



Tawas Bay
Players

Curtain Calls

August/September 2022

DISASTER!

Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You!

By *Tara Western*

Need a huge musical blockbuster with a large cast and lots of challenges? You're in luck; that's what I'm scooping this month.

Disaster by Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick is an over-the-top musical set on a disaster-prone cruise ship, punctuated with evocative tunes from the Seventies. Remember *The Poseidon Adventure*? This is *The Poseidon Adventure* times ten! Name a disaster-- it's there. Here's a list of the misadventures and other catastrophes: earthquake, tidal wave, explosions, fire, flood, piranhas, ceiling falls in, boat capsizes, and chandelier crushes "Wealthy Woman". Do we need a separate list of lighting and sound needs? Extrapolate from the above list.

Eleven main characters plus singers, dancers, and small speaking roles are needed. Chad, Scott, and Marianne need to be the same age, somewhere between 20-40. Chad is a leading man type, Scott is his goofy friend, and Marianne is Chad's ex-girlfriend, and an aspiring, serious journalist.

Tony, (35-50) the scheming owner of the cruise ship, is in debt and trying to make big money on this cruise by overloading the boat—disaster! Jake is Tony's body guard. Jackie (30s-40s), a veteran show girl, is Tony's longtime, long-suffering girlfriend. Authors say she is a "Goldie Hawn" type. Jackie's twins, Ben and Lisa, are played by one eleven-year-old boy. Ted, 35-50, is a disaster expert, on board to warn the

oblivious, money hungry Tony. Note: Ted does a balance beam routine during one of the many disasters!

Lavora Verona is a flamboyant, but faded disco diva. She befriends Sister Mary Downy, a judgmental, awkward nun who is addicted to gambling. Senior citizens, Shirley and Maury Summers, a

DISASTER!

Directed by
SUZAN NEMETH
Produced by
JOLENE GRUSECKI
Musical Director
TRACEE' LENTZ
Stage Manager
ALAN DALTON

AUDITIONS:
AUG. 10 & 11
6:00 PM
at the
TAWAS BAY
PLAYHOUSE

DISASTER! (continued)

loving (song: “You’re Still the One”) Jewish couple. Shirley is a great role. She has a fatal disease that causes involuntary pelvic thrusts and eye blinking. She also tap dances the Morse code, sending the lock combination to open a hatch.

Disasters, large and small, personal feelings, love lost and found are all accompanied by a song. The pairings are terrific: “I Will Survive” sung by man with shark devouring his arm; “Knock Three Times” sung to trapped people; “Never Can Say Good-bye” sung by Sister Mary leaving a slot machine; “Once, Twice, Three Times a Lady”, sung by Wealthy Husband as he tosses his wife’s body parts into a watery grave; and “Hooked on a Feeling” for the helicopter rescue.

Stage settings include: Jackie’s dressing room, Tony’s office, a casino, hallways, dance floor in the casino, an elevator, entrance to the Coral Bliss restaurant, a lifeboat, ship’s kitchen, piranhas filled water off side of boat, and of course, the ship’s deck. Set pieces: slot machine, falling chandelier, and a laundry basket to hide Ted.

Here’s the huge list of props, costume challenges and dead bodies:

- 3 piranha puppets
- One royal blue fish puppet that gets eaten

- Ben/Lisa dummy
 - Man dummy
 - Fire for when door opens
 - “Baby” Levora’s dog
 - Piranha-eaten hand
 - Piranha-eaten skeleton
 - Shark arms for Tony
 - Lite-Brite
 - Betsy Wetsy doll
 - Cotton candy for Levora to hide in
 - Rat puppet for Muskrat Love
 - Rat blanket that covers man
 - Rats for when door opens
 - Rats for wall of elevator
 - Two rats for attacking random victim
 - Rat attacking man whose arm subsequently falls off
 - Two shark fins that swim behind Tony during “Don’t Cry Out Loud”
 - Two hands and a foot for “Once, Twice, Three Times a Lady”
 - Ben/Lisa hands for “When Will I Be Loved”
- Well, that should give you an idea of the challenges of producing *Disaster* and maybe the impetus to cancel your next cruise.
- Tawas Bay Players will be presenting *Disaster* this October 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23. **Auditions are August 10 and 11 at 6:00 pm at the Playhouse!**



BREAK INTO THE BIG TIME!

