



Curtain Calls

December 2022 / January 2023

TBP is the Place to Be for the Holidays!



TBP Singers to Present

CHRISTMAS SONGS AND STORIES

The Tawas Bay Players Singers will once again present their Christmas gift to our community with *Christmas Songs and Stories*.

The free program

features plenty of classic yuletide songs interspersed with heartwarming holiday stories. The annual program has been a mainstay of the Tawas Bay Players for many years and is always looked forward to by our town.

Pat Casey leads the Singers, while Michal Jacot and Tim Haskin provide the stories. *Tawas Bay Players Singers Christmas Songs and Stories* will be presented Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm at the Playhouse.



WE Players, Inc Presents:

Presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (www.concordtheatricals.com)

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever



by Barbara Robinson

December 2 & 3 at 7:00 pm

December 4 at 2:00 pm

Doors open 1 hour before showtime.

Cash or Check at the door,
Adults \$10.00 Students \$5.00

Hosted by: Tawas Bay Players, 401 Newman St., East Tawas, MI 48730

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And don't miss the WE Players presentation of THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER, at the Tawas Bay Playhouse!

***DISASTER!* Wraps It Up**

By *Jolene Grusecki*



The production crew recently reported the smashing results of the musical *Disaster!* at the November 7th board meeting.

They then followed-up with a post-production meeting two days later. The round-table discussion included the highlights and challenges of this amazingly successful production.

Everyone was in agreement that it certainly was one for the history books, as the two encore performances sold-out, too.

Director **Suzan Nemeth** had a number of goals, and they all came to fruition. Her main one was, “Let us have fun!” And we did! Second one was, “Let's get newbies in our playhouse!” And we did! Over thirty new people helped the cast of 27 and crew of 43. Third one was, “Let's do some things differently!” And we did! *Whew!*

The cast and crew completed a survey, and those results were shared at the production meeting. One statement summed up the highlights, “I loved how the minute audience members walked in the door the energy was fantastic! The attendees wore costumes for competitions/prizes, the onstage outfits were ridiculously fun, the hors d'oeuvres at intermission were delicious, the technically-challenged scenes were over the top, and the singing voices of the actors were fabulous. I also appreciated the family feel.”

As with all productions, there were challenges, but the cast/crew bravely and optimistically moved forward. Although they are appreciating their “downtime” with family and friends now, many are excited about our upcoming shows.

Kudos to all who helped in every endeavor with this musical.





WE Players, Inc.

