



Curtain Calls

April / May 2023

Cast Selected For

Always A Bridesmaid

Always A Bridesmaid has been cast and is in rehearsals!

Director **Becky Archer** reported a nice turnout for auditions, and now she gets to go to work with her newly minted cast. Not that she's going to have to work too hard with a stellar cast of actresses like the one she's got.

Always a Bridesmaid stars **Shannon Bondie** as Libby Ruth Ames, the hopeful romantic with the perfect marriage; **Stacy Perrot** as flashy and self-involved Monette Gentry; **Reesie Whitford** as salt-of-the-earth, tree-hugging Charlie Collins; **Roseanne Podany** as headstrong Deedra Wingate. These four friends are committed

to the notion that careers, waistlines and even marriages may disappear, but real friendships last a lifetime.

Also appearing in the cast are **Katy Butzin** as Sedalia Ellicott; **Alexandra Perrot** as Kari Ames-Bessette; and **Gabi Coon** as the Flower Girl.

The production hits the stage May 5, 6, 7 and May 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Becky adds, "Special thanks to our wonderful community for



building and painting the set! **Julie Popielarz, Terry Popielarz, Carmen Stevens, Scott Stevens, Shannon Bondie, Chad Bondie, Cassie Lybrink, Daniel Stone, Gabi Coon, Jody Coon, Roger McKleven, Tony Archer, and Becky Archer.** And to **Chris Mundy** for keeping our theatre grounds safe during our late winter visitor!"

If you've ever elbowed a stranger out of the way to catch a bride's bouquet, seriously questioned the mental stability of the duo saying "I do" or been forced to wear the world's ugliest bridesmaid dress, this deliriously funny Jones Wooten comedy is for you...and your dearly beloved!

Wishlist / Requests for Donations for “Always a Bridesmaid”

Please contact **Becky Archer** at 734-678-4423 if you have any questions or would like to donate or lend. Thank you!

- Marie Antoinette costume with wig
- Can Can costume
- 8-10 bottles of Sparkling non-alcoholic champagne
- Raffle drum (Medium)
- Mannequins for dresses (or anything that can display dresses)
- Tea Cart / Drink Cart
- Empty Clean Champagne bottles
- Oversized Axe (DONATED)
- Stuffed Toy Poodle
- Champagne Bucket
- Standing full length floor mirror
- Yellow Raincoats or Ponchos
- Walking Orthopedic Boot / Cast



It's not too early to start thinking about the TBP summer production! *Run For Your Wife* will come to our stage in July, and director **Rodger McElveen** has already got it on his radar.

In this comedy by Ray Cooney, London cab driver John Smith literally has two lives, complete with two different wives, Mary and Barbara. Somehow, he manages to juggle them both without arousing suspicion. However, he gets caught up in a mugging, and wakes up in a hospital. He ends up with the wrong wife by his side, and is forced to deal with explaining things to both of his wives and the police all at once.

Show dates are July 21, 22, 23 and July 27, 28, 29, 30. All summer shows start at 7 p.m. Time to start thinking about your summer project!

Summer Mowing, Had Me A Blast . . .

Summer Mowing, Cuttin' Some Grass . . .

(apologies to all "Grease" fans out there)

Laurie Jacot is once again taking on the job of mowing our lawn and maintaining the outside of the building. Mowing our lawn is a great way to help the TBP with a necessary job. Mowing the grounds takes about two hours for one person, and the job needs to be done about every two weeks during lawn mowing season. Laurie organizes a rotation schedule for volunteers; the more volunteers, the fewer times each volunteer has to do it. You might mow two, maybe three times throughout the entire summer. The TBP provides the mower and the gas, we just need you. Laurie will be glad to show anyone the ropes. It's really a very easy job and much appreciated. If you are willing to donate a little time and get a little exercise in the summer sun in the process, contact Laurie at 989-362-4765!

Donna Van Meter

Those of us who have been in TBP for a while will remember **Donna Van Meter**, who passed away on March 3 at the age of 92.

Donna worked on many productions in our early days. She was one of those "go-to" people who could be counted on for costumes, props, refreshments, and even produced a couple of shows. Donna's daughters Gail and Ava often worked on shows as well.

Our condolences to the family, and our thanks to Donna for all her work in our group.

TBP Fire Extinguishers Inspected & Updated

By *Keith Frank*

Just prior to the opening of *Disaster, The Musical*, East Tawas Fire Chief Bill Deckett was asked to inspect some of the pyrotechnic devices being used in the show. While he was there, Bill noticed that almost all of the fire extinguishers in the building were outdated and required inspection. Keith got in touch with KUDOS Fire Protective Equipment & Service in Oscoda. They came in on October 13 and inspected all of our fire extinguishers.

