

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

February/March 2016



TBP Tradition of Perchville Royalty Continues

Congratulations Mike and Judy Merluzzi, the latest in a long line of Tawas Bay Players members to serve as Perchville King and Queen. This year was very special since last year's king and queen TBP members Tim Haskin and Jolene Grusecki crowned Mike and Judy. Other TBP members to receive this honor were Carol Klenow, June Hudgins, Tara and Bill Western, Sharon Miller, Pat Ruster, Jo Ann Lutz, Brenda Chadwick, Deb DeBois, Judy Quarters, Lyle Groff and Keith Frank.



Twelve Angry Jurors

Our winter show, the fast paced courtroom drama, *Twelve Angry Jurors* opens this weekend. The show is directed by Deb DeBois assisted by Sharon Langley and is produced by June Hudgins. In addition to some of TBP's finest actors this classic features many new faces. The cast includes Buck Weaver as the Judge, Terry Popielarz as the Guard and Sue Duncan, Beth Borowski, Chris Mundy, Eric Perrot, Wade Sydenstricker, Andre' De Wilde, Curtis Davenport, Michal Jacot, Le Roy Wenzel, Rodger McElveen, Waverley Monroe, and Sheliah Monroe as Jurors #1 through #12. We would like to welcome first time TBP performers Eric, Wade, Curtis, Waverley, and Sheliah to our stage and let Terry and Andre' know how happy we are to have them back. We finally get to see Sue Duncan on stage with a speaking part. Make sure you get a chance to see this thought provoking play. Performance dates are February 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, & 21.

Really Groovy Dinner Interrupted By Murder. Downer, Man... by Michal Jacot

The Tawas Bay Players and the Knights of Columbus once again joined forces for our second annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre on February 22 and 23. The show, "Lost in the 60's", was directed by Michal Jacot and produced by Sue Duncan, the same team who did last year's show. This year we did one of Michal's original shows. The cast loves the "Michal Jacot Method"; they are given a character bio consisting of one sheet of information. No rehearsals, no lines to memorize, and they improvise everything throughout the evening. They don't even know who the murderer is until it's revealed to the audience (well, the actual murderer knows, of course, but he/she is sworn to secrecy). The end result is involvement in a show that's low on time commitment and high on adrenalin as the actors literally make it up as they go along. And since you have no idea what the audience is going to ask you, it's like walking a theatrical tightrope.



Before the action began, we had a wonderful dinner courtesy of the Knights of Columbus, who really know how to feed people. Our guests enjoyed the show, and were zealously grilling the cast for clues even before anything started. I was astounded how many guests dressed for the part. You always get a table or two of rowdy partiers who want to join in the fun by dressing for whatever the theme calls for. But there must be something about the Decade of Love that brought out the fashion nostalgia in people. I haven't seen that many bell bottoms, tie-dyed shirts, peace signs and long hair on people since ... well, it's been a few decades.

But if the guests were decked out nicely, our cast was absolutely far-out, totally rocking their psychedelic colors, fringed vests and John Lennon glasses. Alan Dalton played musical icon Charlie Trask to the hilt – I swear I remember buying some of this guy's albums. So it was a real bummer when he strummed his electric guitar and got a fatal shock that left him ob-la-di, ob-la-dead. After that, the investigation was taken over by Detective Scott Reasoner (Michal Jacot), who is something of an inside joke among murder mystery devotees. He's the recurring character Michal uses in all of his murder mysteries. He's like the old lady in *Murder She Wrote* – everywhere he shows up, somebody gets murdered.

Reasoner, in his police-issue trenchcoat and stylish “Nixon’s The One!” lapel button, questioned the unsavory hippie element wandering about ...There were Smash Calahan (Ray Skiver), a dangerous radical with a penchant for explosives, Trixie Robinson (Deb DeBois), the career-driven female singer in Charlie’s band who wanted him gone, Sunshine Moon and Stars Flower Meadow Schwartz (Beth Borowski), the spacy hippie girl with ties to Charlie, Cindi Seeley (Katie Hill) a groupie following Charlie’s band, but with an ulterior motive and Mellow Imperial (Michael Denney), a fellow musician who apparently had smoked one too many of those funny cigarettes before arriving. Also in the mix were Benny Culpepper (newcomer Wade Sydenstricker), Charlie’s sleazy agent, ready to make a buck from the celebrity death, Elmer Hatfield (Keith Frank), the farmer who owned the land Charlie’s Woodstock-style concert was set to perform on and Rita Renaldo (Tina Dalton), a hotshot lawyer from Washington on a mission to save America from the corrupt hippie movement.

