

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

February/March 2018



***Weekend Comedy* by Rodger McElveen**

CAST....Eric Perrot, Stacy Perrot, Neil Peterson, Hannah Towne. A comedy about 2 couples, a younger one and a middle age couple who rent the same cabin on the same weekend and all the fun that starts as problems arise. Forget your problems, come see ours. Directed by Rodger McElveen, assisted by Sharon Langley and produced by June Hudgins and Tim Haskin.

***Murder at Perchville* by Keith Frank**

What do a Chamber of Commerce Director, a Perchville King and Queen, a disgruntled and exiled fisherman, a Perchville junkie, a motel owner who likes to gamble, a hateful hotel/business owner and an out of town detective have in common? They were all part of the cast of *Murder at Perchville* this past Perchville weekend at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Tawas. This is the second year in a row that Tawas Bay Players have performed a Murder Mystery as part of the Perchville activities. Written by Michal Jacot, *Murder at Perchville* takes place at the Perchville Coronation Dinner. During the dinner, one of the cast members (in this case the Perchville King) is murdered. Now, Michal normally plays the part of the Detective in his Murder Mysteries but on this occasion, Michal was not available due to a family commitment and he asked me to step in. It is the Detective's job to "lead" the investigation and try to get the audience involved in the questioning.

Last year was the first time we tried one of these events at Perchville and it was a huge success. The room was filled to capacity within minutes of opening the doors. So, this year we thought we would add an afternoon performance. This turned out not to be such good idea as only about 30-40 people showed up. In all of Michal's (and probably anybody's) murder mysteries, there is pertinent information that needs to come out in order for the audience to be able to solve the case. I felt like a dentist pulling teeth as I tried to "extract" this necessary information and get it out in the open. With the exception of the killer, all suspects must tell the truth. The murderer can lie to protect himself. Eventually, I was able to get all of the facts out into the open and a good number of the audience was able to solve the murder.

The evening show was a different story and went much smoother as the cast played to a full house. And boy did the audience get into it. By 6:30 p.m., one hour into the event, there were still clues that had not been disclosed and many audience members were raising their hands to ask questions. But by 6:45 p.m., all of the clues were out in the open and the audience got to cast their vote for the murderer. The majority of the audience had no problem determining that the Chamber Director had committed the murder to cover up his embezzlement scheme.

Hats off to a cast who gave great performances: Ray Skiver as Chamber Director Greg Whitmeir, Penny Zacharias and Jolene Grusecki as Perchville Queen Linda Van Dyne, Rodger McElveen and Alan Dalton as Perchville King (and murder victim) Joey Stamp, Curtis (Lives Matter) Davenport as disgruntled and exiled fisherman Bobby DuKane, Michael Denney as the Perchville junkie "Big Dawg" Dettweiler (also known as Hilary Dettweiler), Judy Quarters and Tina Dalton as gambler and motel maven Charlene Goodall and Diane King as the hateful business and hotel owner, Mary Hoover. Thanks to Sue Duncan for putting this production together and also to all of the support team that helped out: Stacy and Eric Perrot, Tom King, Sharon Langley, Pat Casey, Bob Zacharias, Mary Ann Michalski, Pam Frank, Lisa Denney, Zach Dalton and Janie Mundy. Big thanks to Chemical Bank for providing all of the food and to the Knights of Columbus for hosting the event and preparing all of the burger baskets.

All audience members seemed to have a good time, especially the younger children who became active participants in the questioning process. Although the afternoon performance was not as successful, we've been asked to do another evening performance for Perchville 2019. If you ever have the opportunity to take part in one of Michal's murder mysteries, I'd highly suggest that you do it. They are a lot of fun.



