



Catch Me If You Can In Rehearsals

TBP's winter offering is *Catch Me If You Can*, directed by Rodger McElveen with assistant director Terry Popielarz.

In case you were curious, this show is not the stage version of the Leonardo DeCaprio movie from a few years ago. Instead, it is an exciting whodunit mystery with plenty of comedy overtones.

This Broadway whodunit is exciting from beginning to end. An advertising man who has brought his bride to the boss's mountain lodge for a honeymoon calls in the local police to investigate her sudden disappearance. Enter a pretty young girl who insists over his protests that *she* is the missing wife. A priest backs up her story. A funny little man who owns a delicatessen enters and before you know it there are two murders at the isolated lodge.

The cast of *Catch Me If You Can* stars Chris Mundy, Barb Richardson, Keith Frank, Rita Shuey, Scott Stevens, Carmen Stevens, and Rodger McElveen. Putting things together backstage are Julee Popielarz as Producer, and Stage Manager Becky Archer.

Catch Me If You Can is loaded with humor and plot twists, and the final fifteen minutes guarantees the audience a satisfying ending to the mystery. The show is set to hit the stage February 18-19-20 and February 24-25-26-27.



Making The Magic Happen: TBP Lighting Improvements

By Ed Krebs

Ed Krebs has been working diligently for quite a while to upgrade and improve our lighting system. This is one of those “behind the scenes” things that a lot of people aren’t aware of. But Ed has put in a tremendous amount of work on our lighting system and has done a terrific job, so if you see him, thank him for a job well done. The following article was written by Ed (even though he modestly refers to himself in the third person). It is an overview of his work, and you can tell how he writes about it that it truly was a labor of love for him!

Ah, the magic of stage lighting. At the professional level, the art of bold splashes of light can almost be a show of it’s own. However in



community theater stage lighting, the goal is to simply illuminate the actors and set the scene and mood. And while it can become complicated, Ed Krebs has been busy this past summer and fall making several improvements intended on making basic lighting design and operation easy and fun. In June 2021 the board approved Ed’s proposal that included 2 elements – make a few safety improvements, and create a “Base” lighting design (in pro terms, a rep plot) that anyone interested in doing lights at TBP can use to properly illuminate a show.



The big (really big!) safety improvement is a 21 foot “Skyscraper” ladder. This ladder can extend tall enough to reach any of the light bars safely (and without scaffolding!). The A frame design gives a very stable base that can support a person on each side – quite handy when an assistant is available to bring up a tool, gel, or stage light. The legs adjust independently, so it easily straddles the first row of seats to reach the Front-Of-House light bar. Please note this ladder is about 100 pounds, and really requires 2 persons to move and use safely.

The “Base” setup is the starting point for any and all shows. The stage is set up with 9 zones of lighting, and the lights are pre-aimed and

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TBP Lighting Improvements *(continued)*

“gelled” (colored) to provide even lighting across the stage. The intent is to leave these set as-is, and then embellish if needed to add special lighting for any specific play. If any of the base lights need to change for a more complex light design, we simply ask that the base light setup be returned to the positions and colors at the end of the show. This setup has been

used successfully in *Messiah on the Frigidaire* and the Christmas Show. *Catch Me If You Can* is also using it with a special “pushbutton” lighting control program.

Want to learn more? Subscribe to the brand new You Tube channel “Tawas Bay Players Lighting” at <https://bit.ly/3modrLl> . We hope you’ll consider helping with lights in a future show – it’s magic!

Teen Show Slated For Spring Production

Our spring show, *Professor, How Could You!* is a comedy with an all-teen cast. Director Barb Hunter will bring the Tawas area’s youngest and brightest stars to our stage for this show.

Professor, How Could You! is a farce, with the usual zany plot twists. Professor Perry has been offered a deanship ... if he can get a wife. His friend John and his family rally to help. Everyone brings their own “ideal wife” to the professor: a curly-headed little minx who can't spell ... a plump chef who is a master with lemon chiffon pie ... and a Southern charmer who makes a fool out of every man she meets. The three candidates come to dinner and flatter the embarrassed Professor. There is plenty of comedy as the irate girls face each other, and what farce would be complete without a guy in drag?

Tryouts are set for March 9 and 10 at 5:45 pm at the TBP theater. If you’re not a teen, you can always help out backstage!



Kudos to the TBP SINGERS for spreading some holiday cheer! They took their Christmas Songs show to Tawas Village to entertain the residents there. Way to go, Singers!

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR TBP CALENDAR!

“*Catch Me If You Can*”
Winter Show February 18-19-20
and Feb. 24-25-26-27

Tryouts For
“*Professor, How Could You!*”
Spring Show March 9 & 10

Tryouts For “*I Love Lacy*”
Summer Show. May 23 & 24

ROBIN AND THE SHERWOOD HOODIES

The Oscoda Area High School Musical Theater Class presented their first semester production, *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* on January 16 at Oscoda Area High School. Tawas Bay Player Gregory Jacot, who spent the fall student teaching at OHS with music teacher Karen Lopez, helped with the production.

