

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

June/July 2018



Weekend Comedy by Tim Haskin

The hit, *Weekend Comedy* finished its run with a special recognition Sunday. Leonard and Dorothy Sarki were awarded seats right in the front row, to see the funny entertaining show. A couple of weeks prior to the show's opening an article in the News Herald told of their wedding on February 7, 1948. So, if you did the math you were correct in saying Wow that is 70 years married. In the article it also said they were married in the Methodist Church which is, you got it, now Tawas Bay Players Playhouse. I thought how appropriate it would be for a long time married couple to watch a play about two couples at our playhouse. I called Grand Pooba Keith Frank (aka President of the TBP Board) and he gave the ticket office permission to comp the tickets. I called and invited them on The Players behalf and reserved 2 seats for Sunday. The news article also pointed out that they felt TBP was like a second family to them. They were delighted to attend and so appreciative of the Players and asked that I tell all of you thanks. They certainly loved the play and laughed a lot, as did most who were lucky enough to come out and see it.

Not a TBP expense, just so you know; after the show I gave them a chocolate heart with 70 and a smiley face on the front, made at the Village Chocolatier and while they were still in their seats read them a verse written just for them. Below are a couple lines from the verse:

The Methodist Church on Newman Street, was where their vows were said.

The altar there has been removed, by the "Players" stage instead.

I'm sure most of you are not interested in the entire greeting they received, (June Hudgins wanted a copy), but if you do just call or e-mail me and I will e-mail you a copy. tawastim@yahoo.com

We felt we were not setting up a huge precedent. How many tickets will we ever comp for couples celebrating a 70th Anniversary with us? They asked me to thank all of you for the great shows we put out and for the tickets. With tears of gratitude in his eyes, Len said bless all of you for your kindness as did his wife Dot. They were really overwhelmed with gratitude and so thankful. For me, it was great representing the fabulous Players by bringing a great moment of joy on your behalf, to the Super Sarkis. Thanks to you all. Yours in theater and celebration!!

So, You Want to Be an Actor?? by Sue Duncan

So, you want to be an actor. But you feel you haven't time to read all those great acting books out there and your other responsibilities keep you from attending workshops and conferences, too. Bummer! What is an aspiring thespian to do?

As a member of TBP you can ATTEND the WORKSHOP being offered for FREE on Sunday, June 10 from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. It will be held at the TBP Playhouse in Hudgins Hall, aka the refreshment room. All you need to do is come and learn and enjoy!

Betsy Willis, an experienced actress, speaker on many things theater and a trained adjudicator will be here to help. Adjudicators spend many hours learning what makes a difference in an OK performance and a GREAT performance. She will use that knowledge to delve into how to make your character come alive in your mind and give you tips and techniques that will allow that character to learn the lines you might struggle to remember. In Betsy's own words, "This workshop can strengthen and inform the actor's performance."

Some of the cast from the summer show will be sharing their progress in this character building exercise. Creating the 'backstory' of your character can be a true building block and a lot of fun. Join us!! Even if you are an experienced TBP member, you'll find this to be a helpful review or maybe a new angle to increase the thrill of taking to the stage. OPEN AND FREE To all TBP Members; non-members also welcome with a small donation of their choice.

***And Then There Were None* Keeps Audiences Guessing by Michal Jacot**

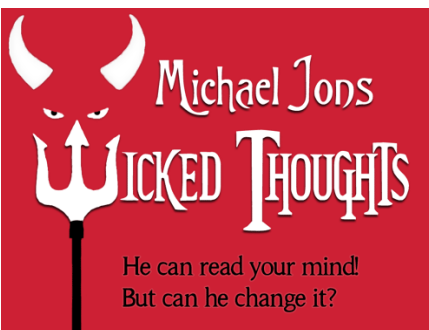
Tawas Bay Players finished up another production with Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. The show provided lots of chills as well as some laughs to our audience. I was pleasantly surprised with the number of audience members who played detective to figure out who the murderer was. Doing a classic script like this always runs the risk of familiarity; it seems everyone knows the plot of old shows. And that can be especially tricky for a murder mystery. After all, who wants to see a whodunit where they already know who done it?

But as it turned out, most people were only familiar with the basic plot. A group of people are stranded on an island while a killer relentlessly stalks them, murdering them one by one. Audience members gleefully watched as the characters were killed (sometimes off stage, sometimes right in front of them). As the bodies collected, the pool of possible culprits narrowed down, and the tension ramped up with each murder.

