

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

February/March 2015



Don't Hug Me by Donna Thomas

The Tawas Bay Players are gearing up for their winter production, *Don't Hug Me*. This is a wonderfully, whimsical musical production that takes place on the coldest days of the year in a bar in Bunyan Bay, Minnesota. Cranky bar owner Gunner Johnson wants to sell the business and move to Florida. His wife Clara wants to stay put. Waitress Bernice Lundstrom dreams of a singing career. Her fiancé, Kanute Gunderson owns several sporting goods stores and wants her to stay at home. All bets are off and everything goes topsy turvy when a karaoke salesman, Aarvid Gisselsen shows up in the bar with tunes to play.

The cast this time around has Jeff Chadwick as the smooth talking/singing salesman Aarvid, Diane Teddy plays former winter carnival queen Clara Johnson with Chris Mundy playing her Florida sunshine seeking husband Gunner. Filling out the cast are Katie Hill as the singing waitress and her over protective fiancé is played by John Morris. Co-Directors Alan Dalton, Brenda Chadwick, and Producer Donna Thomas have put together a wonderful cast along with a live band in the 'pit' for the musical numbers. The musicians are led by Pam Katona on keyboard and guitar, with Dave Dunham on drums, Diane Meyer-MacDonald on keyboards and bass, JoAnn Noffsinger flute, and Ken MacDonald on bass.

Dates for the show are February 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at 7 p.m. and the 15th and 22nd at 2 p.m. This is a light comedy/musical that would be great fun for a date night or just a fun night out! We guarantee it will help with the "winter blues"! For more information call 989.362.8373.

Editor's Note: This is the perfect show for this time of year; it is very, very funny! Be sure to watch for Keith Frank and Sue Duncan's ending.

Free Trip to Maui – Call Now By Michal Jacot

Hey, who wants to go to Maui? Would all volunteers please form a line around the block? Okay, so I can't give you Maui, but I can give you Fake Maui, and you get to witness a murder too! "All right, Jacot, what are you rambling on about now?" I can hear you all saying (I hear that a lot.) No, this is not another one of my psychotic episodes. I have been blackmailed – er, threatened – er, asked by Sue Duncan to direct the murder mystery she is producing. Called "Murder on Maui," it's one of those unscripted murder mystery evenings that always provide a lot of fun for everyone. Unscripted means you don't have lines to learn, yay! Unscripted means there won't be a lot of rehearsal time, double yay!



Okay, here's what I know so far. TBP is working in tandem with the Knights of Columbus to put on this evening of food and entertainment. They provide the food, we provide the entertainment. If you've never been to a K of C feed, you're in for a treat because they know how to feed people. It will be performed at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Newman Street in East Tawas on Saturday, April 11, from 5 to 8:30 pm. Tickets will be \$20 a person, and believe me, that's a deal. There will also be a cash bar if you decide you like a little libation to go along with your murder. Our share of the proceeds will go to help the cast and crew of Women of Lockerbie as they prepare to take the show to the AACT Fest competition, where they will make a name for our theater group.

So what do I want from you? Your choice: You can be a part of the murder mystery, either helping with various production duties (there aren't many), or being in the show itself. A lot of you have done these before; you know how much fun they are. OR ... You can buy a ticket and come see the show, gorge on some delicious food, have some fun, and support the TBP and the Knights of Columbus.

I haven't yet decided whether to hold official tryouts or to just get on the phone and start begging. It kind of depends on who's already interested. So if you think you'd like to be a part of the cast, and you are available on April 11 call me at 362-4765 or email me at mljacot@sbcglobal.net. If enough people show interest, I might forego tryouts. Come on, people, it's FUN! And you'd get to work with me!! If you have any questions about the production, call me or call Sue Duncan at 362-2522. If you don't call, then I may be calling you. Yes, I'm talking to you. You know who you are.

More TBP Perchville Royalty by June Hudgins

We are very happy to announce that 2 of our members of Tawas Bay Players have been selected to be the 2015 Perchville King and Queen, Tim Haskin and Jolene Gruesecki. They follow in a great tradition of past and present TBP members who have been selected as Perchville royalty, Keith Frank, Carol Klenow, June Hudgins, Bill & Tara Western, Pat Ruster, Sharon Miller, Jo Ann Lutz, Brenda Chadwick, Deb DeBois, Lyle Groff and Judy Quarters

What a great choice for King and Queen, I know they will be out there all weekend greeting and meeting all the people and they will have a grand time. Congratulations to both of them from all the Tawas Bay Players.



