

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

July/August 2011



***Into the Woods* by Suzan Witt**

Here are a few words about ITW... Wow! What a show, what a cast, what a crew, what a performance! I felt honored that TBP considered me for the challenge and thrilled with the results. I love theatre because it is a collaboration of many artistic mediums. In order to put a successful show together we have to have all of these God given gifts work in harmony. I feel we accomplished this goal in ITW. The play may not have been for everyone. Honestly, I'm not sure I would have picked it, but the talent was absolutely amazing from every aspect. I cannot thank those who were involved enough. I know how difficult it is to put on a production and I truly appreciate every aspect. I may not get the chance to thank the person that brings ice water backstage, but I know. We have an amazing community theatre. I am very proud to be a member. So... on to the next challenge, Jack and the Beanstalk. Crazy fun! The auditions were based on the children having a positive attitude, being able to follow directions and being loud. We were so impressed with the kids that auditioned that we cast an extra 10 children. We now have an A and a B cast with a chorus of 15. You do not want to miss this one. These kids are TBP's future and they are amazing.

The cast of Jack and the Beanstalk:

Jack Sprague

Brendan Dehner
Grant Dehner

Ms. Sprague

Rachael Hiveley
Arden Torgusen

Betsy the Cow

Madison Darmis & Katie Boensch
Shea Bryant & Anesia Shaffer

The Baron

Ryan Kaiserman
Wyle Duda

The Giant

Nicholas Lepard
Elise Heal

The Housekeeper

Chele Shuart
Kaitlyn Gorman

The Assistant

Carter Chrivia
Cory Ragan

The Harp

Shelby Evans
Sydney Schaaf

The Golden Goose

Zachary Dalton
Kyle Evans

Beanstalkers/Townspeople

Shaina Brown
Jasmine Childers
Shawnacee Cota
Gabrielle Deemer
Charlotte Faether

Ally Frank
Lindsay Grover
Caleb King
Alysan LaFreniere
Aly Revall

Katelyn Shattuck
Nathan Thomas
Arina Wade
Kindra Winters
Megan Young

Also involved are Janie Mundy, Tina Dalton, Susan Rook, Pam Katona, Gatlyn Dunham & Brianna Dalton.

Performance dates are August 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 & 21 with all shows at 7:00 p.m. This show is not included in the season ticket and there will be no advance ticket sales. Our reservationists need a break too. Editor's note: I heard the first singing rehearsal and these kids are really talented!

USO Show to Open the Summer Season

Barb Hunter has organized an old fashioned USO show for July 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 & 24. All shows are at 7:00 p.m. and there will be no reservations or advance ticket sales. The music is from the 1940s and should be a great deal of fun. Michal Jacot and Craig Sayer are the announcers and the singers include Jeff Chadwick, Barb Hunter, Chris Mundy, Greg Dahlstrom, Traceé Lentz, Penny Zacharias, Pat Casey, George Robson, Laurie Jacot, Mendy Shmina, Pam Frank, Diane King and her sisters Pam Ronn & Robbie Engle. Judy Quarters is the producer, Pat Casey is the music director and Susan Rook is our accompanist. Plan to come and enjoy a great evening of entertainment. Proceeds will be shared with the USO who is still entertaining our troops.

2011 – 2012 Season

Escanaba In Love (Comedy) by Jeff Daniels

October 14, 15 16, 20, 21, 22, 23

Over the River and Through the Woods (Comedy) by Joe DiPietro

January 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29

Snow Angel & A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Fifth Period (Teen Production)

March 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Adult Musical) Music & Lyrics by William Finn

May 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20

Crosswords (Comedy) by Michal Jacot

July 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22 – Summer Show is not included in our Season Tickets

***Escanaba in Love* Try-Outs to Take Place in August by Tara Western**

Escanaba in Love, the pre-quel to *Escanaba in da Moonlight* is our fall play, directed by me, Tara Western. The production dates are October 14-16, 21-23. As TBP has produced “da Moonlight” twice, most of you will be somewhat familiar with the characters. This play tells the story of how Albert Soady Jr. met his wife, Big Betty Balou. It is November 1944, the eve of opening day at the Soady Deer Camp in Escanaba. Albert Jr., 18, newly enlisted in the Army is headed for “the best deer camp ever” when he falls in love with the legendary Big Betty Balou, the woman destined to be Reuben and Remnar’s mother.

This cast includes:

Alphonse Soady a man in his 70s,

Albert Sr. in his 50s

Salty Jim (da Jimmer’s papa?) with no specified age

Albert Jr. 18

Big Betty Balou a young woman in her 20’s.

