



IOWA COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

**Special Edition
April 2015**

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE FESTIVAL & GALA 2015



Waterloo Community Playhouse/Black Hawk Children's Theatre hosted the Iowa Festival April 9-12. Seven community theatres brought productions to this year's Festival. competition

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Waterloo Community Theatre/
Black Hawk Children's Theatre

Cast: John Nicol, Lily Gast, Sam Wright, Marjorie Gast,
Austin Manross, Abby Zeets, Tyler Fulks, Dante
Benjergedes, Shelby Davis, Olivia Reiter, Alex Sulentic

Directed by Anita Ross

Music Direction by Daniel & Rosemary Gast

RETREAT FROM MOSCOW

Sioux City Community Theatre

Cast: Rick Myers, Denise Heiman, Wayne Blum

Directed by Michael Skaff

HONEYMOON MOTEL

Webster City Community Theatre

Cast: Curt Harrenstein, Abby Sharp, Vern Cross,
Kayleen Kehoe, Mary Sealine, Kevin Sharp, Tim
Berven, Angela Rottering, Mikey Paisley, Kyle Clum

Directed by Mike Kroona

A BENCH AT THE EDGE

Great River Players—Keokuk

Cast: Merissa Lewiston, Doug Reed, Sue Scott, Sam Reed

Directed by Christal Lewiston

ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD

The Wilson Performing Arts Center—Red Oak

Cast: Michael Harvey, Julie Karns, Misty Wissel, Nancy
Wright, Carol Bellairs, John Olson, Don Morgan, Jeff
DeYoung, Barb Weirich, Robert Keefer, Tommy Hanna,

Eva Sherman, Larry Brandstetter, Shari Buehler

Directed by John Olson

LAUNDRY & BOURBON

Iowa City Community Theatre

Cast: Erin Mills, Audrey Thompson-Wallace, Valerie Davine

Directed by Jen Brown

THE HALLELUJAH GIRLS

Newton Community Theatre

Cast: Benita Gearhart, Julie Laube, Julie Schaeffer, Tammy
Sposeto, Judy Richmond, Sandy Olsthoorn, Scott Schaeffer

Directed by Sue Beukema

Each theatre had an opportunity to unload into a 10' x 10' storage space at the Hope Martin Theatre. A 1 1/2 hour technical rehearsal was allowed giving each troupe a chance to set and strike their set from and into a 10' x 10' on-deck space, check light and sound cues, and practice on an unfamiliar stage. They were given instructions from Katrina Ploof, the Festival Commissioner from AACT.

When it was performance time, the troupe had up to 10 minutes to assemble their set, no more than 60 minutes to perform, and up to ten minutes to strike their set. Then they moved to the auditorium's front row to hear comments from the panel of adjudicators.

Festival participants were given the opportunity to increase their theatrical knowledge during six workshops.

Marc Devine presented workshops on "Sounding the Vocal Anatomy: An Exploration of the Somatic Voice" and "An Introduction to Viewpoints: Deconstructing Space and Time."

Lara Maerz conducted workshops on "Stage Management 101" and "Nailing the Audition."

Chad Kolbe's workshops were "Creation of a Portfolio" and "Shaping with Light."

Other weekend festivities included a welcoming reception on Thursday night, catered lunches on Friday and Saturday, a delicious Friday night dinner and cast social, hor d'oeuvres on Saturday night, the Gala awards banquet, and Sunday's announcement of the winners.

WCT/BHCT's Artistic Director Matthew Kerns was featured in a showcase performance Sunday morning.

**Our hats are off to the team at WCP/BHCT
who worked so hard to make Festival a success!**



AACT REGION V FESTIVAL
Hosted by Newton Community Theatre
April 23-26, 2015

AACTFest Chair, Sue Beukema is pleased to announce plans for the upcoming AACT Region V Festival. The schedule begins on Thursday evening, April 23, with an on-sight evening get-acquainted party from 8:15-9:15.

The following adjudicators will be commenting on the productions and selecting the one that will advance to the AACT National Festival in Grand Rapids, MI June 24-28.

Allen Ebert from Madison, WI
 Ron Ziegler from North Port, FL
 Kristi Quinn from Dakota City, NE

Friday, April 24.