Mermaid Tales by Diane Ray

A play for children *Mermaid Tales*, written by Diane Ray, will be performed February 27 and 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Witz End Center for Performing Arts in East Tawas. The play is a short, musical comedy about a day in the life of mermaids and sailors at sea with a surprising twist. A suggested donation of \$5 to help cover production costs will be collected at the performance.

Many of our young people are rehearsing now in a Performance class of just six weeks. Some of our "stars" are Audrey Loew, (daughter of Emily Ryan Loew and niece of Robert Ryan), Alexandra Perrot (daughter of Stacy Perrot), Katelyn Papenfus, Addison Street, Bella Montie, Cari Mathews, Katelyn Whalen, and Thomas Whalen. Diane is directing with the help of Suzan and Dave Witt, Megan Sykes, Jane Hackborn, Dave Dunham, and Gatlin Dunham.

Tawas Bay Players to Participate In State Theater Competition by Deb DeBois

Tawas Bay Players will be participating in the state AACT (American Association of Community Theater) Festival during the weekend of March 27, 28, and 29 in Owosso, Michigan. Community theaters in Michigan are invited to bring a production for competition to the State Festival to be judged (adjudicated) and where one or two may be selected to move on to Regional ACCT (Midland in April) and possibly to Nationals (Grand Rapids in June).

TBP will be presenting a cut-down version of last May's production of *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Breevort. The play had to be cut down from 90 minutes to less than 60. The rules state you have 10 minutes to set up your set, 60 minutes to perform, and 10 minutes to tear down the set. Going over in any category can get you disqualified. The cast has been working hard cutting and rehearsing this past two months and hope to present the dress rehearsal to one and all in March before we go.

The cast includes: Suzan Witt, Ray Skiver, Susan Dowell, Donna Thomas, Reecie Smith, Stacey Perrot, Tina Dalton, June Hudgins, and Alan Dalton. The director is Deb DeBois with Diane Ray as the Assistant Director, Set Design is by Alan Dalton, Deb DeBois, and Chris Mundy is the Technical Adviser.

TBP will be fund raising to help cover the cost of participation in the festival in March and hopefully to continue on through nationals in June.



What You Need To Know About AACTFests 2015 by Tara Western

It will probably never again happen in our lifetime! ALL three of the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT) Play festivals take place in Michigan this year. The festivals are held on odd numbered years, and this year the state festival is in Owosso, the regional in Midland and the national in Grand Rapids. Why should you care? Because attending a play festival is like a *really* educational, but entertaining workshop. Each show is adjudicated by three judges. These adjudications evaluate all aspects of the production. You will learn what works, what doesn't and most of all, that you have choices! What to expect: Two to four one hour productions a day, workshops on a variety of topics, casual dress, (except for the Awards show at the National), great food, and lots of friendly thespians who love to share!

Festival	Dates	Registration	Hotels
Owosso	March 27-29	www.owossoplayers.com cheri.ramirez@baker.edu	Comstock Inn 989.725.0999
Midland	April 17-19	www.mcfta.com	Holiday Inn of Midland 989.794.8500
Grand Rapids	June 24-29	www.aact.org/15	Amway Grand 800.253.3590

CTAM offers scholarships to the state, regional and national AACTFests. Each theatre group is eligible for two scholarships per event. The deadline for application is two weeks before the event. Check the CTAM website www.communitytheatre.org and/or Christy Frick at cflick9898@charter.net. You can apply NOW! TBP may offer some financial help also. Contact a Board member. Room rates are usually discounted for the event. Make sure you tell them that you are with the festival when you make your reservation. FYI: Travel time from Tawas to Owosso is 2 hours 12 minutes.

First Ever CTAM Regional Directors' Workshop Held at TBP by Tara Western

Last November 8, CTAM and TBP sponsored a Regional Directing Workshop at our theatre. The event was organized by the AAC (Artistic Advisory Committee) consisting of Carol Kushion, Vincent Weiler, Tara Western, and Suzan Witt and Board member, Sue Duncan. The workshop was based on Jim Carver's book, *Carver's Manual on Community Theatre Directing*, and was taught by two Bay City Players, Tina Sills, and Mike Wisniewski, both veteran directors.

