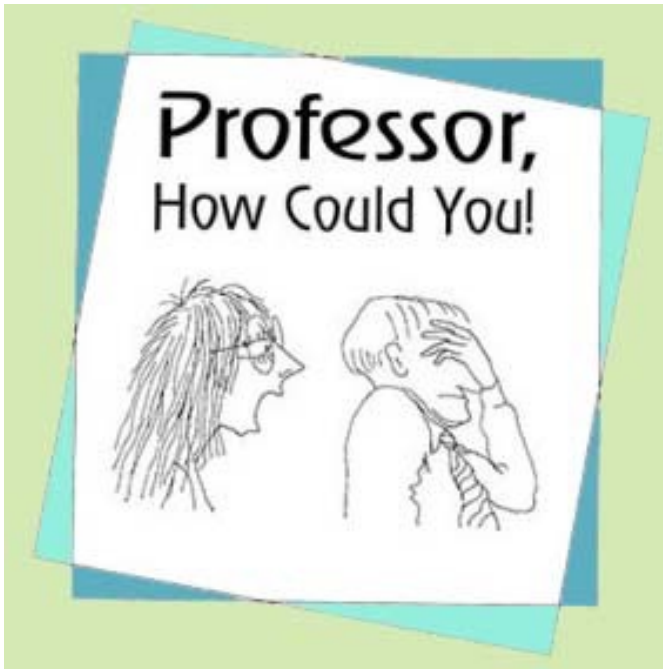


# Curtain Calls

April/May 2022



## TBP TEEN PRODUCTION IN THE WORKS!

Our Spring Show is off and running! Here's a special report from Director **Barb Hunter**:

We had an amazing turnout for the second night of tryouts for the spring comedy *Professor, How Could You?* The only problem with casting this fun and fast paced show was the fact that we had SO many talented teens on hand ready to lend their energy and enthusiasm to our COVID weary audiences.

We chose to double cast this show to give the most kids a chance to be in a show and play a significantly sized role. We are very pleased and proud to announce the cast for the spring play as follows:

Professor Keats: **Malcom Davis**  
Grandpa Keats: **Mason V Cole & Nick Serda**  
Grandma Keats: **Hope Bellows & Addison Street**  
John Appleby: **Kyle Reynolds & Mason V Cole**  
Boggins: **Daniel Stone**  
Vicky: **Abigail Herbolshimer & Liz Herr**  
Valerie: **Alexandra Perrot & Jillian Howey**  
Priscilla: **Riley Garrett, Ace Litzner, & Aspen Stockton**  
Tootsie Bean: **Adriana Alonso Postigo & Machayla Nichols**  
Butcher Boy Bean: **Nick Serda**

The story revolves around Professor Keats' desire to be the youngest Dean in the history of the college where he teaches. Problem is, the board wants to hire a family man for the job. Keats enlists the help of his best friend John to round up a bevy of potential candidates and find one willing to marry him. He's got three days, so he's hoping to be at least engaged by Saturday night...reminiscent of the old 1940's romantic comedies, the story is fun as well as funny.

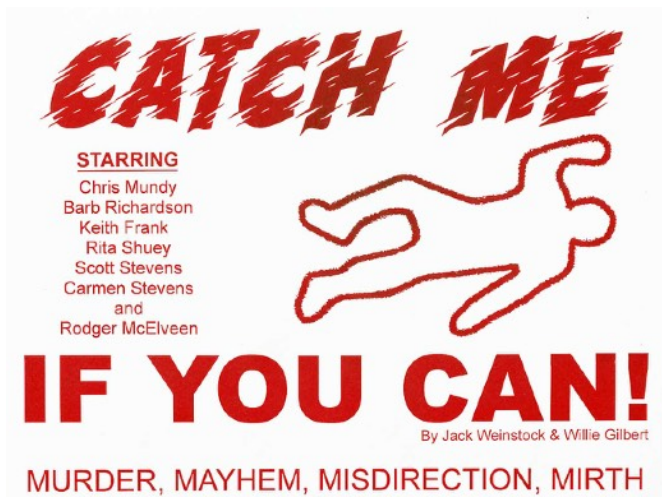
*Professor, How Could You?* Is produced by **Stacy Perrot**, with an assist from **Jolene Grusecki** and **Mindy Davis**. the play is directed by **Barb Hunter** and assistant directed by **Adam Davis**.

Production dates are May 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14 at 7 p.m; and May 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

# "CATCH ME IF YOU CAN"

## Entertains Audiences

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Catch Me If You Can!* This TBP winter production hit the stage at the end of February and gave audiences laughs



and thrills as they tried to untie the knotty twists the plot offered.

