

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

October/November 2008

Here we go again,

Please let me know if any of you have any problems with the format or font size of the newsletter. It looks really big on my 17 inch computer monitor but if it isn't I can accommodate. Even with Jeff Chadwick's expertise sometimes the arms are just too short. Let's start off with some great news from our "Raffle Guru" Deb DeBois.

ANOTHER GREAT RAFFLE SUCCESS

By Deb DeBois

Tawas Bay Players Annual Summer Raffle has drawn to a successful conclusion. With the cash and tickets turned in, the reports filed with the State, and our drawing live on WKJC on September 29th our ninth raffle has been completed.

The winners drawn on the radio this year represented our local area more this year; last year all the winners were from out of the area. The winner of first prize, two Baccio Scooters was Jim Robertson of East Tawas and Clarkston. The second prize, a Triton Utility Trailer was won by Kelly Suppes of St. Charles. The third prize Weber Gas Grill was awarded to Tom Betts of Oscoda and Kevin Provoast of Whittemore won the fourth prize of \$250.

Overall ticket sales were the best since 2004, with 4215 out of a possible 5040 tickets sold this year. Our members sold 1098 and 3117 were sold at the various events. Seventy-nine member packets of 30 tickets were sent out and our two top sellers for this year were Pat Casey (60) and Bob and Nadeen O'Meara (50). Congratulations! Thank you also to the other 62 members who sold tickets for TBP.

Overall gross sales were \$14,952, the best since 2005, and our profit for the raffle.....drum roll please..... was \$9663, the best since 2002.

Special thank you need to go out to our Sponsors....Tim and John O'Connor of the Pendleton Shop, who have offset the cost of printing our tickets for the past 7 years, John Carroll from WKJC radio, who has graciously allowed us to hold our raffle live on WKJC for the last nine years, Tawas Hardware and Woody's Cycle for giving us a good deal on purchasing the raffle prizes and the businesses who sold tickets (Woody's, East Tawas City Park, and the Village Chocolatier).

I would like to take the opportunity to give a thank you to Pat Casey, as treasurer, who helps me keep the funding straight. Additional special, tremendous, and heartfelt hugs and kisses go out to the following people who helped me sell at events June Hudgins, Kay Robson, June Groff, Ray and LeighAnne Skiver, Dianne Coffman, T.D. Haskin, Vince Weiler and my number one ticket companion and tear down expert who sat at many day, weekend, and weeklong events, Sue Dowell.

AND last but not least, are MY BOYS...those unsung heroes of muscles and pick-up trucks who carted the raffle prizes all over Iosco County for four months and helped me set up and tear down at events. Sometimes travel entailed trips to and from 2-7 times a week. Thank you to the four guys who did the most trips for me George Robson, Chris Mundy, Jeff Chadwick, and Keith Frank. Thank you also to Mike Robson, Ken and Phyllis Spencer, Lyle Groff, Bob Zacharias, Frank Brewer, Lynn Phillips, and Bob O'Meara who pitched in on numerous occasions throughout the summer also.

One last thought...

TAWAS BAY PLAYERS ARE A SPECIAL AND UNIQUE FAMILY
HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY...AND 30 MORE!!!

OVER THE TAVERN

By Vincent Weiler

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support for our production of *Over the Tavern*. A special thank you to the board for allowing me to do a play that may have seemed a bit controversial and a play with language we have not normally used in the past. I would like also to thank everyone who worked on this

production. Everyone cast and crew went above and beyond the call of duty on this production and that contributed a major part of this production's success. I would also like to thank all of the membership who have supported me not only this production but have supported me over the past years. It has been a great ride and my how time has flown.

There are many great plays and scripts out there and I challenge directors as well as the board to do some of these great works. I think this production proves that you do not have to produce well known plays by well known authors to have a great turnout and a great production. I would like to see us not rehash old plays we have done before but find other great new works.

I had a wonderful time working with old friends but in this production and I got the opportunity to work with many wonderful people that I have not worked with before.

Here's to a great 30th season.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Keith Frank

On behalf of the board of directors, I have been asked to write an article relating to, for lack of better terms, theater policies.

