

TBP Curtain Calls September/October 2026

Greetings Fellow Thespians: this is your newsletter editor Barb speaking, (well, not speaking, technically I'm writing...but I digress) and we are off to a phenomenal start on our Fall Play *My Summer at Camp-O-Chem-O* based upon the experiences of our own Carol Kushion as she navigated cancer treatment, this play tells the story of six very unique, endearing, and relatable people on their own journeys with cancer treatment.

Joined by their fearless leader and nurse extraordinaire Kelly, you'll enjoy an evening of drama, with humorous moments peppered throughout, and a whole lot of opportunities to learn about cancer and to empathize with those battling the Red Dragon a.k.a cancer. Our cast features three new people to our group, stage, and audiences, so I'm excited about that.

Our cast:

Lorraine - Mary Bean

Dutch - Heidi Howe

Jaqueline - Linda Havers

John - Ray Skiver

Jacob - Adam Davis

Nurse Kelly - Cheryl Colvin

Brook - Savannah Utter

Written by Carol Kushion and Richard W. Hingst, produced by Judy Quarters, directed by Barb Hunter with assistant director Pam Koepke, and stage manager Becky Archer.

We've shared personal stories of our own families' experiences with cancer, genuine laughs at each other's antics (such as Ray being nearly ejected into the audience while trying out our new hospital chairs). It's also been such a treat to have author Carol come in and share information about the characters and what prompted their inclusion. She and Richard Hingst have given us carte blanche when it comes to additions, deletions, filming, etc. As directors, Pam Koepke and I are especially interested in her information and experiences.

The cast has been hard at work, and a few of them are almost totally off book already, so we're off to a stellar start and work on Act 2 began last Wednesday. Drop in and catch a rehearsal if you like. We are M-W 6:30-8:30 until the week before and week of Hell week.

Annual Meeting

If there's one thing we TBP'ers know how to do, it's eat, and at our Annual Meeting on August 21st, members (and any guests) were treated to a bountiful buffet of delicious dishes prepared by our very own group. The talk of the evening was Tracee Lentz's unique appetizer. We're all waiting on the recipe. Tracee; come on, cough it up.

After filling our bellies, we made our way into the theater where we reviewed the many accomplishments of our group, learned about Sponsorships and how they worked, and discussed the major fundraising efforts taking place this year.

We had the chance to vote for board members, and this year there was a nice variety of people running. That's always nice to see, as I can remember years where we couldn't get anyone to run.

Thank you to all those who threw their hats in the ring and congratulations to Stacy Perrot, Keith Frank, and Jeff Chadwick who will be serving new terms this year.



Lastly we selected the recipient of this year's Founder's Award. It was a genuine pleasure to thank Elizabeth "Beth" Borowski for all her work behind the scenes as well as up on stage. She's one of the many silent theater ninjas we have in our group who sneak in, do a phenomenal job, and then sneak out again. Beth is a long time TBP member, and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award for 2025 - 2026!



Dear Drama Diva:

I was just cast in my first play in our community theater, and I am terrified that I won't be able to learn my lines before drop script happens. Any ideas?

Concerned Community Theatre Member

Dear CCTM,

Congratulations! Learning lines is a daunting task (one exception: Keith Frank!). I applaud your concern because that shows that you are taking your role seriously.

First read the script through a few times. Highlight your lines!

Start the memorization process. Here are some different methods. Mix and match; find what works for YOU.

- Take it in chunks. Divide by scenes or pages.
- Once you have a section memorized, review it at least once daily.
- Make time EVERY day to work on it. It doesn't have to be an hour. But working for 15-20 minutes at a time is also beneficial.
- If you really feel that you don't have time today, squeeze in five- or ten-minute chunks.
- During rehearsals, if you have some downtime, find a castmate to work on your lines. Go early and work. Go out for coffee or a drink and work.
- Some people have great success by writing their lines out in longhand. Research: Writing by hand, engages several brain systems involved in movement, visual processing, sensory processing and memory."

The sooner you know your lines the more fun you will have acting. I found this out rather late in my "career". But trust me, you will enjoy rehearsals and performing sooner and better if you learn your lines asap.

Yours in Theatre,

Drama Diva



Keith Frank shot me a photo of our own, (now deceased) member Deb DeBois. Deb spearheaded a raffle every year for too many years to count, raising considerable funds for our group by helping to pay our bills in order to keep our happy home. Thanks for the Blast from the Past Keith.

