



Spotlight

Special Deer Season Oct. 30 - Nov. 8 *Escanaba in da Moonlight*

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Did you know that:

- *Escanaba in da Moonlight* by Michigan native Jeff Daniels premiered in September 1995 at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan
- When it later took the stage at Detroit's Gem Theatre, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* became the longest running play in the history of live theater in Detroit
- Daniels played Reuben in the 2001 movie version, but not in the premier Michigan stage production

Reuben Soady, known around Escanaba as the Buckless Yooper, visits Rogers City for a special early deer season, opening October 30 on the Rogers City Community Theatre stage.

As playwright Jeff Daniels tells us, Reuben is the oldest Soady in the history of the Soadys never to have bagged a buck. No effort is spared by the family to help Reuben out of his shameful situation. Yooper home remedies include downing a drink made from moose testicles, dousing with porcupine urine, and connecting with the Native American spirit world.

Along the way, the hilarity and high jinks include all manner of guy humor, like outhouse jokes, chili fueled farts, dropping drawers, alien visitation and even an off-stage appearance of the Almighty.

Though folks in other parts of the country may not fully get it, any native or transplanted Michigander will roar at the home-grown outrageousness of this comic masterpiece.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for Seniors and \$6 for students (for advance ticket sale locations, see page 3).



Cast Members:

Reuben: Chris Flewelling
 Albert his dad: Mike Marx
 Remnar his bro: Dave Crull
 Wolf Moon Dance, his wife: Sheela Welch Allum
 Jimmer: Bob Starnes III
 Ranger Tom: Ed Perrault

Director:

Meghan Riordan

Six performances

Opening Night:

Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 pm

Plus: Halloween Show on

Sat. Oct. 31 at 7:30 pm and

Sun. Nov. 1 at 2:00 pm

And a Second Weekend:

Friday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2:00 pm



President's Corner by Donna Klein: Progress Report on Building Our Theatre Networks



Welcome to another edition of the RCCT Spotlight. We're very excited to have received our 501 (c) (3) from the Internal Revenue Service. It's something we've been working toward since the inception of the organization last year. This designation allows us to accept tax-deductible donations from the public!

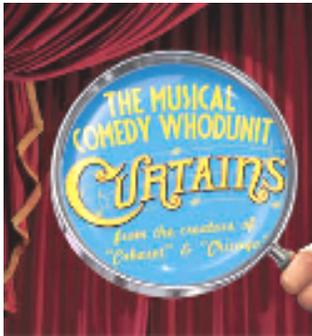
We have also become a member of CTAM. What's that? The acronym stands for "Community Theatre Associa-

tion of Michigan." CTAM's purpose is to foster a closer relationship between member theaters, encourage high standards in community theatre productions, stimulate interest in theatre throughout Michigan and provide an avenue for exchange of ideas and information about all aspects of the theatre arts, from playwriting and acting to production.

The new CTAM membership will benefit the Rogers City Community Thea-

tre in several ways. As a member, we have access to scripts from the CTAM library as well as workshops on theatre-related topics. In the near future, we hope to bring some of these workshops to our corner of Michigan. Meanwhile, if you would like to learn more about the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, visit the organization web site at <http://communitytheatre.org>.

—See you in the dark! DK



It's "Curtains" Time: Open Auditions at Theater Set for December 15 & 16 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The upcoming play *Curtains*, is a rollicking musical whodunit with singing, dancing and murder aplenty. *Curtains* was written by the same team that produced the musicals *Chicago* and *Cabaret*; Kander and Ebb, and premiered in 2006.

Open auditions to cast the play will be held on Tues-

day, December 15 and Wednesday, December 16, at the Rogers City Theater from 7 to 9 p.m. each evening.

Roles to be cast include eight men, eight women and a large number of chorus members. Scripts will be provided at the theater. Please come in shoes suitable for dancing. No sandals or flip-

flops are permitted on stage.

The Director of *Curtains* is Karl W. Heidemann. Performance dates for the show will be the last two weekends in February, 2010. Rehearsals begin in January on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday afternoons. Come audition and join in the musical fun and frivolity!

Why'd They Do That? Cinnamon in the Cave



The Genie's lamp in the youth show, *Aladdin*, was made of a child's plastic cup, hot glued into a gravy boat and painted bronze.