The board would like to remind all members that purchases made for any reason must have prior approval, either from the board or from the producer of the current production (if the items are for that show). We have recently received some bills for items charged by members who did not get prior approval from anyone. If you are purchasing items to be used in the theater that are not related to an ongoing or upcoming production, the purchases must be approved by the board in advance. If the items to be purchased are being used on the current production or a future production, then the purchases need to be approved by the producer of that show. Since Tawas Bay Players charging privileges are being eliminated in many local stores, anyone purchasing items for a show or for the theater will be responsible for paying for the items themselves and then submitting the original receipt to the board or producer of the show for reimbursement. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me or our treasurer, Pat Casey.

The other item relates to bringing pets into the theater. Several weeks ago, a crew came in to work on the set for *Over the Tavern*. When they walked into the building, they were overcome with a "rank" odor. The source of the odor was soon identified when the refreshment room lights were turned on. There was a pile of dog "poop" on the carpet under the refreshment table. We have never had a policy (or, therefore, a need for one) regarding pets in the theater. I'm sure that this was purely accidental, but imagine if it had been in the theater itself. Please, if you must bring your pet into the theater for any reason, be sure not to leave it unattended and by all means clean up after it.

I'd like to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation.

STAGE FLOOR

By Judy Quarters

We have recently had the stage floor scraped, cleaned and stained with an oil base stain. Through the years there had been so much paint, tape, and numerous other things stuck on the floor it was looking pretty nasty. With the oil base stain we are able to clean up any spills or splatters with water, if we are using water base paint to paint the sets. We need to all take care of this floor, use a drop cloth and clean up after ourselves right away if we get something on the floor – and always use water base paint.

If there is ever a reason to stick tape on the floor, if we could use "painters tape" from the hardware store it comes off easy and doesn't leave a residue. Another thing to keep in mind is to try to do all sawing on a wood floor (where it is easily swept up) or outside if possible, NOT on the carpet in the theater. The front of the theater is getting quite worn between foot traffic and abuse. We need to take care of our theater and treat it like our home!! For some of us sometimes it seems like we live there!! **Thank you!**

CAST ANNOUNCED FOR THE BUTLER DID IT

After two nights of auditions, a cast has been chosen. Deb reports having a great turn out and thanks everyone who tried out. The show dates are January 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 and February 1

Haverhsam – a young housemaid, an ex-convict	Reesie Smith
Rita Eyelesbarrow – a social secretary	Sharon Langley
Miss Maple – a well known society hostess	June Hudgins
Father White a – a mystery writer	Andre De Wilde
Chandler Marlowe – another	Alan Dalton
Louie Fan – another	Keith Frank
Rick Carlyle – another	Pat Ruster
Laura Carlyle – another	Sue Dowell
Peter Flimsey – another	Chad Robson
Charity Haze – another	Jane Ruster
Mabel Dupre – an adventuress	Shemise Tier
Pharaoh Link – a San Francisco police detective	Cordon Bash
Debra Lee De Bois	Director
Phyllis Spencer	Producer
Farah Rose Egal	Assitant Director

ALL SHOOK UP AUDITIONS

Directors Dennis and Vickie Szatkowski asked that I provide information about auditions for the upcoming teen production of *All Shook Up*. This show is a musical featuring the music of Elvis Presley cleverly fitted to a brand new story. From the description that Dennis gave it sounds like it will be a fun show.

The show needs 5 male leads, 5 female leads and lots of chorus members. All cast members must be high school age, in grades 9 through 12 only. Auditions will require a short, 2 minutes or less, song and some reading from the script. If at all possible, the directors would like everyone to prepare an Elvis song. Tryouts will take place at the Tawas Bay Playhouse on Monday, November 10th and Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. The production dates will be March 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

2008 COMMUNITY THEATER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN CONVENTION

By June Hudgins

Debra DeBois, Diane Ray, Vincent Weiler and I headed to Cadillac on the weekend of September 26th – 28th for this year's Community Theater Association of Michigan convention. The convention was held at a beautiful resort called McGuire's. The convention was a lovely weekend of workshops, talking with folks from other Michigan community theater groups and a banquet. The theme of the convention this year was "How does your theater garden grow?" I made many, many little flowers from crepe paper to take part in the door decoration contest, but sadly we didn't win.