The show is written with two different endings, so we had a different murderer each night (to avoid anyone watching the show on Friday and spilling the beans to anyone coming on Saturday). The cast played their parts over-the-top, and you could tell they were all having an enormous amount of fun with it. We all had a great time with it. Sue’s “Dream Team” of helpers kept the technical side of things going with precision. Even when things didn’t go as planned (and when you’re improvising all night, you kind of expect glitches), we just went with it. One of those spontaneous moments included pulling a “non-existent in the 60’s” cell phone from Katie’s handbag and having to explain it, and giving the finger to Mellow Imperial (long story, but hey, it worked). Bottom line, everyone had fun, cast, the crew, and our guests. Many thanks to everyone who participated!



Murder Mystery Thank You to All by Sue Duncan

Knights of Columbus - A BIG Thank You to the Knights of Columbus for all the cooking, table preparation and many decorations...and another BIG THANK YOU for their great smiles and attitudes!

Door prize donors - Last Bite Bakers, Clearview Car Wash and Lube, Augie’s by the Bay, Branham’s Jewelry, Huron Sports and Fitness, Mooney’s Ben Franklin and Cafe International of Prescott.

Dream Team (those who do whatever needs to be done) - Pat Casey, Barb Hunter, Mary Ann Michalski, Jackie Marx, Taylor Host, Stacy Perot, Sharon Langley, Tina Dalton, Donna Thomas and Dee Bixby.

Ticket Vendors -The Brew Krew staff, and the Tawas Chamber of Commerce volunteers and staff.

Also special thanks for creative guidance - Carol Westcott, Carley Powroznik and our awesome playwright and director, Michal Jacot

Webb Family Reunion by Michal Jacot

My publisher’s website informs me that **Tangled Webbs** will be presented by the AuGres Sims High School on April 8, 2016 (it says two performances, so I’m assuming Friday and Saturday, April 8-9). Is anybody from that original cast interested in getting together and going to see it for fun? It sure would be a blast to see the ORIGINAL Webb clan back together to show support for these kids! Let me know if you’d like to join the fun. Mark it down on your calendar and maybe we can all plan to sit together!

***The Marvelous Wonderettes* by Dennis Szatkowski**

This smash off-Broadway hit takes you to the 1958 Springfield High School prom where we meet Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy and Suzy, four girls with hopes and dreams as big as their crinoline skirts! As we learn about their lives and loves, the girls serenade us with classic '50s hits including "Lollipop", "Mr. Sandman", "Dream Lover", "Stupid Cupid" and "Lipstick on Your Collar." In act two, the Wonderettes reunite to take the stage and perform at their ten year reunion with "You Don't Own Me", "It's My Party" and "Son of a Preacher Man" to name just a few. We learn about the highs and lows the girls have experienced in the past decade and are charmed to find that no matter what life throws their way, they will conquer it together. Featuring more than 30 classic '50s and '60s hits, *The Marvelous Wonderettes* will keep you smiling in this must-take musical trip down memory lane.

Dennis Szatkowski will be directing this musical with Vickie Szatkowski and Judy Quarters producing and Susan Rook as Musical Director. Veteran TBP'er, Stacy Perrot will be playing the part of "Cindy Lou", the prettiest girl at Springfield High. Newcomer to the TBP stage and playing the part of "Betty Jean", the class clown, will be Laurie Keisler. Returning to the stage and playing the part of "Missy", the overachiever of the group, will be Patricia King. We also welcome back to the TBP stage, Jane Hackborn as she plays the part of "Suzy", the happy-go-lucky one of the group. This is going to be a very fun show with plenty of great songs and bright colors! Performance dates will be May 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 & 22. Be sure to mark your calendars and don't miss this one!

Dress Rehearsal Policy by Keith Frank

For the past several months, the Board has struggled with the issue of dress rehearsal attendance. It had always been the policy that TBP members were allowed to attend dress rehearsals. In addition to TBP members, residents of Tawas Village and local nursing homes were also invited to attend. However, for the past several years, people were showing up who were not TBP members. After several attempts at establishing a policy to regulate dress rehearsal attendance, the Board passed the following official dress rehearsal policy at their December 22, 2015 meeting:

Full dress rehearsal is usually the final rehearsal of the production and takes place one or two days before opening night. Tawas Bay Players allow an invited audience to dress rehearsal to prepare the cast and crew for audience reactions. Because an audience is present, royalties are paid for dress rehearsals.

Dress rehearsals are not open or advertised to the general public. It is an in-house performance and, strictly speaking, is still a rehearsal. The following people are allowed to watch dress rehearsals at no charge:

- Anyone who works on the production in a capacity notable enough to be listed in the program as technical crew. (For crew members with jobs integral to the running of the production, someone needs to fill in for them.)
- All current, paid members of Tawas Bay Players, whether they have worked on the show or not.
- Invited guests as approved by the Board including (but not limited to) residents from the local assisted living and medical care facilities (i.e., Tendercare, Iosco Medical Care Facility, Lakeview Manor), Bay Park Towers, students from area schools, etc.
- Additionally, six (6) seats for each production's dress rehearsal will be made available to the show's producer to be used if and as needed. The producer must provide a list of those using these seats to the Box Office Manager prior to each dress rehearsal.