Coffee, donuts, and a lovely lunch were provided for the 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. event thanks to generous donations from Witz End, Wingin' It, Big Boy, Mr. Jacksss and Barnacle Bill's. Nineteen TBP members and Diane Teddy from Shoreline Players attended and were gifted with Carver's book, donated by Vincent Weiler. Many attendees indicated that they would like to do it again, so....We are looking for ideas. What would you like to learn more about? Please send any and all ideas (no matter how "out of the box") to me at tarawestern@hotmail.com.

Where in the Heck Did This Play Come From? by Tara Western

Last fall, the Artistic Advisory Committee presented twenty plays to the Board. These plays had been thoroughly researched by the committee (Kushion, Weiler, Western, Witt) and deemed "do-able" by our group. Since then, Board members Sharon Langley and Chris Mundy, were appointed to join the AAC to form a Play Selection Committee (PSC) and we are working on a second batch of shows.

So where do these plays come from? It's a three step process, suggest, research, and find. Script ideas come from a wide variety of sources: shows members have seen, CTAM conferences, other theater groups' season brochures, reviews, and directors' suggestions. Next, we research the show using a variety of methods including Google searches, YouTube, and conversations with knowledgeable veterans of theater.

If we feel the show might be a good fit for us, we try to order a copy. We go cheap if possible, by checking the library system, the CTAM script library, and then we might purchase from Amazon or the publishing house. We attempt to have all the PSC members read the show and rate it, with a simple 1-5 system. We meet periodically to discuss the titles in person. And you can help! If you see or hear of a show that might work for TBP, let a PSC member know.

Play Selection: The Good, the Bad and What!?! by Sue Duncan

Upset over where to eat? Can't decide which movie to watch? You probably had three or more people in the discussion, right? Right! Imagine the difficulty facing the TBP Board members and the Artistic Advisory Committee with the selection of a season's plays! There were nearly 20 plays to consider after the AA Committee spent endless hours researching, reading and debating. The Board members also read some of the plays (more hours) and bring another dimension to the decision making process.

In November I attended a theatre conference at which twenty participants were asked, before arriving, to select areas of concern. Play selection was at the **top of the list**.

So... I anticipated hours of anguished discussion and gnashing of teeth to get the plays selected for 2015-2016. The AAC had presented thoughts to the Board at more than one meeting already, but were we ready? The meeting started at 6:30pm and by 8pm it was done! All the preparation and prior discussions paid off. Next step? Having you help make the shows happen. ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

How to Borrow From TBP by Michal Jacot

Are you allowed to borrow a prop or wardrobe item from the Players for your own use? What is TBP's policy on loaning things out? How do you do it? These questions come up periodically, and so the board thought it would be a good idea to review the policy for everyone. Some items, such as tech equipment, are off-limits. Whenever I loan anything to anyone, I ask myself "am I willing to pay for repairs on this if it comes back damaged, or pay to replace it if it never comes back?" TBP's board does the same, and we simply cannot risk our tech equipment coming back damaged. However, items like props, wardrobe and tables are up for grabs. If you're not sure what you can and can't borrow, ask a board member.

You wouldn't loan your stuff out to a total stranger, and neither do we. We do get loan requests from outside the group, and each one is carefully considered. But membership has its privileges, and if you as a member want to borrow something of ours, or if you are acting as a spokesperson for another group to borrow something, we look favorably on that.

All we ask is that you follow the protocol. And the protocol is: ***Come to a board meeting and ask us.*** Board meetings are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of each month and email notification is sent if the date changes. Or you can ask a board member. Then come to a meeting, tell us what you want to borrow; why you want it; when you want it; and when you plan on returning it. Does this guarantee your request will be granted? No. But chances are it will be.

So what do you do if you need the stuff quickly and you can't wait for the next board meeting? ***Contact the president, not a board member.*** The reason for this: Let's say you contact me and say "Hey, Michal, I have to borrow TBP's suit of armor for this weekend. Can I do it?" And I say, "Yeah, okay." And then we find out that the suit of armor is needed for the current production. Everyone panics – where is it? Who's got it? Michal knows, but nobody knows to ask him and confusion reigns. But if you contact President Keith with the same request, he shoots a quick email to everyone on the board to poll them. That way, everyone knows who is getting what. This protocol works every time, *as long as you follow it.*

What criteria does the board follow for loaning their stuff out? It helps to have this information on hand when you're making your request ...

1) Who is borrowing? If you are requesting on behalf of another group, we'll try to accommodate you.

