



## “Messiah” Wraps Up Two-Weekend Run

*Messiah on the Frigidaire* finished its run to enthusiastic audiences! The show was presented in the last weekend of October and the first weekend of November.

*Messiah* overcame many obstacles in its path. The show was cast back in April 2020 and had one week of rehearsals completed when the pandemic shut down theater productions across the state. By the time restrictions were lifted, many of the original cast members were unavailable, and a second set of auditions had to be held in August.

Complications ensued during rehearsals when a cast or crew member would be exposed to COVID and have to be quarantined. And then there was Beth’s fear that the show could be cancelled at any time if a cast member had to quarantine themselves. Luckily, the show managed to get through the two weekends without that problem.

*Messiah* was directed by Beth Borowski and assistant directed by Jody Provost. The cast featured Alan Dalton as Dwayne Hightower; Tina Wells as Lou Ann Hightower; Suzan Nemeth as Betsy Gridley; Michal Jacot as Rev. Hodges; Ray Skiver as Larry Williamson; Reesie Whitford as the Woman; Nick Serda as the Boy; and John C. Morris as the Stranger.

## Tryouts for *Catch Me If You Can*

Looking for a project for the winter? Come try out for the Players’ winter show, *Catch Me If You Can!*

*Catch Me If You Can* is directed by Rodger McElveen. This Broadway whodunit is exciting from beginning to end. It dares the audience to guess who the guilty party is, and the final fifteen minutes promises a slam-bang ending.

Auditions will be Wednesday December 15th and Thursday December 16th, 6:30pm at Tawas Bay Playhouse. Rodger promises “a great show with some great parts.”

*Catch Me If You Can* is scheduled to hit the stage on February 18-19-20 and February 24-25-26-27

Come and audition and/or add to your calendar to come see the show. For more information, call Rodger at 989-724-3164.

# Christmas Songs & Stories



The Tawas Bay Players Singers are thrilled to announce their annual Christmas gift to the Tawas area with their *Christmas Songs and Stories* show, now in rehearsals.

The TBPS has been presenting their holiday show for years as a free offering to the community. The show was cancelled last year due to COVID, so this year's show is highly anticipated.

It is a mixture of well-known holiday music interspersed with Christmas stories to get everyone in the festive mood of the season. Tawas Bay Players Singers' *Christmas Songs and Stories* will be presented December 14 at 7:00 pm at the Tawas Bay Playhouse.

## “Professor, How Could You!” Slated for Spring

A new TBP Teen Show is in the works. *Professor, How Could You!* is a comedy with 5 men and 5 women. It will be directed by Barb Hunter.

The plot revolves around Professor Perry, who has been offered a deanship ... if he can get a wife. His friend John and his family rally 'round to help. John offers his secretary, a curly-headed little minx who can't spell ... an ideal wife! Grandma's candidate is Tootsie Bean, a bit plump, but a master hand with lemon chiffon pie. One of the Professor's students, Vicky, longing for revenge after a previous incident in the Professor's class, proposes her friend Valerie, a Southern charmer who makes a fool out of every man she meets. Grandpa won't tell the name of his candidate! Farcical comedy ensues as the irate girls face each other.

Tryouts are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday & Thursday, March 9 & 10, at 5:45 pm at the theatre.

## Jacot Wins Dorothy Arnett Award

Michal Jacot was presented with CTAM's Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award after the November 6th production of *Messiah on the Frigidaire*.

Michal received the award for his work as a judge in the CTAM Playwriting Contest since 2002. Contest chairpeople Pat and Leo Paveglio were on hand to present the award.

Michal is the third person in the Tawas Bay Players to win the Dorothy Arnett Award, following June Hudgins and Debra DeBois.



## “I Love Lacy”

It's not too early to start thinking about our summer show!

*I Love Lacy* is a romantic comedy written and directed by Michal Jacot. It's the story of klutzy Lacy Casey, very likable and very accident-prone. She tries to maneuver through a relationship with her new boyfriend Bryce, unaware that her good friend Trevor is secretly in love with her. The show is light and funny, and should be just what everyone needs to brighten their summer days!

*I Love Lacy* has a cast of six — three men, three women. Parts available are: Lacy, her boyfriend Bryce, her friend Trevor, her other friend Sue, her gruff father Carl, and Gabrielle, a mysterious Italian woman. Except for Carl, all roles call for an age range roughly in the 20's. High school and college ages are perfect.

Assisting Michal in the directing will be Laurie Jacot, and Judy Quarters is producing.

