



CALLBOARD

September 2024

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Schedule announced for our CTAM Fall Conference Workshops

The time is drawing near, very quickly, for the CTAM Annual Fall Conference -- the 2024 version! It will be held on Saturday, September 21, at the Midland Central Auditorium, 305 East Reardon Street, Midland 48640

This is a wonderful location for our conference because it's easy to find, easy to park, and has lots of rooms for our workshop sessions.

The schedule for the day has been released, as well as the exciting workshops and the experts who will be making the presentations. See page 3 for workshop information.

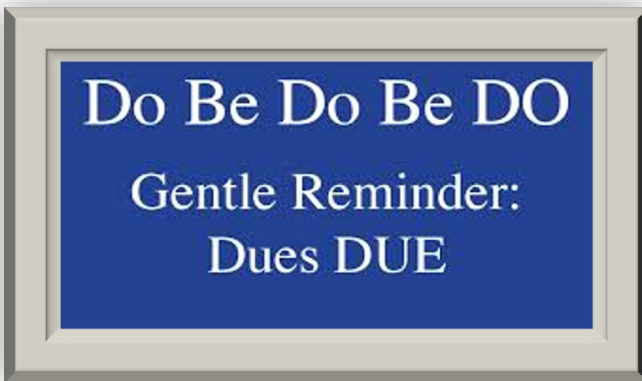


Why should I go to the Conference?

Everyone strives to do better all the time! Not only with their job (with CEUs and other educational opportunities), but also with networking with other practitioners so you can see what they're doing or NOT doing with their programs. Unfortunately, we've chosen an avocation that doesn't come with many built-in additional learning activities - beyond the classes and workshops offered by industry members!

CTAM is pleased to offer workshops AT NO CHARGE to our members at the annual conferences. Take a look at the wide range of opportunities on page 3 and register today to attend the Midland Conference AT NO COST on Saturday, September 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

See old friends and make some new ones!



HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



**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.*

FREE Education Opportunities through CTAM

As you read through this issue and get all the information you need to plan to attend the Fall Conference, I hope you realize from the git-go that there is **no charge** to attend the Conference in Midland! The Board has worked things out so that everyone can attend and not have to worry about the expense. They've even condensed it into one day so there are no overnight expenses! (You gotta face the gas prices, however!) Where else can you get such a deal?



Looking for more free education? You can watch some of the past CTAM webinars on our YouTube channel. Click this link to follow our channel: <https://youtu.be/q0aCoJPg4Lc>

The third opportunity for free theater craft workshops is our CTAM On the Road to You program. Our new outreach program will give our affiliate theaters the opportunity to choose and bring expertise and artists to your home theater for a program/workshop designed specifically for you and your needs!

How does this work? CTAM Responsibilities:

- CTAM agrees to pay \$100 workshop stipend and all mileage for workshop leader (up to 400 miles round trip).
- CTAM will facilitate the contacting and arrangements through the application process.
- CTAM will assist in promotion with other theatres in your area.

Theatre Affiliate Responsibilities:

- Theatre agrees to pay \$100 workshop stipend.
- 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.

Contact the CTAM office for more information about any of these programs. ctamthrives@gmail.com

CTAM Calendar of Events

Saturday, Sept 21, 2024 Midland	2024 Fall Conference
Feb 27 - March 2, 2025 Bay City	AACTfest 2025, plus Adjudication National Workshop
March 21-23, 2025 Owosso	Regional AACTfest



CTAM Fall Conference, Saturday, September 21, 2024

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

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

9:00am - Workshops:

- **Grants 101:** Laura Vosejka, Executive Director, Creative 360
- **Playwriting, Session #1:** Getting Started with your Next Play: Mary Lou Britton / Grosse Pointe Theatre
- **Design in Focus:** Jamie Peterson / Players deNoc

10:30am- Roundtables

- **Community Support:** How to get your community involved with in-kind, donations, volunteers and patronage. Joining us for this panel: Jill Patchin, Laura Vosejka
- **Where are all the young people?** This is a question many theatres have asked themselves, and it is time to get answers. Join this roundtable as they discuss what would attract a younger audience and younger talent. This panel, made up of 20-30-year-olds, will speak the truth about what would bring them to a theatre. This is sure to be an eye-opening, thought-provoking discussion you won't want to miss.