The workshops offered all kinds of theater information such as lighting, directing and many other subjects. One of the workshops I attended was a "Senior Readers Workshop" which I am very interested in starting in TBP. At lunch our workshop group performed a couple of shows and I got to take part. It was lots of fun and easy to do. Saturday evening's banquet is a dress up affair where we got the chance to mix and mingle. Early on Sunday morning there are round table discussion groups. Deb and I sat in on one and picked up a few good tips. Of course they all learned a few things from our group as well.

I would like to urge more people to attend the CTAM conventions. They are always held the last weekend in September. Next year it will be held at the same resort in Cadillac and the theme is "Cadillac in the Moonlight" and the organizers are trying to get Jeff Daniels to attend. Congratulations to Vincent Weiler who was elected Vice president of CTAM and to Diane Ray who was elected to the board of directors. They will get to travel to different theaters all over Michigan including our own Tawas Bay Playhouse in January to hold their meeting and to see a production of *The Butler Did It*. We are already making plans for a nice afterglow to welcome them.

And this from Diane Ray.....

Diane echoes June's feelings about hoping more of the TBP members will attend the conventions and workshops provided by CTAM. Diane recently shared information she learned at a CTAM workshop. She hosted a cardboard construction workshop attended by TBP members Diane King, Sharon Langley and June Groff and Kaye and Jerry Wergedal and Mike Lee of the Shoreline Players. Vincent Weiler showed slides of sets made from cardboard. Diane showed some finished pieces of cardboard and demonstrated the technique to everyone. They worked on constructing projects like a cardboard column using hot glue guns, and box cutters and poly-urethane to coat the cardboard for strength and ease for painting with latex paint. A light lunch was served and everyone expressed how helpful the project was. Constructing set pieces from cardboard can be just as time consuming as working with wood but it's much less expensive and the finished pieces are easier to lift and transport to the stage. She wanted everyone to know about the upcoming Acting Master Class to be held January 16-18, 2009 in Clare MI.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY

By Diane Ray

The Shoreline Players production of *Give My Regards to Broadway* begins Friday, October 31st at 7:30pm. The show will run through Sunday, November 9. The cast includes Corey Del Rio, Diane Ray, Tom O'Malley, Anne Powers, Nate Rowell, Jason Franks, Jill Farmer, Diane Teddy, Lisa Kutschman, Carol Copland, Heather Roberts, Alyssa Binkowski, Tim Curtis, David Nichols, and Chelsea LaLonde. The play is directed by Kaye Wergedal and features live music by John Thomas and his orchestra. Betty DeWilde is a chorus member, and husband Andy is stage manager. Sandy Schorfhaar is producing, assisted by Karol Lonsberry. The choreographer is Scott Heinrich of Northeastern Academy of Dance. The play is set in the 1930's and features the music of George M. Cohan. Please attend and support all our members and co-members. Call the Shoreline Theater at 989-739-3586 for ticket information.

NEWS FROM EVAN STOREY

Compliments of Barb Hunter

Hey Everyone!

Hope you are all having a great summer! As some of you may know, I am the Creative Production Liaison for Bob Boyett, one of the biggest Broadway producers. I have been really busy this summer writing, producing, and directing my new show! You really should check it out! It is called **FIVE SECONDS TO AIR** and will be showing at Theatre Row on 42nd Street in the heart of New York's Theater District during September.

For more info and to see a little more about the show check out the Theatre Row website at the link below!
<http://www.theatrerow.org/> or <http://www.theatrerow.org/thestudio.htm>

VOLUNTEERS

By June Hudgins

Let us not forget that everyone who participates in our community theater is a volunteer. From directors and producers to those who build sets and do hair and make up to the actors on stage – all of us volunteer. We have, I believe a good family. We greet each other with kind words and hugs and try to bolster each other. As a result of all the hard work our shows have been wonderful. Now during our 30th anniversary I want to say THANK YOU. Without all of you we would not be where we are today. We would have missed out on a lot of fun and the community would have missed out on all the great entertainment that we have provided. I want to say a special thank you to all of the adults who work with the young people to showcase their talents. Some of those youths who got started on our stage are now pursuing careers in theater and we are very proud of them.

