



Curtain Calls

February/March 2025

CALLING ALL NUTS!

Tryouts For “SQUIRREL LAKE”

By Michal Jacot

If you’re looking for a fun project for this spring, come and try out for our spring comedy, *Squirrel Lake!*

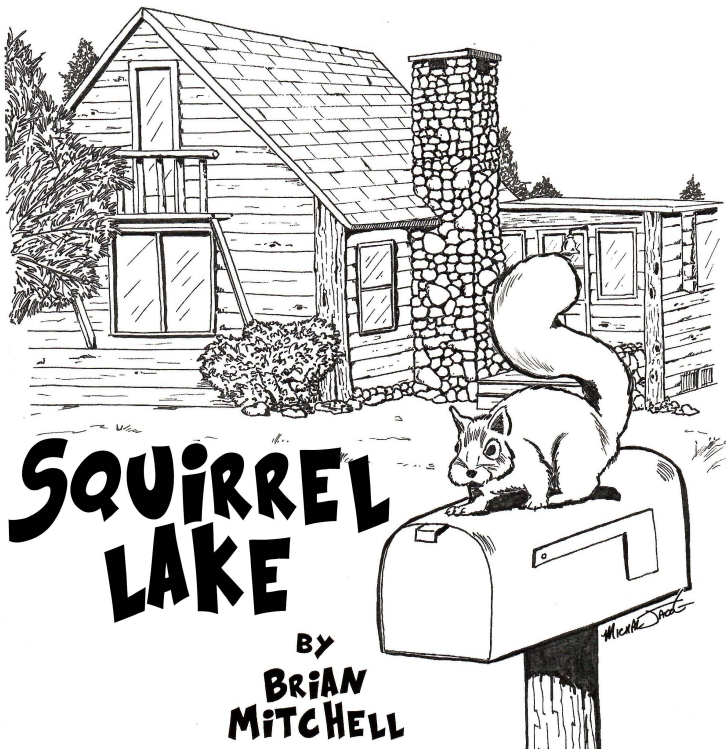
Auditions will be held **March 12 and 13 at 6:30 pm** at the Tawas Bay Playhouse. Watch for reminders in your email box as it gets closer, but mark those dates on your calendar now!

Squirrel Lake will be directed by **Ed Krebs**, with **Laurie Jacot** as Producer; the same team who brought you *Leaving Iowa last summer*. The show is a laugh-a-minute farce filled with quirky characters, oddball situations, and mistaken identities, living up to the show’s tag line: “In a place called Squirrel Lake, you’re bound to meet a nut or two!”

Three siblings gather at their family’s summer home on the shores of Squirrel Lake to read their recently deceased mother’s will. From there, a lot of things happen ... one sibling (a lawyer) has accidentally helped

swindle someone else; a nun is mistaken for a prostitute; one sibling is horribly accident-prone; another sibling’s kids (all named after countries) are completely out of control; someone mistakenly believes the nun/prostitute is carrying his child; and then there is the insane guy and the female stalker (who is also a psychic). Sounds crazy, right? It is ... and it will be crazy fun to work on it!

Ed will be looking for four men and three women ranging from 30 to 40 years old (it’s community theater; don’t worry if you’re a little older or younger than that!) Laurie is already at work filling spots for the backstage crew, so volunteer to help (or be willing to be volunteered). Overall, it looks like it’s going to be a fun time with a very funny script, so we hope to see you at tryouts!



TBP SINGERS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

By *Michal Jacot*

What's Christmas without holiday music? The Tawas Bay Players Singers were on hand to provide some musical magic around our town through December.

Their Christmas concert is an annual tradition in Tawas, and this year was another successful show. The Singers got their audience into the holiday mood with



a selection of traditional favorites and new songs. **Michal Jacot** and **Tim Haskin** usually share storytelling duties in between songs, but Tim was unable to make it this year, so Michal told tales of Christmas in between the music. TBPS director **Pat Casey** did her usual terrific job presenting a holiday show for our community.

In addition to their show at the Playhouse, the Singers shared their music with Iosco Medical Care Facility and Tawas Village, bringing smiles to the faces of the residents there! That, too, is an annual gift the Singers give to our town, and the people there love the show.

Many thanks to the Tawas Bay Players Singers for spreading the Christmas cheer!



"THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG"

A WE Players Production
Hosted by the Tawas Bay Players

**February 21, 22, 23, 28,
March 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9**

Come join the WE Players for a night of comedy where everything that could go wrong on stage ...
... does!

THE PLAY THAT GOES
WRONG



BY HENRY LEWIS, JONATHAN SAYER AND HENRY SHIELDS

President's Corner: January 2025

By *Ed Krebs*

Busy busy busy! That's the best way to describe all the happenings at Tawas Bay Players! We had a really fun *Christmas Songs and Stories* evening, in front of the set under construction for WE Players' *The Play That Goes Wrong!* Their show is a must see for everyone. The set is part of the cast, and these youth are working hard to present an amazing show that the Huffington Post declared as "THE FUNNIEST PLAY BROADWAY HAS EVER SEEN!" Find tickets at <https://weplayers.ludus.com>.

On any given night, you might find one, two, or even three shows being worked on in our theater! The summer hit *Leaving Iowa* is in final preparations to take the show to AACTFest 2025, a community theater festival which really means "competition". Producers **Michal** and **Laurie Jacot** put together the Murder Mystery *Love is Murder* fundraiser to help fund the group's participation in AACTFest – because this talented cast is great and will certainly be headed to Regionals after the upcoming State festival. They performed this fun event in East Tawas at the Buckhorn and then in Oscoda at From Huron Out, Earning over \$1400!

