

CALLBOARD

November 2024

Tackling the issues and creating community at 2024 CTAM Fall Conference

It was a day of collaboration when representatives from more than 40 Michigan community theaters met for the 2024 CTAM Fall Conference in Midland, September 21st. With sessions on youth engagement, grants, marketing, and more, it was a time to learn how to create positive change in the participants' organizations.

“Whether they were a presenter or participant/attendee, I loved how engaged everyone was in their workshop or roundtable; everyone was a sponge soaking up new information to take back with them to their home theatre. We also had several workshops, like the roundtable on recruiting younger volunteers, where we had to pry people away for lunch or move onto the next class of the day,” remarked Chuck Goddeeris, newly elected president of CTAM.

Each year, the conference brings resources and experts to build up member community theaters across the state. So often, community theaters operate on shoestring budgets, using their creative energy to create worthwhile performing art experiences in their communities. The conference brought in professionals with field expertise to problem solve, offer ideas and connect with theater officials. Conference sponsor Ludus Ticketing gave insight into their platform and a glimpse into upcoming changes. Also sponsoring, Associated Controls helped troubleshoot some common studio and lighting troubles in small theaters and roundtables throughout the day offered insight into a variety of topics.

“I especially enjoyed the technical workshop from Marty (Associated Controls) - he was highly knowledgeable and personalized a lot of his presentation towards all the participants so they could get valuable information pertinent to their theatre. I would definitely recommend any technical workshop by him as he is a wealth of knowledge,” added Goddeeris.

Plans are already underway for next year's sessions, building on the momentum from the successful 2024. If there are topics or issues you would like to tackle at the next conference, email your ideas to charles-goddeeris@gmail.com.





Community Theatre Association of Michigan

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

Have you ever thought "I wish our theatre would do a workshop on _____"

CTAM is here to help. For this fiscal year (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025) CTAM is offering FREE CTAM On The Road to You workshops. How does this work?

CTAM Responsibilities:

- CTAM agrees to pay \$200 workshop stipend (for the 24/25 season).
Mileage for workshop leader (up to 400 miles round trip).
CTAM will facilitate the contacting and arrangements through the application process.
CTAM will review the application information and make connections of workshop leader name and availability. If this meets with theatre approval, CTAM will send a contract to both parties for signature and payment information.

Theatre Affiliate Responsibilities:

- Theatre agrees to pay for any meal/lodging if needed for the workshop leader.
Any fees collected by the theatre will be theirs to offset costs. CTAM will facilitate the contract and the arrangements with the facilitator.
The affiliate theatre needs to get the members/volunteers to attend.

Please contact ctamthrives@gmail.com for more information. Groups who have taken advantage of this programming: Central Park Players, Lapeer Community Theatre, Players de Noc and we are working on contracts for Circle Theatre and WE Players. Take advantage of this opportunity to have a workshop locally.

CTAM Calendar of Events

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



Adjudication is alive and well in Michigan...



... and we have exciting news to share with you about its future. First, I am taking over chairing the Adjudication program as Larry Nielsen decided it was time to pass the torch after many years of faithfully keeping the program alive and well. We cannot possibly thank him enough for his time and experience leading this vital CTAM program. Thankfully, he will continue as an adjudicator for us.

Second, thanks to a generous grant from the MACC and the NEA we are able, at least for the time being, to pay mileage for all adjudicators to travel to your shows, and **CTAM will now pay \$50 for all adjudications that take place between now and September 30, 2025.** We hope the addition of paying for mileage will enable more adjudicators to travel longer distances and be available for more shows and that the ability to have this done at no cost, will encourage more groups to give adjudication a try! At least three theaters in the state are looking at having all their shows adjudicated. If you wish to get an adjudicator for one of your shows or want to know more about the process, please email me at ryonwillis915@gmail.com

Finally, and with great excitement, I can announce that CTAM is going to offer two opportunities for you to learn to be an adjudicator. World renowned AACTFest adjudicator, Kathy Pingel, 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.

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 opened to all 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. If you want to get on the list now, please email me at the same address as I listed above. If you are already an adjudicator and would like a refresher, please contact me and we will include you if space is available.