Director **Rodger McElveen** was familiar with this show, having been involved in other productions of it. In addition to directing, he also took a part in the show.

The cast featured **Chris Mundy** as the beleaguered victim (or *WAS* he??). **Barb Richardson** played a woman who showed up claiming to be his wife (or *WAS* she??) **Keith Frank** played a kindly priest who tried to puzzle things out with Rodger's police officer (or *WERE* they??). Filling out the cast were newcomers to our stage **Rita Shuey**, **Carmen Stevens** and **Scott Stevens** (and welcome to you all!)

## TAWAS BAY PLAYERS MEMBERSHIP STANDS AT

# 107 MEMBERS!

Your membership dues are a BIG help in supporting our group and keeping it going! Do your part by renewing your membership at the banquet this summer, AND bring in someone new to our group!

## DALTON APPEARING IN CMU PRODUCTION OF "HAMLET"

**Zack Dalton** (son of **Tina** and **Alan**) is in his final semester at Central Michigan University. He will be appearing in the upcoming CMU offering *Hamlet*. Zack has worked on many shows for the Tawas Bay Players and for the WE Players, and we are excited to hear about his stage work with the Chips!

*Hamlet* will be presented March 23 - 27. If you can make it, please plan a day trip to CMU and support Zack as he continues his theater career!

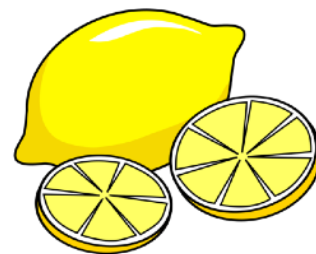
## DATE SET FOR TBP MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET

Get it on your calendar now! The annual Membership Meeting and Banquet will be Friday, August 12th (time to be determined). We will have our annual banquet followed by the board meeting at the K of C (Rushman) Hall in East Tawas.

More info to follow, and you will get your detailed invitation when it gets closer. But please plan on attending.

## Lotsa Lemons

**Brady Jacot** will be appearing in Oakland University's production of *Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons!*



*Lemons x5* is an intimate two person show about a couple learning to communicate in a world where the amount of words spoken per day is limited to 140. It is written by British playwright Sam Steiner.

Brady will perform in this show on April 23rd and 24th! Wish him luck!

# *Gone, But Still In Our Hearts*

In the last few weeks we lost three of our family.

## **Mike Merluzzi**

TBP lost a valued member with the passing of **Mike Merluzzi**.

Mike, a native of Detroit, attended The Center for Creative Studies, where he received a degree in art and graphic design; in 2002, he retired from General Motors after a 40-year career as a graphic illustrator. After retirement, Mike and wife Judy moved to East Tawas, where his artistic skills were used in many TBP shows.

In addition to artistic design, Mike was always there to lend a hand with set building and whatever needed to be done. He was awarded the Founder's Award for being such a valued addition to our group. But most importantly, he was the guy that was always there with a smile and a kind word, the guy who made the room a little brighter with his contagious laugh and chipper attitude.

Thanks for everything you did for us, Mike. You will be missed.



## **Betty DeWilde**

**Betty DeWilde** and her husband of 66 years, André were both very active in the Tawas Bay Players for years. Betty had an extensive background in theater; she was a member of SAG/AGMA during the 1980's, performed with the Michigan Opera Theater in Detroit, and worked in television and film. We were very fortunate to have a woman of her talent and experience in our group.

Betty directed and produced, but she shined the most on stage. Of all of her TBP roles, she is probably best remembered as Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma!*

Thank you for sharing your talents with us, Betty. We will remember you.

## **Dorie Ebel**

Dorie Ebel was active in the Players for many years. She appeared in many of our stage productions; *Three Murders And It's Only Monday*, *Natalie Needs a Nightie*, and *Jake's Women* were only a few of them. But she will always be fondly remembered (at least by me!) as Frenchy, one of the "Pink Ladies" in *Grease*. Behind the scenes, Dorie could always be counted on for a warm smile, a funny story, and a great laugh. Her off-the-wall sense of humor and ability to make everyone feel good always made working with her a pleasure. Dorie, we will miss you, but thanks for sharing some fun times with us.



# I LOVE LACY

## TRYOUTS SET FOR SUMMER SHOW

Come to auditions for *I Love Lacy* on May 23rd and 24th at 6:30 pm at the Tawas Bay Playhouse! This romantic comedy is written and directed by **Michal Jacot** and is offering six roles for the cast - three men, three women. Two of the men are in their mid-twenties, and the third man will be 40-50. The three women will all be in their twenties. Any age is welcome to audition.