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Knights of Columbus Perchville Fish Fry by Pat Casey

So there we were, Thursday before Perchville, setting up at the K of C Hall for Saturday's Murder Mystery shows. Sue Duncan comes up to a few of us and mentions that Dave could maybe use some help for the Friday Fish Fry. Some of us helped last year and he's always so good to us...so why not?!?! Penny and Bob Zacharias, Eric Perrot, Sue, Mary Ann Michalski, and Pat Casey volunteered to come and help if they needed us. It opened at 4 p.m. and we never stopped until after 7 p.m.! We ended up serving over 400 hungry people. Penny, Pat, and Eric served dinners. Bob called out numbers so we could deliver meals to the tables. Poor Sue kept filling coleslaw and tartar sauce containers for about three hours. Mary Ann ended up bussing tables. Eric eventually went over to help Bob as his voice was getting a little hoarse but Penny and Pat kept serving and occasionally breaking into a song. The best was when the final meal was served and *The Hallelujah Chorus* could be heard coming from the kitchen. The fitbit kept racking up steps so most of us met our goals. Just another Friday night at Perchville... Dave was so grateful for our help that the K of C made a donation to Tawas Bay Players. We did tell him that wasn't necessary but he insisted. Thanks Dave.



***And Then There Were None* Tryouts Coming Soon by Michal Jacot**

The icy cold days of winter are (hopefully) behind us. You might be thinking, "Now that it's tolerable enough to get out of the house, I've got to get out of this house before I go crazy." If you're looking for a fun diversion for the spring, I hope you'll consider helping out on our spring production, *And Then There Were None!* In this classic Agatha Christie whodunit, ten strangers are summoned to a remote British island. Each guest has a secret and each one is both a suspect and a potential victim. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, the guests are systematically murdered, one at a time, in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme. The story is full of typical Agatha Christie twists and populated with offbeat characters.

The show is directed by Michal Jacot, with Laurie Jacot as his assistant director. Judy Quarters is producing. There are 11 people in the cast (8 men, 3 women) in a wide span of ages (teenage on up), so there is an opportunity for everyone. And if working behind the scenes is your thing, Judy Q can find a place for you on our team. The show is set in 1940's England, so work on your British accents, but don't worry if it's not perfect and certainly don't let that prevent you from trying out!

Tryouts for *And Then There Were None* are Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 at the Playhouse. The production dates are May 11-12-13 and May 17-18-19-20. Come to tryouts with any schedule conflicts you may foresee. A conflict doesn't mean you won't be considered for a part; it simply helps the directors work around everyone's schedules. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. I don't have enough scripts to afford to let any out for perusal before tryouts. But you can find it online. Just go to samuelfrench.com, quick search the title, then click on "read free sample." See you at tryouts!

From Craig Sayer

Hi everybody! This is the first article I have written for the newsletter in several years and I have a few points I want to touch on right now. First, I want to say a big thank you for electing me as a new board member this past annual meeting. I am serving a one-year term and hope that I can do a good job for you all. I had forgotten how many decisions are made at the meetings and encourage all members (if you have the time) to attend the meetings so you can see all the items that are decided by your board and how much discussion and opinions are taken into consideration before a decision is reached. I knew going into this that our TBP board is a "working board". It seems that every board member has a project or two that they take charge of. Sue Duncan, Jane Mundy and Tara Western recently undertook the huge job of organizing, and cleaning the costume and wardrobe rooms (and it looks spectacular).

My pet project that I wanted to see done was the prop and set pieces area, a.k.a. the basement. I certainly didn't do this by myself. I had lots of help from Dee and Al Bixby, Hunter and Logan Smith, Sue Duncan, and Bob O'Meara. You may have noticed for practically the whole month of November 2017 we had a dumpster in our parking lot. Please hear me out before anybody pops a cork. Dee and I spent a lot of time sorting out props and even some furniture. We threw away very little in those lines, however we did donate a lot of things that had rarely ever been used, were really common household items, or that we could easily borrow from someplace else. We kept unique and rare items that TBP has actually purchased. I want to digress for just a minute here.... if you know of anybody that wants to make a donation to TBP, PLEASE ask a board member before you accept clothing, furniture, or boxes of props. People have good intentions but we do have a cooperative with St. Vinnies and Seymour's Furniture to borrow items. We just don't have the room to collect all the pieces that we could possibly ever use.