Watch the Callboard for more information. I hope to see you in February and March.

-- Betsy Willis

Betsy Willis (above left) with Laura Vosejпка and Jill Patchin at the Fall Conference as they lead a challenging and lively roundtable on rallying community support for your theatre.



Out and About

By Mary Jo DeNolf,
CTAM Administrator

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend *39 Steps* at **Tawas Bay Players** and give an adjudication after the show. It was a great time and performed by a wonderful group of volunteers.

If you are not familiar with *39 Steps* it is a parody play adapted from the 1915 novel by John Buchan and the 1935 film by Alfred Hitchcock. The original concept and production of a four-actor version premiered in 1996 and the adaptation this group performed was 2005 which includes more actors.

Director, Suzan Nemeth, did a fantastic job of working with her cast of 10 (which included the Stage Manager and Asst SM) moving about the stage. Suzan utilized all parts of the stage, theatre and spaces which allowed the audience to feel as if they were part of the production. One thing that I'm very picky on, especially as I get older, is the dialect of a production. I want to hear every word that is said and understand what is being said. Congratulations to this cast. Not only could I hear everyone, I understood everyone and the Scottish dialects were the best ever! (Even when you're not supposed to understand...I understood!) Character development with this group was also outstanding. Fantastic job done by all.

If you have never been to Tawas Bay Players, they go above and beyond from the time you step in the door. They welcome you as you enter the building and the lobby space has the same theme as the show. For this production, their intermission included Union Jack flags and English/Scottish food offerings for guests. What a fantastic way of embracing the theme and feel of the show.

If you would like to catch a show and travel to a great city their next production will be *Squirrel Lake* in May. But, WE Players also performs at this same building and their next production is *Puffs* November 15 - 24. Check them out as well. This group is led by Suzan Nemeth and is a group of very talented youth.



Would you like to learn more about adjudication and having a trained adjudicator come to your theatre - contact Betsy Willis (ryonwillis915@gmail.com). Or would you like to take a training to become not only an adjudicator for CTAM but also the opportunity to adjudicate for AACT? Contact Betsy or watch for our information on this training happening with AACT-Fest25 starting in Bay City for the State festival.





FACES IN THE CROWD AT THE FALL CONFERENCE





SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

MIDLAND



Deadline of December 20 announced for Michigan AACTfest in February

The clock is ticking and the 2025 AACTfest cycle is getting closer and closer each day. The cycle starts with the state festival in Bay City next February 27 through March 2. The deadline to register to enter the competition is this December 20 -- just a few days before Christmas!

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.



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.

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.



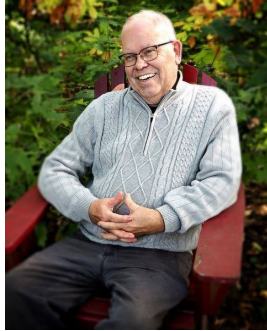
David Gram, originally from Toronto, Canada, is currently a Detroit-based theatre and opera director, actor, dramaturg, playwright, and teacher. He is an Associate Professor of Directing and Acting in the Department of Theatre at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, MI. David has directed and produced 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



*Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?*

That famous verse almost covers the whole tenure of **Michael Wilson's** CTAM Presidency. Yes, you read that correctly. When I looked back at our records to determine his actual time on the Board I did a double take as I didn't realize how long he served as President. By all accounts he has served the longest continuous term as President of the organization, holding the position from 2020 through 2024. And this after joining the Board in 2018.



In short, words cannot properly express our gratitude for Michael's leadership these past four years. Especially since he took over amidst the pandemic. He helped drive us from being a member-based organization to Board-driven. This started by re-shaping our bylaws to become nimbler so we can better serve the community theatres of Michigan. This allows us to make decisions quicker and more effectively and impact greater change.

This doesn't even cover the countless calls he's made to theatres and volunteers. Not to mention the numerous workshops he has led to teach others how to make such fabulous props. His impact is far-reaching yet immeasurable. And just because he's no longer President does not mean his support is ending. He is still working behind the scenes for us on numerous initiatives. So, I would like to extend a standing ovation to Michael for his undying support of CTAM and this state's great community theatres.