2) What are you borrowing? Quite often the board gets requests to borrow tables for garage sales (I do that a lot). Sure, we'll loan them out, as long as you follow the rules. Keep in mind the tables are used a lot, so they may not be available (see #7).

3) What is it being used for? It helps if it's being borrowed for a theater-oriented reason, but that definition goes a long way (even I have a hard time connecting my garage sale to theater). If you want a costume to go to a Halloween party or murder mystery evening, we'll probably say yes. If you want an old dress to wear to re-stain the dresser in your garage, I'm thinking probably not.

4) When do you want it?

5) When will you return it? Tell us when to expect it back, *and then bring it back*. Don't make us hunt you down, don't forget to bring it back, don't assume someone was going to come get it. Those are lame excuses. Act like an adult. (Sorry; that was a personal point of view. One of my pet peeves...)

6) Will you return it the same condition you got it?

7) Will we need the borrowed items for our own production? This one is important. The current TBP production always comes first; if an unusual costume or prop is needed for the show, it's not getting loaned out.

8) Are you willing to reimburse the TBP if the item you borrowed is lost or damaged? If your answer is no, don't borrow it.

Bottom line, use the same respect as you would for borrowing from any friend: Borrow it and then bring it back the same way you got it. And follow the protocol by approaching the board with your request, and everyone will be happy. Thank you!

Quiz Time! by Sue Duncan

Get 4 out of 4 correct and win....well, nothing? Okay, a free pass to the next dress rehearsal!

- 1. When selecting a season's shows for your community theatre what must be considered?
 - a. the audience
 - b. your mission as a theatre
 - c. budget
 - d. the talent available
 - e. all of the above
- 2. Where does financing for a community theatre come from?
 - a. box office profits (The show does well!)
 - b. sponsors and donors (Generous community folks)
 - c. program advertising (Sometimes, not always)
 - d. grants (If somebody goes asking)
 - e. all of the above
- 3. Management of a community theatre involves
 - a. an informed working Board
 - b. volunteers
 - c. more volunteers
 - d. a vision for the future
 - e. all of the above
- 4. Marketing and promoting your community theatre is a job for:
 - a. the Board
 - b. the volunteers
 - c. the audience
 - d. me and you
 - e. all of the above

Answers:

1.e, 2.e, 3.e, 4.e How'd you do? These and another six topics were discussed and debated by twenty community theatre members at the Theatre Leadership Conference held in Traverse City last November. With a good eighteen hours of guided discussion, one realizes that it takes a lot of work and dedication to make it possible for all of us to have a lot of fun in our community theatres. Becoming informed makes the job easier. This event occurs every two years. Maybe in 2016 we will have forty heads to help come up with answers for the quiz.

2014-2015 TBP Board Contact Information		
Keith Frank – President	362-8492	k.frank@charter.net
Michal Jacot– Vice President	362-4765	mjacot@sbcglobal.net
Sue Duncan – Secretary	362-2522	smdunc@charter.net
Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers	362-6012	pcasey@chartermi.net
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Judy Quarters	362-8463	judykq@hotmail.com
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Please note the next TBP Board meeting will be Monday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Tawas Bay Players 2014 Sponsors

I thought it might be a good idea for our members to see who our sponsors are. These are the businesses, professionals and organizations who take out ads in our program, giving us a good steady income. Many of them have been taking out ads for years. If you get the chance please let them know how much we appreciate their support. And if you know someone who would like to become a sponsor please contact one of the board members.

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Village Chocolatier
Visions Hair Salon, Inc
Windjammer Gifts
Wingin' It
WIOS/WKJC
Witz End
Zubek's



Happy Birthday



February

6 Mike Robson
6 Doug Lentz
7 Pam Dibert
7 Dennis Szatkowski
7 Bill Grusecki
8 Vincent Weiler
12 Dorothy Smith
15 Michael Denney
17 Tim Haskin
22 Tina Dalton
26 Mason Brewer
26 Annette Zollner

March

4 Bob O'Meara
4 Dr. Richard Kaiserman
6 Chaison Shuart
11 Ryan Kaiserman
16 John Henry
17 George Robson
19 Frank Brewer
22 Maripat O'Malley
24 Ethan Buchanan
26 Judy Merluzzi
27 Jessica Smith
29 Geri Koepke
30 Brianna Dalton

April

2 Lisa Denney
5 Jane Ruster
18 Mandy Grusecki
24 Traceé Lentz
26 June Groff
27 Laura Zacharias
28 Barb Hunter

Don't Hug Me

