

TBP Newsletter November/December:

Greetings fellow thespians...as we approach the holiday season I sincerely hope we all have something for which we are thankful. Me? I'm thankful for the amazing friends who have become family through the Tawas Bay Players. I'm grateful for the health and strength of my family/friends, especially those who've faced some significant struggles over the past year. Special shout outs to: TBP veteran, dear friend, and unsung hero Bob O'Meara who is now home from a tough couple weeks in an acute rehab facility for stroke recovery; Tina and Alan Dalton who give new meaning to the phrase "two are better than one," as they wrap up the year, one recovering from back surgery and the other contending with Shingles and diabetic complications as a result, only to discover that that ugly C word has reared its unwelcome head once again; Finally, please keep long time TBP supporter Pam Dibert in your thoughts and prayers. She recently made the most courageous and onerous decision of a lifetime by choosing to cease treatment for metastasized cancer.

These are simply some friends whose recent battles I'm aware of...for anyone else undertaking some seemingly insurmountable challenges, please know we are here to support and share with you in any way you might need or want. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Pat Casey to get the word out there.

More Local Theatre News

Last Sunday afternoon, Craig Sayer, Janice Kitchen, and I were seated in our own theater ready to be transported back to the 1920's of Chicago. We were not disappointed. *Chicago*, a challenging musical to put on under the best of circumstances, becomes even more fraught with issues when trying to schedule around the talented teens and their complicated schedules.

Our own Suzan Nemeth was up for the challenge once again, (having previously directed yours truly and host of other TBP and Shoreline newbies and veterans a few, cough cough, years, cough, ago). If practice does indeed make perfect, then this show is sure to be a super successful one for WE Players.

The set was simple, yet completely functional. Scene changes were smooth as silk, with experienced stage hands and actors knowing where to be, what to do, and how to do so unobtrusively. The main characters played by Malcolm Davis (Billy Flynn), Addison Street (Roxie Hart), Piper Hartwick (Velma Kelly), Levizen Eipert (Amos), Vivian Ladley (Mama Morton), and Diego Benitez (Announcer & Ensemble) took their jobs seriously and performed their roles with style and substance. I was also impressed by the overall ensemble and their quick change tricks (kudos to the stage crew who served as dressers), of particular note were Joleen Whitford, Charlotte Vetter, Ocean Olson who really stood out as involved cast members with exceptional reactions and timing. I loved the costumes in general, and felt they represented the characters as well as 20's quite well overall. The sequins, the glitter, the glitz, it was all too fabulous.

And the dancing? Oh my, As anyone who knows me knows, I LIVE for the dance...NOT, so I was very impressed with the finesse these young actors delivered with some complicated choreography. I would encourage everyone to check out these kids and support their efforts. Let's hope we can snag some of them for TBP one day. Well done cast and crew. Thank you for an enjoyable afternoon.