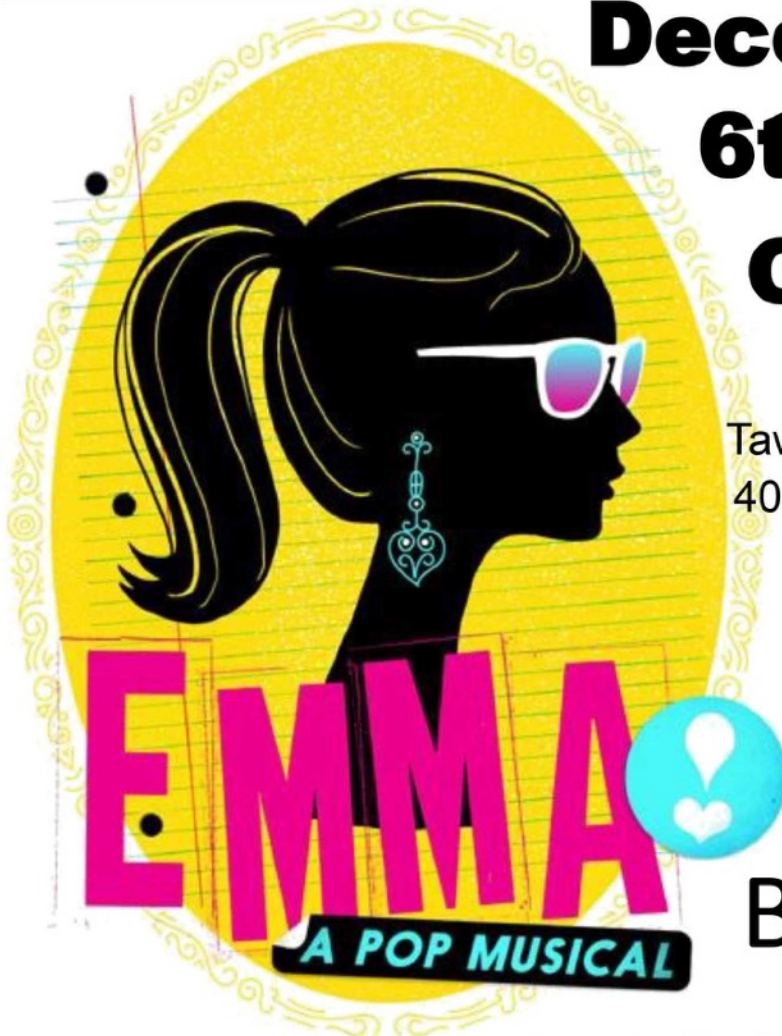
Auditions

December 5th,

6th, & 7th

Grades 7-12

Auditions will be at the
Tawas Bay Players Playhouse,
401 Newman St., East Tawas,
MI 48730,
from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



By Eric Price

For more information contact Tina Dalton 989.254.5634

WE Players, Inc. Hosted by Tawas Bay Players

Show dates are February 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th, & 25th at 7:00 pm
February 19th & 26th at 2:00 pm
Tawas Bay Playhouse
401 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)



“Always a Bridesmaid” Auditions

By *Jolene Grusecki*

Always a Bridesmaid by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten will be our spring show on May 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. Auditions are scheduled for February 28th & March 1st at 7:00 pm at the playhouse.

This hilarious comedic romp includes four friends who have sworn to keep the promise that they made at their Senior Prom: to be in each other’s weddings ... no matter what. Humor ensues thirty years later ...

Six female actresses are needed on stage; ages range from 20s to 60s; along with many crew members for this wedding-themed production.

Should you have any interest to join, contact **Jolene Grusecki**, producer, at jgrusecki@gmail.com or **Becky Archer**, director, at dramatch61@gmail.com.

Please support

Tawas Bay Players Giving Tuesday 2022

On November 29, 2022, 62 nonprofit organizations throughout northeast Michigan, as well as a few of the Community Foundation's key programs, will team up to raise funds for the good of our communities! Last year, this campaign raised over \$365,000 in a 24-hour period.

Giving Tuesday Northeast Michigan page will go live for giving at **12 a.m. on November 29th**. Mark your calendar for the biggest giving day of the year!

<https://www.cfnem.org/givingtuesday/>

**HELP
NEEDED!**

SHARE TBP's FACEBOOK POSTS!

**IT'S FREE ADVERTISEMENT AND HELPS
TO REACH MORE PEOPLE!!**

New Lighting Workshops Coming in January

by *Ed Krebs*

As an experienced actor recently put it, when the stage lights (and sound) are added, rehearsals and then performances are transformed from a play into a dramatic experience. A series of three lighting workshops will be run Sunday afternoons (sorry football fans) January 8, 15 and 22 at the playhouse starting at 1:00 pm. Each workshop will be 3-4 hours and offer practical hand on training in operating and designing stage lighting. While we will focus on the equipment and fixtures available at Tawas Bay Players, the material will be useful to anyone looking to learn about stage lighting.

The first workshop will focus on operating a show that has already been designed and programmed. We will cover two types of shows – a simple “pushbutton show” that basically turns on and off the lights, and a cue-to-cue show where the operator advances the lighting scheme to the next cue based on the script and action on stage. You will also learn what all the main components are part of the overall lighting system, and some basic troubleshooting you can do (before calling me!). There will be an overview of the various elements of

the QLC+ software we use, and information about the “base plot” (a.k.a. rep plot) which is how the stage lights are setup for a generic show. Finally, we’ll show you a few tweaks you might make for any show without having to hang new fixtures or do fancy programming.

The second workshop will begin the topic of designing a show. We’ll get into each of the fixture (stage light) types, some basic practical theory on positioning of light, and color. Then we’ll spend some time inputting a show into the QLC+ software and looking deeper into the software options. We’ll look at specials and practicals, and how to add them into the software and show program.

The third workshop will dive deeper into design and special effects. This workshop will partially be driven by the attendees – what do you want to specifically learn how to do?