All of the characters sing and all but Salty Jim dance. Neither require any skill, just enthusiasm and preferably with no inhibitions! In fact author, Jeff Daniels, in his stage directions, states that Alphonse dance as a “man with no rhythm”. I am totally open to people who can play the age, without BEING that age, so please think about trying out! All will be asked to sing and dance. We’ll provide the song! Try-outs will be at the theater on Wednesday, August 3rd and Thursday, August 4th at 7:00 p.m. If you can’t make those dates, please let me

know, and we'll figure something out! I have scripts that I will be happy to loan out, please call me at 362-6437 or send me an email tarawestern@hotmail.com

TBP Singers visit Traverse City or June gets her first Galopy by Pam Frank

There are certain groups of people who really seem to enjoy our talents and ask us to perform for them around the state (or country) as they hold conventions. One such group is a women's bowling association. We have entertained them in Saginaw and Houghton Lake in the past and this year they asked us to come to Traverse City. Since we weren't scheduled to sing until 9:00 p.m. most of us decided to spend the night. George and Mike needed to get home so they couldn't stay and Mendy had the chance to stay with her sister.

We left on Friday afternoon and stopped in Grayling for dinner. We got to the hotel where we were performing and got the equipment set up and a sound check done before the audience was in the room. This is always a plus, especially when we have problems since no one likes to hear the screech of feedback. We then ventured to our motel to check in and change clothes. We got back to perform about half an hour early only to discover that their program was running 30 minutes late. Since we were already scheduled to sing so late (approaching bedtime for some of us) waiting an extra 30 minutes wasn't going to be fun. The ladies graciously let us sing before they finished their program which put us on at 9:15. It was the 85th anniversary of their association and several of them were dressed in flapper dresses and Zoot suits. They came up front and danced the Charleston while we sang which just added to the fun. The performance went very well since we had only one tenor, one alto and two of our sopranos had laryngitis. The bowlers really know how to enjoy themselves! I fear Chris was a bit disappointed because he didn't get any special requests this year. (Last year one member of the group got an extra song in the parking lot because he didn't sing to her during our show.)

After the show we wandered around Downtown Traverse City. Penny knew of a place that sold gelato (an Italian sort of ice cream). June evidently didn't quite hear what Penny called it and so for June it was a galopy. It was delicious. It was fun window shopping after dark and surprising how many people were out on the streets. The people up there are a lot more vocal than we are used to - a car went past and asked in a very rude manner if we were a family reunion. I guess that's what happens when you are all dressed alike. Since no one had to be home early on Saturday we had a wonderful breakfast and then took a bit of a tour. We ventured up to Suttons Bay where we shopped a bit and took photos. Then we moved up Old Mission Peninsula to the light house where a kind lady took our photo. We had a great time. The only difficulties involved both Chris and June mistaking other vehicles for my Expedition. June set off a car alarm when she forgot where I had parked and tried to get into the car next to Pat's. And it's better if you ask Chris about his experience.



On June 11th the Singers (minus a few) entertained for Relay for Life at the Tawas City Park. Since this was a very casual show Pat decided that everyone could wear jeans. Please note June looking great in her first pair of jeans – ever! I missed this show but I know the Relay participants really enjoy our shows. And as a final note we want to welcome Bob Zacharias to the Singers. After listening to Penny practice for years we figure he knows most of our music.

English 11 (British Lit) Ms. Hunter's Room

Students in Ms. Hunter's English 11 British Literature class enjoyed an unexpected treat when local resident (and London born and bred) **June Hudgins**, an East Tawas resident, came into class and spoke with the students for an hour about life in England. This semester, students have studied the Shakespeare classic *Macbeth*, Victorian poetry, essays, and the traditional farce *The Importance of Being Earnest*, along with , modern fiction short stories such as *The Rocking Horse Winner*, and wrapping up with some archetypal Agatha Christie and the longest running drama in history (56 years this year) *The Mousetrap*.



During the class hour, Hudgins spoke of life growing up in London during the World War II, and surviving with few luxuries other than those procured via her mother's frugality. By saving ration book coupons for "tins of chocolate [syrup] and sweetened, condensed milk" Hudgins and her siblings were able to enjoy the occasional sweet treat, "poured over slices of bread." She went on to share with the students that chocolate was so rare that the occasional candy bar from some kind-hearted "Yank" was cause for celebration, indeed. Students learned about the realities of life in wartime when Hudgins explained to her rapt listeners that as a youngster, she really received "very little schooling" due to the near constant need to head to bomb shelters during the months of uninterrupted bombing raids suffered by Londoners. One of the most memorable moments came when she relayed that as a young child, it was always the buzz bombers that disturbed her most. "They made an awful buzzing noise as they flew overhead, and they had no pilots in them, so they were like giant, remote controlled airplanes. As soon as the buzzing stopped, however, it would get deathly quiet, and then it was an interminable wait for the bomb to hit and explode."