Have you ever thought about directing a show? As you may know, TBP requires that you Assistant Direct under a seasoned Director at least once to qualify as a Director. And your opportunity to do just that is here! Suzan Nemeth is looking for someone interested in assisting her on DISASTER! This would be an ideal chance to learn the ropes from someone who knows her stuff. Every director works differently, but

generally an assistant director acts as a student and apprentice, helping the director with some duties while watching how it’s done. And when the show is done, you are eligible to direct your own play. It’s a great way to earn your director credit, and Suzan is a great one to learn from. And the TBP is ALWAYS looking for new directors.

If you’ve ever thought “Gee, I’d like to try directing a show some time,” NOW is the time to put the gears in motion! Contact Suzan and let her know of your interest!

I LOVE LACY

“I Love Lacy” is a Summer Hit!

Attendees said that *I Love Lacy* was “the perfect summer show”, something fun and frivolous to beat the heat. Audiences loved the romantic misadventures of Lacy and her friends!

I Love Lacy featured **Gabi Coon** as the lovable but klutzy Lacy Casey; **Zach Dalton** as Trevor, the friend who secretly loves her; **Alexandra Perrot** as Lacy’s loyal friend Sue; **Daniel Stone** as the deceptive new boyfriend Bryce; **Alan Dalton** as Lacy’s gruff father Carl; and **Anna Young** as Gabriella, a lovely Italian girl with a few surprises of her own.

Highlights of the show included:

- Lacy’s geekiness as she stumbles through an awkward date with Bryce, knocking everything off the table.
- Trevor’s nervous encounter with Carl, desperately trying to talk football with him. (Carl, to a frilly apron-clad Trevor: “You *really* don’t look like someone who follows football.”)
- Sue: “... Or stay here and talk with ... The *Dadinator!*!” (You’d have to see Alex’s interpretation of this line to appreciate her comedic talents.)
- The accidental placement of Trevor’s “Like What You See? I’m For Sale!” sign (meant for his car), that ended up ... well, elsewhere.
- The awesome hidden restaurant and bank sets that surprised everyone with their appearance.
- Smarmy Bryce gets his comeuppance with a well-placed cream puff.
- The look on Trevor’s face when Carl says, “I don’t really like football.”
- Gabriella’s final humiliation of Bryce during curtain call.

Everyone in the cast was excellent, and gave our audiences a nice evening of laughter. Kudos to director/writer **Michal Jacot**, assistant director **Laurie Jacot**, producer **Judy Quarters**, and stage manager **Lyle Groff**.

“Helen Keller is Dead”

The Miracle Worker tells the story of Helen Keller, who was deaf, mute, and blind. In one production in the Midwest, the actor playing the Doctor was discovered to have a drinking problem. But as his character was only in the first scene, the director took pity on him and cast him anyway.

At the start of the play, the Doctor is supposed to inform the Keller family that a fever has left their infant without the use of her eyes, ears, or vocal chords. Unfortunately, on opening night, the actor drunkenly blurted, “Mr. and Mrs. Keller, I’ve got bad news. Your daughter is ... dead.”

The other actors were stunned. If little Helen was dead, the play couldn’t go on. Thinking quickly, the actress playing Mrs. Keller ad-libbed, “I think we need a second opinion.”

The curtain came down, and the drunken actor was yanked off the stage. The stage manager put on the Doctor’s white coat and took his place on stage. When the curtain went up, the new Doctor declared, “Your baby is alive, but she’ll be deaf, dumb and blind for the rest of her life.”

The actor playing Mr. Keller was so relieved to hear the correct lines that he clasped his hands together and cried, “Thank God!”

Congratulations go out to **Zach Dalton**, who secured an internship at Meadowbrook Theatre in Rochester Hills! Zach will spend a full season (about a year) working under a master technician, learning various aspects of theater tech with an accent on lighting. Way to go, Zach!

DID YOU KNOW...

“*Obscene*” literally meant “out of the scene,” meaning all the indecent things an audience has to imagine going on offstage.