Now, having said that means I have big shoes to fill as the new President. However, I believe we are setup for success. Our current Board is ready to serve and help our theatres thrive. Thanks to Betsy Willis we have procured a grant from the MACC, which will enable us to bring even more adjudications and On The Road Workshops to those theatres that need them.

We are forming a budget committee to not only manage this grant spending but set us up for future sustainability. We are going to present at least three, if not more, On The Road workshops this year in addition to our Fall Conference. We are going to present at least 6, if not more, webinars in 2025. The last few years these webinars and the Fall Conference have been free to attend but in order to ensure future sustainability we will be implementing a small fee to help subsidize these costs as the grant monies will not always be there.

Additionally, we are finalizing a long overdue update to our handbook, which should be completed by January 2025. This handbook will not only ensure smooth transitions but also set expectations and guidelines for our various committees so that we can more effectively serve our member organizations. Once this is completed it will be readily accessible for all via our website.

Moving forward, all I ask of you, our affiliate organizations and members, is to provide us with a small bit of guidance on what your theatre needs to take your productions and programming to the next level. We know one size does not fit all but we need to hear from you directly so that we can bring the right education to the right theatres. So, please email our amazing CTAM Administrator (Mary Jo Denolf) at ctamthrives@gmail.com with how we can better support you. She will help us ensure we get the right people in contact with you so we can help your organization grow.

Remember, we are here to help your theatre thrive!



Autumn in Michigan theatre

October 18 - November 3, 2024	Twin City Players	<i>Agatha Christie's Mousetrap</i>
October 24 - November 3, 2024	Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Young Frankenstein, The Musical</i>
October 25 - November 3, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Finding Nemo Jr.*</i>
October 25 - November 3, 2024	Port Austin Community Theatre	<i>Nunsense</i>
October 25 - November 3, 2024	Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Underneath the Lintle</i>
October 25 - November 9, 2024	Rosedale Community Players	<i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i>
October 25 - November 10, 2024	Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Next to Normal</i>
October 31- November 2, 2024	Glen Arbor Players	<i>Sherlock Holmes & the Jersey Lily</i>
November 1 - 2, 2024	Pit & Balcony After Dark (Black Box)	<i>Potus</i>
November 1 - 3, 2024	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Frozen, Jr. *</i>
November 1 - 10, 2024	Fowlerville Community Theatre	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>
November 1 - 10, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>Traveler in the Dark</i>
November 1 - 10, 2024	Livonia Community Theatre	<i>Ten November</i>
November 2 - 10, 2024	Bay City Players	<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.*</i>
November 8 - 16, 2024	Northland Players Inc.	<i>Sister Act</i>
November 8 - 17, 2024	Flint Community Players	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>
November 8 - 17, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Radium Girls</i>
November 8 - 23, 2024	Avon Players	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i>
November 8 - 23, 2024	Clarkston Village Players	<i>Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot</i>
November 8 - 23, 2024	Old Town Playhouse	<i>Ken Ludwig's Lend Me a Soprano</i>
November 8 - 24, 2024	Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Beautiful: The Carole King Musical</i>
November 15-17, 2024	Midland Center for the Arts	<i>Wizard of Oz</i>
November 15 - 24, 2024	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Over the River and Through the Woods</i>
November 15 - 24, 2024	Community Theatre of Howell	<i>One Night a Week</i>
November 15 - 24, 2024	Kidz Theatre Kompany	<i>The Great Ghost Chase</i>
November 15 - December 1,	Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>
November 22 & 23, 2024	Thornapple Players	<i>Sondheim Tribute Revue</i>
November 22-24, 2024	Center Stage Theatre Kalamazoo	<i>Elf Jr. *</i>
November 29, 2024	Port Austin Community Theatre	<i>Sonos Concert</i>
November 29 - December 14	Holland Community Theatre	<i>Best Christmas Pageant Every</i>
November 29 - December 23	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella</i>
November 30 & December 1	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>

* 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.