Some of our hardest working volunteers are on the board of directors. They make many decisions concerning all aspects of our theater. They all work together to do what is best for TBP. The board members are Keith Frank (president), June Hudgins (vice-president), Pat Casey (treasurer), Debra DeBois (corresponding secretary), Vickie Szatkowski (recording secretary and Tim Haskin, Chris Mundy, Judy Quarters and Penny Zacharias (trustees).

In addition to their regular board duties, many of them have regular theater jobs. Keith writes the grants (with input from June and Pat). We were just notified that we were selected to receive another mini grant, \$2400 to help offset the costs of the teen show *All Shook Up*. June makes sure the theater is clean for every show and she adds decorations to make it attractive. She is involved in anything and everything that goes on in the theater, adding her knowledge and help. She also writes lovely articles for the newsletter. (The proceeding is the editor's addition. June never blows her own horn! So let me say, Thank you June.) Judy and Vickie handle the reservations (with help from Tiffany Bischoff, Eileen Brewer and Sally). Chris is the first to be called for any mechanical problem or maintenance need. (And he always solves the problem.) Deb of course handles the annual raffle (with book keeping help from Pat). And that takes us to Pat. In addition to keeping track of our finances and paying bills she also creates the programs for each show and video tapes them for our use. And she, of course, directs the Tawas Bay Players Singers. (Editor's note: Which is about as easy as herding cats and a lot harder than teaching 3rd graders.) So hats off to all of our board or directors.

THERE *MUST* BE A WAY TO BLAME THIS ON JUDY QUARTERS

By Michal Jacot

So. There I was in my car, sitting at the stoplight on Newman Street waiting for a nice color that will allow me to go. As I sat in the driver's seat daydreaming (which I do quite often while driving, so consider that fair warning if you ever see me behind the wheel), I looked up and saw Judy Quarters pull up to the light, going north on US-23. Her window was down, and she was talking excitedly to whoever was in the vehicle with her. I was sitting at the stoplight by the Village Chocolatier. She was out on US-23 by the park. And I could hear her talking from across the intersection.

I couldn't make out exactly what she was saying, but I definitely heard a "blah blah blah" kind of yammering drifting across town, and I could see it was coming from her. This woman had a voice that carried like a jackhammer! Well, never one to let an opportunity to razz Judy pass by, I rolled down my window. I was planning on turning right at the light, and that would put me right next to her when I wheeled around the corner. My light turned, and off I went. I went around the corner, and as I pulled up alongside Judy's vehicle I leaned out the window and, making a ridiculous face, yelled, "BLAH blah BLAH blah BLAH BLAH BLAH!!!"

Only it wasn't Judy. It was only someone who looked like her, and by this time she was looking at me pretty strangely. On the last "BLAH!!!" I saw my error, quickly rolled my tongue back into my head and popped my eyes back in their sockets, and hid my face behind my hand as I hit the gas and sped out of there. Somewhere in this town, there is a woman with hair and a face kind of like Judy's who thinks that some guy with Tourette's syndrome is driving around in a red minivan. I just hope she's not good at remembering faces...

OUR FIELD TRIP TO MSU

By June Hudgins

Jolene Grusecki, Mary Kehoe, Tim Haskin and I headed out early one Sunday morning to the Wharton Center on the campus of Michigan State University to see the last performance, a 1:00 p.m. matinee of *Mamma Mia*. This was my first time on this campus. Wow, it's big and beautiful!

Tim was our chauffeur and with the three ladies who love to talk, it was an interesting and fun trip. The whole goal of leaving so early was to take advantage of a "going out of business" sale at a store in Linden. When we got to the store that Time wanted so much to visit, it didn't open until 12:00 p.m. And since the play started at 1:00 p.m. we had no time. We did have a lovely breakfast in Linden, right down the road from where my daughter lives. But there was no time to visit her either.

My, my, what a super show. The theater holds 5,000 and the sound was amazing. The dazzling show was something to behold. If you ever get the chance to see this show, do so. We all loved it.

On the way back Tim missed a turn, so we sort of came home the back way. The weather was gorgeous and we drove through small towns I'd never seen before. So it was a very, very nice trip with very nice friends. WE really appreciate Time driving even though we probably drove him nuts.

PHOTOS FROM OVER THE TAVERN