- 9:00 "Polishing a Production" Ron Ziegler
- 10:15 "Creating Costumes" Joni Sackett of Theatre Cedar Rapids
- 11:30 "Fundraising" Kristi Quinn
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 1:30 County Seat Theatre Company, Minnesota B
 "Old Jake's Skirts"
 Mighty Corson Art Players, South Dakota B
 "Waiting for the Parade"
- 5:30 Dinner break
- 7:00 Great River Players—Keokuk, Iowa B
 "A Bench at the Edge"
 Fungus Amongus Players, Minnesota A
 "The Romancers"
- 10:00 Party at Boulder Inn & Suites

Saturday, April 25

- 9:00 "Beards, Sideburns, Mustaches & Facial Hair" by Cindy Healy & Julie Goodman, Newton Community Theatre
- 10:15 TBA, Allen Ebert
- 11:30 Region V Meeting
- 12:45 Lunch break
- 1:45 Aberdeen Community Theatre, South Dakota A
 "Working"
 Beatrice Community Theatre, Nebraska
 "Completely Hollywood" (abridged)
- 6:00 Dinner break
- 7:30 Iowa City Community Theatre, Iowa A
 "Laundry & Bourbon"
- 10:00 Final Cast Party

Sunday, April 26

- 9:00 Brunch and Awards

REGISTER TODAY! FORM IS ENCLOSED.

ICTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Iowa Community Theatre Association membership met in the Town Hall room at the Waterloo Center for the Arts in Waterloo, IA, April 11, 2015.

Board Present: President Rick Myers, Secretary Peg Brown, Loween Getter, Molly Ketchum, R.J. Lundgren, Bobbi Jo Lutzen, Jason Paull, Donna Smithson, Christine Wolf, Mel Wilson, and Cheryl Zieringer. Carol Bellairs was getting ready for their production. Helen Beneke, Pam Ratliff, and Gerard Schwickerath were absent.

President Rick called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm. There were approximately 30 members in attendance. A welcome was given to everyone.

Secretary Brown read the minutes of the June 21, 2014 annual meeting. Mel made a motion, second by Jason, to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

President Rick read the treasurer's report from the March board meeting. R.J. made a motion, second by Phyllis Gray, to accept the report. Motion carried.

Loween, as chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of board nominees: Joey Hartshorn of Sioux City; Julie Karns, Clarinda; Molly Ketchum, Boone; Rick Myers, Sioux City; John Olson, Red Oak; Jason Paull, Ames; Pam Ratliff, Newton; and Donna Smithson, Lenox. Nominations from the floor were invited; there were none. Phyllis made a motion, second by Jason, to accept this slate of nominees of which five are to be selected by the eligible voting members. Motion carried.

Cheryl stated the Awards of Excellence Gala will be held at 9:00 pm this evening at the Market on the Loop. The process of selection of nominees for each of eleven categories was explained. The awards are glass goblets.

Sue Beukema reported on the Region V Festival to be hosted by Newton April 23-25. There will be one production from Nebraska, two each from Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa.

Loween asked that information be submitted to her as soon as possible as she will be getting a newsletter ready to mail next week. She was complimented about all the information in the Center Stage, especially the list of productions with theatre names and dates.

Results of the election revealed: Rick Myers, Donna Smithson, Molly Ketchum, Jason Paull, and Pam Ratliff will each serve 3-year terms on the ICTA board of directors.

The Board of Directors will meet in the foyer at 5:30 this afternoon. Jason made a motion, second by Molly, to adjourn. President Rick closed the meeting at 1:08 pm.

Submitted by Peg Brown, Secretary

Like ICTA on Facebook!

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION PROCESS

To nominate your theatre's productions for Awards of Excellence during the 2015-2016 period, complete the Nomination Form (found on the reverse side). Submit it to chairperson Pam Ratliff at pamela.ratliff@gafg.com or by calling her at 641-521-3364.

The Nomination Form should be submitted 30 days prior to opening. If you wish to make any changes to the original nominees, you may do so up till opening. Each reviewer also has the opportunity to review any aspect of the show not nominated that s/he feels is worthy of review.

Note: ENSEMBLE is defined as "An approach to acting that aims for a unified effect achieved by members of a cast working together on behalf of the play, rather than emphasizing individual or whole cast performances."

In general, there are too many attempts to single out a particular performer when ensemble acting ought to prevail. Thus, actors and actresses should only have one nomination—as a lead or supporting OR ensemble.

Pam will notify ICTA Board Members about each review request. Board Members available to review the play will be sent a Critique Form to use to evaluate the production. Those forms are sent to Pam for tabulation.

Awards for productions reviewed between March 1, 2015 and February 29, 2016 will be announced at the ICTA State Convention. The awards are hand-blown glass goblets made Bogenrief Studios in Spencer, each one as unique as each winner.

**Be sure to send your upcoming production information and news about your theatre to the Center Stage editor, Loween Getter at loweengetter@wmtel.net
The deadline is May 20, 2015 for the Summer Issue.
Electronic submissions are preferred!**

ICTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Iowa Community Theatre Association Board of Directors met in the foyer at the Waterloo Center for the Arts in Waterloo, IA.