My terrific assistant director Laurie Jacot and I crafted some nice creepy scenes guaranteed to keep the audience in shivers. One murder took place while the stage was plunged into total darkness. Another scene involving a not-quite-sane man slowly inching his way closer across the couch to our heroine creeped out the audience sufficiently. Not that it was all chills and thrills. There was plenty of dark humor throughout. A personal favorite was a reckless driver, played by David Wajda, who casually mentioned that he ran over and killed a young couple some time back. "Beastly bad luck," he muttered. "For you, or for them?" another character asked. He responded, "Well, I was thinking for me." Then, almost as an afterthought, he added, "But yes, I suppose for them too."

And Then There Were None featured 16-year-old and highly talented Emma Brownell as Vera Claythorne, another talented teen, 17-year-old Carter Chrivia as Phillip Lombard, newcomer to our stage John C. Morris as Rogers the butler, Jane Hackborn as his long-suffering wife Mrs. Rogers, Sharon Langley as religious nut (and a favorite audience pick!) Emily Brent, the talented Rodger McElveen as Lawrence Wargrave, Curtis Davenport as boat man Fred Naracott, another new face to our stage, Michael Card as Dr. Armstrong, yet another new guy, Bill Foy as General Mackenzie, Michal Jacot as William Blore, and the always fun David Wajda as Anthony Marston.

I split duties between directing and acting, and that would not have been possible without the help of Laurie Jacot as Assistant Director. Stage managers Kay Robson and Ryan Fritz were amazing. And Judy Quarters, as our Producer, kept things running for us. We had some good houses for the show (nearly a full house on the last Sunday afternoon, and a standing ovation!) We got some new faces involved in TBP. We even had some pretty funny Willie Awards. Overall, everyone had fun and our audiences enjoyed the show! I sincerely appreciate everyone's help on this show ... thank you all!



Michael Jons Will Be Coming Back This Summer!

Many of you will remember Michael Jons performance last year "Psychic Cabaret". Well, he's coming back again to perform his new show "Wicked Thoughts" for two nights. Again, family friendly although younger children may not "get it". Michael does this as a benefit for Tawas Bay Players. Tickets will be available online for \$15.00 (<http://michaeljons.com/tickets>) and \$20.00 (cash) at the door. In Washington D.C. (where he performs regularly) tickets start at \$59.00! He's a great guy and we are truly lucky to have his support. The show "Wicked Thoughts" **will premiere** July 27th/28th at our very own Tawas Bay Playhouse. Mark it on your

calendar for a fun night(s).

From his website...

Michael Jons' WICKED THOUGHTS is a baffling trick of a show that peeks into the dark corners of our individual and collective minds. The show will make you laugh, leave you astonished, and have you wondering about whose thoughts you're really thinking. During the course of the 90-minute, interactive performance, Michael Jons attempts a nearly impossible feat: getting the audience to change its mind. It's a thrilling and inspiring piece of psychological theater that's bound to leave audiences wanting to see it again!

THANK YOU, AL BIXBY!

Thanks Al, for redoing our ticket booth. You did a beautiful job of opening it up and making it more user friendly for all! It was a lot more work than we (OK, maybe you knew it might be a little more involved) originally thought it would be but you really came through again.



Deb's Curtains by Judy Quarters

I am pleased to announce that the board has decided what to do with the generous contributions that were made in honor of Deb DeBois. We discussed this many times at our board meetings, we had originally thought about a scholarship, but we've decided to honor her in a way that we could all see all of the time – and we are now installing black circular curtains on stage.

This is a black curtain, that will be movable to go in a horseshoe shape on stage on the sides and back of the stage. This is movable and will have six openings, it can be pushed or pulled all to one side, all to the back or be wrapped up in the back and not used at all. This is NOT a proscenium curtain in the front.

This something Deb had always wanted, and we will be making her wish come true. I contacted her sister and brother in Gladwin to make sure this was okay with them, and they were delighted and sent us another donation! Deb would be delighted with this improvement to our stage. Tobin's Lake will be here to install this around the first of June and the summer show plans to use this for the back drop for their play.

I am asking that everyone working on stage – be respectful of the curtains – not to get any paint on them and when pulling them back out of the way, please wrap and secure them inside out.

George's Camera System by Judy Quarters

George Robson's wish was for us to have a closed circuit TV backstage, showing what is going on ON stage and with the help of Nick Lojek and Pat Casey we hope to have this completed at the same time Tobin's Lake is here to install the curtains. This will be very useful to all the actors and the old baby monitors of the past can be tossed!