12:00N - LUNCH provided at no cost.

12:15pm - Ludus presentation during lunch

12:30pm - Associated Controls presentation

12:45pm - CTAM Meeting - Year in a glance

1:15pm - Workshops

- **Directing Workshop:** How to Build a Better Ensemble, Kirk Wahamaki / Muskegon Civic
- **Board Development** - Theatre Boards - Can't live with them, can't live without them. Gary Walker - AACT / Grand Rapids Civic
- **Moving from Analog Audio & Incandescent Lighting to Digital Audio and LED Lighting:** Considerations for community theatres. relating to staffing, budget and infrastructure - Martin Golub / Associated Controls.
- **Design in Focus,** Jamie Peterson / Players deNoc

2:45pm Roundtables/Workshop

- **Marketing techniques** - what works for your theatre? Chuck Goddeeris / Amy Jo Brown
- **Hits and Misses** - What has been your best seller and your worst enemy? Discussion in this roundtable will focus on which shows are working and bringing in patrons that you want at your theatre.

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

4:00pm - Workshops

- **Board Development** - Theatre Boards - Can't live with them, can't live without them. Gary Walker - AACT / Grand Rapids Civic
- **Moving from Analog Audio & Incandescent Lighting to Digital Audio and LED Lighting:** Considerations for community theatres. relating to staffing, budget and infrastructure - Martin Golub / Associated Controls.
- **Director Workshop:** How to Build a Better Ensemble, Kirk Wahamaki / Muskegon Civic
- **Playwriting, Session #2** - To continue the momentum and dig into creating your characters. Mary Lou Britton, Grosse Pointe Theatre.

5:30pm - Town Hall. Ask questions - get involved! Adjournment!



Workshop Descriptions and Instructor Credentials

GRANTS 101: Laura Vosejпка

You do NOT have to be an award-winning writer to get grant money! It is all about finding the right opportunity and then following the directions perfectly. In this session, we will discuss:

- ☆ How to find the best grant opportunities for your project, program, or organization.
- ☆ How to have the right materials ready so that it doesn't take you so long to write the grant.
- ☆ How to follow the instructions to a T.
- ☆ What the reviewers are looking for - ie. Maximize your chances of getting funding.

While you can get plenty out of this workshop using the materials provided, you will get even more if you bring information about your organization or program with you so that you can work the exercises with YOUR information. With **Laura Vosejпка**, Executive Director of Creative 360 (which saw a 185% increase in annual grant funding from 2019 to 2022).



Laura Vosejпка, Executive Director: *Laura has been the Executive Director at Creative 360 since July of 2020. She loves writing grants (yes, really) and has been a successful grant writer and reviewer throughout her career in higher education, both as a faculty member and as an upper-level administrator, and in the arts. Laura's most recent prior role was as the CEO of Helena College – University of Montana. With the exception of her short stay in Montana, Laura has been a resident of Midland for over 30 years.*

THEATRE BOARDS: Can't live with them, can't live without them: Gary Walker

A review of non-profit board function, membership and common issues from the perspective of a frequent board member. Bring your questions and issues to discuss.



Gary Walker - *Gary Walker has served as board president of the American Association for Community Theatre, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids as well as in other positions including treasurer and secretary. He has also performed and/or crewed in a number of community theatre productions. Gary has retired from his career in technical management positions, most recently with Lacks Enterprises in Grand Rapids. Gary holds a BS in Chemistry from the University of Louisville and an MBA from GVSU. Gary lives in Grand Rapids.*

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR NEXT PLAY: Mary Lou Britton

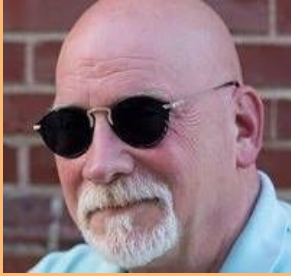
As you stare at the blank sheet of paper, how do you get started with the story idea for your play? I don't know how other playwrights do it, but I have my own processes that I'd like to share with you to help you get started! We'll be writing in our session, so please bring your laptop.



