of weeks away! The performance (and party!) schedule has been announced, below. So it's time to complete your final arrangements to be at the Festival.

Hotel reservation information is listed on Page 2 for your information and ease in registering. It will be a busy weekend in Bay City, so don't delay confirming your room.

Individual registration is \$85 and gets you in to all seven performances, the Friday night Mixer, the Saturday night Afterglow, and the awards brunch on Sunday morning! Tickets for each of the three blocks of performances, which will feature two or three shows, will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and will be available at the door. Individual registrations are available on the Bay City website.

Don't miss out on a great weekend of theatre at the 2025 Michigan AACTfest, hosted by Bay City Players.

Friday, Feb 28

5:00pm - Bay City Players, *The Revolutionists*

6:50pm - Stagecrafters, *Silent Sky*

9:30 - Mixer Afterglow

Saturday, March 1

9:30am - Midland Center for the Arts, *Tiny Beautiful Things*

11:00am - Tawas Bay Players, *Leaving Iowa*

4:30pm - The Sauk, Jonesville, *Mockingbird*

6:00pm - Holland Comm, Theatre, *Things My Mother Taught Me*

8:00pm - Twin Cities, *A Measure of Cruelty*

9:30pm - Afterglow

Sunday, March 21

10:00am - Brunch

11:00am - Awards and Adjournment



HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



Community Theatre Association of Michigan

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Callboard

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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.

☆ Hotel Booking for AACTfest (Bay City):

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



CTAM Calendar of Events

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event Name. Rows include Feb 27 - March 2, 2025 (AACTfest 2025, plus Adjudication National Workshop), March 21-23, 2025 (Region III AACTfest), and June 25-28, 2025 (National AACTfest).



Why is Adjudication such a big deal?

AACT defines the purpose of adjudication as:

- ✓ To accurately reflect to the performing company what has been successfully achieved; and
- ✓ To outline reasonable steps that might be taken to enhance interpretation of the story to both educate and illuminate the whole company

It's not only for competition but also where we see and think of it first. Many people across the US become adjudicators to learn and grow for their own skill sets. To be able to look at your show or company with a fresh approach and maybe step outside the "box" and give your input to someone who is grounded on one idea.

Michigan theatres use adjudicators all the time across the state. Bring someone into your theatre and have them give your company feedback or use it as an educational experience. AACT is also looking for adjudicators to travel to other states during the festival process. It's not just about giving feedback but for you, it's an experience you will never forget. Assisting and talking with theatres is one of the best ways to learn and grow within your own art.

So - you're interested in becoming an Adjudicator? Lets talk workshop details!

- *Participants will have had two zoom meetings with workshop leaders Kathy Pingel and Betsy Willis in advance of the festival. During those, they will learn the basics of AACT adjudicating and the philosophy behind it.*
- *Currently those dates will be: Saturday, February 15 and 22, from 2-4pm*
- *Attendees will be asked to attend either the Michigan State Festival in Bay City (2/28-3/2) or the Region 3 Festival-Owosso MI (3/21-3/23). If not able to attend, please let Betsy know and she may see about doing this thru Zoom.*
- *After the first show, the participants will stay and listen the adjudicators, and if time allows meet after to discuss what we learned from watching*
- *For the succeeding shows, the participants will meet so you can try out your own adjudication skills.*
- *After the final show, participants will meet to make their own mock selections of who we think should move forward*

Who are your workshop leaders?

KATHY PINGEL: Kathy wrote the curriculum for the AACT Adjudication Workshop and has 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.

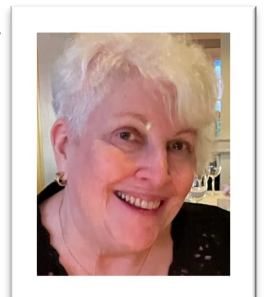
BETSY WILLIS: Michigan native and has been an adjudicator for 10-15 years on the State and Regional level for Michigan and AACT. Betsy is also Michigan's Adjudication chair and truly believes that adjudication will make you a better director, actor and person in theatre.

Questions? Please contact ctamthrives@gmail.com. For more information - and to sign up, please follow this link:

<https://ctam.ludus.com/200472648>



Pingel



Willis



Meet your Adjudicators for state AACTfest



Allen Ebert is an experienced theater professional with a robust background in the performing arts. He holds a degree in Theater and Drama from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently, Allen serves as the Executive Director of the Children's Theater of Madison (CTM), a member of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (TYA/USA) and a resident company at the Overture Center for Performing Arts. In his role, he directs productions and performs, contributing significantly to Madison's theater community. He also played a crucial role in developing the MYARTS Youth Arts Center in Madison, a new 70,000 square foot facility that supports youth in the performing arts.