Tryouts are tentatively set for May 23 and 24, with July 22-23-24 and July 28-29-30-31 show dates.

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## It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa

Michal Jacot's newest play, *It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa* was picked up by Eldridge Publishing this last summer!

*Wedding* is the third in a series of “Grandpa” plays; TBP had successful productions of *Happy Birthday, Dear Grandpa* in 2016 and *Merry Christmas, Dear Grandpa* in 2014.

From Eldridge's website: Control freak Amber is getting married to easygoing Scott, and she's going nuts trying to organize the perfect wedding. Her goofball siblings Keith and Frankie aren't helping, and her pushy mother won't listen to her. Then Mom comes up with an inspired idea: a double wedding with Amber and Scott, and with crabby Grandpa and his slightly senile girlfriend Bonnie. Keith, entrusted with finding musical entertainment for the wedding, mistakenly hires two exotic dancers (and accidentally proposes to beefy bridesmaid Donna along the way). Amber's frustration mounts as her

neat and tidy plans go out the window. Can Amber's family help her learn to relax and enjoy life? *It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa* is filled with funny lines and sight gags that will leave your audience laughing all the way to the altar!

*It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa* is approximately 90 minutes, with one simple set and a cast of 5 men and 7 women, in a wide range of ages.

This is Michal's 11th published play. If anyone is interested in directing it for TBP at a future date, contact Michal and he can get a script to you.



# TBP RETRO

SHOWS SOLD OUT

## Oklahoma spells success

by Mike Puffpaff

EAST TAWAS — A blending of music, acting and dance were the ingredients of completely sold out performances for Tawas Bay Players "Oklahoma" last weekend, drawing on Oscoda and Tawas talent for a light-hearted evening.

June Hudgins, the play's director, said for the first time in TBP's 12-year history reservations were sold out three days ahead of time for this well-known musical.

"I think it was so well attended because it is so upbeat and fun for the whole family. It also provides a diversion from the winter," said Hudgins.

Stealing the show was TBP newcomer Joy Murphy, East Tawas, playing the role of Ado Annie Carnes. While not the female lead role, the ever vibrant character portrayed by Murphy brought the house down with her flirtatious antics. She proved that she could sing too!

Perhaps the most beautiful singing voice came from petite soft-spoken Kris Revord, Tawas City, performing the female lead of Laurey. This mother of six children, on stage, could have easily passed for 21 years old, giving off a warm, shy demeanor for her first play.

Oscoda's Michael Hill, a fitness instructor, demonstrated powerful lungs for singing as male lead of Curly. Capturing a realistic country drawl for his

character, Hill perhaps was at his best when performing alongside his character's protagonist, Jud, played by Tom O'Malley, also of Oscoda.

The duo were quite entertaining in their rendition of "Pore Jud is Daid" in act one with O'Malley chiming in on emphatic words off key.

Dennis Szatkowski, East Tawas, did a fine job playing Will Parker, Ado's beau. Strong vocals coupled with choreography made the part demanding, but the longtime TBP member had a good deal of experience to draw from.

A very convincing performance was turned in by Michal Jacot, East Tawas, as the swindling peddler man Ali Hakim. Stellar performances were also turned in by Betty DeWilde as Aunt Eller and Andrew DeWilde, as Andrew Carnes, Ado's father. They reside in East Tawas.

The only negative comment for opening night was that the choreography was off for Laurey and the girls in the "Many a New Day" number of the musical. It is, however, refreshing to see so many talented persons volunteering their time for this demanding production.



**STUBBORN LASS** — Laurey, played by Kris Revord, tells Curly, played by Michael Hill, what she thinks of him in the opening scenes of "Oklahoma." New to Tawas Bay Players, the soft spoken Revord demonstrated a wonderful voice. The talented Hill has appeared in a musical showcase that toured 19 countries. — NHP PHOTO

The plot centers around Curly's feelings for Laurey and his wanting to take her to the box social after she is asked by ranch hand Jud who has some designs of his own on her.

Meanwhile, Ado Annie has a hard time deciding whether to marry Will Parker of Ali Hakim proclaiming "whichever one I'm with is the one I like the best." However, her father Andrew Carnes seems to clarify the matter using a shotgun for persuasion.

Distaste builds between Curly and Jud as Ali tries to weasel his way out of marrying Ado.

How does it end? Attend one of three remaining performances this weekend and find out. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday in the East Tawas Community Building. Hudgins advises to call for reservations to make sure seats are available.