Mary Lou Britton -*Mary Lou's love affair with community theatre began nearly 60 years ago when she found herself painting clapboard shadows on Aunt Eller's front porch for Grosse Pointe Theatre's [GPT] production of Oklahoma! Since then, she has held just about every position in front of and behind the curtain, including several terms as President. Active in CTAM for 50 years, she has served as President and more recently as Editor of the association's newsletter. An accredited adjudicator in Michigan, she has been a first-level reader for the AACT NewPlayFest, and is Executive Producer of GPT's Take Ten Festival for ten-minute plays,*

DIRECTING WORKSHOP: How to build a better ensemble: Kirk Wahamaki

Discussion about “tools” to get more from actors with their participation in the rehearsal process and how to get the most out of the rehearsal process from auditions to performance. The session will help find what works for you as a director ... and much more!



***Kirk M. Wahamaki** - Kirk recently retired as the Artistic Director for Muskegon Civic Theatre after 18 years and has been working in the theatre for over forty years. Kirk has worked with Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, The Dogwood Center, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Lincoln Trail College, Community Theater of Terre Haute, and Indiana State University. His most recent directorial credits include: Ragtime, Return to the Forbidden Planet, Old Heart, and Always...Patsy Cline. A Theatre generalist, Kirk has also worked extensively in scenic, lighting, and sound design. Kirk is currently in production directing the film Old Heart. Kirk and his wife, Sheila, also retired from teaching theatre at Muskegon Community College, live in Muskegon.*

DESIGN IN FOCUS: Jamie Peterson

Join AACT & CTAM award winning scenic designer Jamie Peterson as you explore the principals of elevating your design techniques to the next level. We will discuss the elements and process of interpreting the script while deciding the relationship the design will have between the audience and the production. We will survey the differences between Literal, Abstract, and Stylized techniques, along with dissecting the role of the designer within the production itself. We will take a look at the various tools used in the process of design and the role that scenic modeling plays in understanding concept and space. You will also have an opportunity to share some best practices in regards to communication, preparation, and execution. This workshop is not a lecture, so come prepared to learn, but also share. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, but also examples of their own designs or concept art to contribute.



***Jamie Peterson** - Jamie Peterson resides in Escanaba, Michigan with his wife and three children. For over thirty years Jamie has been an extremely active member of his home theatre troupe, Players de Noc Inc. Throughout his time with Players, Jamie has served multiple terms on the board of directors, including serving as the president for the organization. Jamie is a state, regional and national award-winning actor, designer and director. He is a state certified and nationally accredited theatre adjudicator. Jamie has been involved with CTAM & AACT for more than a dozen years, and has served on the CTAM executive board for the entirety of his six-year term. He currently serves on the AACT board as the Region 3 representative, where he works with theaters in Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan.*

MOVING FROM ANALOG AUDIO & INCANDESCENT LIGHTING to Digital Audio and LED Lighting: Marty Golub

It isn't easy or cheap to stay up on things! This session will talk about considerations for community theatres as it relates to staffing, budget and infrastructure to switch from the old to the new.



***Marty Golub** - Are you ready to take your theatre productions to the next level? Meet Marty at the CTAM Fall Conference, your go-to guy for all things theatrical! When he's not with his clients, he's hanging out at Twin City Players in St. Joseph MI. Marty has an MA in Theater Leadership and stays busy after work doing Scenic & Lighting Design for regional theaters. He & his wife Wendy met during a production of "The Pajama Game" and have three thespians and two grand-thespians. When you need to have the latest and greatest equipment to make your shows shine bright, don't settle for an impersonal online experience, come see Marty at CTAM and let's make magic happen together.*



Details announced for Michigan AACTfest next Spring -- February 27 to March 2 -- in Bay City

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:

\$75 Early Bird Pricing until October 31, 2024. Price will then increase to \$85.

