

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

January/February 2014



A “Sleeper” Hit! By Michal Jacot

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Sleeping Beauty* for a terrific show! Packed houses and standing ovations seemed to be the law of this fairy tale land, and they were all well deserved.

Any show based on a story that everyone knows always carries a risk, and especially so for those fairy tales that are ingrained in everyone’s minds since childhood. The audience knows how the story goes, and they know how it ends. So the trick is to offer a script that provides enough of a twist to keep people entertained while still staying true to the beloved original story. This script kept the audience’s attention, among other ways, with its catchy songs. From the bouncy “Once Upon a Tra La La” to the Elvis-esque “Dance”, to the clever lyrics of “I’ve Heard It All Before”, the audience was clearly enjoying the music.

I heard many comments about the beautiful costumes and the set. It is a compliment to the workers involved in these areas that people would approach me at work and mention these things specifically. I wasn’t talking about the play, I didn’t bring it up; but they knew I was associated with the TBP and they went out of their way to pass on how much they appreciated these touches that brought the fairy tale to life.

Any show is only as good as its cast, and this cast delivered big time! We got a nice mix of new and returning faces, and they all looked like they were having fun. That sense of fun poured over the audience, and we all felt like we were invited to the big party on the stage. That sense of camaraderie can’t be faked, and when it happens it’s practically a visible being up there.

In addition to the fine acting, I got a kick out of the little touches added here and there by the cast. The swat on the rear from Lilac to keep Daisy in line during her song ... the casual way Wisteria scratched the dragon’s head like it was her golden retriever ... the lingering smile Servant Reesie gave the king, and the King’s and Queen’s reactions to it (a little sub-plot going on there that is left to our imagination) ... the servants squealing and fanning themselves after Prince William’s rock and roll number ... the Falcon’s feather-ruffling preening throughout the show. Everyone added a little dimension to their character that wasn’t in the script, or elaborated on what was there (as with Chris Mundy’s befuddled King Stefan).

I think everyone did a great job, but I do want to single out a couple of deserving cast members. Barb Hunter ruled the stage as Wisteria. Barb inevitably hears the jokes about how she always plays the villains; I think it’s because she does it so well. But she’s no one-note actress; remember, she’s given us touching dramatic turns in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Flowers for Algernon*, and *Steel Magnolias*, and made us laugh in *I’ll Get My Man* and *Noises Off*, all without playing the villainess. And, by the way, this woman can sing like there’s no tomorrow. The other standout in the cast is Tom Fox, who did twice as much in the role of the Prince with half the time he had to work with it. Watching his performance from the audience, there was no way anyone could tell that he fell into this part halfway through the rehearsal process. He caught up to everyone else and delivered a grand performance in a tough role.

Congratulations to everyone involved in *Sleeping Beauty*. Your efforts will live happily ever after with your audiences!



Guys on Ice by Brenda Chadwick

Rehearsals have been underway for the winter show *Guys on Ice* since mid-November. The show is about Lloyd and Marvin, who spend their day ice fishing (not ice skating) with hopes of becoming celebrities on the local cable tee vee station. Along the way they wax philosophic about life, tell fish stories and bad jokes and find the answers to their love lives. They do all this while trying to fend off Ernie "the Moocher" who makes off with their bait and their beer.



We have a great cast of Chris Mundy, Dan Nordenbrock and Keith Frank. Chris and Keith you know but Dan, who is from Alpena, is new to Tawas Bay Players. He comes with a long theater resume and we are so happy to have him join our TBP gang. Also of note.... I got Keith Frank to sing! Thank you Keith, I'm indebted to you. Susan Rook is doing keyboard for us and she is amazing! Jeff Chadwick is vocal director, set constructor, prop collector, and all around handy guy, God bless him. Our assistant director is Alan Dalton and producer is Vickie Szatkowski. Al Bixby and Mike Merluzzi are our construction and painting gurus and Diane MacDonald is stage Manager. Sue Duncan is rounding up props and Jayme Nunn will be doing lights. Movement (not choreography) was designed by Suzan Witt and Ray Skiver is doing sound design. I'm a new director so you can see I did the really smart thing and asked all of these talented and experienced people to be a part of the show.

It's a fun show and I'm having a great time directing "my guys." I grew up going ice fishing with my extended family which is why I wanted to direct this particular show. As you can imagine rehearsals can get a little off track with an all guy cast, and the ad libbing is rampant, but what a riot. We open Valentine's Day so bring your sweetie to the theater for an evening of fun.

