



Tawas Bay Players Curtain Calls
February/March 2026

A Word From Barb...

I apologize for being late...again. In addition to the FREEZING temperatures, we were battling some issues at the Hunter Homefront. In early January my granddaughters were involved in a serious car accident...luckily they only experienced some abrasions and minor cuts, but the experience left all of us a little shaken. Back to routine, and bam, strep throat hits 10 year old, four year old, and their momma. Grandma here managed to hold down the fort and escaped *pretty* much unscathed. As I type this, I am readying myself for the sunnier skies of Florida where'll I'll be happily mooching off my oldest (Helix), bonding with my grandsons (Stefan 15 and Eli 11), and chillaxing with my incredible daughter-in-law Sury. I'll also get some time to play with our Tawas contingent in Plant City, including Pat Casey and Pam Koepke, along with a Szatkowski or two, a couple Quarters, maybe a Groff...you never know who you'll run into down here. I'll be bringing some of this cold with me, it looks like, so hopefully you'll get some relief here. Thank you for your patience. Someday I'll get this "write"...right? LOL

Below, how I really feel about winter...

The older I get, no



COMING ATTRACTIONS...

MoonGlow...Brenda Chadwick

“MOONGLOW”

By

Kim Carney

Production date May 2026

Brenda Chadwick, Director

Moonglow, set in 1997, is the story of Maxine and Joe. Maxine’s daughter, Diane, had to make the very hard decision to put her mom in a nursing home. At the same time, Joe moves himself into the facility. Joe understands that he shouldn’t be living alone, but his adult son Greg, thinks he knows what is best for his dad. Maxine and Joe have times of lucidity, but often have mental lapses when they revert back to their youth in the 1940s and they begin to see each other as their first loves from that era.

The younger versions of Maxine and Joe, the Soldier and the Girl, were dancers and that played a role not only in their youth, but even now in their waning years. Their favorite song, of course, is *Moonglow*. Their children, Greg and Diane, have trouble understanding the process of their parents’ disease, but the nursing home director, Benita, tries to help them while still keeping a facility full of residents under control.

Characters:

Maxine – 70+-year-old nursing home resident with Alzheimer’s. She’s feisty and then frail and passes away at the closing scene of the play.

Joe – 70+ year-old nursing home resident with Alzheimer’s. Joe is a headstrong Italian American who can decide what is best for himself.

Girl – 20ish year-old jitterbug dancer who is the young version of Maxine. She is bubbly and full of energy! (dancing required)

The Sailor - 20ish year-old sailor who is the young version of Joe. A smooth talker but a gentleman. (dancing required)

Diane – 40+ year old daughter of Maxine. A concerned daughter that only wants what is best for her mom, but she may not actually know what’s best.

Greg – 40+ year-old son of Joe. He’s an opinionated son who is sure he knows what’s best for dad, but turns out to be wrong.

Benita – 30+ year-old nursing home director, ring leader of the circus that is happening around her.

The play is a drama with moments of humor as the characters try to navigate and understand this cruel disease. Each of the characters go through a multitude of emotions including: sympathy, love, sadness, delight, concern, confusion, joy and anger. The play is relatable to many who are going through these struggles with their own aging parents.

If possible, maybe we could get someone from one of our local care facilities to share information about dealing with Alzheimer's available during intermission or after curtain, with the further possibility of having someone there to answer questions.

Please note: this is a play that moves back and forth in time, bringing all the subtleties of the language and culture of the time. As such:

Language – Some swearwords are used. Examples: Bitch, Dick, God Damnit, Jesus Christ

Racism – One line reference to negros and how well they dance.

Sexual reference – Characters are discovered having sex but the “action” is not seen on stage.

For interested actors:

Potential rehearsal and production schedule:

Rehearsals - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm starting late February/early March. (Will work around WE Players winter production schedule.)

Moonlight Production – May 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17

The difference between Alzheimer's and Dementia

Dementia is a general term describing a decline in mental ability that impairs daily life, while Alzheimer's disease is a specific type of dementia and the most common cause of dementia. Essentially, Alzheimer's is a disease that leads to dementia, which is a collection of symptoms.

Dementia is an umbrella term for a group of symptoms that affect thinking, memory, and behavior. These symptoms can interfere with a person's ability to perform everyday tasks. There are many different types of dementia, each with its own specific causes and characteristics.

Alzheimer's Disease is a degenerative brain disease that causes progressive memory loss, and cognitive decline. It is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60-80% of cases.

Moonglow

On a picnic morning,
Without a warning,
I looked at you,
And somehow I knew...
It must have been moonglow,
Way up in the blue,
It must have been moonglow,
That led me straight to you...
I still hear you sayin';
Dear heart hold me fast,
And I start in prayin'
Oh lord, please let this last,

We... seem to float right through the air,
Heavenly songs seem to come from everywhere,
And now when there's moonglow,
Way up in the blue,
I always remember,
That moonglow gave me you...
You and I in the sunshine,
We strolled the fields and far,
Heavenly songs seemed to come from everywhere,
And now when there's moonglow
Way up in the blue,
I always remember,
That moonglow gave me you,
That moonglow gave me you,
That moonglow gave me you...

TAWAS BAY PLAYERS

MOONGLOW

AUDITIONS

FEBRUARY 9TH AND 10TH
AT 6PM



- *Moonglow* by Kim Carney
- A heartfelt drama exploring the effects of Alzheimer's on patients and their families.
- Needed: 4 Women and 3 Men
**2 Mature Character Actors 60+



Tawas Bay Playhouse
Questions: Brenda 989-820-5174

Ponderings from our President by Ed Krebs

Hot News about the Playhouse

While Kermit the Frog likes to be green, the rest of us like to be warm in the winter. In December we contracted with Mr. Heat to replace the very old main theater furnace with a new high efficiency model. Not only will it save some utility costs, it is significantly more quiet. You can now sit in the front row of the audience and barely notice if it's running. The old furnace had been turned up so the main output was over 190°, noisy, and parts haven't been available for years. I can certainly notice an improvement in the audience entrance and backstage. There are 2 other furnaces in the building that will eventually need to be replaced, and we are working on a bit of a redesign of the HVAC for Hudgin's Hall.

