



# ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATER

Winter 2009

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# Spotlight

## Hello, Dolly! Kicks off 2009 Theater Season



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### Did you know that:

- The Rogers City Theater was called "one of the best downtown movie theaters in the state," by Michael Doyle, in his new book "Box Office Open: Michigan's Small Town Movie Theaters"
- All youth attend the Rogers City Summer Theater Program completely free of charge
- New volunteers are always welcome on stage and behind the scenes

Pennie Kelly will direct the premier production of our 2009 theater season, bringing *Hello, Dolly!* to the Rogers City Community Theater stage. Based on Thornton Wilder's play, *The Matchmaker*, the Broadway musical version entitled *Hello, Dolly!* won a total of nine Tony award in 1964, including Best Show. Jerry Herman also won a Tony for *Dolly's* music and lyrics.

The title role of Dolly was originally written for Ethyl Merman, but she turned it down. Next it was offered to Mary Martin, who also declined. Finally, it was Carol Channing who initiated the role on Broadway. Her unforgettable portrayal of Dolly as a viva-

cious and meddling matchmaker alternately charmed and bedeviled the many men who sought her help with romance. But as a one-woman dating service, her best client was always herself.

Originally, the show was awkwardly entitled "Dolly, a Damned Exasperating Woman." However, after hearing an early recording of the exuberant song "*Hello, Dolly!*" producer David Merrick renamed the whole musical after its now famous, show-stopping signature production number.

Open auditions will be held for all roles in *Hello Dolly!* See the audition article on page two for further details.

### Show Dates for Hello Dolly:



### Two Weeks!

March 27, 28 and 29

Plus: April 3, 4 and 5

Fridays & Saturdays - 7:30 pm

Sunday Matinees - 2:00 pm

**Ticket order form on Page 3**

## 2009 Season Tickets Available for \$25

Season tickets for the new 2009 theatrical line-up will remain at just \$25 for all three regular shows this year (dinner theater tickets sold separately). The season price represents a \$5 savings from the regular \$30 cost of three separate general

admission tickets. Season tickets include *Hello, Dolly!* this spring, *Disney's Aladdin* in summer and *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* just before deer season. Check out our ticket order form on page three, and enjoy your local theater!



## Welcome to 2009! President's Corner by Donna Klein



The New Year rang in a new era in community theater in our area. The Rogers City Community Theater incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of Michigan, with 501 c 3 status pending through the federal government. Your founding board is ready to serve the theater arts community through this new venture and we look forward to being stewards of the marvelous gem we have in Presque Isle County.

An exciting season of shows is coming up, starting with our early spring musical, *Hello, Dolly!*. Our dinner theater follows, *Murder at the Café Noir*, in May. The Summer Youth Theater Program presents *Disney's Aladdin* in August. Rounding out the season is the hilarious, made-in-Michigan comedy, *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* in the fall.

We'll see you in the dark, and soon on our new web site, <http://rcctheatre.org>!

### Performance Dates, 2009

#### **Hello, Dolly!**

March 27, 28, 29; April 3, 4, 5

#### **Murder at the Café Noir**

Dinner, May 16, Tay-Beck's

#### **Disney's Aladdin (Youth)**

August 27, 28, 29, & 30

#### **Escanaba in Da Moonlight**

October 30, 31 & Nov. 1

Plus November 6, 7 & 8

**See You at the Show!**

## Open Auditions Scheduled for *Hello, Dolly!* Tues. & Wed., Jan. 27 & 28, 7-9 p.m. at Theater

Calling all men (we need a lot of them!) and women as well, who have an interest in fun, friendship, song and dance. Open auditions for the upcoming musical, *Hello, Dolly!* will be held at the Rogers City Theater on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 27 and 28, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

No experience is required for the audition, but most parts will involve singing and dancing. Anyone age 16 and up is welcome to try out, and instructions will be provided on site.

Due to safety precautions, no flip-flops or sandals are allowed on stage. Please

wear or bring comfortable dancing shoes.

If you don't want a stage role, but would still like to be part of the fun, consider volunteering to help with sets, costumes, lights, tickets or publicity. Volunteer sheets may be submitted on audition night, or to Pennie Kelly, Director.