This show was recently produced in Indiana (see the accompanying article below) and was a huge hit for them. Lacy Casey is accident-prone and nerdy, and her spectacular klutziness hasn't done much for her love life. So when handsome Bryce asks her out, then asks her out again, and then yet again, she figures she's finally found the right guy. But is

Bryce all he seems? And then there's her good buddy Trevor, who's secretly in love with our heroine. Toss in Lacy's BFF Sue, her grumpy, over-protective father Carl, and a mysterious Italian woman who shows up out of nowhere, and you have a night of romance and fun as we find out who loves Lacy.

*I Love Lacy* will be presented July 22-23-24 and July 28-29-30-31. It promises to be a lot of fun to work on, so plan on coming to auditions!

## Jacots See *I Love Lacy* World Premiere

By **Michal Jacot**

Laurie and I took a February trip to Lafayette, Indiana to see the World Premiere of *I Love Lacy*, done by the Clinton County Civic Theater. It was a 7-1/2 hour trip, made longer by numerous stops to antique shops and used bookstores, and well worth the drive.

CCCT is the home group of Scott Haan (writer of *Insane With Power*, which TBP did back in 2009), and their group previously did productions of *Happy Birthday*, *Dear Grandpa* and *Merry Christmas, Dear Grandpa*. They have a beautiful 200-seat theater and we got front-row seats to the show.

Since this was the first time *I Love Lacy* was done anywhere, it was fun to hear the lines and see

the sight gags, and to see the audience's reactions to them. As I'm directing our summer show and Laurie is A.D., we not only enjoyed the show for its entertainment value but also made mental notes of things to "steal" for our production!

The Indiana cast was awesome; their take on the characters were right on-point. Scott did double duty, assistant directing and playing non-nonsense father Carl Casey. It was a real treat to see my talented friend perform on stage.

CCCT is similar to TBP in size, resources, and enthusiasm. It's always fun to visit a group like ours and compare notes. The cast and crew was welcoming and friendly, and invited us to their cast party afterwards.

Congratulations to Clinton County Civic Theater for their World Premiere, and thanks for the hospitality and the great ideas for our production!

Find and Like us on Facebook!  
[www.Facebook.com/TawasBayPlayers](http://www.Facebook.com/TawasBayPlayers)

# News We Can Use

by Tara Western

In the March CALLBOARD, CTAM's newsletter, I read about three interesting ideas that TBP might want to take part in.

1. On CTAM's website, a Theatre Resource catalog and/or database will be created for props, costumes, set pieces etc. that groups might want to rent or loan. It would also be a place to ask for specific help or ideas on how to tackle something concrete or solve problems.
2. The annual CTAM playwriting contest ends May 15, 2022. This year audio or Zoom recordings will be made of all the submissions by Affiliate groups (like us!) Could we do that? I bet we could. I have lots more information on the actual technology requirements. It could be as simple as a Zoom recording. Well, my source says that's simple! It will be after May 15 which is the playwriting contest deadline. Look in the May Curtain Calls for more information.
3. CTAM is finalizing plans with a Great Lakes Recording company to offer affiliate theatre groups a free professional, promotional video of their theatres. We can get on the list now!



## Jacot Performs With Magnificent 7

TBPer **Brady Jacot**, who wowed audiences last summer with his *Brady Jacot's Perfectly Normal Powerpoint Presentation* show, is keeping busy at Oakland University. OU's Percussion Studio is an instrumental studio at Oakland's school of music and is made up of student performers, educators, composers, and innovators. The group, called the Magnificent 7, are scheduled to perform in many different venues in the near future.

Mag7, as they are casually known, will perform at the Pontiac Musicale at Oakland's Fellowship Hall on May 13. Admission is free and open to the public. Plan to see Brady and the Magnificent 7 for a community concert of percussion chamber and solo works.

The Magnificent 7 will also be performing at the Rochester Public Library on May 22nd. They have been touring to multiple schools, as well as competing in NABBA down in Alabama at the end of April.

**[www.tawasbayplayers.com](http://www.tawasbayplayers.com)**

Next time you're hot dogging on the computer, check out TBP's website, full of all the information you need about your favorite theater group!



Those of us who were in *Grease* will be shocked to know that, come this May, it will have been 30 years since we did that show! **June Hudgins** directed an amazing cast! I remember it like yesterday, and I don't think I've ever had as much fun on a show as I did with *Grease*. Who can name these cast members from this cartoon I drew long ago? Page 7 has more *Grease* memories!



20 NEWS HERALD and PRESS  
Wednesday, May 13, 1992

FINE PERFORMANCE

# Capacity crowd enjoys Tawas Bay Players' "Grease"

by Mike Puffpaff

EAST TAWAS — Tawas Bay Players performed the musical *Grease* to a capacity crowd Friday night as the theatrical group had to turn away people Saturday because of not enough seating for this widely popular musical.