Squirrel Lake auditions are March 12 & 13 at 6:30 pm, a farce that will be really fun to be in. Think about becoming part of another amazing cast!

Speaking of amazing, I'd like to recognize **Pat Casey** this month. You may know her as the treasurer on the board, or perhaps the director of Tawas Bay Player Singers. But you may not know of the other dozens of things she does for our organization. She manages our website, negotiates our royalties for each show, designs programs and flyers, and another several dozen efforts. I truly appreciate her, so please say a big "thank you" next time you see her,

Finally, know that the board is working hard on several priorities they've identified as very important to our future. More about these in the next newsletter, so stay tuned!

Community Theatre in North/Northeast Michigan

by *Tara Western*

| <i>Show</i> | <i>Theatre</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>Dates</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <i>Steel Magnolias</i> | Alpena Civic | Alpena | March 13-23 |
| <i>Grand Horizons</i> | Bay City Players | Bay City | Feb. 21-23 |
| <i>AACT Fest</i> | Bay City Players | Bay City | Feb. 27-March 2 |
| <i>Love, Loss, and What I Wore</i> | Northern Lites Readers Theatre | Cadillac | Feb. 15-16 |
| <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i> | Center for the Arts | Midland | Feb. 21-March 2 |
| <i>Come Sit on the Porch for Awhile</i> | Shoreline Players | Oscoda | Feb. 22-March 2 |
| <i>The Addams Family</i> | Old Town Playhouse | Traverse City | Feb. 21-March 15 |
| <i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i> | WE Players (at TBP theatre) | East Tawas | February 14-March 2 |

Please Google the venue before making plans.....errors occur! Also, for times, ticket prices etc.

Sharon Huitema

TBP is saddened by the loss of Sharon Huitema, who passed away January 15th. Sharon played in many of our "pits" for our musicals and was always a positive and supportive member of T.B.P. We remember her contributions to our group's musicals, as well as her warm smile and upbeat attitude. She will be missed.

"It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa" at Alpena Civic Theatre

By *Michal Jacot*

Alpena Civic Theatre presented Michal Jacot's comedy *It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa* in January. Of course, **Michal and Laurie Jacot** (along with **Judy Quarters**) drove up the road to see it.

It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa was originally slated for a Tawas Bay Players production but had to be cancelled because we didn't have enough

people to cast it. Alpena's production marks the first time the show has been done in Michigan.

The Sunday matinee was a full house, and the audience loved the comedy. The cast was excellent, delivering their lines with perfect timing (the snarky interplay between siblings Keith and Frankie was especially fun to watch!).

After the show, we got a chance to do a meet-and-greet with the cast and crew, and got a nice tour of their theater. On the way home, we stopped at the Brew Haus for a nice dinner. All in all, it was a fun afternoon!



"Almost, Maine" at Turkeyville

Tawas Bay Players and WE Players alum **Brady Jacot** will be appearing in *Almost, Maine* at Turkeyville (a very fun dinner theatre venue in Marshall, Michigan) this spring. Brady recently showed up on the Turkeyville stage in their production of *Million Dollar Quartet*, so his return to their stage will be welcome!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO BE IN TBP . . . WE'LL TRAIN YOU

Professor Arnold Ludwig, M.D. of the University of Kentucky studied 1000 "original thinkers" of the 20th century. His findings: crazy people tend to choose creative jobs. His study revealed that 9 out of 10 poets surveyed had "diagnosable mental disorders." The crazy runners-up were fiction writers, with 77% . . . theater people, with 74% . . . visual arts, 73% . . . and musicians, 68%.

So, if you happen to fit one or more of these categories . . . welcome to the club.

Short Runs ...

- An ill-fated production of *The Intimate Revue* at London's Duchess Theater in 1930 closed without even completing one performance, making it the shortest theatre run ever! Scene changes took about 20 minutes each, so the management, seeing that most of the audience was leaving the theater anyway, cut seven scenes to bring the curtain down before midnight.
- The shortest stage play ever is thought to be Samuel Beckett's *Breath*. It lasts for 35 seconds and includes only screams and heavy breathing.
- In 1994, English actor Nicol Williamson was due to open a one-man show at the Criterion Theatre. And open he did ... but the evening closed prematurely when Williamson declared he was bored after ten minutes and left the theatre.

... And a Long Run

Nancy Seabrooke won the record for the longest-serving understudy when in 1979 she retired from the cast of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* in London. She had understudied the part of Mrs. Boyle for around 6,240 performances over a period of 15 years. She got to perform the part 72 times.

Here's a shot from 2004 with **Deb DeBois** as that year's Perchville Queen, flanked by past TBP ladies/Perchville Royalty **Sharon Miller, June Hudgins,** and **Tara Western.**



For those of

you keeping track, other TBP ladies who have served as Perchville Queens include **Carol Klenow, JoAnn Lutz, Brenda Chadwick, Judy Quarters** and **Jolene Grusecki**. Our TBP guys who have ruled as Perchville King include **Bill Western, Pat Ruster, Lyle Groff, Keith Frank, Tim Haskin,** and **Mike Merluzzi!** Our hats off to all of you!



Deadline for the April-May issue of CURTAIN CALLS is

March 24th!

Have your articles in to me by then! Send them to mjacot@sbcglobal.net
(I also take handwritten or typed articles; I'm an old-fashioned kind of guy.)

It's YOUR newsletter, let's hear from YOU!