Editor's note: I attended one of their rehearsals and this is one show that you don't want to miss. You may never get another chance to see Keith not only sing but dance and play the accordion. Some rehearsal photos are below.



Tawas Village Donations by June Hudgins

When the Tawas Bay Players Singers went over to Tawas Village for the Christmas show we also took a couple of bags of winter hats, gloves, and slippers. The Tawas Village staff called me to say how much the residents liked them, especially the home made slippers. The slippers were made by Sandy Schorfaar. There were some hats and some gloves left and I asked Sandi if she happened to have any more of the slippers left and she said she did. So we met for lunch and Sandy gave me a nice bag of them. So I'm planning to take these over to the Medical Care Facility for the folks over there. It's such a cold winter and I know these things are great to keep their feet warm and hats if they get to go out. I want to give Sandy a big thank you all the donations. She said she sits and knits them in the evenings and I know how they appreciate it very much.

2014 Quilt Raffle by Janie Mundy & Deb DeBois

At the conclusion of *Quilters* we were left with a set of beautifully pieced quilt blocks. The board decided to try to have the blocks finished into a quilt that could be raffled. Janie tells of how that came about... It happened that I called and called different people and organizations but couldn't find anyone who could put the pieces together for us. I was at a TBP Board meeting last winter talking about the problem when Tim Haskin said he knew someone who might be willing to take on the project. Tim gave me Marsha Hummel's phone number and I made the call. I was ready to hear "sorry, I just don't have the time, etc, etc" but Marsha said that she would love to. I was so excited. We met at the theater and I gave her the blocks and the layout from the production with the sequence of the pieces. She said that she actually had leftover fabric, some of which matched the fabrics in the blocks. I told her to purchase the backing and other materials needed to make a queen size quilt. She went to work like a busy bee and within six weeks she called to tell me that it was finished and she even quilted it. It is an unbelievably beautiful quilt. I really, really wanted to keep but as you know I didn't.



Deb handled the actual raffle since Janie had to be out of town and she reports: Sales for the raffle netted a profit of \$1180 for the Players. We ended up selling 793 tickets at events and through membership sales from October-December. A huge thank you goes out to Chris Mundy who sold 150 tickets. He actually sold the winning ticket to a co-worker at the Huron Community Bank of East Tawas - Regina Kelly of Au Gres. I'd also like to thank my helpers who sold with me, Diane Ray and Mary Kiernan and to Janie Mundy who started the whole raffle process.

Auditions Set for *Women of Lockerbie* by Deb DeBois

A mother from New Jersey roams the hills of Lockerbie Scotland, looking for her son's remains which were lost in the crash of Pan Am 103. She meets the Women of Lockerbie, who are fighting the US Government to obtain the clothing of the victims which was found in the plane's wreckage. The women, determined to convert an act of hatred into an act of love, want to wash the clothes of the dead and return them to the victims' families. The *Women of Lockerbie* is inspired by a true story, although the characters and situations in the play are purely fictional. Written in the style of a Greek tragedy, it is a poetic drama about the triumph of love over hate.

Auditions for *Women of Lockerbie* will be held on Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Playhouse. We need 5 to 7 women, 30 to 70 years old (or older) and 2 men, 30 to 50 years old. Actual age isn't necessary as long as the actors can portray the correct age. Even though the show is set in Scotland, actors will not use Scottish accents. Production dates are May 9-11 and 15-18.

In addition to a cast, we also need a producer for this show. Please contact Deb at 362-6800 if you would be willing to produce.

Some Items from the Board by Keith Frank

Term Limits Survey

Don't forget to complete and return your survey postcard. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion. Survey responses must be postmarked by February 15, 2014 to be counted. Please note that you need to add an additional one cent stamp since the cost of postage has increased.

Standing Room Only (SRO) – It's Not an Option!

It has recently come to my attention that when we have sold all of the seats at a performance, people have been allowed to stand in the back to watch the show (SRO). Not only was it discussed at one of our recent board meetings, but it was brought to my attention by a City Council member who was in attendance on one of the occasions. Usually

the people standing are TBP members who may have ushered at that evening's show or are serving refreshments at intermission. In some cases, they have been family members of the cast. All of our members need to be reminded that standing in back of the theater is not allowed. I'm sure that many of our members may scoff at this but not only is it a violation of the State and Federal fire codes, it also provides grounds for *termination of our lease* with the City. I'd appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter. Since I am the current president of the Tawas Bay Players as well as the East Tawas City Park Manager responsible for enforcing the terms of the lease, it would be extremely embarrassing to have our lease revoked because of this. If you want to see the show without purchasing a ticket, all members are welcome to attend dress rehearsal at no charge (this will be addressed in a subsequent article). You never know when a member of the City Council, the Park Board or any other City board or commission member will be in attendance at one of our shows. Since **Standing Room Only** is a violation of the terms of our lease with the City, we, the members of the Tawas Bay Players, need to make sure that it does not happen.