We still have tons of props and pieces downstairs and as of this time we do NOT have a lock on the basement door, but if it comes a time when things are brought up from the basement and not put away when a show is over the board has discussed possibly changing that. I think I can speak for Dee as well as myself, that we are proud of the job we did, and that we were surprised on some of the things we found in the basement. For example, after we cleaned and organized the basement, we vacuumed, and lo and behold, there is carpet on that floor. There were a few antique and special items that we cleaned, and refurbished and they are ready for use again. I, personally, took home Milky White, the cow from *Into the Woods*. Her horns were broken off and she had some holes punched in her rear end. She has a nice warm spot in my house and my heart.

I guess in closing I don't want to get on my soap box but let's just be respectful and keep our building in clean, working order. We worked long and hard for our own home and we really have something to be proud of!!!!



Happy Birthday



February

4 Jason Gould
6 Mike Robson
7 Pam Dibert
7 Bill Grusecki
7 Dennis Szatkowski
11 Herb Forcier
22 Tina Dalton
26 Mason Brewer

March

4 Bob O'Meara
19 Frank Brewer
24 Ethan Buchanan
27 Judy Merluzzi

April

4 Jane Ruster
12 Sheliah Monroe
21 Dee Davis
26 June Groff
27 Laura Zacharias
28 Barb Hunter

What Does 'Membership' Mean to You? by Stacy Perrot

I've been an **active** member of the TBP for only a few years but when I joined, I couldn't help but feel as a member, that I should be doing my part to help out the group. Some of you may even be an **active** member with your religious affiliation. You do that to feel good. And that is why I like being an **active** member as well as the handful of others at TBP. I'm building relationships with people. Without **active** members, we wouldn't have what we have, a family.

I decided to try out the producer role this past summer and it was definitely a challenge to find people to help out. Yes, I know it was summer and people don't want to commit to anything for any length of time. All memberships drop during the summer. And I'm not saying your commitment to the playhouse needs to be lifelong, but once in a while would be so helpful. Even for the current production, all of us were thinking who could do sound and lights (the director himself was in the booth). The actors were looking for makeup, the applicators and how it should be applied. The lobby board was even assembled by a cast member. You don't know how to do lights, sound or apply make-up? Neither do I. But that's why I'm an **active** member so I can learn. Our "experts" are willing to teach new people. And you know what? It's great to learn something new to benefit myself too! We don't have back-up people behind our experts. We need more help!

Become an **active** member. You pay \$10 to see 4 shows; a ticket for *one* show is \$11. That's a huge bonus for you but what is that doing for the playhouse? Do the math, the playhouse is saving you quite a bit of money. Currently there are 113 members. How many different faces are you seeing when you come to enjoy a production? Putting in some time into a production is very rewarding. Not interested in helping with a production? Attend the board meetings and the annual meeting. Your membership gives you the opportunity to vote. What about maintenance, lawn care, painting, plumbing, cleaning...?

Please consider what you could offer the playhouse beyond the \$10. I have had the wonderful opportunity of getting to know the people who put in a lot of their personal time into your enjoyment. Give something back, share some laughs, learn a new skill. The future of the playhouse may not thrive the way it could without your help along with the help of the present **active** members.

Puttin' Butts in the Seats by Tara Western

As we head for our fortieth season, the play reading committee is looking for plays that will bring in people, old and new, young and old! The Board is asking for a well-known show to anchor our season...in other words, to put butts in the seats!

Using several sources, I made a list of musicals, dramas, mysteries and comedies. Most of the musicals and dramas have large casts and the dramas are pretty serious, but classics. Although many of the plays have stood the test of time, that doesn't mean they are great or will resonate with today's audience. And do we have the musicians, singers, actors, and crew, the very important crew, to put on a large show? A lot to think about! So, dear Reader, I submit this list and would love to hear your opinions. You can email me at tarawestern@hotmail.com

Musicals

The Fantasticks
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
A Charlie Brown Christmas
The Secret Garden
Pajama Game
Clue: The Musical
How to Eat Like a Child
Bingo, the Musical
Why Do Fools Fall in Love?

Comedies/Farces

Born Yesterday
Boeing, Boeing
Come Blow Your Horn
Dixie Swim Club
The Odd Couple—female version

Drama/Mysteries

The Bridges of Madison County
The Diary of Ann Frank
Wait Until Dark
Inherit the Wind

Weekend Comedy