Form: <https://forms.gle/9YqymA1ULShkptxZ9>

Registration will close December 20 at 5:00PM.

Group Registration:

\$150 for up to 8 people.

Any competing group over 8 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

Meet the Adjudicators:

To glimpse the background of the three adjudicators, click on this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TnFXa-8JwtHokrdW0t3ojUqvSNYaLVUGeTyguXOJ_y0/edit?usp=sharing

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.



Autumn in Michigan theatre

September 5 - 8, 2024	Bay City Players	<i>Nunsense</i>
September 5 - 21, 2024	Circle Theatre	<i>Urinetown</i>
September 6 - 21, 2024	Avon Players	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>
September 6 - 21, 2024	Clarkston Village Players	<i>Moonlight & Magnolias</i>
September 6-22, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>The Mad Ones</i>
September 6 -22, 2024	Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Memphis</i>
September 7 - 8, 2024	Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Beauty and the Beast Jr *</i>
September 12 -14, 2024	Glen Arbor Players	<i>Private Lives</i>
September 12 - 28, 2024	Master Arts Theatre	<i>Pygmalion</i>
September 13, 2024	The Sauk	<i>Plays-in-Development: Nothing Gold</i>
September 13- 15, 2024	Rosedale Community Players	<i>One Act Festival</i>
September 13 - 22, 2024	Flint Community Players	<i>Ride the Cyclone</i>
September 13 - 22, 2024	Tin Shop Theatre	<i>And Then There Were None</i>
September 13 - 20, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic	<i>Six - The Musical, Teen Edition</i>
September 13 - 29, 2024	Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>The Philadelphia Story</i>
September 13 - 21, 2024	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Crazy for You</i>
September 13 - October 6, 2024	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>
September 13 - October 6, 2024	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Rent</i>
September 14, 2024	The Sauk	<i>Plays-in-Development: Holidays & Sweet Life</i>
September 14-15, 2024	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	<i>Spellbinding Suspense</i>
September 20 - October 5, 2024	Farmington Players	<i>The Best Laid Plans</i>
September 20 - October 12	Old Town Playhouse	<i>Waitress</i>
September 27 - October 6, 2024	Fenton Village Players	<i>Bathroom Humor</i>
September 27 - October 6, 2024	Pit & Balcony	<i>The Wedding Singer</i>
September 27 - 29, 2024	Monroe Community Players	<i>Moonlight & Magnolias</i>
October 4 - 12, 2024	Central Park Players	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>
October 4 - 12, 2024	Players de Noc	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
October 4-13, 2024	Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Curse of the Starving Class</i>
October 4 - 13, 2024	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Let It Be: A Musical Celebration of the Beatles</i>
October 4 - 19, 2024	Holland Community Theatre	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>
October 4 - 20, 2024	Enter Stage Right	<i>Legends of the Hollow</i>
October 10 - 20, 2024	The Sauk	<i>Anastasia: The Musical</i>
October 11 - 13, 2024	Dickinson County Comm. Theatre	<i>Sideways Stories</i>
October 11 - 19, 2024	Southgate Community Players	<i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>
October 11 - 26, 2024	Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Epic Proportions</i>
October 11 - 20, 2024	Midland Center for the Arts	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>
October 15 - 19, 2024	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>A Year With Frog and Toad *</i>
October 17 - 19, 2024	Master Arts Theatre	<i>These Shining Lives</i>
October 18 - 27, 2024	Clio Cast & Crew	<i>Arsenic & Old Lace</i>
October 18 - November 3, 2024	Twin City Players	<i>Agatha Christies Mousetrap</i>
October 18 - 27, 2024	Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>The Woman in Black</i>
October 18 - 27, 2024	Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Rabbit Hole</i>
October 24 - November 3	Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Young Frankenstein, The Musical</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.