Present: President Rick Myers, Secretary Peg Brown, Molly Ketchum, R.J. Lundgren, Bobbi Jo Lutzen, Jason Paull, Donna Smithson, Christine Wolf, Mel Wilson, and Carol Bellairs. Absent were Loween Getter, Helen Beneke, Pam Ratliff, Cheryl Zieringer, and Gerard Schwickerath.

President Rick called the meeting to order at 4:55 pm. The minutes of the March 7, 2015 meeting were distributed earlier. R.J. made a motion, second by Molly, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Election of officers was held with the following results: President Rick Myers, Vice President Jason Paull, Secretary Peg Brown, and Treasurer Gerard Schwickerath.

The Critique Form for the Awards of Excellence, that was being reviewed and refined had been referred back to committee at the March meeting. Copies with updates were disseminated to the board for review and decision making at this meeting. Donna made a motion, second by Jason, to accept the updated form. Motion carried.

The Nomination form was also being updated with a couple clarifications. The board accepted these.

Jason made a motion, second by Mel, to adjourn. President Rick closed the meeting at 5:15 pm.

A future board of directors meeting date was not set.

Submitted by
Peg Brown, Secretary

OLD FORT PLAYERS FORT MADISON

Old Fort Players is proud to announce the cast of *Barefoot in the Park*. Directing the production is Dorothy Schulte with assistance from Maddie Clute. This is her second directorial effort, having previously directed *It's a Wonderful Life* in 2013. Schulte said, "We've had a great time in rehearsals for this show. There's nothing like Neil Simon's dialogue for an actor. A few lines in and you're hooked."

The cast consists of

Jackie Woolever as Corie Bratter
Ty Clute as Paul Bratter
Sherry Stice as Mrs. Banks
Joe Collier as Victor Velasco
Jim Cole as the Telephone Repair Man

Performances are May 8-10 and 14-16. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids under 17. *Barefoot in the Park* is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French and co-sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank.

The Old Fort Players celebrates the 35th anniversary of its founding this year. They are located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Call 319-372-9559, visit www.oldfortplayers.com, and like them on Facebook for more information.

Marshalltown Community Theatre

The Marshalltown Community Theatre is proud to announce the next show in its regular season. Get ready for Agatha Christie's murder mystery, *The Unexpected Guest*.

Set on a foggy night, this spooky mystery begins with the discovery of a dead man slumped in his chair with his shocked wife holding a pistol nearby. The discovery is made by a stranger who seeks help after his car has run off the road in the rolling mist. When the dead man's wife confesses to the crime, the stranger agrees to provide her with an alibi and a complicated plot is devised to deflect blame from her. As a houseful of alternate suspects become involved in the ensuing police investigation, a Pandora's box of love and hate ensues.

Directed by Bill Roberts and Jeff Harris, the show stars Nicole Lynch, Kraig Lageschulte, Janine Campbell, Joshua Benda, Mary Jefferson, Casey Cook, Kevin Lageschulte, Doug Allen, and Kevin Jensen.

Production dates are April 17-19, 24-25 at the Martha-Ellen Tye Playhouse, 709 South Center Street, Marshalltown. Call for tickets at 641-752-4601. Adult tickets are \$15 and student tickets are \$10.

The Marshalltown Community Theatre group stages four major productions and a summer musical each season on the stage at the Martha-Ellen Tye Playhouse in Marshalltown. The organization provides educational outreach through readers' theatres, one act shows, and special events. Through these productions, MCT touches over 10,000 lives each year.

As the only all-volunteer, non-profit live theatre company in the area, the organization relies on the support of patrons and the community to bring high quality live theatre productions to the Marshalltown community. We invite you to come and experience live theatre at its finest, whether on our stage, behind the scenes, or in our audiences. Live theatre is a great way to meet new people, have lots of fun, and express yourself creatively.

Webster City Community Theatre

WCCT's children's production of "The Trial of Goldilocks" was a big success with audience members of all ages. Director Al Yungclas, with assistance from high school junior Lauren Leman, worked with a talented cast of 17 middle and high school students. The story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" was told in rhyme three ways: traditionally and from the viewpoints of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The jury not only heard the case, but also acted out the parts of the furniture in the cottage, and the woodland animal friends of the bears. The bewigged and robed hard-of-hearing judge, clerk, and attorneys rounded out the cast.

Having the children's show and our Festival one-act in production simultaneously was challenging but achievable thanks to the space in our new addition.

Auditions have been held for our summer production of *Monty Python's Spamalot*. Director Wil Groves is excited to be bringing this fun musical to the WCCT stage July 10-12, 15-19.

