

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

November/December 2017



Weekend Comedy

An older couple rents a cabin for the weekend. It's a remote cabin with no phone, no newspapers, no television and no kids! Peggy has romance on her mind, while stick-in-the-mud Frank is wondering what they're going to do all weekend. Next thing they know a younger couple arrives thinking they have rented the cabin. Frank insists that the younger couple stay for dinner. Ultimately, the two couples agree to share the one-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin for the weekend and the fun begins. The clash between generations and ideas will have you laughing.

Auditions for *Weekend Comedy*, directed by Rodger McElveen will be held on November 29th and 30th at 6:30 p.m. We need 2 women and 2 men. One couple needs to be middle age and the other couple in their early 20s. Performance dates will be February 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 at 7 p.m. and February 11, 18 at 2 p.m. Behind-the-scenes help is always needed so if you are interested, please come to tryouts and let the producer know.

Thank you from June Hudgins

On Wednesday night, October 11th before the Dress Rehearsal for *Snow White* our president Keith Frank surprised me. He asked me to come up on stage to help present an award to one of our members. Of course, I said yes not knowing that the award was to be bestowed on me. It was such an honor to be presented with a beautiful plaque naming our refreshment room as "HUDGINS HALL" and also a beautiful painting with my family crest upon it. Thank you to our President Keith, the TBP Board, Pat Casey and also Carol Kushion for the beautiful art work of my Family Crest. I was very moved by this and it looks wonderful hanging in the Refreshment Room, now HUDGINS HALL. Stop in sometime and look at this wonderful award. Many thanks to all who were in attendance on this wonderful night. Two of my daughters were there as were two granddaughters so it made it a very special night for me and all my family.



***Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Pat Casey**

What a fun show! It all started August 15th with auditions. OK, actually it started the year before when I submitted the show for the fall production. Before auditions even happened, our construction crew of Bob O'Meara, Dennis Szatkowski, Mike Merluzzi, and Al Bixby had our set up and built. (I see Rodger has followed in our footsteps for the winter production.) At any rate, we actually had more than we needed come out for the play. That was tough but we finally narrowed down our cast. Some new faces, some old faces, and some returning faces made up our mixture of characters. And characters they were! As the show progressed, each one showed more of their character's personality. C.J. Brummler came in adding the choreography and the show came to life. Mary Staweke, our stage manager, went above and beyond to paint and organize the set. Costumes were made, props appeared, and the house was cleaned. Nick set up the lighting and we were ready to roll. **Many thanks to ALL the behind-the-scenes people who made this show possible.** According to Extreme Tix, we filled 723 seats for our seven shows (not counting dress rehearsal)! That's 69% of our 1050 available! Many came back after the show and their kids had their pictures taken with our actors. Not only that, we had a huge amount of first timers to our theater. All in all, I believe our 39th season started out great!

***Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by June Hudgins**

I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all the cast and crew who worked on the fall show, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The show was a good success with very good audiences and good feedback for the show. Many thanks to Pat Casey, Penny Zacharias, Judy Quarters and our Choreographer CJ Brummler. It was a fun cast and we all had lots of laughs. A very good job was done by our lighting tech Nick Lojek and stage manager Mary Stawke. The cast members Patricia King, Michele Forcier, David Wajda, Chris Mundy, Pam Koepke, Kathleen Rowe, Penny Zacharias, Barb Hunter, Laurie Jacot, and Curtis Davenport were awesome. We had some newcomers, our evil Queen Michele Forcier and Dwarf Kathleen Rowe who did an exceptional job. All the Dwarfs were so funny on and off stage. We were happy to welcome back Trish King and David Wajda. What a show! Thanks again for everything and to all of you, "Love you"

T.B.P. Singers by Pat Casey

The Singers have started rehearsing for our annual *Christmas Songs & Stories* to be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 7 p.m. As always, this is a free concert and open to the first 150 people. We're also scheduled to sing at various nursing homes and assisted living facilities in December. On Saturday, December 16th, we'll be at Neiman's Market to help with the fundraiser for the Animal Shelter. The radio station will be there so if you're out and about, stop in and help support the animals!

CTAM's Annual Fall Conference at Evergreen Resort, Cadillac by Tara Western

Another beautiful, inspirational and fun weekend was enjoyed by many Tawas Bay Players September 22-24. Once again, the Tawas Area won the traveling trophy for most attendees. Witz End won with eleven members and Tawas Bay Players came in second.

Friday night's keynote speaker was a personal favorite of mine (any MANY others!), theatre god, Jim Carver. Jim inspired the crowd with an analogy concerning community theatre and the fictional McGuckin's Hardware. Jim told us, "McGuckin's is always good, always satisfies; customers know what to expect, it is THEIR hardware. A new Big Box stores didn't hurt McGuckin's because it "grew stronger because they could be trusted to give the customer what he was looking for and the employees take great pride in that." Now, substitute your theatre group for this hardware. Can you say that about your theatre group? Is your group doing its best to uphold the trust your patrons have in you? Are you changing with the times? Do your patrons keep coming back because your theatre is THEIR theatre? To keep them coming back you have to exceed expectations, every time!" Food for thought.

If you would like to read the script in its entirety, email tarawestern@hotmail.com and she will send it to you.

