

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

September/October 2009

Hi Again,

So is this fall or just a continuation of summer? It must be fall since we are starting a new season. It should be a great one, how can we go wrong with comedies and musicals.

TBP Annual Membership Meeting by June Hudgins

The annual membership meeting was held on August 20th at the Tawas Bay Playhouse. Eighty members and guests attended. The wonderful banquet was catered by Eileen Brewer with assistance from Judy Quarters. We want to thank the Village Chocolatier for the centerpieces and chocolate tray. (Thanks as well to June Hudgins, June Groff and Tim Haskin for set up and decorations.)

After dinner we adjourned to the theater for the meeting with all board members in attendance. Three board positions were up for election, June Hudgins, Debra DeBois and Judy Quarters. All three were willing to run again and after receiving no new nominations from the floor they were reelected by unanimous ballot.



Other business included the selection of the Founders Award recipient. This year the honor was bestowed upon Janie Mundy. She has shown great dedication and put in countless hours working in all facets of the theater as producer, director, costumer and more. Janie is a trouper when it comes to the theater. The award was presented by last year's winners Al and Dee Bixby. Congratulations and thank you to Janie!

We want to say a big thank you to all our members who renewed their membership at the meeting. At this time there are 116 paid members. For those who weren't able to renew at the meeting please get your 2009-2010 dues to me. The cost is \$10 for a single, \$15 for a couple and \$20 for a family. Mail your check along with your contact information: name(s), address, phone number and email address to June Hudgins, 606 Rainbow Drive, East Tawas, MI 48730.

We have a great line-up of shows this coming season, all comedies and musicals. We would love to have every member work on at least one show during the season in some capacity. There are many, many jobs that need to be done: props, sound, lights, costumes, makeup, hair, set building, painting and dressing, refreshments, ushering. And of course we need actors. We are sure there is a job for everyone!

To All the Tawas Bay Players

I want to say thank you. Last night caught me by surprise. I am very honored to be given the Founders Award. There was so much I wanted to say but never thought I'd get the award so I hadn't prepared a speech. So with that said I'd like to say a few things. I'd like to thank my husband Chris who makes it so easy to be at the theatre. To George Robson who talked me into trying out for my first stage show. Falling out of the closet half dressed made me fall in love with theater. To June Hudgins who's so dedicated to the theatre and truly is our queen mum. To Susie Witt who always bails me out with directing my big Honking idea. Who knew the script would be that long. Like reading a book or something. Besides Chris always reads the scripts to me, and in voices. When we saw that High School group with Honk T-shirts on, I talked to a few of them. The play sounded really cute. How hard can it be? 4 letters right, HONK! It truly was a wonderful show. I'd like to say

thank you to my grandfather who was an Odd Fellow member and his name used to be on the sign outside the building before we moved in. I know he'd be proud of the way we've taken care of the "Old Girl". The theatre means a lot to me; family history, fun times, lots of laughs, loving friends. Oh yea, trying times too. Nobody ever told me how hard producing a show was. Producers are the backbone of a show. I love and admire all of you. I'll always treasure the wonderful memories. Getting married on stage was a real blessing and every time I'm in the theatre, it's home.

Love,
Janie Mundy

A Note from the President by Keith Frank

Well, it's hard to believe, but we just wrapped up our 30th Tawas Bay Players season with our annual banquet on August 20. The banquet was extremely well attended with over 80 members present. Thank you to Eileen Brewer and her staff for another wonderful meal. For those not at the banquet, here are some highlights from the banquet and this past season:

MCACA Mini-Grant Program: With the state of our State economy, this program has been put on hiatus until the new state budget has been approved. This is sad news for the State of Michigan and Northeast Michigan in particular. The Tawas Bay Players have benefited greatly from this program, receiving \$21,900.00 in grant funding since our 2002-03 season.

TBP Raffle: Deb DeBois continues to spearhead this project for us, with assistance from her "boys" who help haul her from event to event on a regular basis and her "girls" who sit with her. Deb reported at the meeting that sales are down this year, also due to the economy, but she still hopes that we may show a profit of \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 if September sales go well.

Scene Shop: Thanks to Lyle Groff for agreeing to take on the task of finishing up the insulation in the scene shop. Be on the lookout for possible e-mails requesting help when Lyle is ready to proceed.

Dressing Rooms & Back Stage Restroom: This project is on hold until we can find out if there is an active sewer line along Lincoln Street to tie into. The line from the old toilet in the basement was found to be cracked and unusable.

TBP Brochure: Thanks go out to Pat, Judy and Vicki for designing our new TBP Brochure that can be distributed to the Chamber and area brochure racks. You guys did a great job with my feeble idea.