Problem at the Theater? – Please Tell a Board Member

If you are at the theater and notice a problem of any kind please let a board member know about it. We have had some issues recently that I'm sure someone was aware of (or should have been aware of) but did not report. Last summer the dead bolt lock on the Lincoln Street door (next to the make-up room) was broken. Since this was right around the time that our summer show was taking place, someone must have been aware of it when they locked that door at night. It was an easy fix but, until someone finally reported it, the door was not lockable and anyone could have accessed the theater.

Another issue was with the November water bill of over \$230.00. When Pat checked with the City, they came over and re-read the meter. It was a correct read, that much water was used. We discovered that the flapper valve on one of the toilets would not close and water just kept pouring through. Since whoever is in the building last is responsible for making sure the doors are locked and the bathroom lights are out, this problem should have been discovered. It could have easily been fixed by just jiggling the toilet handle. Instead, it resulted in an enormous water bill.

Another problem was the fog machine and strobe light. When they were needed for *Sleeping Beauty*, the crew discovered that they were broken. Whoever used it last must have known they was broken but, again, it wasn't reported. So please, if you notice a problem of any kind at the theater, be sure to let one of the board members know about it. To make it easy for everyone we have posted the Board Member contact information next to the phone in the kitchen. None of the issues listed above required a lot of work to remedy, but they could have (and did in the case of the toilet) cause major issues for the entire organization. Thank you for your assistance.

TBP Membership and You

Membership in the Tawas Bay Players is growing at a pretty steady pace. June reported at our November board meeting that we currently have 165 paid memberships. June stated that we have never had that many members going into December before. This is really great. But the thing that is not so great is that, with 165 members, we are not getting very many members actually working on our shows. It seems that we always have the same "core" members doing the bulk of the work required to run the organization. We are also finding that some of our members join just to be able to attend dress rehearsals to see the shows for free. Although this is a great benefit, it should not be the only reason that someone joins the group. Although it is not a requirement of membership, we do ask all of our members to please try to help out at the theater at least once each year. Assistance can be in the form of working on one of our shows (since our shows are in production year around, it shouldn't be hard to find time to help with one of them). There are countless jobs to be done for every show and many are as simple as serving refreshments, providing a couple dozen cookies for refreshments or acting as an usher. You could also take part in one of the scheduled work/cleaning bees or work around the theater (cleaning, painting, etc.). I know that we have members who live out of town and are not able to actively participate, but there are many here in our own community who can. If each member would come forward and help out, there would be a lot less for the "core" group to deal with.

TBP Board Contact Information

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Keith Frank – President | 362-8492 | k.frank@charter.net |
| June Hudgins – Vice President/House Manager | 362-8423 | jhudgins8423@charter.net |
| Vickie Szatkowski – Secretary | 362-6419 | densden2@yahoo.com |
| Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers | 362-6012 | pcasey@chartermi.net |
| Debra DeBois – Corresponding Secretary | 362-6800 | debois@charter.net |
| Chris Mundy | 362-9199 | daddoo10@hotmail.com |
| Penny Zacharias | 739-1903 | pzac7@yahoo.com |
| Judy Quarters | 362-8463 | judykq@hotmail.com |
| Sue Duncan | 362-2522 | smdunc@charter.net |

3rd Annual Park and Sell

Mark your calendars now for the 3rd Annual Park and Sell to be held on Saturday, May 24, 2014. This parking lot sale will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Cost to rent a parking space is \$10 and spaces will be rented on a first come, first served basis. We are also looking for donations of good quality, gently used items for the TBP table so keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning. We will also hold a bake sale and welcome donations of homemade goodies. We also need volunteers to staff the TBP table. If you have any questions, want to reserve your space, or would like to volunteer to help please call Diane Ray at 305-6767 or Janie Mundy at 362-9199.

Gift Basket Raffle Fund Raiser

A gift basket raffle fund raiser has been planned for this summer's USO shows. One basket will be raffled at each of the seven performances. Tickets will be sold pre-show and during intermission with the drawing to take place during the second half of the show. We are hoping this will be a lot of fun for our patrons as well as raising a few extra dollars for TBP. If anyone would like to help with this fund raiser, either selling tickets during the shows, assembling the baskets or rounding up donations, please call Janie Mundy at 362-919 or Diane Ray at 305-6767.