All Things Set Workshop with Mike Wisniewski, Bay City Players by Tara Western

Have you heard of these before: periaktos, plural periaktoi. From Greek theater, this free-standing triangular prism bears a different scene represented with paint etc on each of its three sides. When you need a quick scene change, you just place the periaktos with the appropriate scene to the audience, then, turn when the scene is over. Think, perhaps, of *Red Velvet Cake War*. Outdoor porch scene, saddlery shop, and CeeCee's radio show. Designate one single area for all three. Turn the periaktos and the audience knows where they are. Check it out on YouTube.



Theater Basement Cleanup

We would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to the people who have been working so hard to clean up the basement at the theater. Thanks to Dee Bixby, Craig Sayer, Sue Duncan, Bob O'Meara, Brian Shmina, Hunter Smith & Logan Gould and entire roll off dumpster of junk has been removed. The entire storage area has been reorganized and it will be so much easier to find needed props and set pieces. The young people were greatly appreciated for their countless trips up and down the stairs. Now we all need to try very hard to keep the basement neat and well organized. Thanks to all and we apologize if we have missed anyone who helped.

Lynn Phillips Memorial by June Hudgins

On November 3rd I went to the Memorial service for Lynn Phillips at the East Tawas American Legion Hall. I wanted to represent the Tawas Bay Players which Lynn was a part of. His son and some of the family from Las Vegas were there. It was a very nice service with the Taps being played, the gun salute and the Legion presenting the Flag to Lynn's son. I did tell the family we have honored Lynn on our Memorial wall in the Theater. When you are at the theater please take a moment to look at the Memorial wall. The family said he really loved doing shows with us at the Tawas bay Players Theater.

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Food for Thought from Tara

Drama doesn't just walk into your life out of nowhere. You either create it, invite it, or associate with people that bring it on!

In the same vein, I found this in the Bay City Players' 100-year anniversary paper from Leeds Bird, another theatre god. "This season our attitude is that it's fine that we're 100, but that makes us sound old. We celebrating Season 100 as a kickoff to the next 100 years to show people we're looking ahead and not stagnating or looking back. It's very important that people think of us as dynamic and vital."

From Anna Kendrick's book, *Scrappy Little Nobody*. "I've wondered why she (director) was so demanding. It was just community theater. Why did it have to be so perfect? But I've also now been around enough people who have a low opinion of anyone who is creative in a nonprofessional realm to know that that's ugly and ignorant. People don't have to do things by half measure because they are not getting paid for it. In fact, that's all the more reason to throw every ounce of passion you have behind it."

***Overheard in the Audience* submitted by Michal Jacot**

Sometimes audience comments can be just as entertaining as what's going on on the stage. These are actual comments heard at theatrical productions:

[At *Cats*] "I'm confused, I didn't think it would actually be about, well, cats"

"I wanna see that Henry Vee"

"No honey, that's a Roman numeral. It's pronounced 'Henry Five.'"

[At *Les Miserables*] "Where are they going to put the guillotine?"

[At *Spamalot*] "Oh I didn't realize it was supposed to be a comedy"

"Where are the toilets?"

"Top of the stairs on your level"

"...and where will they be at intermission?"

[At *Chicago*] "What's it about?"

"I don't know but I think it's set in New York"

[At *Jesus Christ Superstar*] "Well, I didn't expect it to end like *that*."

[At *Waiting for Godot*] "He won't come, you know - his name's not in the program."

"I'd like one of the \$20 seats, but can I have it at the front?"

"Should I send lilies to Joan Collins? They are her favorite flowers." (Joan Collins was not performing at the theatre.)

"Did Patrick Swayze get the photos I sent?"

"I don't know. He's not in *Dirty Dancing*, he's in *Guys and Dolls*."

"I know, but I sent him some pictures. Did he get them?"

"Not if you sent them here. This is *Dirty Dancing*. He's in *Guys and Dolls*."

"I sent them to stage door."

"If you sent them to our stage door then no, he didn't get them."

[At *Thriller Live*] "Is Michael Jackson still going to be in it?"

"Well, he wasn't in it when he was alive so it's even less likely now he's dead."

"This is ludicrous! The whole point of me printing my ticket at home was to get me in quicker via scanning but they've sent me back to you! It's ridiculous!"

"Ma'am, you cut your ticket in half, through the barcode."

"Well it wouldn't fit in my handbag!"

[At *The Lion King*] "When does Elton John come out?"

"How much is a complimentary ticket?"

"Do these stairs go up?"

"Can I buy two tickets for Fanny of the Opera please?"

"Our pet parrot just loves musicals so can we bring her along to *Les Miserables*? She is house-trained and knows all the words! We're happy to buy a ticket for her."



Happy Birthday



November

- 2 Chris Mundy
- 4 Peyton Perrot
- 8 Kayla Grusecki
- 13 Sharon Langley
- 14 Tom Shmina
- 21 Sharon Briand
- 25 Jody Provost
- 25 Mendi Shmina

December

- 8 Marley Buchanan
- 10 Pat Casey
- 17 Judy Quarters
- 18 Ruby Satterfield
- 19 LeRoy Wenzel
- 27 Bill Archer
- 29 Kathy Weaver
- 30 Vickie Szatkowski

January

- 3 Keith Frank
- 7 Richard Paradise
- 9 Diane Ray
- 13 Liz Shmina
- 14 Nick Osech
- 15 Mary Anne Filka
- 15 Penny Zacharias
- 16 Rebecca Buchanan
- 17 Bill Foy
- 17 Tim Haskin
- 18 Zack Dalton
- 19 Penny LeClair
- 22 Lynne Meyer
- 29 Sue Duncan



Photos from *Snow White*