Sale of Props: Judy announced that all of the props from "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Beauty and the Beast" have been sold. We recouped all of our expenses and no longer have to take up valuable storage space. Thanks Judy.

Congratulations: Congratulations to June Hudgins, Deb DeBois and Judy Quarter's who were all unanimously re-elected to the TBP Board. Congratulations also go out to *Janie Mundy*, this year's Founder's Award recipient.

There were a couple of decisions that the board made this past year that affect the entire group.

Flash Photography: There were some instances this past season of audience members taking flash pictures during dress rehearsal. Since this is distracting to some actors, the board has decided that the only people allowed to take flash photographs at dress rehearsal will be the TBP designated photographers. At this time, those photographers are Pam Frank and Janie Mundy. The producer of each show will designate who the

photographers for their show will be. Pam has agreed to provide Vickie with a photo CD for each of the shows she and Janie photograph. Vickie has agreed to keep these CDs in the TBP archives where they can be checked out by members who can then print whatever pictures they would like from the dress rehearsal. (Please give her a month or so to get them altogether though.) This policy only applies to flash photography so if you are able to take pictures without use of a flash, you are still welcome to do so.

E-mail Policy: Over the course of the past several years, Pat has been deluged with requests to send out e-mails to our membership for different things. This has caused some turmoil for Pat as to what information should or should not be passed on. The board has determined that the only information to be sent out to our membership will be TBP business, news and information only. Pat will not be sending out information from individual members announcing parties, garage sales, etc.

We now will be entering our 31st season providing quality entertainment to the local community. This year's shows will rank right up there with our best, starting off in October with *Insane With Power*, directed by Michal Jacot. The remaining shows this season will be *Squabbles*, directed by June Hudgins; *Aida*, our teen musical, to be directed by Dennis Szatkowski, Jr.; *Guys and Dolls* with Deb DeBois in the director's chair and our 2010 summer show will be *The Complete History of America (abridged)*, with June Wygant directing. So come on out and try out for one of this season's shows or volunteer to work on one. We have a tight knit group and working on any show in any capacity is always fun.

This year also marked the 10th year that we have been in our wonderful Playhouse. The East Tawas Park Board, at their September meeting, unanimously and without question or revision, renewed the rental agreement for the next five years. The board will sign the lease at our September meeting to make everything official. The City of East Tawas is extremely proud of the Tawas Bay Players and the improvements we have made to the theater (and I'm not the one saying this on behalf of the city). This October when East Tawas hosts Essexville officials for Mayor Exchange Day, they have asked the Players to once again open the theater for a tour by the visiting dignitaries. The City of East Tawas is very proud of the fact that the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs refers to the Tawas Bay Players and the Tawas Bay Playhouse as their "*Shining Star in the North*". I believe the Tawas Bay Players are very proud as well.

I'd like to thank you all for your support and participation these past thirty years and I would also like to thank my fellow board members for their dedication as well. You, the general membership, have elected a very good and hard working board and it is a pleasure to be a part of it. I look forward to another thirty years (at least) as a member of the Tawas Bay Players.

2009-2010 Season

Insane with Power – October 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 & 25

Squabbles – January 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 & 31

Aida (Teen Musical) – March 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, & 21

Guys and Dolls – May 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, & 23

The Complete History of America (abridged) – July 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18

***Insane With Power* by Michal Jacot**

The cast for the show is as follows:

Lynn Phillips as "Speed Freak"
Kit Eagal as "Dim Bulb"
Cheryl Colvin as "Lois Lancaster"
Deb DeBois as "Dr. Eisner"
Alan Dalton as "Kevin Bendis"
Tina Dalton as "Mental"

Fun facts about the show:

- This will be the first time the show has been done in Michigan.
- The author of the play, Scott Haan, will be coming from Indiana just to see it.
- The story takes place in the "Stanley J. Kirby Psychiatric Hospital." "Stanley" is a tribute to Stan Lee, one of the founders of Marvel Comics and "Kirby" refers to Jack Kirby who created Captain America.
- The show opens on October 16th which is National Bosses' Day. Take this opportunity to suck up to your superior by bringing him or her to a play.
- The show will (hopefully) feature the debut of our projector system, which will allow us to project image onto the set's back wall.
- This may be your only opportunity to see ushers and refreshment people in capes and Lynn Phillips wearing his underpants on the outside.

Michal, the director is assisted by Barb Hunter as A.D. and Judy Quarters as producer.

***Squabbles* by June Hudgins**

As you know I will be directing ***Squabbles***, a comedy, for the January show. My auditions will be held on Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday the 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Tawas Bay Playhouse. To cast the show we need 4 men and 3 women. The cast description follows:

Jerry Sloan – A jingle writer, around 40 years old.

Abe Dreyfus – Jerry's father-in-law, a retired cab driver who is 60 to 70 years old.