Director June Hudgins said the East Tawas Community Building was full for the opening performance of *Grease* Friday at 8 p.m. She estimated seating capacity at 225. The Saturday performance was so booked from reservations the theatrical group was forced to turn walk-ins away after bringing in more chairs to cram the small building full with people. The audience was estimated at about 180 for the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

"We have gotten a lot of good comments from the audience upon seeing the show. We are just thrilled to perform for them," she said.

Hudgins said the players even talked about holding some encore performances as it seems the shows for this weekend are practically booked up with reservations already. Unfortunately, some of the cast and the orchestra will be out of town.

Performances for this week are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

After months of hard work the cast pulled off a nearly flawless performance Friday night with only minor glitches in handling the microphone on stage or hitting a few notes now and again.

Headlining this upbeat 1950s musical were Jim Carr and Joanne Helms from Oscoda as main characters greaser Danny Zuko and the naive Sandy Dumbrowski. Both performed admirably in demanding rolls of acting and singing.

Perhaps the most pleasant surprise in the musical came from newcomer Kelly Peters of Whittemore, playing the supporting greaser role of Kenickie. It was evident how much of a good time he was having on stage while singing the lead for the number "Greased Lightnin'". He exhibited a definite presence with combined acting and vocal talent.

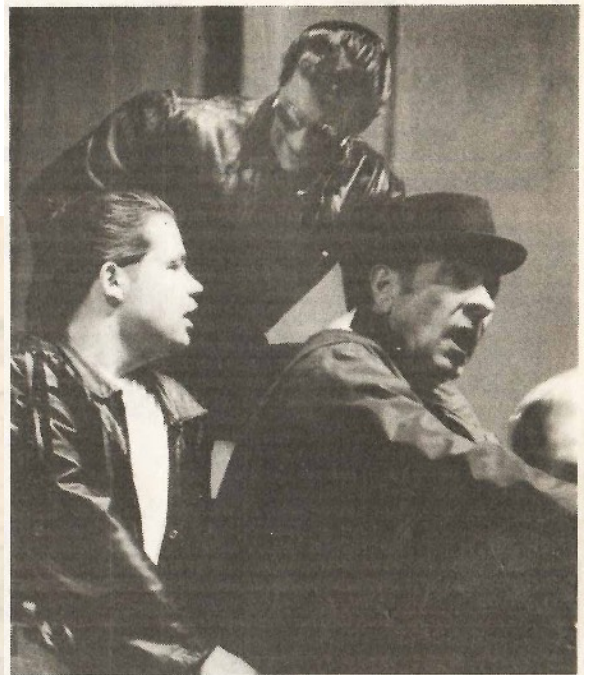
Barbara Hunter provided another outstanding vocal performance with the song "There Are Worse Things I Could Do" as the character Rizzo. Her voice was clear and projected remarkably well.

Other cast members turned in fine performances and included, from Tawas area, Laurie Jacot as Marty; Tracee Behnke Lentz as Jan; Sue Geer and Mary Smith as Patty; Joy Murphy as Cha Cha; Michal Jacot as Vince; Todd Palmer as Doody; Jason Gekeler as Sonny; Craig Sayer as Eugene; Karen Moore as Miss Lynch and Dennis Kirk as Johnny Casino.

From Oscoda Township were Dori Ebel as Frenchy and Tom O'Malley as Roger and Larry Pickett from Whittemore who played Teen Angel in one very unusual scene.

Assisting in the direction of the musical was Nadeen Bouback with Pat Casey helping as vocal director and Chad Robson as musical director. The musical was produced by Vickie Szatkowski and Jim Estes with choreography by Diane Kurbatoff.

The orchestra must be complimented for the fine job they did in the musical. Members included Tawas residents Rick Meshew on keyboard; Penny LeClair on clarinet; Robin Green on bass keyboard and Chad Robson on percussion. Whittemore residents Sandy Bradley and Brook Galbraith provided tenor saxophone.



AT RYDELL -- In the opening number of "Alma Mater" parody members of the Rydell High School greasers have their own choice words about going back to school. Pictured are greaser cast members Jim Carr, top, Todd Palmer, left, and Tom O'Malley. All of the cast turned in fine performances. -- NHP PHOTO



CHECK HER OUT -- Danny Zuko, played by Jim Carr, takes a long look at the new Sandy Dumbrowski, played by Joanne Helms, after she changes her conservative look at the end of the Tawas Bay Players' musical *Grease*. Both actors turned in fine performances. -- NHP PHOTO