Community Theatre in Northern and Northeast Michigan

Compiled by Tara Western

Show	Theatre	City	Dates
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown	Alpena Civic	Alpena	October 22-Nov. 1
The Crucible	Bay City Players	Bay City	Oct 1-18, 23-25
Dracula: a Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really	Cadillac Footliters	Cadillac	Oct. 22-25
Christmas Show	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	Cadillac	October 4 & 5
Jersey Boys	Center for the Arts	Midland	Oct. 30-Nov. 1
Come From Away	Center for the Arts	Midland	Nov. 13-22
Clue	Center for the Arts	Midland	Nov.14-15
1776	Northland Players	Cheboygan	Nov. 6,7,8,13,14
Nuts	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Oct. 2 and 3
Honky Tonk Laundry	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Oct. 9-11
Dracula: a Comedy of Terrors	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Oct 23-31
Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella	Rogers City Community Theatre	Rogers City	Nov. 6,7,8,13,14,15
Into the Woods	Shoreline Players	Oscoda	November 7,8,13,14,15

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

“A Book Review for Theatre Lovers--Especially Musicals” by Tara Western

Title: *Theatre Kid: a Broadway Memoir* by Jeffrey Selle

This is one terrific book. Right up there with John Lithgow's *Drama: an Actor's Education* ©2011 and Moss Hart's *Act One* ©1959, old but really good.

Jeffrey works his way to the top, collaborating with Jonathan Larson on *Rent* and Lin-Manuel Miranda on *Hamilton*. It's a long journey, but he is tenacious.

He starts out in a poor Detroit neighborhood called Cardboard Village. He camps up north on the AuSable River in Oscoda, and his father has an affair with a blonde he met in Tawas!

Jeffrey is adopted but his dysfunctional parents support his dreams. His fourth-grade teacher calls him “a theatre kid” when he asks to put on *Adventureland*, the play he wrote.

After high school, Jeffrey enrolled in the University of Michigan where he and boyfriend, Andrew, direct *Grease* and *It's a Wonderful Life: the musical* (!).

Jeffrey then heads for New York City where he struggles but eventually makes it to Broadway. He makes Broadway musical history; What *Rent*, *Avenue Q*, *In the Heights*, and *Hamilton* have in common is that they all expanded the notion of a kind of music could play on Broadway.

Theatre Kid reads like a novel; I had a hard time putting it down

Theatre Kid: a Broadway Memoir can be ordered from the IADL website www.iadlib.org, assuming you have a library card. You do, don't you? If you don't, take your driver's license to any branch library (there's 8!) and get a card. Now!

TBP Singers Update

Laurie Jacot



The Tawas Bay Players Singers wowed the crowd at the Labor Day Arts & Crafts Show on the beach with over an hour of musical entertainment. It was fun to watch bystanders smiling, singing along to the songs, and even dancing. TBP Singers, thanks for all you do!

Murder in Michigan at The Buckhorn

By Michal Jacot



Once again, TBP is bringing a little murder and mayhem to the Buckhorn Inn.

We'll present "Murder in Michigan" at the iconic local restaurant on Saturday, October 3rd. We did two murder mysteries at the Buckhorn last year to raise funds for our new tech booth. This year is the same fundraiser format, looking to raise a few dollars for renovations at the theater.

As you might guess, "Murder in Michigan" has a Michigan theme. When someone dies under suspicious circumstances at a "Say Yes to Michigan" party, it's up to the audience to figure out who is the guilty party.

The show is filled with references to our home state, and the characters have fun names that will keep everyone on their toes.

"Murder in Michigan" is written and directed by Michal Jacot, and produced by Laurie Jacot. The cast includes Chris Mundy as "Hugh Ronn," Alan Dalton as "Mackie Nawbridge," Mindy Davis as "Ann Tario," Adam Davis as "Mitch Hogan," Eric Toth as "Eerie," and Barb Richardson as "Sue Perriore," Michal Jacot and Ed Krebs, as "Detective Joe Hannisburg" and "Police Chief Burt Lake" oversee the investigation.