Having a good plan and design will be important as we seek funding in the near future. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your winter and stay warm!

But Wait, There's More:

Happy belated New Year! As I write this, we're anxiously awaiting the results of our latest MACC Grant Request. The Michigan Arts and Culture Council opened a short grant window in January. Fortunately the board had plenty of pre-work already done as we prepare for our Capital Campaign.

The grant this year has Operational as well as Equipment/Facility funds we can seek, and we're applying in both categories. We are hoping to fund a significant sound system upgrade – and with some luck and a favorable grant award, we'll be writing more about it in upcoming newsletters. The grant requires 25% matching funds – cash (no in-kind contribution this time).

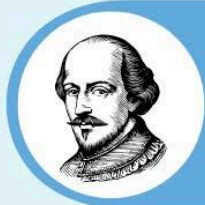
We've hired a professional grant writer and fundraiser to help with both the Grant and the Capital Campaign planning. One goal will be to raise 70% - 80% of our objective before we launch the public campaign! This will include grants, corporate contributions – and you! There will be more about that in the coming months. But you certainly don't need to wait if you'd like to make a contribution, or suggest an organization or business that can be approached.

We're seeking (gulp!) up to \$600,000 all together! Once the campaign plan is firmed up, you'll see the entire list of needs and wants. (If you really want to know now, just ask. We've got a preliminary list, we just need to finalize and prioritize.) The Tawas Bay Playhouse is a gem and an important part of the community. We've got some amazing shows coming this year, starting with *Moonglow* in May. And please support the WE Players productions too!

Ed Krebs



5 SIGNS YOU'RE A THEATRE ADDICT



You quote Shakespeare... in everyday conversation.

"Parting is such sweet sorrow" when saying goodbye to your dog? Yep. Classic sign.

01

02

You judge every hallway for its acoustics.

You have to know if you could monologue dramatically in it.



Your closet is 30% costumes, 50% black clothing, and 20% glitter.

And somehow, you still never have the right shoes for your character.

03

04

You've cried over a prop.

Not because it was meaningful - because someone broke it five minutes before curtain.



You can't watch a show without imagining yourself in it.

"Oh, I'd nail that role..." every. single. time.

05

Thanks to Tara Western, here's what's playing around the state:

Community Theatre in Northern and Northeast Michigan

by Tara Western

Show	Theatre	City	Dates
<i>Finding Gladys</i>	Alpena Civic	Alpena	Mar. 12-15; 19-22
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Bay City Players	Bay City	Jan23-Feb. 1
<i>Morning After Grace</i>	Bay City Players	Bay City	Feb. 20-22
<i>How Does Your Garden Grow?</i>	Northern Lites: Readers Theatre	Cadillac	April 25-26
<i>All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kdng.</i>	Cadillac Footliters	Cadillac	March 6-14
<i>Nana's Naughty Knickers</i>	Northland Players	Cheboygan	Feb. 6,7,13,14
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Center for the Arts	Midland	Feb. 27-March 8
<i>Menopause, the Musical #2</i>	Center for the Arts	Midland	March 14
<i>13 Jr. (youth theatre)</i>	Center for the Arts	Midland	March 26-29
<i>Whose Life Is It Anyway?</i>	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Jan. 30-Feb. 7
<i>Misery</i>	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Feb. 13-21
<i>This Murder Was Staged</i>	Shoreline Players	Oscoda	March 21, 22,27,28,29

<i>Lost Girl</i>	WE Players	East Tawas	Feb. 20,21,22,27,28, March 1
------------------	------------	------------	------------------------------------

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

And looking forward to summertime? Here's a thought from Tracee' Lentz

Decades of Delight

Happy New Year to all my fellow Thespians! I've got just the thing to take your mind off the cold and gray weather out there. Get your act together! That's right, put together an act for Decades of Delight, our summer show. We are looking for 5 minute "acts" songs (singing or playing), skits, dances...I think you get it. I know I mentioned this before but the show is going to showcase entertainment through the decades, 10 decades to be exact.

Put together your act and be ready to audition it on **Sunday May 3, at 6:00pm** at the playhouse. Don't worry if it isn't polished, we will do that in rehearsals. Don't have an act but want to be part of this fantastic variety show? Come to the audition night! We will plug in the acts we have and will fill in with others that we create with those of you that do not have an act already. If you do have an act already, we may call upon you to be part of other skits to round out the decades. If you have questions, feel free to email Tracee' or Jolene.

tdlantz1@gmail.com or jgrusecki@gmail.com

Finally, from Judy Quarters:

Thank You!

A big thank you to all the people who graciously donated food for Tina Dalton's Celebration of Life at the theater. We had plenty of food between TBP and WE Players, which was nice as we had a great group of people to remember Tina and show her family our love.

Spring/Summer/Fall Shows

We are fortunate to still be able to have live performances this winter, thanks to the youth productions of WE Players. With *Chicago* in November and now with *Lost Girls*, being performed the last two week-ends of February. Make sure you make plans to see it!

We will be gearing up for the Spring Show - *Moonglow* - directed by Brenda Chadwick in May, *Decades of Delight* in July being directed and produced by Tracee' Lentz and Jolene Grusecki and our fall show being *Camp-O-Chemo* in October directed by Barb Hunter.

We will be looking for lots of volunteers in all categories and we hope to have a successful 2026!