## How'd They Do That? The Knife Fights in *Pajama Game*

The character of Hines in *Pajama Game* last fall had a penchant for knife throwing and starting up knife fights. That's a tough thing to enact on a live stage without endangering the lives of all the cast. So how'd they do it?

In the Rogers City

show, all knives popped out of the back of the set, rather than being thrown from the front. The knives were mounted on a 2x4 wood track guided by a piece of curtain rod.

Gene Modrzynski, who pushed out the blades on cue, had to keep a close eye

(thru a peep hole) on the throwing motions of Mike Marx, who played Hines. Meanwhile, Marx pocketed the knives he pretended to throw.

What were the knives made of? Recycled wooden paint stir sticks, with painted silver blades and black handles.



Productions of the Rogers City Community Theater are supported, in part, by a continuing grant from the Huron Shores Humanities Council.



# Community Characters: Theater Loses a Fine Thespian and Friend A Remembrance of Sid Nadolsky, 1913 - 2009

Fans of theater and music in Rogers City have lost a dear friend and accomplished artist, Sidney Nadolsky, who died on Wednesday, January 14, one month shy of his 96th birthday.

For most of his life, Sid earned his living as a professional musician. Though born in New York, Sid grew up in Grand Rapids, where he was a high school classmate of Gerald Ford. After a short stint of college, Sid went on the road as bassist in a 12-piece swing band during the Big Band era.

While raising his family in Grand Rapids, he played in Grand Rapids' Symphony and in his own five piece dance band, the Sid Nadolsky Orchestra.

In terms of theater, Sid got his start performing in productions of the Grand Rapids Circle Theater. By the time he moved to Rogers City in the late 1970s, he was already an experienced showman.

When Brian Mills began the drama program at Rogers City High School, he tapped Nadolsky for a cameo role in *Wizard of Oz, Rogers City Version*. Sid also played the Rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Later, when the High School staged its first production in the newly renovated Rogers City Theater, Sid was there playing a bit part in the Rogers City version of *Grease*.

Just over a year ago, at age 94, Sid reprised a role he first performed in

Grand Rapids, for the theater audience in Rogers City. Nadolsky played the character of Erroneous in *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Erroneous was an elderly Roman, instructed by a phony sooth-sayer to circle the hills of the Rome seven times, in order to rid his house of the evil spirits supposedly haunting the place.

Every time Sid, playing Erroneous, shuffled across the stage on his great circle route, he brought down the house. Though I don't think he fully understood why the audience went wild for him, he played the part to the hilt for laughs, anyway. After all, as he told music director Karl Heidemann, "Even a cheap laugh is a good laugh." Thanks Sid, for the smiles you brought to us all. We'll miss you, but we'll never forget you.

## Order Your Tickets Today

**Ticket Order Form** (Fill out, clip and mail. See mailing address below. Tickets will be returned by mail.)

Please send me the number and type of tickets indicated below:

Number:	Amount:
_____ Season Tickets at \$25 each, including admission to all 3 plays	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>Hello, Dolly!</i> only @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Hello, Dolly!</i> only @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Hello, Dolly!</i> only, @ \$6 each	_____
_____ Please list me as a sponsor in all 2009 programs @ \$25 this season	_____



**Save \$5 off of the regular price of three admissions when you buy a season ticket for just \$25**

Send tickets to: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theater  
Mail ticket order form to: 257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779



**Tickets are good for admission to any of the scheduled performances**

## Rogers City Community Theater

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779

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**To:**



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### 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 to a seating capacity of 600. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theater was purchased in 2003 by Karl W. Heidemann. The new owner removed some seating to add a stage, theatrical lighting and utility improvements. In 2004, live productions began alternating with first run movies, in a revitalized auditorium with a 424 person seating capacity. An informal group of theater fanatics soon emerged, that now constitutes the Rogers City Community Theater. This group of enthusiastic and talented volunteers has staged eighteen live productions since the new stage was christened. In 2006, a youth summer theater program began. Community theater 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!

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*See you at the show!*

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