The show, as you might guess, is a comedic take on the Robin Hood legend. When the evil Sheriff of Nottingham threatens the villagers of Sherwood, feisty Maid Marion hires a band of freedom fighters for protection. But when Robin and his Merry Men arrived, she finds they're not exactly what she'd ordered.

What followed was an action-packed adventure to defeat the dastardly Sheriff, storm Nottingham Castle, rescue Maid Marion and overthrow King John - all without running their tights!

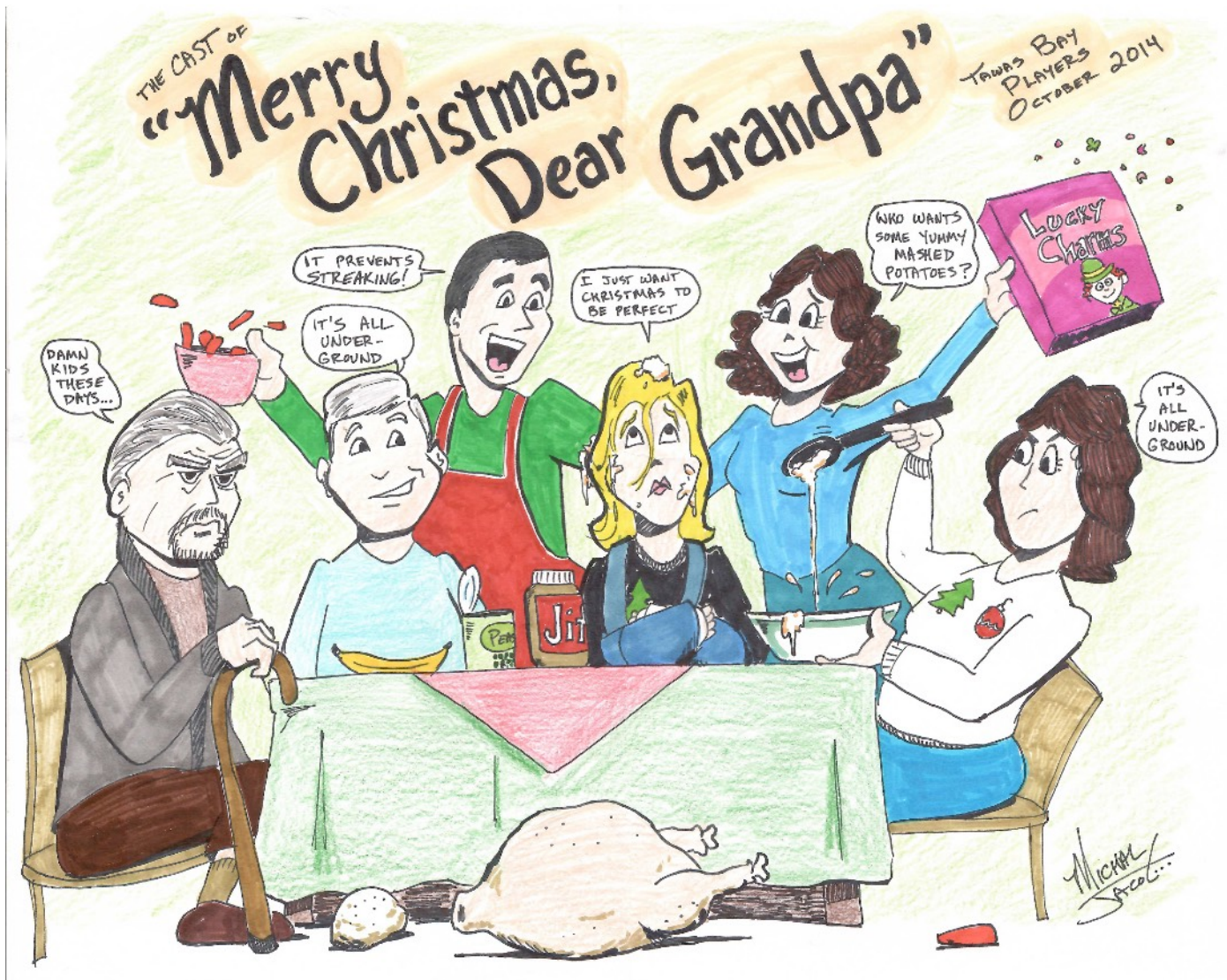
The show was a delight to watch. The script was filled with action, sight gags and some pretty terrible jokes. It was also filled with catchy songs, performed very nicely by the cast, consisting of OHS band and choir members.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* for a really fun show!



TBP RETRO

40 years ago this month ... the Tawas Bay Players were well into rehearsals for their very first musical production, TWO BY TWO! It was directed by Vincent Weiler. I remember a lot of naysayers telling us that a musical could not be done in a town this size; there simply wasn't enough musical talent to pull from. After all, we had to have a cast of six or seven people who could sing, and another six or seven musicians in the orchestra pit! Good heavens, what were we thinking?!?



Wait a minute This was over SEVEN YEARS AGO?!? It seems like only yesterday when Katie and David brought Lucky Charms to the Thanksgiving table ... when Stacy reminisced about the monsters in "Silver Bells" ... and how Barb dreamed of a trip to Coober Pedey. And we sure do miss the talents of George and Lynn ... a belated Merry Christmas to you all!