Of the eight extinguishers on site, five were still good and just needed to be recharged. The other three however were out of date and had to be replaced. KUDOS provided us with their

spare extinguishers to use during the performances while they took ours back to Oscoda to be serviced. We are now all up to date and up to code.

Following KUDOS advice, the extinguishers have been hung in the following locations:

- Hudgins Hall - Outside kitchen by hallway to restrooms;
- Lobby/Theater - Outside theater doors next to coat rack;
- Basement - On right hand wall at the bottom of the stairs;
- Theater - At back of house on wall across from the tech room stairs;
- Back Stage/Dressing Room Area - In hallway leading to Lincoln Street exit door;
- Tech Room - Just inside doorway at top of stairs;
- Props/Wardrobe - On

landing wall at top of stairs; and

- Garage - On left wall just inside the side entry door.

The backstage area and make-up room are also protected by the built in sprinkler system.

It seems that over the course of the years, this is one safety area of the theater that has been overlooked. We are now on KUDOS list to perform annual fire extinguisher inspections and maintenance each September. They will contact Keith to set up an appointment.

Brady and the Bard

Brady Jacot will be taking the stage as Sir Andrew in William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The show will happen the first weekend in April at the Pontiac Little Art Theatre.

"Slaughter on the Water" Plays to Capacity Audience

On February 4th, TBP returned to Perchville with a rollicking murder mystery!

Slaughter on the Water marked the return of TBP's murder mystery evening to the annual event. The who-done-its had been a staple of Perchville from 2015 to 2019, then stalled during the pandemic. Apparently the Perchville crowd was glad to see it come back; the first-come-first-served event sold out in ten minutes!

The Knights of Columbus served up a terrific buffet dinner. As guests ate, they were greeted by the crew and passengers of the cruise ship they were supposedly on. People got into the spirit of the thing as they talked about their "cruise to Hawaii!"

(Continued on next page)



“Slaughter on the Water” *(Continued)*

After dinner, of course, somebody gets murdered (why do these things happen?). In this case, it was shrewish Pamela Hallet (**Laurie Jacot**), who had sinister connections to everyone else. She disappeared into the ship’s bookstore, only to emerge moments later, stabbed in the neck!

Luckily, Detective Scott Reasoner (**Michal Jacot**) was on board. (Murder seems to follow this guy everywhere.) The audience helped question the suspects: Arnold and Matilda Dodger (**Chad and Shannon Bondie**), celebrating their 25th anniversary and hiding a few secrets ... Matt Ross (**Alan Dalton**), a surly stowaway with a hidden agenda ... archeologist Robert Steele (**Chris Mundy**), not exactly Indiana Jones, more of an Escanaba Bob, obsessed with finding a mysterious Hawaiian idol ... Amelia Lott (**Tina Dalton**), the ship’s doctor who needed a few prescriptions of her own ... and Cash Borden (**Adam Davis**), a high-octane executive carrying a briefcase filled with money.

The audience of 201 people (!) enjoyed the evening and had a lot of fun. We learned a lot about how to improve our game for next year. Thanks to the crew of TBPers who helped decorate, serve tables, and do whatever it took to make the show go on! The show was written and directed by **Michal Jacot** and produced by **Judy Quarters** and **Laurie Jacot**.

City Meeting

By *Keith Frank*

On November 7, 2022 **Keith Frank**, **Pat Casey** and **Judy Quarters** met with representatives of East Tawas to discuss the theater. City officials requested the meeting since they have a new park manager who oversees the theater lease and a new City Manager. Representing the City were Park Board Chairman Mark Elliott, City Manager Brent Barringer and East Tawas City Park Manager Eric Braun. Keith had been the Park Manager for many years and had represented both the TBP and the City (and also knew all of the history).

Since Keith has retired from the City, Mark felt that it was beneficial to brief Brent and Eric on the history of the TBP/City relationship. Prior to the start of the meeting, Brent and Eric were given a tour of the facility. Brent had never been in the building but Eric was involved in “Shining Stars” and was therefore somewhat familiar with the theater.

Keith presented the City representatives with a copy of the TBP Renovation History which outlines all expenses involved in purchasing and renovating the current Tawas Bay Players Playhouse. The document shows that since the City acquired the building in 1998, a total of \$673,902.59 has been invested in purchasing and renovating the theater. Of that amount, the City spent \$159,564 to purchase the building and re-do the parking lot. Grant funds of

\$179,000 were acquired through MCACA grants written by Keith and the Tawas Bay Players have invested \$335,338.59 of their own money. Mr. Barringer was especially impressed with this information and the history of the relationship.