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WHAT'S TRENDING... BOX OFFICE PRACTICES

AACT surveyed theatres for information on their box office practices. Responses came from 190 theatres. 56% of box office managers and 63% of the box office staff are volunteers. 15% of box offices are managed by paid staff, while 22% are staffed by a combination of paid and volunteer staff.

Training is provided by the box office manager (47%), the theatre's executive director (15%), the treasurer (9%), the volunteer coordinator (6%), or other staff or volunteers (20%). 3% get no training.

68% of the box offices have a written procedure.

74% of theatres have reserved seats.

Ticketing has gone digital and online for 63% of the theatres. Local ticket outlets are used by 15%.

91% of theatres accept credit card or PayPal payments. Those that don't note the expense and hassle. Those that use credit add a fee. Some use a ticketing service. Others accept cash or check and may use square or another vendor to take credit cards at the door.

"We offer our season subscribers many options for reserving their seats: mail in, phone in, walk in, email, and now online. Some are becoming adventurous and using the online services, but many are seniors that don't even have computers. We continue to offer them personal service." Stage 212, LaSalle, Illinois

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

You are encouraged to support your peers and broaden your theatre experience by attending performances at their theatres.

Check the website for more details at www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com

April 22-26	"Around the World in 80 Days" at Des Moines Playhouse
April 24-26	"Francine's Will" at Ankeny Community Theatre
April 17-25	"The Cat in the Hat" at Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo
April 24-25	Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest" at Marshalltown Community Theatre
April 24-26	"The Man Who Came to Dinner" at Iowa City Community Theatre
April 24-25, May 1, 2, 8-11	"The Red Velvet Cake War" at Shot in the Dark Productions in Sioux City
April 24-26, 30, May 1-3	"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Spencer Community Theatre
May 1-3, 8-10	"Prescription: Murder" at The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group, Shenandoah
May 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31	"Mary Poppins" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
May 8-10, 14-16	"Barefoot in the Park" at The Old Fort Players in Fort Madison
May 8-10	"Thoroughly Modern Millie" at Great River Players, Keokuk
May 15-23	"Tons of Money" at Waterloo Community Playhouse
May 29-31	"The Addams Family" at Des Moines Playhouse
June 3-7, 10-14, 17-21	"The Addams Family" at Des Moines Playhouse
June 5-7, 12-14, 19-21	"Twelve Angry Jurors" at Ankeny Community Theatre
June 11-13, 18-20	"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Newton Community Theatre
June 12-14, 18-21, 25-28	"Shrek: The Musical" at ACTORS in Ames
June 26-28	"Les Miserables" at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah
June 26-28	"A Chorus Line" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
July 3, 5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26	"A Chorus Line" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
July 10-12 & 15-19	"Monty Python's Spamalot" at Webster City Community Theatre
July 10, 11, 17, 18, 24-27	"American Idiot" at Shot in the Dark Productions in Sioux City
July 9-12, 16-19	"When You Wish from A to Z" at The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group, Shenandoah
July 24-26, 30-August 1	"Fiddler on the Roof" at Union Street Players in Pella
July 24-26, 31, August 1	"Peter Pan" at Marshalltown Community Theatre
July 31, August 1-2, 7-9, 14-16	"Drinking Habits" at Ankeny Community Theatre
Opens August 6	"The Last Five Years" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
August 7-9	"Hello, Dolly!" at Clarinda Community Theatre
Opens September 11	"Calendar Girls" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
September 18-20, 24-26	"Dixie Swim Club" at Old Fort Players in Fort Madison
October 9-13, 15-17	"Ham Buns and Potato Salad" at Newton Community Theatre
Opens October 16	"The Weir" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens November 20	"The Christmas Story" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
December 3-6, 2015	"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" at Union Street Players, Pella
December 4-6, 10-12	"Yes, Virginia. There Is a Santa Claus" at Newton Community Theatre
Opens January 15	"Avenue Q" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens February 26	"Next to Normal" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens April 1	"Hamlet" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens April 8	"Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens May 13	"The Little Mermaid" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens May 20	"Now Hear This" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
Opens July 1	"American Idiot" at Theatre Cedar Rapids

Be sure to submit your upcoming productions to the *Center Stage* editor at loweengetter@wmtel.net by May 20, 2015 and to the Iowa Community Theatre Association's website calendar anytime at iowacommunitytheatre@gmail.com.

Iowa Community Theatre Association
Loween Getter, Editor
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CENTER STAGE is YOUR newsletter. Members around the state want to read about what makes your theatre special and the shows you are staging. Be sure to send your upcoming production information and news about your theatre to the editor at loweengetter@wmtel.net by May 20, 2015 for the Summer Issue of Center Stage. Electronic submissions are very welcome!

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