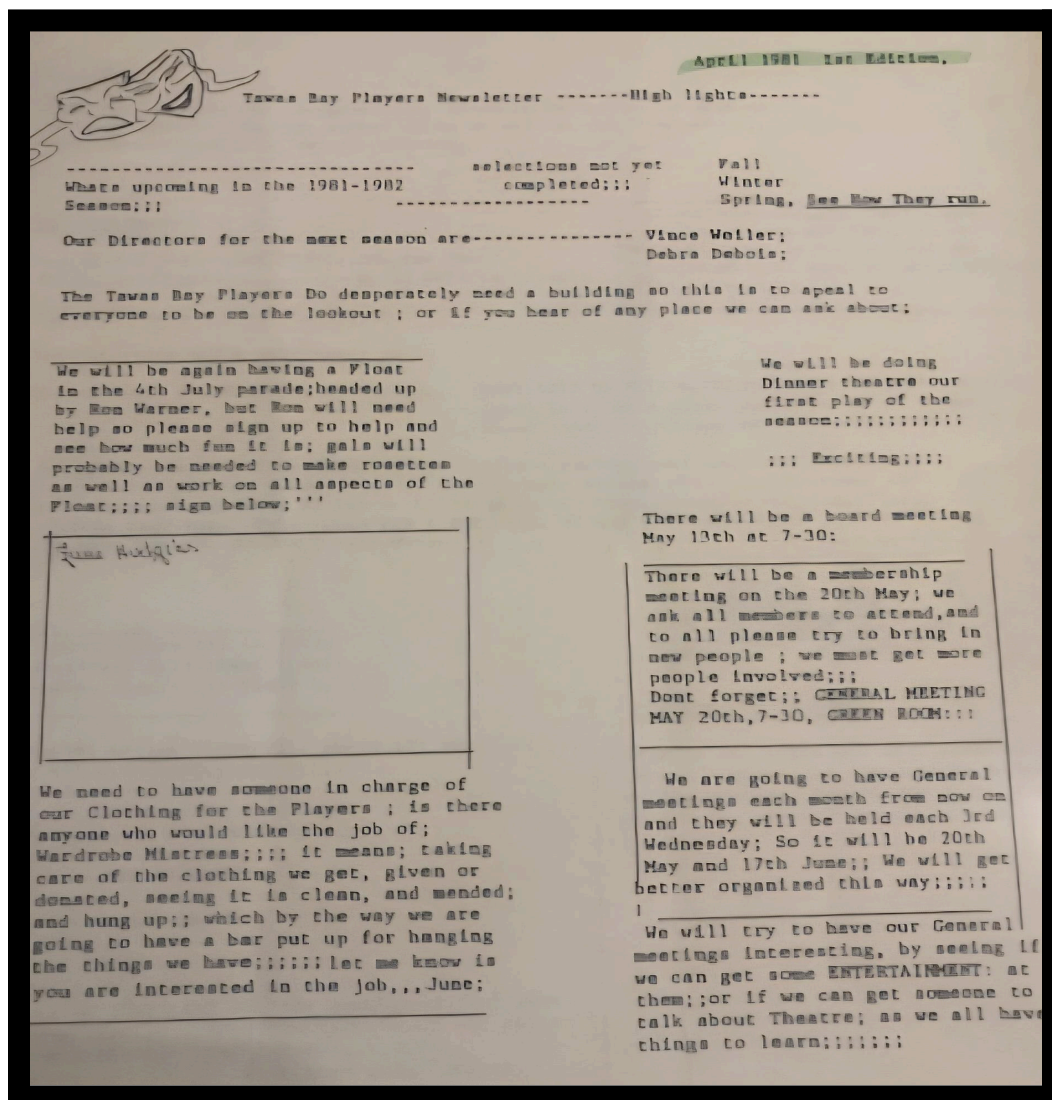
Tara Tells You All About It

A LITTLE HISTORY.....