You can attend one workshop or all three. If you are just interested in how to run a show, we’ll see you on the 8th! Want more? We’ve got that too! Attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop, so you can follow along in the examples as well as practice when you get home. A copy of QLC+ and practice show files will be available to load on your Windows computer (please arrive at 12:30 so we can be ready to start at 1:00 pm). QLC+ can also run on a Mac or Linux laptop, but you will want to load the program in advance (contact me if you need this). Questions should be directed to tbplighting21@gmail.com.

TBP's First Toddler/Preschool Production

By *Jolene Grusecki*

The twenty-two plus kiddos on stage did very well acting out vignettes of fairy tales with modern-day twists. TBP member **Tim Haskin** was the narrator to these skits and a reader of *The Wonky Donkey*. Scott Jorasz also led a song via his guitar/vocals, as Shelbey Evans guided the motions. **Ray Skiver** controlled sound; **Nick Serda** and **Walter Sanborn**, with help from **Ed Krebs**, took care of the lighting. Stage Manager Kayla

Grusecki worked with cadets from Iosco County RESA's Teacher Prep Academy to help control the chaos.

The parent coalition group benefited from the proceeds, and they wish to give back more to the community. They currently have a book exchange and talking signs at area parks (see accompanying photo). Should you wish for more information about their goals, please contact them: ioscoparentcoalition@gmail.com.



Got an item for **CURTAIN CALLS**? Send it to Michal at

mjacot@sbcglobal.net

Holiday Community Theatre That's Not Too Far Away

by *Tara Western*

*This is a parody of holiday rom-coms.

** This one is an adults only raunchy riff on *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* as Cindy Lou Who reflects on the Christmas when she met the Grinch.

| Name of show | Theatre/city | Dates |
|---|---|---|
| Sponge Bob, the Musical | Old Town Playhouse/ Traverse City | November 18- December 10 |
| The Christmas Story: musical | Midland Center for the Arts | December 2-11 |
| A Child's Christmas in Wales | Bay City Players | December 9-18 |
| It's a Wonderful Life—the radio play | Northern Lites Readers' Theatre/ Caddillac | Sat. Dec. 3, 7 pm, Sun. Dec. 4, 2 pm |
| The Holiday Channel Christmas Wonderathon * | Pit and Balcony/ Saginaw | December 9-18 |
| Who's Holiday? ** | Pit and Balcony | December 10 & 17 |

PUBLICITY FOR *DISASTER: THE MUSICAL:* *PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS!!*

By *Tara Western*

When I joined the *Disaster* team in early February of 2022, I knew this show was going to be huge. I hoped it would attract large audiences and be a game changer for the TBP.

I also felt that we needed to get the word out early, with the auditions coming up in mid-August.

In the early years of TBP, it was enough to get out posters, a couple of newspaper articles and some radio interviews and ads. In 2022, not everyone sees or hears those options.

As publicity chair, I was pleased to have **Suzan Nemeth**, our director, with her vision and our new, enthusiastic producer, **Jolene Grusecki** keeping me apprised of everything *Disaster* related. **Judy Quarters** completed the team effort, handling the Facebook venue.

After the first production meeting in June, and the first props, costumes, Rat Pack work session, we posted pictures on Facebook. As time went on, through auditions, and rehearsals until opening night on October 14, we saturated Facebook with photos, reminders, and warnings to get your tickets *now*.

I kept telling myself: Dig deep. I found new sites: free Public Service announcements on the websites of two public radio stations WUCX and WCMU and Kris VanThomme's *What's Happenin'?* free newspaper.

Our posters designed by Lori Bayn, were colorful and eye-catching. A free-standing poster was created and was set up at Neiman's, and the Playhouse during other events.

Shirley and Maury, aka **Sheila Malewska** and **Jeff Chadwick**, were celebrity guests on Kevin Allen's *Stump the Chump*, Chad, aka **Brendan Kellman Sowerby** was interviewed for *Sunrise Side's* Kevin Allen, and Deb Michaels' HITS FM.

I truly believe that TBP needs to mentor, educate and find someone to replace them! If you are interested in doing the publicity for a show, let the director know now! Contact me at tarawestern@hotmail.com and I'll show you all my secrets.

Congratulations to **Brady Jacot** for his first-time outing as Stage Manager in Oakland University's production of *New Brain!* The musical comedy-drama was very well done and featured a talented cast. As Stage Manager, Brady made sure the show, with hundreds of tech cues, went off without a hitch.