Also regarding dress rehearsal, the Tawas Bay Players Board is happy to announce an opportunity to area youth. An invitation to high school teachers of drama, English, American history and Government has been extended for students and at least one adult chaperone from each area school to attend the dress rehearsal of *Twelve Angry Jurors*. It is hoped that this might enrich students understanding and experience of the arts as well as our judicial system. And perhaps it will spark a new interest or hobby to explore in theatre. So, expect to see some unfamiliar faces at dress rehearsals. Please welcome and help make them comfortable, perhaps by starting a conversation as you await the beginning of the performance.

TBP Contact Information

Keith Frank – President	362-8492	k.frank@charter.net
Michal Jacot – Vice President.....	362-4765	mljacot@sbcglobal.net
Sue Duncan – Secretary	362-2522	smdunc@charter.net
Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers	362-6012	pcasey@chartermi.net
Chris Mundy	362-9199	daddoo10@hotmail.com
Sharon Langley	362-7379	sharonjunelangley@gmail.com
Judy Quarters	362-8463	judykq@hotmail.com
Penny Zacharais	992-2651	pzac7@yahoo.com
Donna Thomas	362-5525	lno38sabre@gmail.com
Pam Frank – Newsletter Editor	362-8492	psfrank@gmail.com (New)

Community Theater in The Community or How We Brought A CTAM Conference to East Tawas by Donna Thomas

For the first time ever in our 35 plus year history, Tawas Bay Players is hosting a CTAM conference! Twice a year CTAM has conferences to forward ideas and information for the community theaters of Michigan. For the spring 2016 conference, CTAM approached TBP to host after the original location chosen could not host. This event will bring in 50-100 people who previously have not been to our area. While the thought was we would have “short notice” to put something together, Co-Chairs, Sue Duncan and I have been able to put forward a very nice variety of events and workshops, showcasing our community. A few times it even felt like a “Mickey and Judy – Let’s put on a show!” atmosphere. Several TBP members, local organizations and businesses have stepped up offering to help showcase our beautiful community. Others have offered to help with refreshments and any other items we may need. We also welcome any ideas or help TBP members wish to offer.

The conference itself will be May 13-15, with the workshops occurring within the East Tawas area on Saturday the 14th. The cost to attend is \$60. For the arriving attendees Friday night, we will be having an early registration with snacks and beverages at Witz End Studio. We will also have TBP members hosting our “Dine Around” where attendees can sign up to go with a group to one of our local restaurants (maximum of 15 people each). Some attendees may choose to see our TBP production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Sue has also arranged a super cool idea, Masquerade Mask Making at Twisted Twinz Emporium in Tawas City. This will be an extra cost to cover materials but looks to be a rather neat venture. Other workshop subjects include Set Design, Make Up, Auditioning, Comedic Acting, Publicity, and Enunciation/Vocalization to name a few. Check the TBP web site for more information. <http://tawasbayplayers.com>

Saturday starts out with registration check in at 8 a.m. and workshops begin at 9 a.m. at the Beach Resort. Between 9 and 12:30 we will have 6 workshops then break for lunch. Attendees will then be let loose to roam the city for food. Their next workshop will be located at one of four venues in town. Most will be in the Newman Street area so as they walk, the attendees will be able to shop and check us out! Saturday night, a buffet style dinner will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus Hall, then it is off to see the TBP production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Afterwards we will be hanging out at Topsiders at the Beach Resort for networking and more entertaining.

On Sunday morning attendees can get up late and shop around town as nothing is scheduled other than enjoying the Bay. They may also choose to see the matinee show of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and the CTAM board will be holding a meeting once again at Witz End Studio. Currently workshop venues on Saturday will be the Playhouse, Brew Krew, Witz End Studio and The Art Gallery. Please check out the TBP website for a complete list of events and times, and any updated/changed information. Community Theater Association of Michigan is an organization of many community theaters including TBP. Many of our members are also individual members of CTAM. We look forward to this opportunity with great excitement to showcase our city and theater members.

TBP Singers' Christmas Program

We had very mild weather and a full house for the 2015 Christmas show. In addition to the Singers (George Robson, Mike Robson, Bob Zacharias, Chris Mundy, Pam Koepke, Barb Hunter, Pat Casey, Deb DeBois, Pam Frank, Laurie Jacot, June Hudgins, Pam Katona and Penny Zacharias) Greg Dahlstrom and Tim Haskin entertained everyone with classic and contemporary Christmas Stories. We also had a special visit from Elves Janie Mundy and Carter. Thanks to Donna Dahlstrom and Pam Dibert for their technical expertise.



