

TAWAS BAY PLAYERS
CURTAIN CALLS



CURTAIN CALLS is published semi-occasionally for the TAWAS BAY PLAYERS!

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"Messiah on the Frigidaire" In Production

By Michal Jacot

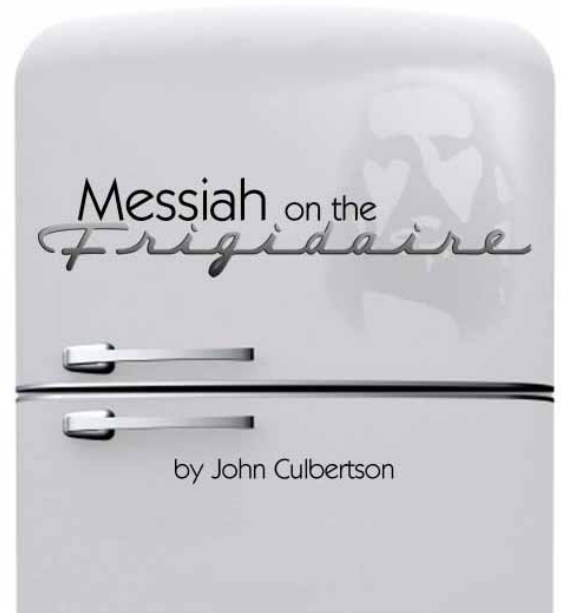
Directed by Beth Borowski with an assist by Barb Richardson, *Messiah on the Frigidaire* is TBP's spring production, a quirky comedy about the small town of Elroy, South Carolina. The residents of Elroy are thrust into the evangelical spotlight when what seems to be the image of Jesus appears on a refrigerator in a trailer park. The discovery sets into motion a frenzy of conflict, communion and good old fashioned commerce. When the National Investigator turns the appearance into front page headlines, the trailer park becomes a mecca for miracle seekers and disciples with a decidedly political agenda. God surely moves in mysterious ways.

The cast of *Messiah* is:

- Melissa Caraher as Lou Ann Hightower, a woman caught up in the furor over "The Sighting."
- Todd Davis as Dwayne Hightower, her husband, who sees dollar signs over this turn of events.
- Stephanie Davis as Betsy Gridley, a neighbor.
- Michal Jacot as Reverend Hodges, a pious preacher at Elroy First Baptist Church.
- Ray Skiver as Larry Williamson, an arrogant city councilman.
- Monica Pfannes as a woman and Nicholas Serda as her son, caught up in the frenzy.
- Michael Denney as a Stranger coming through town.

Backstage and behind the scenes crew are always needed, so please help out where you can!

Messiah on the Frigidaire will be presented April 24-25-26 and April 30-May 1-2-3.



WAIT UNTIL ...

By Stacy Perrot

This past production, *Wait Until Dark*, was a suspenseful thriller that had people jumping, screaming, and gasping in the dark. And it was an awesome experience for all of us to be there to deliver it. Cast veterans included Chris Mundy, Jeff Chadwick, Keith del Rio, Sheilah Monroe, and Terry Popielarz. Even more exciting, we had two brand new faces on our stage, Ryan Fritz and Allison Litzner. Directing all of this was Ray Skiver, assisted by Becky Archer. Beth Borowski was the Assistant Producer.

In case you missed it, you could watch the 1968 movie with Audrey Hepburn. The curtain has been closed on our live version. Storyline is that while Susy's husband, Sam, leaves for the day, three men attempt to find a doll laced with drugs that her husband brought back with him from Canada. Initially, she believes that one of them, Mike, is trying to help her. However, with the help of her little neighbor, Gloria, Susy quickly realizes that she's being conned by the three men and turns the tables on them. Using her innocent nature and lack of sight to her advantage, she stalls long enough for Gloria to return with Sam and the police.

For me, being a part of Tawas Bay Players, has included a lot of "Wait Until" moments. "*Wait until*

you step out on stage with an audience ... *Wait until* you hear these words ... *Wait until* the lights cue you ... *Wait until* the last weekend."