Alice Sloan – Jerry's wife in her late 30s who is pregnant.

Mildred Sloan – Jerry's mother who is in her late 50s or older.

Sol Wasserman – An older retired pharmacist. This is quite a small part

Hector Lopez – A Puerto Rican handyman who is 40 plus years old.

Mrs. Fisher – A middle aged, stern, no nonsense governess.

Synopsis of the Show

This hilarious play pits a father-in-law against a mother in a comedic succession of squabbles. Jerry Sloan is a successful writer of advertising jingles married to an equally successful lawyer. Living with the happy couple is the not-so-happy Abe Dreyfus, Jerry's curmudgeon of a father-in-law. Abe is a funny guy to the audience but not to Jerry. The situation is exacerbated when Jerry's mother Mildred loses her house to a fire and needs a place to stay. Abe and Mildred can't stand each other which makes it very strained. Then there is Hector the handyman who spends most of his time in the bathroom to the chagrin of Abe who wants Jerry to dock his pay for the times he uses the bathroom. And finally there is the unpleasant governess who won't let Abe and Mildred near the new baby. The show is one confrontation after another until the end in which the oldsters discover that really the other is not so bad. This is a very funny and fast paced comedy; we need lots of folks out to audition for this show. The performance dates will be January 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 and 31.

Editors Note

I thought it might be fun to learn a little more about some of TBP's "unsung heroes", the people who are back stage seemingly for every show. The onstage participants get their biographies in the programs so just consider this column a bio for backstage workers. Our first is a lady who is a natural organizer and leader and a great deal of fun to work with. Thank you to Tara for researching and writing these articles.

Unsung Heroes by Tara Western

Sue Duncan has one husband, Larry, one 22 year old son, Benjamin, three cats, a great sister-in-law here in Michigan and three brothers in Minnesota, Las Vegas, and Hawaii. Sue and Larry met working the breakfast shift in a dining hall at Central Michigan University. "We figured if we could enjoy being together at 6:00 a.m., we might do okay all the time. So far that's worked." They were married on August 21, 1976.

Born in small town Crystal Falls, Michigan, Sue attended Central Michigan University for her Bachelor's degree, and two masters, but admits to trouble with spelling and higher level math! (Taxes!) A retired elementary classroom teacher for mostly grades fourth and sixth, Sue is a part time personal chef, where she does *your* home cooking. She also works at the *News Herald* one day a week assembling parts of the newspaper. Like many retirees, Sue frequently is busier than she was when she taught. She is a member of the AuSable Valley Audubon Society, MARSP (Michigan Association of Retire School Personnel) and she volunteers for the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce and Angel Food Distributions. When not volunteering, Sue enjoys reading mysteries and romance novel, needle crafts, exercising, camping and hiking. Over several trips to the Grand Canyon, she, Larry and Ben have hiked with backpacks, the North and South Rims, both up and down!

When Sue's son, Ben, needed a ride to play practice, Sue found herself hanging around the Playhouse, waiting for him instead of driving back home to Sand Lake. Before too long, she was helping out with little things. Her first job was with *Footloose* as assistant prop master.

She considers Dee Bixby her Props "mentor", and has learned from the rest of the best, too: Pam Frank, Diane Ray and June Hudgins, learning to make the pretend, look real. At times, she also has been an unofficial stage manager, saying she just gets pushy! Although her only theatrical role was in her fifth grade play as the librarian, she has only appeared on TBP's stage by mistake! She may try out for a chorus part someday, but says she can turn "wooden". Her favorite job with TBP is eating the wonderful food at the parties and banquets!

When asked what she likes about the Tawas Bay Players, Sue answered "Variety! No two plays are ever alike—not even two performances of the same play! " She loves the welcoming and friendly people..."plus a lot of the 'on stage' people are really funny all the time! It is fun for a very conservative person (like me) to see all the foolishness going on! And I say all that in a good way! It helps me be more open".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

4 Jenny Zacharias
21 Tara Western
24 Katelyn Good

October

4 Nadeen O'Meara
7 Emily (Groff) Marciniak
16 June Wygant
21 Nate Rowell

If I didn't get your birth date at the annual meeting, please send me an email or give me a call so I can include you for future birthday wishes.

From the Photo Archives

Michal Jacot shared this photo of the original *Logging Legacy*, which Michal wrote. Originally performed in 1982 the cast consisted of Ron Warner as the “Riverman”, Ray Skiver as the “Timber Cruiser” and Tim Walendzyk as the “Sawyer.” From left to right in the photograph are Michal, Ron, Ray and Tim.



From an early rehearsal of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 1987 here are L to R, George Robson, Michal Jacot and Ray Skiver. What more could you ask for than men in togas singing and dancing. Thanks Michal for this photo.