East Tawas Sesquicentennial by Keith Frank

To observe its sesquicentennial in 2014, the City of East Tawas City is planning a year-long celebration. The primary celebration will take place August 3 through August 10 and they are asking the Tawas Bay Players to be part of that celebration. There are several areas where they are requesting assistance from TBP.

The Sesquicentennial Committee would like to build a float depicting the history of East Tawas. The float would be entered in local parades throughout the year beginning with the Perchville parade in February. Ideally they will try to find a trailer that they can use for the entire year and construct the float on that trailer, storing it, and bringing it out for each parade. If they are unsuccessful in finding a trailer that they can keep, then they would need to build a float that would be able to be built and taken down for each parade with the float components being able to be re-used each time. They are hoping that TBP members with set construction and set design abilities may be able to assist and recommend the proper way to construct the float.

During the week-long celebration August 3 through August 10, the Committee would like Tawas Bay Player members to act as "Period Interpreters" on the streets downtown during several of the scheduled events. The Period Interpreters would be asked to dress in 1860 era attire and pass out fliers with information about the celebration. Ideally, the Period Interpreters would portray historical figures from East Tawas' past and possibly answer questions about the history of East Tawas.

Also during the celebration week, Michal Jacot has agreed to revive his play, "The Logging Legacy" to be enacted throughout the week long celebration. Michal wrote this play and it was performed at the Lumberman's Monument on two different occasions. We will have more information on the "Logging Legacy" as we get closer to the summer and the actual celebration.

Since the City of East Tawas has been a major benefactor of the Tawas Bay Players since the very beginning, it would be nice if we could “give something back” by helping out with the sesquicentennial. If you are interested in assisting with any of the items above, please contact me (Keith Frank) at 362-8492 (H), 362-5562 (W) or 254-9964 (Cell). Or you can email me at frank.parks@easttawas.com or k.frank@charter.net. Thank you!

CTAM Reminder from Tara Western

The 2014 Spring CTAM conference will be held in Bay City on April 25-27. Accommodations are at the Double Tree Hotel with a special \$99 rate per night for up to four in a room!!! That is a deal. Bay City is close enough that if you don’t want to spend the “big” bucks for a room, you could just go all day Saturday. As it is so close, I would love to see a large TBP contingent attend. Increase our knowledge base and see some quality theater. One of the biggest benefits of attending conferences is just the smoozing/ networking/ discussions with other people who love Community Theater.

The room rates are very reasonable, the trip is short, and TBP has scholarships available to help defray expenses. If you've never been, plan to go! It's very educational and FUN! Check the CTAM website at www.communitytheater.com for more information.

From Judy Quarters

One of our kids from *All Shook Up* and *Aida*, Tyler Braun from Hale, is singing back up with the Josh Groban concerts in Michigan. He attends Alma College and is in the band and choir. Pretty exciting stuff!! He's a great kid and he has a bright future! His mom and dad are Rick & Denise Braun from Hale and they are pretty proud parents and we at TBP are proud of him too!!



Happy Birthday



| February | March | April |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Mike Robson | 4 Bob O’Meara | 2 Lisa Denney |
| 6 Doug Lentz | 4 Dr. Richard Kaiserman | 5 Jane Ruster |
| 7 Pam Dibert | 6 Chaison Shuart | 18 Mandy Grusecki |
| 7 Dennis Szatkowski | 11 Ryan Kaiserman | 24 Traceé Lentz |
| 7 Bill Grusecki | 16 John Henry | 26 June Groff |
| 8 Vincent Weiler | 17 George Robson | 27 Laura Zacharias |
| 12 Dorothy Smith | 19 Frank Brewer | 28 Barb Hunter |
| 15 Michael Denney | 22 Maripat O’Malley | |
| 17 Tim Haskin | 24 Ethan Buchanan | |
| 22 Tina Dalton | 26 Judy Merluzzi | |
| 26 Mason Brewer | 27 Jessica Smith | |
| 26 Annette Zollner | 29 Geri Koepke | |
| 28 Ron Lockett | 30 Brianna Dalton | |



TBP 2013-2014 Season

February 2014..... *Guys on Ice*..... directed by Brenda Chadwick
 May 2014 *Women of Lockerbie* directed by Deb DeBois
 Summer 2014..... *USO Show* directed by Barb Hunter
 October 2014 *Second Samuel* directed by Vincent Weiler