However, for this past production of *Wait Until Dark*, I had to work through more than the usual "wait until" moments. *Wait until* I get my lines down before I can focus on being blind. *Wait until* I hear or feel a cue that would initiate my movement. *Wait until* I hear or feel Jeff grab onto me before I react. *Wait until* that last fall before the bruises can start to heal. (Right Jeff?) This part was a challenge I wanted from the day I read the script. But playing a part without actually using one of my five senses made it even harder. I missed seeing the actors' faces, purposely stepping over something, pretending to reach for something I can still see without acting like I see it, or exchanging a smile with a cast member, eye to eye. Smiling at a light fixture just doesn't provide the same warm fuzzy feeling. Playing Susy, made me "see" things a little differently. But like all the other productions, it's worth all the hard work in the end. I'm not sure what performances will be in my future, but for now, I'll just have to "*Wait Until*" the next one.



“Virgil’s Wedding”

Barb Hunter will be directing a combined venture between the high school and the TBP called *Virgil’s Wedding!* Producer Jolene Grusecki tells us what to expect for this evening of fun.

“*Virgil’s Wedding* is a comedy is about a high-end wedding planner and her assistant who are hired to direct a simple ceremony for two of Lickskillet’s favorite lovebirds; however, it becomes a coordinator’s nightmare due to many mixed-up people and scenarios. Tawas Area High School Spanish club dancers will also be featured during this social clash of the century.”

Production dates are March 12-15th. If you’re a TBP member (and if you’re getting this newsletter, then you are), then Jolene has a deal for you!

“Members are welcome to join dress rehearsal on Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm at the playhouse,” Jolene tells us. So you can get a free viewing of this show! Just make sure to bring your membership card with you; and please note that this offer is **for members only!** It will be a closed session to all others.

Come along and have fun with us! After all, who doesn’t like a wedding? Although something tells me, you’ve not seen a wedding quite like this one!



A shout-out to WE Players for their upcoming production *Is He Dead?*, a comedy featuring some of the young up-and-comers from the Tawas Bay Players. Show your support for local theater by seeing this show! *Is He Dead?* Will be presented April 17-18-19 and April 24-25-26. One of those weekends overlaps with *Messiah*, so you can see their show one weekend and ours the next weekend! Make April your theater-seeing month!



2020-21 Season Preparations Begin

By Pat Casey

It's that time of the year again! Your Board of Directors is starting to consider plays for next season and we would like your input.

The TBP Board will hold the annual Play Presentation meeting on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Theater refreshment room. Anyone wishing to direct a play next season or, if you just have a play in mind you would like to have the Board consider, please plan to attend the meeting to present your play.

A Director Profile form is included elsewhere in this newsletter for you to use for your presentation. If you have more than one play that you would like to submit for consideration, please use a separate form for each one. If you are merely suggesting a play and do not want to direct, please use the form and provide as much information about the play that you can.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Board member. Your input is important! Have a great day!

**LOOKING
AHEAD...**

I Love Lacy is TBP's summer offering and will finish off our gala 40th anniversary season. Here are a few things you need to know about it.

I LOVE LACY

By *Michal Jacot*

First, it is NOT related in any way to "I Love Lucy." Some misguided people have thought that it's a tribute or spoof of the classic Lucille Ball comedy, and it's not. But it will still make you laugh!

The play is written and directed by me, Michal Jacot. I will be ably aided by assistant director Laurie Jacot, and Judy Groff is our producer.

Lacy is a light, breezy romantic comedy about Lacy Casey, a kind of dorky young lady. She is socially awkward, has a goofy sense of humor, and has raised clumsiness to an art form. Her friends Sue and Trevor love her quirkiness and accept her for who she is. When Lacy goes out on her first date with Bryce, she assumes it will be their last date. After all, her ungraceful mannerisms practically destroy their dinner, and he keeps calling

her by the wrong name. But strangely, he comes back for a second date ...