Throughout the class period, students peppered their guest with questions, of all which she answered good naturedly, with a great deal of laughter and a ready smile. When students requested a reading so they could really hear the play read with the real British accent, Hudgins obliged, taking on the lead role of Mollie, and coaching the other students (her fellow readers) on how to pronounce the lines "properly, with a good, British accent." The hour flew by, and at its close, the students were well-informed about subjects ranging from heating with "coke" and coal, to enjoying special treats at high tea. Ms. Hunter has been friends with Hudgins since first moving to Tawas and joining the Tawas Bay Players (a group founded by Hudgins and Vincent Weiler) when Hunter began teaching at AE 27 years ago.

Thank you "Jun Luv" (as she is better known in Tawas) for donating your time to helping us all learn a bit more about "jolly old England."

Another funny Story From Michal Jacot

John Barrymore and Katherine Hepburn did a film together, *Morning Glory*. From the day shooting started, they didn't get along. They interrupted filming scenes with shouting scenes of their own. When the film had been completed, Hepburn went to Barrymore's dressing room and said, "Mr. Barrymore, I'll never act in another picture with you."

Barrymore looked down at her with a sweet expression on his face and replied, "Miss Hepburn, you never have."

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Our sponsors are very important to us, the money from their ads helps make it possible to print the programs and much more. We are all encouraged to support our sponsors but as one who doesn't usually get to see a program I was at a bit of a loss to know who they all are. So here is a list so you can patronize their businesses and say "thanks". Plus I was very pleased to see that some of my favorite businesses are sponsors! If you know of anyone else who might like to place an ad in our program contact Pat Casey, our ad & program chair.

<p>ADCOM Productions AuSable Lighting Center Bernard Building Center Joe Bettiga – Edward Jones Branham's Jewelry Brew Krew Brooks Buchanan Builders Colvin's Plumbing and Heating CSJ Catering Dr. Jeff Chadwick Dr. Lesneski & Dr. Mollard Falker Veterinary Care Center Feliwelyn Shuart, PT G's Pizzeria & Deli General Federation of Woman's Club of Michigan Hemphill & Schirmer Construction Herrick Plumbing, Heating & AC Hits FM, WKJC & WIOS Radio Hollywood Professional Tan Hospice Angelic Care & Angelic's Attic Hsing's Garden</p>	<p>Iosco County Medical Care Facility Iosco County Republicans Iosco News Herald & Oscoda Press Judy Quarters – Tri County Agency Kiwanis Klenow's Market Lady in Waiting Los Cuatro Amigos Macnlow Assoc. – Mac McKinnon Marbie's Nutrition McDonalds Mooney's Ben Franklin New Reflections Too Northland Area Federal Credit Union Northwoods Steakhouse O'Connor's Patti's Kountry Kitchen Print 'n' Go Quota International Ray of Hope – Diane Ray Russo Engineering, Inc.</p>	<p>St. James Electric Sewing Design Studio – Suzanne Johnson Seymour Carpet & Furniture Shoreline Players Stephenson, Gracik & CO PC Sunrise Side Republican Women Sunrise Surplus Superior Painting Tawas Area Presbyterian Church Tawas Bay Agency Tawas Bay Beach Resort Tawas Bay Fudge & Ice Cream Co. Tawas Chiropractic Center, Inc. Tawas City Library Friends Tawas Community Band Tawas Hardware & Lumber Tawas Village Village Chocolatier Visions Hair Salon The Yards Commercial Development Zubeck Motor Sales</p>
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Happy Birthday



July

- 2 Al Bixby
- 2 Alan Dalton
- 5 Dennis Szatkowski II
- 5 Buck Weaver
- 9 Christine Huebner
- 12 Shelby Evans
- 12 John Morris
- 13 Larry Van Wagoner
- 15 Deb DeBois
- 18 Katie Zacharias
- 18 Mary Henry
- 18 Betty DeWilde
- 21 Gatlyn Dunham
- 22 Janie Mundy
- 27 Dee Bixby

August

- 4 Brenda Chadwick
- 4 Ressie Smith
- 5 Taylor Huitema
- 6 Donna Dahlstrom
- 10 Anne Powers
- 12 June Hudgins
- 15 Jeff Chadwick
- 15 Brian Shmina
- 20 Shirley Robson
- 21 Sally Krueger
- 23 Bob Zacharias
- 23 Sharon Huitema
- 29 Pam Koepke
- 30 Barbara Spencer
- 31 Phyllis Spencer

Into the Woods Photos by Keith Frank

