



**CTAM**  
Community Theatre Association of Michigan

# CALLBOARD

January 2025

**February 27 to March 2 -- in Bay City**

## **Seven competitors announced for AACTfest**

The Michigan AACTFest is just around the corner! Held at Bay City Players in Bay City, come watch as these theatres compete to advance to the regional round held in Owosso in March:

- Bay City Players
- Center Stage Theatre - MCFTA, Midland
- Holland Community Theatre
- The Sauk, Jonesville
- Stagecrafters, Royal Oak
- Tawas Bay Players
- Twin City Players, Inc.

The festival begins Thursday, February 27th with rehearsals for four of our competitors. We continue rehearsals for the remaining three on Friday, February 28th, and our first block of performances happen Friday evening. After the performances, we'll host a Mixer to close out the night. The second and third blocks of performances take place Saturday, March 1st, and we cap off the night with an Afterglow featuring local food vendors and karaoke.



The awards brunch will be held on Sunday, March 2nd.

While you're here, make sure you join us for CTAM's National Adjudication Workshop, led by Betsy Willis and will include instructional assistance by Kathy Pingel! Learn how to look at productions from an adjudicator's perspective. This workshop is beneficial to new directors, seasoned directors, actors and anyone interested in the adjudication process.

Courtyard Bay City is our festival hotel located at 2 E. Main St., Bay City, MI 48708. The nightly group rate is \$119 between February 27th-March 2nd. You must book by January 29th to secure the reduced group rate! (See page 2 for contact information.)

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! Due to popular demand, Individual Registration has re-opened and will close on February 12th!

Block 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 soon on Bay City Players' website or at the door.

Don't miss your chance to see some spectacular performances from around our great state!

**HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!**



**Community Theatre  
Association of Michigan**

**2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Callboard**

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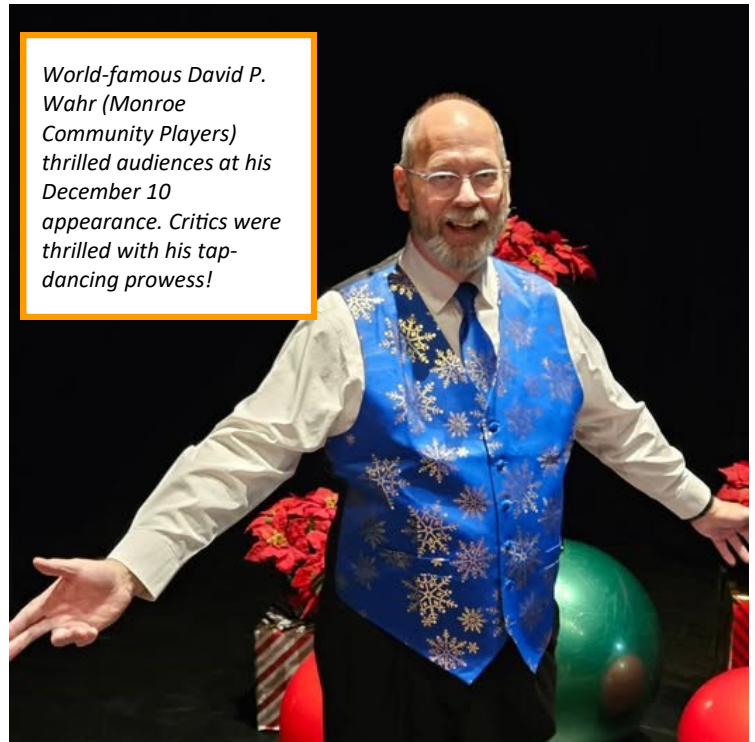
This is the official newsletter of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, issued monthly to all group affiliates and individual members with e-mail addresses on record. Distribution is by e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the association website. Back issues are available on the association website. Correspondence to the **Callboard** should be sent to [maryloubritton@gmail.com](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).*



☆ **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>

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY  
JANUARY 29, 2025**



*World-famous David P. Wahr (Monroe Community Players) thrilled audiences at his December 10 appearance. Critics were thrilled with his tap-dancing prowess!*

**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



## The Prez Sez...

BY CHUCK GODDEERIS

CTAM PRESIDENT

As we turn the page on 2024 and move into 2025, there is much to reflect on as well as look forward to as an organization. The two biggest hits from this past calendar year were securing a large grant from MACC, which will enable us to bring you great programming this year, and completing the update to our handbook ([found here](#)) so we as board members better understand our duties and expectations so we can best serve our member organizations.

As we've mentioned in the last few *Callboards*, this MACC grant has kickstarted our two big initiatives for this year: Adjudication and On The Road Workshops. Adjudication is an oft overlooked aspect of community theatre but a useful tool that allows organizations to get an outside perspective on how their productions are being viewed – what things you are doing well and what things could be improved.

Trained adjudicators come to your theatre, evaluate a performance, and provide this valuable feedback. The most common exposure to adjudication is through AACTFest, but adjudications can take place all year long and at every production, should you so choose.

This year we are teaming up with Kathy Pingel, who literally wrote the book on the subject, and our adjudicator coordinator Betsy Willis, to train (and re-train) people in the art of adjudication. You will receive hands-on experience and get to see how adjudication works by seeing it in action at State AACTFest (hosted by Bay City) as well as Regional AACTFest (hosted by Owosso's Lebowsky Center) this year.