Thank You by Nadeen O'Meara

I would like to thank all that donated cookies for the Singers Christmas Concert. It is a very stressful and busy time of the year and for you to take the time to bake was wonderful. I have never gotten so many nos, so for the few of you that came through a very big Thank You. A very nice variety of unplanned treats and an enjoyable evening of visiting were had by all.

My Good Friend Vincent by June Hudgins

When the Tawas Bay Players first got their start we were in dire need of a director. Neither Marge Meiswick, Karen St James nor I had ever directed. So Marge said she knew this fellow in Oscoda that used to work for NDC. The next day we all had a meeting and in walked this man. He was very tall and sort of loomed over me; I must say I was a little scared at the time. But we all sat down and I blurted out we needed a director for our first show as the Tawas Bay Players. He did not hesitate at all and said "what show did you want me to direct" and we said "*Barefoot in the Park.*" Well he loved the show and said yes and that started our wonderful friendship. He also asked Ann Dunham (now Williams) to be his assistant director. We were all set and the wonderful friendship was formed. The show ended up to be a great success and he went on to direct the next few shows for us with Ann as his assistant and me as the producer. That is until I got my first part on stage as Miss Maple in *The Butler Did It*. Also in that show were Ron Warner, a great actor, Beth Verlac (now Borowski), Cindy Hayes (Michal Jacot's sister) and a wonderful cast. Vincent then taught me how to direct a show and from then on he was a mentor to all of us. He also was the backbone for the whole group, he taught the actors and backstage workers. He taught us how to do lights, props and just about everything else. The big thing he always said is that theater is a mystery; the actors should not be seen (unless the script calls for it). There was no peeking around the curtain. He truly was a great person in theater, was always my great friend and I do surely miss him every day. God bless you my good friend and thank you for the fine theater we now have in Tawas. Love you, June.

Play Mashups by Michal Jacot

Some of the old-old-old timers of the group may remember an annual summer event called "Weiler's Wacky Weekend", where we all converged onto Vince's house and partied for the weekend. One of the stranger things we did (and believe me, there were strange things going on) was to present a short skit, written by yours truly, that was a mashup of the entire season's shows. The skit featured characters from all of the plays getting together, with hilarity ensuing (well, we were all pretty drunk, so anything was funny. Tara Western once spent two hours laughing at a shower curtain. 1980's Wacky Weekend followed our first season of *Barefoot In The Park*, *The Butler Did It*, and *Pool's Paradise*, which begat our way-off-Broadway production of *Barefoot Butler's Paradise*. Next season offered *The Odd Couple*, *Natalie Needs A Nightie*, and *Don't Step On My Footprint*, which resulted in the oddly-named *Don't Step In Natalie's Odd Couple*.

Now, far be it from me to act silly. (Long awkward pause a nervous throat-clearing from everyone here.) But in honor of Vincent Weiler and his Wacky Weekends of days gone by, here are some other season's mashup titles. See if you know which shows are represented ...

1983- 1984: Who Dun the Fiddler on the Old Lace?

1984- 1985: Move Over, Something's A-Fools

1989- 1990: Little Shop of Tangled Nerds 2

1995 -1996: No Sex Please, I Hate Black Patent Leather Shoes

1999 -2000: Natalie Forever Needs A Plaid Tuna

2003- 2004: Joseph And The Dearly Departed Dolly

2005 - 2006: Cash on Mice and Damn Yankees of Our Town Oz

2006-2007: Annie Get Your Bell, Book and Cemetery Club in Da Little Shop of Escanaba

2010-2011: Caught In Ethan Claymore's Grease in The Woods

2013-2014: Guys On The Sleeping Women of Lockerbie

2014-2015: Don't Hug Grandpa's Red Velvet Queen of Bingo



Happy Birthday



January

3 Keith Frank
3 Carmelita Abis
9 Diane Ray
13 Liz Shmina
15 Penny Zacharias
16 Rebecca Buchanan
18 Zachary Dalton
19 Penny LeClair
29 Sue Duncan

February

6 Mike Robson
7 Pam Dibert
7 Dennis Szatkowski
7 Bill Grusecki
8 Vincent Weiler
12 Dorothy Smith
17 Tim Haskin
22 Tina Dalton
26 Mason Brewer
28 Ron Lockett

March

4 Bob O'Meara
6 Chaison Shuart
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

5 Jane Ruster
26 June Groff
27 Laura Zacharias
28 Barb Hunter

Nunsensations Photos





Photos from *Twelve Angry Jurors*