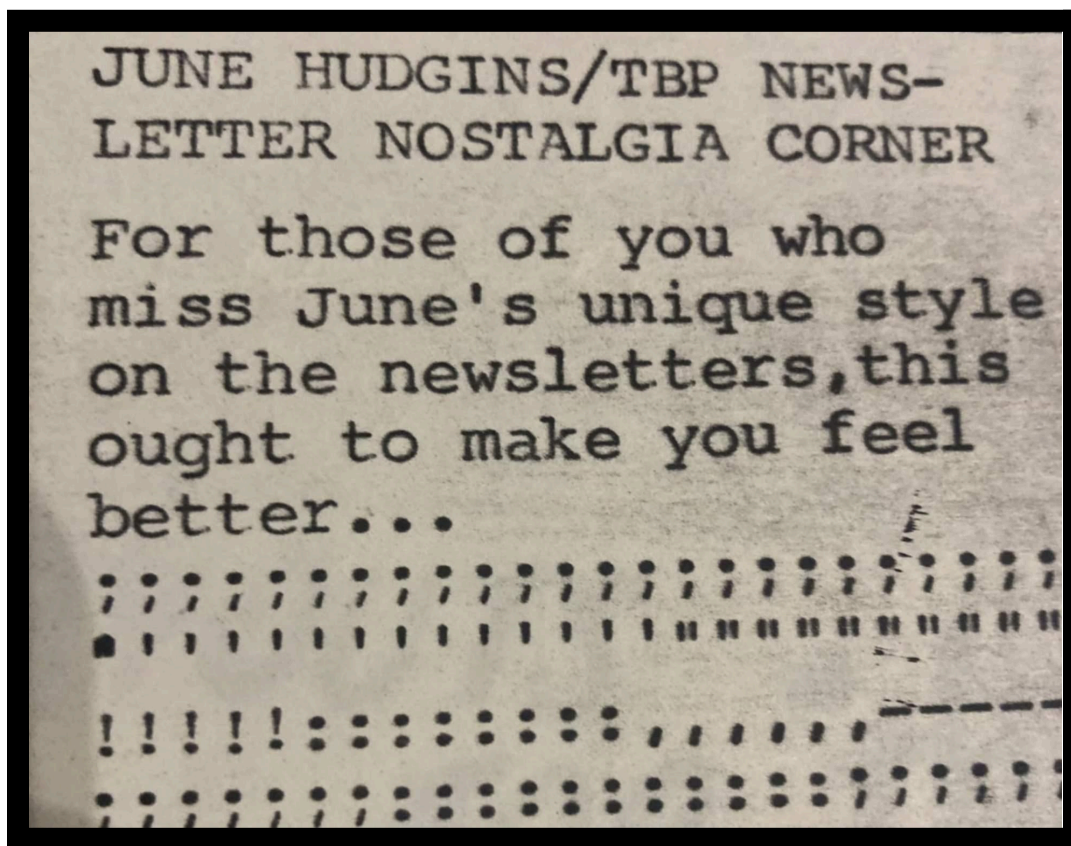
BY TARA WESTERN

Did you know that TBP's first play was in 1979? And that our beloved Queen Mum, June Hudgins put out a newsletter in April of 1981? I don't know if this was the first, as I didn't join the group until May of 1980.

Here's a picture of the first page of that first (?) newsletter.



She continued to publish newsletters in April, June, and August of 1981. In September, Michal Jacot took over and put out issues for September, October, November, and Christmas. My favorite thing in his first issue is the "JUNE HUDGINS/TBP NEWSLETTER CORNER."



You see, June liked to use the semi-colon...almost all the time. A few commas might occasionally make an appearance, but in the first issue I cannot find anything but.....'s!

Michal went on to continue as editor in chief all of 1982 and 1983 through June of that year. His signature was a comic strip about the TBP called "Bit Parts." He also wrote amazing titles for his articles. My favorites from his first two editions are: "TBP Invade CTAM Convention at Boyne Highlands.....73 people Injured, 206 Still Missing" and "Many People in TBP Need Help." TBP rocked, rolled, and ruled the CTAM conferences in the 80's, so those headlines could have been fairly accurate. And yes, TBP really needed help in so many ways.

More in further editions.....I hope!

2025 October Readers Theatre
-Jolene Grusecki

Chillers and Chuckles Back for Third Straight Year!

TBP Readers Theatre *Chillers and Chuckles* thrilled audience members with the theme of Fractured Fairy Tales. Director Barb Hunter, along with the cast, found and edited scripts that were bone-chilling and funny at the same time. The skill of our actors captivated the patrons, as their vocal expressions and clarity enhanced the performance experience. Additionally, "Pop-Up" audience members read one-liners that drew some chuckles. An example included, "I saw a severed hand in the dumpster; it gave me a thumbs-up when I walked by."

Buckhorn Inn hosted the one-night performance, and the lasagna-dinner buffet was a delicious bonus. On a side note, Buckhorn owner Mary Gmeiner is a very supportive friend to Tawas Bay Players, so please consider giving her your business. I highly recommend her Reuben Sandwich and French Fries!