Staging the summer youth theater production of *Disney's Aladdin Jr.* called for construction of a ten foot tall treasure cave. Set designer Karl W. Heidemann utilized chicken wire and *papier mache* for the project. But an unanticipated problem arose as the

cave took shape. Due to the large size and multiple layers of paper and paste, the cave was slow to dry. As it happens, the smell of damp and dank flour and water paste on wet newspaper is not very pleasant.

Something had to be done to keep the actors and

audience from gagging at the smell. A simple solution was found by mixing cinnamon into the paste, creating a pleasant, spicy aroma that was fully in keeping with the show's theme.

So if you thought there was an apple pie hidden in that cave, guess again!



Community Characters: Riconda Lamb

Riconda Lamb first became involved in theatre when she joined her children in the Rogers City High School production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Next she volunteered to work on costumes for the school’s production of *Annie*, performed at the Rogers City Theater. However, her role in *Chicago* as the prison inmate, “Go to Hell Kitty” could no longer be explained as an indulgent Mom’s duty to support her children’s activities. By then, the theatre bug had bit, and bit hard.

When the Rogers City Community Theatre produced the musical, “South Pacific,” Riconda

expanded her technical theatre knowledge by running lights for the show. But she was soon back to acting, in *Urinetown* and in the dinner theater, *I Buried an Idol*.

“It is a great mental challenge to learn all the lines, put the pieces come together, and finally watch the characters come to life,” says Lamb.

In *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Riconda enlivened the stage with her zany portrayal of a Protean, making quicksilver costume changes and morphing into multiple roles. “There’s a little ham in all of us,” she explained. And in

Forum, her kids supported Mom by ushering and taking tickets. Role reversal?

Riconda’s talent for multi-tasking will come in handy as she plays three parts in the Thunder Bay Theater show *Pillow Talk* this fall, and appears again in Alpena for *White Christmas*. But it won’t be long before we see her back on the Rogers City Community Theatre stage.



Right: Riconda Lamb in the role of Minnie during the Rogers City Community Theatre production of *Hello Dolly*. Photo courtesy Richard Lamb.

Escanaba in da Moonlight tickets: Adult \$10, Senior \$9, Youth \$6

Get Your Tickets for *Escanaba in da Moonlight* Now!

Advance tickets are available for purchase at the following locations:

- ▶ Rogers City Chamber of Commerce Office, 292 S. Bradley Highway
- ▶ Presque Isle Newspapers, 103 South Third Street
- ▶ Rogers City Community Theatre Box Office, 257 North Third Street

Ticket Price for all performances: Adult, \$10, Senior, \$9, Youth, \$6

Note to Season Ticket Holders:

Your ticket may be used at any of the six scheduled Escanaba performances

Share Theatre News with a Friend: Use this form to sign up a friend for our free theatre newsletter

Please send “Spotlight,” the free Rogers City Community Theatre newsletter, to the following theatre fan:

Name: _____
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Mail completed form to: Rogers City Community Theatre
257 North Third Street
Rogers City, MI 49779

Check out past newsletter issues on our web site:
<http://rcctheatre.org>



Yes, tickets for every show performance are available for purchase at the door.



Rogers City Community Theatre

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Rogers City MI 49779



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Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861

Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Heidemann



See you at the show!

About Our Theater

The Rogers Theater was constructed in 1937 as a classic, single screen small town movie palace in the Art Deco style. After a fire in 1947, the theater was re-built and expanded. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theater was purchased in 2003 by Karl W. Heidemann. The new owner added a stage, theatrical lighting and utility improvements. In 2004, live productions began alternating with first run movies, in a revitalized auditorium. In the summer of 2009, exterior restoration brought back the black and orange tile work of the original theater façade.

Once the stage was available, an informal group of local theater fanatics emerged that now constitutes the Rogers City Community Theatre (RCCT). In 2006, a youth summer theater program began as well. Community cast members have ranged in age from 6 to 94. New theater volunteers are always welcome, both on stage and behind the scenes. Come join the fun!

In 2009, the RCCT incorporated as a Michigan non-profit organization and received IRS approval for federal non-profit status. Contributions are appreciated, and are now tax deductible.