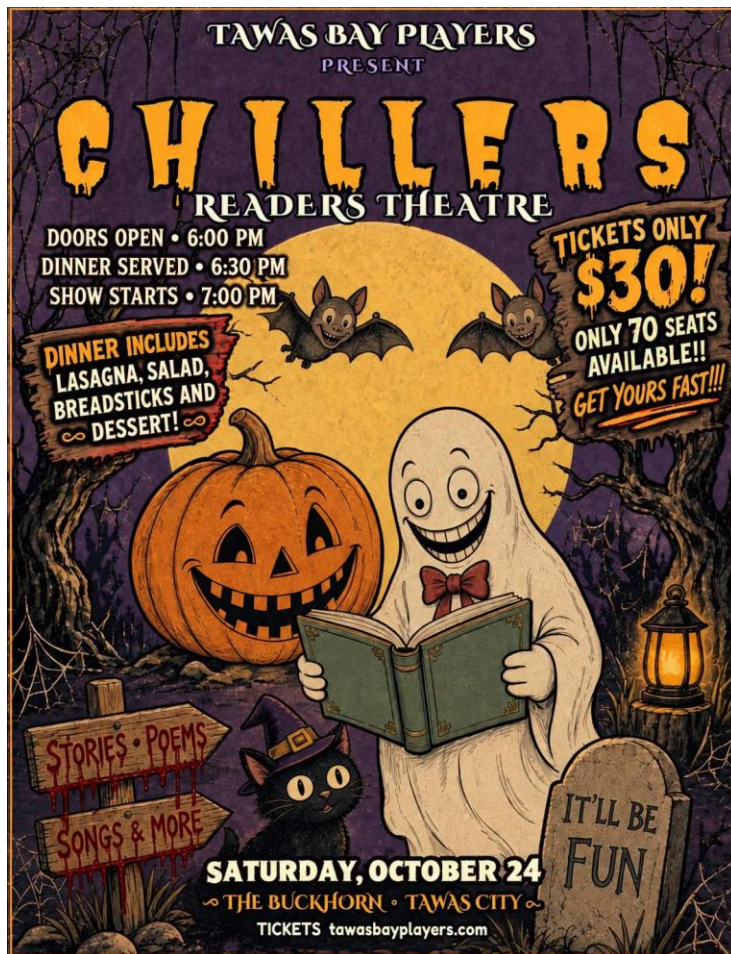
The audience is welcome to ask questions of the suspects throughout the evening. They can cast a vote for who they think is the murderer. One of the correct guessers will win a grand prize, and there will be other Michigan-themed gifts awarded.

So if you're looking for a fun night out, and you'd like to support our fundraising cause, come on out and join us. Tickets are \$30 each and include a dinner of salisbury steak, sides, and dessert, with the murder mystery performance afterwards.

Go to: www.tawasbayplayers.com for tickets! Hurry. They're selling fast!

TBP's Chillers Readers Theatre Chillers

By Tara Western



Chillers Readers' theatre aka a "Night of Chuckles, Gasps and Guffaws" will be presented at the Buckhorn Inn on Saturday, October 24. Doors open at 6:00 pm, dinner is at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7. Dinner includes lasagna, salad, breadsticks, a non-alcoholic beverage and dessert. Liquor available at the bar.

Tickets are \$30 for the meal and show and can be purchased online at www.tawasbayplayers.com

Alan Dalton and Eric Toth, two veteran Chiller participants, are directing this year's show with Annie Williams producing.

Besides a fortune teller with a *real* crystal ball, there will be a variety of surprises from our talented cast: Bill Archer, Michal Jacot, Brenda Chadwick, Jeff Chadwick, Tracee Lentz, Chris Mundy, Ed Krebs,

Linda Havens, Nina O'Loughlin, Karlene Falker and Nikki LaMay.

Jolene Grusecki says: "On behalf of Chillers' creators (Tara, Suzan, and I), * [so the past two what was I? Chopped liver?! Oops. Did I write that out loud?] the passing of the torch to Alan and Eric is an exciting one! Their creative (And diabolical!?) minds will bring fresh twists to this Fourth annual event!"

If I may quote the directors, "IT'S GONNA BE FUN". Please support your fellow Players and enjoy the show!

Decades of Delight-fulness!

Tracee Lentz and Jolene Grusecki

Our summer show was a departure from TBP's normal productions. The variety-show format, written and organized by us (Director Tracee and Producer Jolene), attracted performers from the Tawas, Au Gres, Standish, and Prescott areas. During auditions, many displayed their talents that fit into the decades of 1920s-2010s; both of us were thrilled with the array of entertainment! We truly felt that the summer audiences enjoyed the "walk down memory lane" via songs/sing-a-longs, dances, and skits.

The “Labor of Love” was a success and many memories were made! Tracee’s reflections summed it up the best, “It was a great team to work with, and ‘It will be fun!’ theme worked perfectly.” As the first-time director, she admired everyone, “There really wasn’t much to direct because the cast was so talented and committed.” Every performance was a surprise, as “Scenes from a Cap” had her asking, “Oh! I wonder what they are going to say tonight?”

The Donor Wall was a success both in visibility of support and financial help to defray expenses. Two sponsors, Edward Jones (East Tawas) and Stage Right, were quite generous, too.

Another community bonus was our partnership with the Tawas Bay Art Gallery. Lori Bayn was our liaison and curator; artists from the gallery sold their decades-designed artwork in Hudgins Hall during intermission, and they donated 10% in sales to the production.

The question often came up, “When are we going to do this again?” “Decades II”? Hmmmm... Only time will tell, so stay tuned...



Big thanks to all our contributors for this edition! It's so nice to see our members invest in our newsletter. You are a fabulous group of which I'm proud to be a member.