To take advantage of this great opportunity and become an adjudicator only costs \$50. If you are interested in taking your personal skills to the next level or helping other organizations take their skills to the next level, then [please sign up today!](#)

Lastly, the MACC funding will increase our ability to provide On The Road Workshops to our member organizations. This allows us to provide a direct and immediate impact on your organization. You let us know what skills you want more training in for your members and we will provide highly trained individuals to come to you to lead your group in workshops to meet these needs.

Last year we had several groups take advantage of this opportunity. Lapeer Community Theatre led the way by holding a workshop on directing that allowed that immediately led to them gaining five new directors into their talent pool. Additionally, they opened this workshop to neighboring theatres to attend and members from Grand Haven Central Park Players had such a great experience that we are working on bringing this same workshop directly to their organization this year.

We've already got multiple workshops lined up with Players de Noc and Tawas Bay Players among others. And the best part is we'll work with you to provide workshops that fit your organization's schedule. Additionally, we'll be resuming our webinar offerings in February so keep your eyes peeled to our website and social media feeds for those announcements.

As always, please continue to let us know how we can help support you and your organization. We will be reaching out more often to our groups throughout the year to find out how we can best do that, but our "door" is always open to hear from our members at any time throughout the year. Remember, we are here to help your theatre thrive!



LCT AND CTAM PRESENT

# AUDITIONS WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

11 AM - 12:30 PM (Ages 13+): Learn audition tips, including mastering cold reads, breaking the ice, and shining during the process.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch break

Option to purchase a catered lunch from Jimmy Johns for \$11

\*\*Vegetarian options upon request

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (Ages 18+): Gain insights into directing auditions, from attracting participants to maximizing their potential.

Free for LCT members

- Non-members: \$20 includes 1-year LCT membership

Led by Emily Anderson and Jason Applegate

Tickets can be purchased at  
[Lapeercommunitytheatre.com](http://Lapeercommunitytheatre.com)

3551 Hadley Rd,  
Hadley, MI 48440

# Upcoming workshops announced; open to all

## Players deNoc, Escanaba.

JR Bornemann - DMX Lighting -  
Part 1. February 2-7.

This workshop will focus on DMX lighting, understanding the instruments, capabilities and limitations.

We will hang fixtures and explore functions. Please contact Jamie Peterson for more information on dates and times. Email: [mr.jamie.peterson@gmail.com](mailto:mr.jamie.peterson@gmail.com)

## Players deNoc, Escanaba.

JR Bornemann - DMX Lighting-  
Part 2 - Feb 22 & 23

This workshop will dive into the programming of DMX lighting. Particularly how to adapt existing lighting techs to a different style of show planning and programming

Email: [mr.jamie.peterson@gmail.com](mailto:mr.jamie.peterson@gmail.com)

## Circle Theatre, Grand Rapids,

Bill Anderson - February 15, 9am-1pm

To sign up: <https://circletheatre.ludus.com/200470311>

Directing ain't easy! Reading the script, planning rehearsals, re-reading the script, meeting with designers, eat/sleep/breathe the script, pre-blocking your show, casting the show...and we haven't even gotten to conducting rehearsals or character development. So how do you conquer such a task and do it effectively, especially in community theatre, where we don't have all the resources of a professional company?

This session will be a culmination of best practices to consider using before, during and after your production. Gathered from more than 30 years of community theatre experience, these best practices aim to help you feel more confident as you take on your first production as a director or hone your skills for the next one!



## New category introduced in this year's Playwriting Contest

In addition to the traditional full-length plays, this year's Playwriting Contest will also accept scripts for ten-minute plays. A new phenomenon in playwriting, the ten minute plays must include the normal prerequisites: A protagonist, an antagonist, a climax and a resolution of the dramatic question.



*The deadline for submitting both types of plays will be Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, at midnight.*



Several of the winning ten-minute plays will be presented at the Fall Conference, as well as the best play will earn a cash prize!

Submitted plays must be 9 or 10 pages in normal manuscript format, which includes 12 pt. Courier New typeface, page numbers, and character names centered above speeches.

To be successful this year, the ten-minute plays should be continuous action (no scene breaks); and contemporary in language, mores and costumes. Each play must include the same prop -- i.e., a bundle of cash (totaling \$3,000), wrapped in a brown, grocery-bag craft paper and tied somehow. You must show the bundle of money, rather than just talk about it!



# Michigan Theatre in 2025

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 10 - 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	Grosse Pointe Theatre **	<i>Failure: A Love Story</i>
January 17 - 26, 2025	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Well</i>
January TBA	Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Funeral for a Gangster</i>
January 17 - February 2, 2025	Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Crossing Delancy</i>
January 24 - February 8, 2025	Rosedale Community Players	<i>Knock the Ball Loose</i>
January 31 - February 2, 2025	Center Stage Theatre Kalamazoo	<i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i>
January 31 - February 8, 2025	Northland Players	<i>Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
February 7 - 16, 2025	Community Theatre of Howell	<i>The 39 Steps</i>
February 7 - 16, 2025	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>The Lion in Winter</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 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</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 15, 2025	Old Town Playhouse	<i>The Addams Family</i>
February 24 - March 9, 2025	Clio Cast & Crew	<i>The Sound of Music</i>
February 28 - March 8, 2025	Players deNoc	<i>Chicago</i>
February 28 - March 16, 2025	Twin City Players	<i>Unnecessary Farce</i>
TBA March	Northland Players	<i>Underneath the Lintle</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>

\* 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](mailto:CTAMthrives@gmail.com) to be included in the next issue.