Allen's international experience includes serving as the Entertainment Director at Soldiers' Theatre, an Army Community Theatre in Vicenza, Italy. This role expanded his understanding and appreciation of theater's impact. With a career spanning over 30 years, Allen has distinguished himself as a director, actor, and adjudicator at various theater events across state, regional, and national levels. He also conducts workshops, sharing his lessons learned with aspiring theater practitioners.



Pamela Steers is a theatre director and educator. She has directed both community theatre and high school productions for over 35 years including at The Grand Rapids Civic Theater, Circle Theater Grand Rapids, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Creston High School, Kenowa Hills High School, and East Grand Rapids High School. She has taught directing, stage managing, acting, and college audition workshops over the last 30 years partnering with The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Aquinas College and Grand Valley State University's teacher education programs,

Pamela is a recently retired communications teacher for East Grand Rapids High School where, in addition to directing and producing a six show season and teaching theatre, she also taught multiple film studies classes and public speaking. She has taken numerous high school productions to adjudicated festivals and loves the process. Her BA degrees from Grand Valley State University and Aquinas College, her teaching certification, and an MLS from Wayne State University have assisted her in researching and exploring all aspects of theatre. She also has International Baccalaureate educational certificates in both film and theatre. She is a member of the American Association of Community Theatres and the Educational Theatre Association.



David Gram, originally from Toronto, Canada, is currently a Detroit-based theatre and opera director, actor, dramaturg, playwright, and teacher. He is an Associate Professor of Directing and Acting in the Department of Theatre at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, MI. David has directed and produced over 80 productions across the United States and Canada. A director with a wide range of theatrical interests, David is equally at home working on everything from Shakespeare to Sondheim, from farce to Brecht, from contemporary American dramas to original plays, musicals, and opera. He serves as Producing Artistic Director of Renaissance City Repertory Theatre, a non-profit arts organization in the Detroit-metro area

committed to bringing contemporary and classical work from the international canon, to Michigan stages (www.rcrep.org). His first book, *Contemporary Farce on the Global Stage, or Serious Laughter* was published by Routledge in April 2024. www.david-gram.com



Players deNoc in Escanaba held an On The Road To You workshop recently with Kendall Kotcher from Traverse City. They had about 30 participants attending. This workshop is in preparation for their upcoming production of *Chicago*.

Michigan Theatre -- Spring 2025

February 7 - 16, 2025	Community Theatre of Howell	<i>The 39 Steps</i>
February 7 - 16, 2025	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Dogfight</i>
February 7 - 22, 2025	Farmington Players	<i>Exit Laughing</i>
February 7 - 22, 2025	Holland Community Theatre	<i>An Inspector Calls</i>
February 7 - 22, 2025	Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Godspell</i>
February 7-16, 2025	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>The Lion in Winter</i>
February 8 - 16, 2025	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Press Start! A New Children's Musical*</i>
February 14 - 23, 2025	Pit & Balcony	<i>Almost, Maine</i>
February 15-16, 2025	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	<i>Love Lost and Found</i>
February 21 - 23, 2025	Bay City Players	<i>Grand Horizons</i>
February 21 - March 1, 2025	Livonia Community Theatre	<i>The Musical of Musicals</i>
February 21 - March 1, 2025	Southgate Community Players	<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>
February 21 - March 15, 2025	Old Town Playhouse	<i>The Addams Family</i>
February 21 - March 2, 2025	Midland Center for the Arts	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>
February 21 - March 2, 2025	Fenton Village Players	<i>Cabaret</i>
February 21 - March 2, 2025	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>California Suite</i>
February 21 - March 2, 2025	Midland Center for the Arts	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>
February 24 - March 9, 2025	Clio Cast & Crew	<i>The Sound of Music</i>
February 27 - March 15, 2025	Master Arts Theatre	<i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i>
February 27 - March 2, 2025	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Sherlock Holmes*</i>
February 28 - March 16, 2025	Twin City Players	<i>Unnecessary Farce</i>
February 28 - March 16, 2025	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>Disney's Camp Rock the Musical *</i>
February 28 - March 8, 2025	Players deNoc	<i>Chicago</i>
February 28 - March 9, 2025	Lebowsky Center for Performing	<i>Into the Woods</i>
March 7 - 15, 2025	Central Park Players	<i>Talking With...</i>
March 7 - 16, 2025	Flint Community Players	<i>Moliere's The Imaginary Invalid</i>
March 7 - 22, 2025	Clarkston Village Players	<i>The 39 Steps</i>
March 7 - 23, 2025	Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Unnecessary Farce</i>
March 10 - 16, 2025	Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Into the Woods Jr*</i>
March 13 - 23, 2025	Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>
March 13-16, 2025	Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Frozen Jr.*</i>
March 14 - 16, 2025	Dickinson County Community	<i>Good Deli</i>
March 14 - 23, 2025	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Parade</i>
March 14 - 29, 2025	Avon Players	<i>Neil Simon's Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i>
March 14 - 30, 2025	Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>

* Indicates youth production. ** Second stage 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.