Ask **Brady Jacot** about his recent study abroad trip to Greece! Oakland University sent him and other theater students to the island of Hydra to perform a play in the place where theater began. Brady and crew did their show at a historical amphitheater in Epidaurous. In addition, he studied mask making, Greek language lessons, and dance, and immersed himself in a lot of Greek theater and culture.

TBP Volunteer Coordinator

by **Pam Frank**

After a zoom meeting and a volunteer workshop with some of the other CTAM member theater groups, the board decided to try a few new ideas.

I particularly liked the idea of a volunteer coordinator and have volunteered for this position. This is a brand new to TBP concept so we will learn as we go along. I foresee the position as a kind of clearing house to put potential volunteers in touch with producers and directors.

The process will start with the poster, created by Michal Jacot (seen here), on display in the refreshment room. He created it digitally so we can put a small version in the program for each show as well.

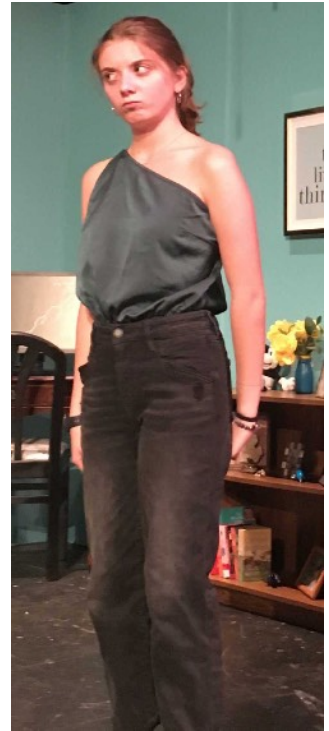
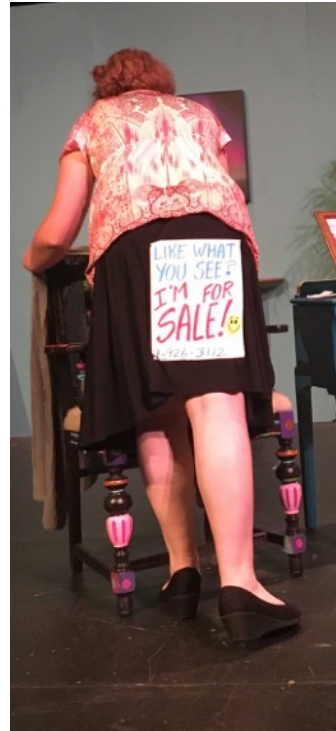
There are Volunteer Interest forms available on the desk next to the poster for potential volunteers to fill out. Filling out the form won't commit them to anything, it will just give us a way to identify them. I will collect the forms and put them in contact with the appropriate people. We hope that any new volunteers will want to stay involved and become members.

Just for clarification, I will not be coordinating existing volunteers and finding people to fill needed positions, that will remain the job of the producer for each show.



“The Orphan Train”

TBP will host a play by the WE Players on August 5th, 6th and 7th at 7:00 pm in the TBP Playhouse. We invite you to come watch and support the WE Players! Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.



Scenes
From

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2022 Tawas Bay Players Annual Meeting

- Who:** TBP members and Guests
- When:** Friday, August 12, 2022
Social hour 5:00; Dinner at 6:00
Meeting to follow
- Where:** Knights of Columbus Hall
821 Newman Street, East Tawas
- Cost:** \$7 per paid member
\$12 for guests

Plan to join us for the 2022 TBP annual membership meeting. The Knights of Columbus will prepare a delicious meal including dessert. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided but if you would like adult beverages or soft drinks please bring your own. Please let Pam Frank know no later than Tuesday, August 2, 2022 how many will attend.

Call: 989-362-8492 • Text: 989-254-9963

Email: psfrank56@gmail.com

Election of board members will take place during the meeting with 3 vacancies. Please let Keith Frank know by the same date if you would like to be added to the ballot.

Call: 989-362-8492

Email: k.frank@charter.net

In Memoriam: Marilyn Jurczyk

It has been many years since Marilyn Jurczyk was a part of the TBP family. Spending her remaining years in San Diego, she passed away on July 8.