Support Your Local Theater: An open letter to our TBP members

By *Ray Skiver*

To my fellow TBP members,

As many of you may or may not know, our theater has recently began welcoming a wider variety of local groups and entertainers to our home. We were lucky enough to host the Iosco-Arenac District Library not once but twice in recent months. Author and Holocaust survivor Irene Miller spoke about her family and the countless losses they endured during WWII and she was kind enough to stay and sign copies of her book (*Into No Man's Land*) when she was finished. It was a powerful and moving evening and I consider myself lucky to have heard her speak.

They also brought classical guitarist Peter Fletcher to our theater last month. As a fan of all things guitar I can say it was an amazing evening that I won't soon forget. He had numerous CDs for sale in Hudgins Hall during intermission and after the performance. He also stayed and met with the audience afterwards. Both of these nights were free to the public.

The We Players, Inc. performed *Orphan Train* in August to overwhelmingly positive response from audiences and they are currently working on *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* to be performed in early December. They will also be presenting *Emma* as our winter 2023 production. As many of you know, a lot of our regulars are spending their winters in warmer climates and it's sometimes difficult to put together a cast and crew with so many people gone. We're lucky to be working with them. Many of their members are also members of our group and it's beneficial to both organizations to be able to share our home.

Jolene Grusecki recently worked with the Iosco Great Start Coalition to bring *Shining Stars* to our stage for what I hope was just the first time. It was mob of more than 20 children, 6 and under and their brave parents performing modern takes on classic fairy tails. **Tim Haskin** was the narrator. Great job as always Tim! The proceeds went to help raise awareness of literacy rates and struggles of young people in our area.

The last thing I going to mention was the June 30th hosting of the monthly Chamber of Commerce social event to give business owners around the area to a chance to come in and see what it is we do. The TBP Singers warmed up the crowd in Hudgins Hall while **Stacy Perrot** and myself performed a 10 minute play called *Post-Its*.

Why am I taking the time to tell you about all of the goings on in our theater? To let you know that we are going out of our way to welcome as many people from our community into our home as possible. Many of the people who come to these different events may have never been in our theater before. I have had the pleasure of talking to many of our guest and proudly showing off our beautiful theater at every possible opportunity. Most of them were quite surprised to learn all we've done and accomplished in our 43-year long adventure and many of them said they would definitely be watching for future productions so they can come see what all the excitement is about.

Every person who walks through our door for any reason is one more chance to win over a new patron of the arts or maybe even a volunteer and future member. I am proud of the work we've done and look forward to many more years of challenges and

(Continued on next page)

wonderful memories. I gladly welcome any chance I get to show off what we can do and what we have planned for the future.

Now the part no one wants to hear. We often talk about the benefits of being a member of the TBP but, seldom do you hear anyone mention the responsibilities that come with that membership. I know it's hard to expect volunteers to commit to things outside of the production of a play. We all know how time consuming that in and of itself can be but, we have to think beyond that. If everyone tried to come and support as many of the things as

possible that are happening in our theater it would be an incredible sign of solidarity and a chance for you to perhaps welcome someone new to our group. We have to commit to growing our numbers and expanding our audience if we're going to have a theater to leave to all of those wonderfully talented kids growing up with us as we speak. Please, I beg of you, come out and support everything we bring to our theater. You won't be sorry you did, I promise!

Signed,

Long time member, rabble-rouser and general pain in the you know what, Ray Skiver



Acting in TBP Is ... **MURDER!!**

By *Michal Jacot*

Tawas Bay Players are once again presenting Murder Mystery Evenings as fundraisers, with two events planned for the winter.

First, TBP will appear at Ali's Up North Food & Spirits in Au Gres to present *Murder In Michigan*, a murder mystery

themed around our home state. That will happen January 7th.

After that, it's back to Perchville for TBP on February 4th as we present *Slaughter on the Water*, a whodunit that takes place on a cruise ship. That show will be presented at Rushman Hall on Newman Street.

Both murder mysteries are written by **Michal Jacot** and are presented in a mostly improvisational format. The actors, armed with their character's history and dirty little secrets, ad-lib their way through the evening as they are grilled by a police detective and the audience.

Both shows will be a lot of fun for everyone involved! If you'd like to be a part of either one, let Michal know!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL MY TBP FAMILY!

February/March CC deadline: January 20th
Thank you to all of this issue's contributors!