Meanwhile, best friend Trevor harbors a secret love for Lacy, adoring her from a distance. When Bryce turns out to be not all he seems to be, who will save the day? Lacy's gruff father Carl? And what about Gabriella, the mysterious Italian woman who doesn't speak a word of English? It's a fun, frivolous time, with a dollop of mistaken identity, in the life of a lovable train wreck as we find out who loves Lacy!

I Love Lacy has a cast of six people. Five of them are in the twenty-something age range, so as far as casting goes, I'll be looking for talented college and high school age actors and actresses. The sixth character is Lacy's father, so if you can look anywhere from 40 to 50, you're good (and we can do wonders with makeup).

Audition dates are planned for May 10 and 11, with July 10-11-12-16-17-18-19 production dates. I know that sounds like a ways off, but it'll sneak up soon enough. If you are interested in working on the show or know someone who would, pass this information on to them and get it on your calendar. See you then!

Your spring/summer schedule - clip and hang on your refrigerator

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO, WHEN TO DO IT

Virgil's Wedding Dress Rehearsal for TBP members	March 10
Virgil's Wedding (TBP/Tawas High School joint production).....	March 12-15
Play Presentation Meeting	March 24
Is He Dead? (WE Players)	April 17-18-19, April 24-25-26
Messiah on the Frigidaire (TBP Spring Production).....	April 24-25-26, April 30-May 1-2-3
I Love Lacy (TBP Summer Production)	July 10-11-12-16-17-18-19

IOSCO COUNTY NEWS HERALD
Wednesday, March 4, 1987

**What's
going
on
here???**

**TBP
RETRO**



What's going on here, of course, is *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, TBP's 1987 musical. This show holds fond memories for me. I saw the movie when it was released in theaters and, even though I was just a kid, I loved the slapstick situations and Zero Mostel's rubber face. So I was delighted when TBP put it on their schedule. And I was even more delighted when I got a part in it! I remember director June Hudgins announcing the cast; she told everyone how the foot-soldiers were a small but important part. Assuming I was going to get one of these small roles, I turned to Barb Hunter and said, "say hello to a foot soldier." June announced the four guys playing those parts, and I was hugely disappointed; I wasn't even going to get to be a foot soldier! Then she announced that I would play "Hysterium", and I practically floated home, I was so happy. *Forum* remains one of my all-time favorite TBP shows, mostly because of the fun cast we had. In the picture above you see Tom O'Malley, George Robson, me, and Keith Frank doing our chorus-line kick in "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid".

Whenever the idea of re-doing shows we've done before comes up, I always hope that someone will suggest we give *Forum* another go-round. This is a fun, silly show with lots of action, romance, one of the funniest chase scenes ever seen on stage (at least it was when we ad-libbed it every night!), and some great songs.

If you are interested in directing a show for the upcoming season, or if you want to suggest a show for us to do, read Pat Casey's article on page 3, and then fill in the Director Profile on the following page!

For Board Use Only:
Play Chosen for Coming
Season: **Yes** **No**

Tawas Bay Players Director Profile

(To Be Filled Out When Presenting a Show for Board Consideration)

For Board Use Only:
Was Director Notified?
YES **NO**

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address (please print) _____

Are you a current paid member of the Tawas Bay Players: Yes No

Are you interested in directing the play that you are submitting for consideration: Yes No

Have you ever directed or assistant directed a Tawas Bay Players Production: Yes No

If yes, please state which show(s) and whether you were the Director or Assistant Director:

Is the show you are presenting an: Adult Show Teen Show Children's Show Combined Cast

Is your show a: Musical Comedy Drama

Please list the name and author of the show you are presenting and give a brief synopsis:

How many characters are in the show: Men _____ Women _____ Teens _____ Children _____

Are there any questionable situations or language in this show that could be found offensive by our audience?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

What time of year would you prefer to direct this show:

Fall Winter Spring Summer No Preference