Marilyn was a part of our group in its first few years, and could be counted on to work on any production. She acted as producer on some shows and served on the board of directors, but seemed to be most at home doing props and costumes. Marilyn was always good-natured and ready to laugh! Thank you for all that you did to help get our group going in those early years, Marilyn; rest in peace.

CLEANING DAY August 13th

On Saturday, August 13th, 10 a.m., we will be cleaning up the storage building. Unfortunately, platforms, backdrops, wood, etc. were NOT put away properly after each show this year and the storage building is a disaster. PLEASE, we will need some muscle power and some non-muscle power to get it back in shape. It will take a team effort.



From 41 years ago, produced and edited
by our own June Hudgins ... the
VERY FIRST TAWAS BAY PLAYERS NEWSLETTER!!!

April 1981 1st Edition,



Tawas Bay Players Newsletter -----High lights-----

Whats upcoming in the 1981-1982 selections not yet Fall
Season;;; completed;;; Winter

Spring, See How They run.

Our Directors for the next season are----- Vince Weiler;
Debra Debois;

The Tawas Bay Players Do desperately need a building so this is to apeal to everyone to be on the lookout ; or if you hear of any place we can ask about;

We will be again having a Float in the 4th July parade;headed up by Ron Warner, but Ron will need help so please sign up to help and see how much fun it is; gals will probably be needed to make rosettes as well as work on all aspects of the Float;;; sign below;''

We will be doing Dinner theatre our first play of the season;;;;;;

;;; Exciting;;;

There will be a board meeting May 13th at 7-30;

June Hudgins

There will be a membership meeting on the 20th May; we ask all members to attend, and to all please try to bring in new people ; we must get more people involved;;; Dont forget;; GENERAL MEETING MAY 20th,7-30, GREEN ROOM::

We need to have someone in charge of our Clothing for the Players ; is there anyone who would like the job of; Wardrobe Mistress;;; it means; taking care of the clothing we get, given or donated, seeing it is clean, and mended; and hung up;; which by the way we are going to have a bar put up for hanging the things we have;;;;;let me know is you are interested in the job,,,June;

We are going to have General meetings each month from now on and they will be held each 3rd Wednesday; So it will be 20th May and 17th June;; We will get better organized this way;;;;

We will try to have our General meetings interesting, by seeing if we can get some ENTERTAINMENT: at them;;or if we can get someone to talk about Theatre; as we all have things to learn;;;;;;

Continued

What about Summer any thoughts;;;;;; It would be nice to be able to Present something for our summer folks as well as our town people,,,,, lets get some thoughts going;;; for our meeting;;;;;

DID YOU KNOW?

Bay City Players next play;;;Chapter Two;;
Shoreline Players;;; Solid Gold Cadillac;;

Vince is realy a Leprechaun;;;;;;

Tara is realy NOT a waitress;;;Ha;;;

Oh yes Tawas Bay Players, next play,, DONT STEP ON MY FOOTPRINTS::::::::::SEE IT:::::
Debra is doing a great job;;even if we do muck about some;; she keeps us in line;;;;;;

A big thank you to all our members now all are working real hard and putting in a lot of time at the green room, we hope to make things better for everyone and get ourselves together as far as building up our Props;Wardrobe etc;;;;;;
PLEASE KEEP EARS, EYES, OPEN FOR A BUILDING, WE CAN HOUSE OUR STAGE IN:::::
WE NEED ONE FOR OUR FALL SEASON:::::::

At our next meeting i will have our bound book and Seal, it is very Ellegant so you may all see it ;It will be kept at our attorneys office however;;;;;

Anyone interested in doing Assistant Directingfor next season please see Vince ,,,,,

Douglas Ashley Lippert;;; where are you;;;;;;
we all miss seeing you;;;;;

the word for this month is;;;:

TOGEATHERNESS:::

Lets keep it that way''''

This is my first try at this newsletter;;;i know it shows;;;ha;;; hope you like it if not there is always the Bitching corner;;;;;;
your Pres June Hudgins.



THE BITCHING CORNER

This is for folks who have something to say ;;so we can discuss the problem at the meeting,,but please leave a name;;

And June is still a valuable part of the Players - still singing with the TBP Singers and doing everything she can for our group. **Her birthday is the same day as our annual meeting,** so when you're there, wish June a happy birthday and tell her how much we appreciate her!