Currently the lease between the City and TBP indicates that the City is responsible for maintenance of the parking lot and TBP is responsible for all maintenance and repairs to the building and grounds. It was written this way because, at the time, TBP always felt that they could handle the maintenance and upkeep on a facility, just not the expense of purchasing one. However, Brent inquired if there might be some future projects that TBP would like to have the City’s help to cover the expense. Keith, Pat and Judy indicated that they felt that replacements of existing heating/cooling systems and the roof, when needed, should be the responsibility of the landlord. We also discussed the possibility of expansion of the tech booth to which the City seemed receptive although no indication was given if they would be involved in that expense or not.

Brent requested that TBP put together a Capital Improvement Project list of any major projects we would foresee coming up in the future and provide a copy of that list to Eric. They also would like us to make an annual report to the City. All in all, the meeting went very well and was very informative for the City representatives.

TBPer in Oscoda Show

Shoreline Players, our neighbors to the north, will present the classic psychological thriller *Gaslight* this spring. TBP member **Michal Jacot** appears in the cast as the sinister, manipulative husband of the female lead. I hope you can plan on checking out *Gaslight* this April!

TRIVIAL PURSUITS

By **Michal Jacot**

Quite a few Tawas Bay Players had fun and showed off their smarts (and some of them just had fun) at the Tawas School Band's annual Trivia Night fundraiser.

Our team, "Thespians Acting Badly," consisted of **Laurie Jacot, Brady Jacot, Anne Williams, Penny Zacharias**, Penny's daughter **Laura Osech**, and myself. The event's emcee was **Tim Haskin**. Among other TBP people in attendance were **Alan and Tina Dalton** and **Daniel Stone**.

Our team placed in the top ten, which is a nice way of saying we came in tenth out of 14 teams. But in spite of that less-than-spectacular showing, we had fun. So much fun, in fact, that Laurie and I are going to organize a Trivia Night this summer at the Playhouse as a fundraiser for our group; see details in this issue of CURTAIN CALLS!



Your June/July CURTAIN CALLS will be mailed out on or about May 26th!

----- Have your contributions in by May 22nd! -----

Send to mljacot@sbcglobal.net or call Michal at 989-362-4765.

Thanks to Keith Frank, Becky Archer, Anne Williams, Laurie Jacot, Jolene Grusecki and Tara Western for their contributions for this issue!

What's Playing in North-ish Michigan by *Tara Western*

Title	Venue/city	Dates
Laughter on the 23 rd Floor	Alpena Civic Theatre	March 16-26...HURRY!
Sweat	Pit and Balcony/ Saginaw	March 17-24....Don't delay!
The Play That Goes Wrong	Old Town Playhouse/ Traverse City	April 7-22
These Shining Lives	Midland Center for the Arts	April 14-23
Little Shop of Horrors	Bay City Players	April 28-May 7
Gaslight	Shoreline Players/Oscoda	April 29-30, May 5-7

TBP TRIVIA NIGHT!

By Michal Jacot

We're going to do a Trivia Night Fundraiser for TBP on June 24! For those of you who have never been to a Trivia Night, trust me, it's a lot of fun whether you know trivia or not. It will be open to everyone, not just TBP members. There will be four people per team, so grab three friends and come join the fun!

One thing we will need is card tables. We're planning on about 15 to 20 tables, so if you have a standard-sized card table we can borrow for the evening, it would be very much appreciated.

In addition to trivia, we're going to line up prizes for raffles, and that's another area where you, our members, can help. Do you have a crafted item you can donate as a prize? We have lots of creative people in our group; we'd like to show off our members' talents. And we're trying to steer away from asking for donations from our local businesses, who already give so much to various groups. So if you have a unique item you don't mind parting with, we'd love to use it to raise money for our group.

Not a craft kind of person? We can still use donated items for themed gift baskets (chocolate, movie night, etc.). And, of course, you can always donate money so we can purchase items for a basket (we're trying to do this as cheaply as possible). Think about it, and we may get in touch with you soon.

Trivia Night is organized by **Michal and Laurie Jacot**. **Gregory Jacot**, who has written questions and emceed many Trivia Nights at CMU and at his school, will do the honors as our announcer.

Any questions? Call one of the Jacots and get the info you need!

Watch for more details on Trivia Night in the next CURTAIN CALLS!