As a follow-up to production, Barb and I hosted a post-production meeting; it provided great cast suggestions for improving and hosting again next fall. Should you wish to join us, please contact me at 989-310-1530 or jgrusecki@gmail.com

DIDJA KNOW....

OPEN MIC NIGHT HITS THE TAWASES

BY TARA WESTERN

What is Open Mic? It's an informal event in a bar, restaurant, etc. where people share: a personal story, a song, a skit, a poem, or even a joke. Open Mic nights are typically set up for amateurs giving them a casual, supportive space for trying out new material or gaining experience in front of a live audience.

Open Mic night at Tilly's was born at a Plan B/Chillers meeting with Jolene Grusecki, Suzan Nemeth, Neil Peterson, and me.

At that first meeting, we set the date, designed a flyer (Neil), and came up with our name: The JaNiTorS (Neil, again!) From idea to fruition in a couple of hours!

That said, the event isn't a lot of work. We greet people at 7 pm, ask who is there to perform, write their name down. We then number the names and pull them from a hat.

Tilly's has hosted three Open Mics, with smallish, but enthusiastic groups.

A variety of talent has appeared: singers, joke tellers, writers, personal stories. Some of the most memorable moments are these personal anecdotes from a person's past i.e. Jolene and the 5 K, Suzan's black cat/dad, Tracee's poop knife, and Tara's wedding. [editor's note, and if you don't get it, that's because you should have gone! So next time, go!]

The most recent Open Mic Night was September 30. Future dates are not mapped out, but please consider joining us with an act or just to enjoy a fancy coffee or tea. Ages 16+, and no political, religious, or vulgar content. Tara will ring the Yak bell at 7, Be there or be square.

They Grow Up So Fast...

Brady Jacot, who grew up with the TBP (and did a terrific one-man show fundraiser for us a few years back) is now a professional actor. He recently did a commercial for DTE. And look who showed up on the cover of their magazine! Way to go, Brady!

Upcoming Attractions of Interest:

TBP MURDER MYSTERY

Capital Campaign Fundraiser - Michal Jacot

TBP is doing another murder mystery to fundraise for our Capital Campaign.

It started when Gold Bond Building Products contacted TBP looking for entertainment for their company's Christmas party. Since it's their 100th anniversary, they were looking for a murder mystery evening based in the Roaring 20's.

Writer Michal Jacot happened to have such a script on hand (TBP did "The Speakeasy Murder" a few years back, shortly after the pandemic). All of the profits will go toward TBP's Capital Campaign to help raise money for improvements to our theater.

"The Speakeasy Murder" takes everyone back to the Roaring 20's, an era of fun, music ... and danger. At Chicago's Easyspeak Speakeasy, a secret bar trying to avoid those pesky Prohibition laws, the bar's saxophone player is found dead. There are lots of suspicious characters ... but who gave him the big sleep?

The suspects: gangster Ross "The Boss" Valentini (Chad Bondie); his flapper girlfriend Suzette DeVine (Shannone Bondie); "Big Bertha" Cannon, the Prohibition crusader (Barb Hunter); Kathryn Kreslin, the silent movie actress (Lily Toth); Lucky Gilroy, the bar's manager (Ed Krebs); and "Flappy Lips" Flanagan, the mobster (Eric Toth). They're all interrogated by Detective Scott Reasoner (Michal Jacot) and, of course, the audience.

The show is produced by Laurie Jacot. It will be presented for Gold Bond employees at the Tawas Bay Beach Resort on December 13th. Pictures in the next Curtain Calls!

Songs and Stories

Don't forget TBP Singers Songs and Stories will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. If you have time and the inclination, I'm sure Laure Jacot would love to hear from anyone who could donate some yummy cookies for the after show reception. Director Pat Casey has put together another fun and festive show with some old favorites and some new tunes to bring out the holiday spirit, while Michal Jacot has been busily curating the best stories to share and enhance what we're singing. It's a fun night, and a chance for TBP to give back to the community who gives us so much support throughout the year. Hope to see you there.