2018 TBP Annual Meeting

Just a reminder that the annual meeting will be held again this year at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The date is Friday, August 10. More news and info will be sent out via email as we get closer to the date.

Please Join Us For a

Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church by Beth Borowski

Written by Linda LaRocque, *Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church* involves Buddy and Alvo who are two down-on-their-luck con men. They find themselves broke and stranded in Possum Kingdom, Texas on a hot July day in 1950. But things start to look up when they convince kindly old Ella Faye and her friend Iris that they are just the preaching team that Possum Kingdom's underpopulated community church needs. Show Dates are July 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd. All shows are at 7:00 p.m.

We have a talented and seasoned cast so be prepared for a fun and entertaining evening!

Chad RobsonAlvo T Haggerty
Jeff ChadwickBuddy Peacock
Lynne MeyerElla Faye Tanner
Sheilah Monroe.....Iris Crumb
Bill ArcherPhillip Yates, Jr.

We could still use some backstage and house assistance. If you are interested in helping, please give Sue Duncan, Producer, a call @989-701-5471 or 989-362-2522.

So, You Want to Be a TBP Board Member??? by Keith Frank

Seems like it was only yesterday but it will soon be time to elect new members to our Board of Directors. Your current Executive Board consists of President Keith Frank, Vice President Michal Jacot, Treasurer Pat Casey, Recording Secretary Sue Duncan and Corresponding Secretary Judy Quarters. The remaining Board members are Craig Sayer, Chris Mundy, Penny Zacharias and Dennis Szatkowski. Last year, Michal Jacot and Chris Mundy were re-elected to three-year terms while Dennis Szatkowski was elected to a three-year term replacing Sharon Langley. Craig Sayer was voted in to fill the final year of Donna Thomas' three-year term. At our initial meeting in September, due to personal reasons the Board voted to honor Michal's request and allow him to fill the final year of Donna's term and move Craig into the three-year term. However, since then, Craig has indicated that he also will have to step down at the end of our current fiscal year.

So, with all that said, we now have four positions to fill at our annual meeting. Penny and Judy are up for re-election. Donna's Board position, currently being filled by Michal, is up for election. And, the final two years of Craig's term will be open. So, we will have three 3-year positions to fill and one 2-year position to fill. So, if you've ever thought you might want to serve on the Board, this could be your year. Just let Keith Frank know of your interest before the Annual Meeting on August 10. Preferably by August 1.

And to think, it wasn't that long ago that some members thought we needed term limits to get new people on the Board.

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Update on a former TBP Teen from Judy Quarters

From Bear McBride in response to an email from Judy.

Hi Judy! It's good to hear from you! I hope all is well with you and the TBP community :)

Sure! It's been a whirlwind since my days with TBP! So I finished my degree studying Communications and Theatre at SVSU and then went to get trained for broadcast at Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts. From there I was hired at 102.5 WIOG as a nights/weekend host for a bit before being hired as the morning host and radio coordinator at NPR station Q90.1 in Bay City. That was an incredibly cool role, unlike working for any other kind of radio before.

I started dancing West Coast Swing back in 2009 and have been competing in the swing circuit since then. I met my now girlfriend at a dance event in Chicago and two years ago we moved to the mountains of Colorado because she landed a fellowship. I fell in love with photography there and have been freelancing as a photographer for the last few years. THEN we just moved to Raleigh, NC a few weeks ago and I was brought on at Detroit Sports Nation as a writer and doing photography work and teaching dance around here! It's been a ride!



Happy Birthday



June

- 4 Michal Jacot
- 21 Laurie Jacot
- 22 Pat Ruster
- 26 Kay Robson
- 30 Mary Ann Michalski

July

- 2 Al Bixby
- 2 Alan Dalton
- 5 Buck Weaver
- 9 Feliwelyn Shuart
- 13 Larry Van Wagoner
- 18 Mary Henry
- 18 Betty DeWilde
- 21 Gatlyn Dunham
- 22 Janie Mundy
- 27 Dee Bixby

August

- 4 Brenda Chadwick
- 4 Reesie Smith
- 12 June Hudgins
- 15 Jeff Chadwick
- 15 Brian Shmina
- 20 Shirley Robson
- 23 Bob Zacharias
- 23 Charleson Shuart
- 24 Jolene Grusecki
- 29 Pam Koepke
- 30 Phyllis Spencer

***And Then
There Were
None***