Credited with fine choral, acting and dance support are the cowboys and the girls. Cowboys included Jim Carr, Oscoda, Bob Richter, Tawas City, Robin Greene, Tawas City, Craig

Sayer, East Tawas, Darwin Bain, East Tawas, Jackie Hofacer, East Tawas, Ron McMurray, East Tawas, Vicki Szatkowski, East Tawas, Judy Quarters, Tawas City, and Richard Goodale, East Tawas.

The girls included Laurie Jacot, East Tawas, Pam Koepke, East Tawas, Diane King, East Tawas, Paula Roach,

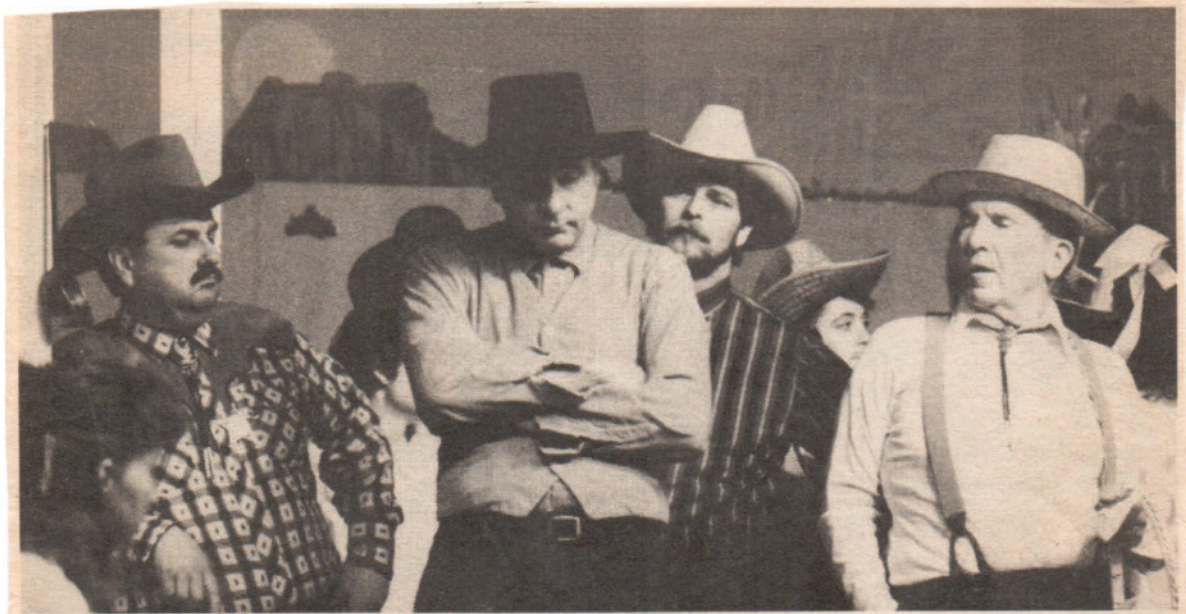
Oscoda, Sue Dowell, East Tawas, Dori Eber, East Tawas, Karen Moore, East Tawas, Danette Anderson, East Tawas, Mary McGahey, East Tawas, and Kristin Hofacer, East Tawas, as the little girl.

The orchestra made up of Tawas area residents Rae McCready, Sharon Huitema, Penny LeClair, Richard Meshew, Steve Pulda, Mary Jo Caldwell, Jake Huitema, Matt Huitema and Margerie MacMurray performed

**Hard to  
believe  
it was 30  
years ago  
when we  
presented  
"Oklahoma!"**

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**POOR JUD** — Hot tempered Jud, center, played by Tom O'Malley is consoled by cowboys after loosing Laurey to Curly. O'Malley has appeared in nearly every TBP musical including "Something's Afoot," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," and "The Sound of Music." For the first time ever reservations for a TBP production were sold out three days in advance. — NHP PHOTO



**JOYOUS NEWCOMER** — Tawas Bay Players newcomer Joy Murphy stole the show last weekend for her portrayal of Ado Annie Carnes in the upbeat musical "Oklahoma." Murphy's combined voice and flirtatious antics led to a standing ovation by a sold out crowd Friday night. — NHP PHOTO

well under the direction of Georgene West.

Appearances were also made by square dancers Earl and Pat Roberts, Lloyd and Kathryn Cubalo, Ray and Nancy Koss, Robert and Nellie Kellogg and Lyle and June Groff.

The play was produced by Diane Brewer with directing assistance by Salley Lippert. Pat Casey was vocal director with Stacy Moore, choreographer.