



Curtain Calls

Dec. 2023 / Jan. 2024



CHRISTMAS SONGS AND STORIES

TBP Singers Holiday Tradition Continues

By Michal Jacot

The **Tawas Bay Players Singers** will once again present their free Christmas program of music and holiday stories to our public, TBP's gift to our town and those who support us.

The concert will be presented at the Playhouse Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm.

Coordinator **Pat Casey** always changes up the song list to keep it fun, and her crew of holiday crooners never fail to put a smile on everyone's face. Storytellers **Michal Jacot** and **Tim Haskin** provide inspirational holiday tales for young and old.

Christmas Songs and Stories is a nice family night out, appropriate for all ages. So join us in celebrating Christmas, and bring your friends!

Tawas Bay Player's New Venture:

READERS' THEATRE

by *Tara Western*

It was a dark and stormy August, when we heard that our fall play was cancelled. What to do?! We were called and we served. Plan B became our name and mission. "We" are super director **Suzan Nemeth**, super producer **Jolene Grusecki**, and I, **Tara Western**, a humble co-conspirator.

We met at the Barnacle Bill's, a local bar/restaurant, from 8:00 to 10:00 am for five straight Tuesdays. After floundering a bit at the beginning, we realized that opening night was Friday the Thirteenth; we had our theme: *Tawas Chillers: Readers Theatre*.

Finding material was a challenge. We ended up with a LONG short play, called *Murder Box* by Reid Conrad. Suzan remembered Tony Targan's one act, *Turbulence*, and although not exactly matching the theme, we knew it would be a hit. Tony suggested we take a look at his *Trick or Treat*. We did. It was perfect. Next, a reading of *The Tell Tale Heart*, fortunately in the public domain, and our cast shared spooky stories they found or experienced.

Instead of auditions, we held an "informational meeting" on Tuesday, September 6 asking

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Reader's Theatre

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people to explore Readers' Theatre with us. Good turnout: 13, with more men than women and that is rare!

Participants pulled a short sentence out of a hat to "perform" and the laughter ensued. End result: a cast of 16, including four new people.

Readers' Theatre gave us a flexibility that you don't find with a regular show. Some people could only do one weekend; a cast member got sick--it was easy to substitute.

One rehearsal a week was the plan and we added two more as we got closer to opening night. The hardest part was figuring out how to get on and off stage, moving the stands, removing (or not!) the chairs. It was a work in progress through the run.

We went classic: music stands and dressed in black. Fortunately, TBP has large comfortable ORANGE chairs that worked for us. Starting out with just some lights and sound effects, we decided to zhuzh it up with props, and lots of action, but minimum movement. Leo and Pat Paveglio, (the Queen of Readers' Theatre in Northern Michigan) graciously gave us feedback and said it worked.

Our local paper wrote a wonderful review, a full page, and our local radio station had us on twice in the six weeks before the show.

As Pat asked at the "adjudication," "Did you have fun?" All answered yes. Job ONE...done.

What's in the future? On Thursday, November 9, all interested adults were invited to a casual get-together where we read *It's a Wonderful Life*. Ideally, we will meet monthly to read, enjoy each other's company and plan for the future.



(From L to R): Bill Archer (narrator), Chris Mundy (Capt. Dick Johnson), Juli Engle (Jasmine), Eric Toth (Justin), Stacy Perrot (Georgia)



Whatever Alan Dalton (as Doug, center) is doing, it's certainly affecting Eric and Stacy!



Bill narrated as the pilot (Chris) argued with the flight attendant (Juli)

TPB LAWN CREW KEPT OUR GROUNDS LOOKING GOOD!

By Laurie Jacot



Thank you to the Lawn Mowers for TBP 2023-2024:

**Chris Mundy
Jody & Cheryl Provost
Stacy Perrot
Pat Casey
Pam Koepke
Michal and Laurie Jacot**

Your help was greatly appreciated!

As I am stepping down as lawn mowing coordinator, if you wish to help next summer contact a board member and let them know. It's a physical job but rewarding.

Thanks again to all my helpers!

How to Embarrass Yourself At the Theater

By Michal Jacot

I went to see Shoreline Players' production of *Little Shop of Horrors* (which was quite a show!). While I was there I noticed there were flyers posted everywhere advertising their season, with show names and dates. I wanted to make sure I had the dates for their upcoming shows on hand, and I figured the easiest way was to simply take a picture of the flyer.

I went to one of the flyers, posted on a door. I took my phone out and aimed carefully, ready to snap a picture.

Just then, the door opened. What I had failed to realize was that the door the flyer was posted on was actually the ladies' restroom. A woman exited the restroom, only to be greeted by me standing there with my camera aimed at her.

I hurriedly explained that I was taking a picture of the flyer, not the occupants of the ladies' room. I think she understood, but just to be safe I put my phone away and disappeared into the crowd.

ONE LAST ASK!

By Tara Western

These scripts have been missing forever. If you would look through your "theatre" stuff, books, garage, or attic, we would love to have these returned to our Script Library. Contact me at tarawestern@hotmail.com

*Almost Maine
Moonlight and Magnolias
Musical of Musicals
Exact Center of the Universe*

*Time for another
round of*

TBP Who Dat?

Here's a photo from the CTAM Convention at Boyne Highlands in 1983. How many of the people at this table can you identify? Answer on next page!



(Got a photo from one of our past shows or events? Send me a copy and it can be our next Who Dat!)

FEELING GROOVY

By Michal Jacot

Looking ahead (although it's not really *that* far ahead), TBP will bring entertainment to Perchville USA with our traditional Murder Mystery at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

If *Lost in the '60's* sounds familiar, it's because we presented this audience-interactive show back in 2016. It's back, with a few script and character changes, but it keeps all the fun. *Lost in the 60's* takes place in the hippie decade, where a murder occurs during a Woodstock-style music festival. The audience interrogates the suspects and puts them in the hot seat.

Attendees will be encouraged to channel their inner flower child and come dressed for the part. We'll award prizes for the grooviest threads!

Look for more details in the next CURTAIN CALLS!

**The next CURTAIN CALLS (February/March) deadline is
JANUARY 22nd!**

Have your contributions in to me by then! You can email them to mljacot@sbcglobal.net ... you can go old-school and write or type them up and give them to me personally ... or you can put your index fingers on your temples and try sending them to me by thought waves (I can't guarantee that last one).

OUTDOOR SIGN

By Pat Casey

It's been over 20 years since D & C Construction (Dibert & Casey) did the outdoor sign for the theater. Building shifts have caused it to be difficult to open and close the plexiglass. **Lyle Groff** and crew (**Mary Ann Michalski**, **Pam Koepke**, and **Pat Casey**) to the rescue! Lyle took the plexiglass out and re-mounted them. By hanging and sliding from the top we're hoping things will move a lot smoother. It took a little bit of trial and error and it still needs a minor readjustment but it should be good for another 20 years! Thanks Lyle!



Sending good wishes to all of you this Thanksgiving! Good food that fills your table, good health as you work hard, and good times with family and friends. May you have all the best delights in life. **Happy Thanksgiving!** See you all on the stage!

Answer to TBP WHODAT: Starting at left and going around the table, we have Deb DeBois, George Heffner, Tara Western, Vince Weiler, Sharon Miller, June Hudgins, and Marilyn Jurczyk.