



ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Spring 2016

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Spotlight

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Audiences Invited to “Choose Their Own Adventure” When *My Fair Lady* Opens May 13th

By James DeDecker

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Did You Know?

- **Rights to perform *My Fair Lady* have been restricted for several years**
- **Therefore the show hasn't been available for community theatre production**
- **After many letters, RCCT finally received approval for a limited showing, provided that it concluded prior to June 2016**
- **We are thrilled to offer this show in the 60th Anniversary Year of the original Broadway production in 1956**

My Fair Lady, Lerner and Loewe's 1956 musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, opens May 13, 2016 at RCCT and will run for two weekends, **May 13-15 and May 20-22**.

This beloved story of a cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, seeking to advance her station in life under the direction of Professor Henry Higgins, has been called “the perfect musical.” While exquisitely lyrical, humorous and romantic, the play is also deeply revolutionary, leveling sharp social criticism at class and gender hierarchy in an ever-shrinking world. This complexity has been heightened to an almost schizophrenic state through significant reinterpretation of the story since 1913, resulting in perpetual controversy among actors, directors and critics over how the play does, or perhaps should, end.

Shaw's 1913 script for *Pygmalion* ends with an intense scene in which Eliza asserts her newfound power, leaving Higgins defeated by his own ambitions. Almost from the beginning, actors began adding a romantic twist

to suggest that Higgins and Eliza's relationship had blossomed into something more amorous.

When *Pygmalion* was first brought to film in 1938, this more marketable conclusion was made explicit with a new final scene showing Eliza returning to Higgins, surrendering to his ego with the somewhat ambiguous yet self-mocking line, “I washed my face and hands before I come, I did.” Although Shaw protested this romantic reinterpretation all along, even writing a sequel to clear things up, a traditional ‘happy’ ending is hard to beat. This is undoubtedly why Lerner and Loewe retained the starry-eyed finale for *My Fair Lady* the musical.

An optimist might say that Eliza is taking the high road by returning to Higgins, that she can see past his flaws, that love conquers all. A realist, on the other hand, could easily feel defeated by such an ending. Has Eliza simply exchanged her prison in the gutter for the gilded cage of high society? You might be able to guess where my sympathies lie. Yet, rather than



taking it upon ourselves to answer these questions, RCCT's production will attempt a bold new take on audience involvement by asking patrons to decide once and for all how the story should end.

Audience members will be invited to vote during each performance intermission on whether Eliza should stay with Higgins or go, and the actors will play the final scene accordingly. With your help and a “little bit o' luck” we will learn something about ourselves as we once again reimagine this timeless classic.

President's Corner by Karl W. Heidemann

The Future of Our Theater



This column is usually written by Mike Marx, the President of our Board of Directors. As most of you know, Mike suffered a stroke recently, and is now in the recovery process. Mike has made valuable contributions to the theatre as an actor, director, sound and light technician, board member, and just about anything else that was needed. He is a businessman, an active member of the community, and a pillar to family and friends. We all anxiously await his return, and wish him the very best in his recovery.

Even though I'm not the President, as the co-owner of the theater building, perhaps I can clear up some questions regarding the future of the Community Theatre and the Rogers City Theater. My wife Mary Ann and I bought

the theater building 13 years ago. We invested heavily in the building and the business to maintain its heritage and improve its physical structure. We built the stage, put in new theatrical lighting, new bathrooms, furnaces, installed new seats and state-of-the-art digital cinema equipment, rebuilt the original façade, and made other improvements. We have had tremendous support from the City of Rogers City, the greater community, and especially from our many faithful patrons.

In order to preserve the theater for future generations, Mary Ann and I are donating the theater building to the Presque Isle District Library. The Library Board is very committed to maintaining movies and live theatre, and to expanding its efforts to

bring arts and culture to Presque Isle County. They have a dedicated and highly competent staff, including an enthusiastic new Library Director.

Through a lease agreement with the Rogers City Community Theatre, the Library is committed to making the theater building available to RCCT for four live theatre shows each year, just like we always do. Also, the Library Board has asked me to stay on to run the movies, concession stand, and ice cream shop for at least the next year, until they decide when and how to take over operations. In the meantime, the Library will continue to bring cultural events to the community at the theater. We think it's a win-win-win situation, and we're excited for the future!

"She will ask for your advice, your reply will be concise, she will listen very nicely then go out and do precisely what she wants."

Can You Name That Song From *My Fair Lady*?



How'd They Do That?

Game's Afoot: The Knife in Daria's Back

At the end of Act 1 in Ken Ludwig's play, *The Game's Afoot*, Daria Chase is murdered in a matter of seconds with a knife stab to the back. So, what kind of magic theatre dust was sprinkled to create that illusion?

The magic was in Daria's jacket. A section of wide flat curtain rod was used to create the illusion. Half the rod was secured inside a pocket created in the lining of the jacket. The handle of the knife was attached to the other half. At

the proper time, the handle section was slid into the receiving rod section within the pocket and... voila! When Daria next appeared on stage, it looked like she'd really been stabbed in the back!

-Donna Klein



Community Characters: Cast & Crew for My Fair Lady

Cast:

Eliza Doolittle.....Lucy DeDecker
 Henry Higgins.....Wesley Eagleson
 Colonel Pickering.....Karl Heidemann
 Alfred P. Doolittle.....Ed Perrault
 Freddy Eynsford-Hill.....Nolan Ryan
 Mrs. Pearce.....Jodi Collins
 Mrs. Higgins.....Denise Perrault
 Zoltan Karpathy & Bartender.....Bob Starnes II
 Mrs. Eynsford-Hill.....Melissa Linick
 Harry.....Morgan Suszek
 Jamie and Lord Boxington.....Bob Starnes IV
 Mrs. Hopkins.....Brittany Vanderwall
 Queen of Transylvania.....Shiloh McLennon
 Lady Boxington.....Carly Claus

Mrs. Higgins' Maid..... Baylee Lijewski
 Flower Girls, Servants, Ascot Chorus.....Salena
 Heidemann, Donna Klein, Sabrina Miller and Cast

Crew:

Director.....James DeDecker
 Assistant Director.....Karl W. Heidemann
 Music Director.....Donna Klein
 Choreographer.....Lucy DeDecker
 Stage Manager.....Marcy Starnes
 Costume Designer.....Val Schalk
 Set Designer.....Lawrence Anderson
 Sound Engineer.....Bill Halsey
 Light Engineer.....Sally Halsey

Order Your Tickets Today

Ticket Order Form Fill out, clip and mail to address below.

Tickets will held for pick up at the box office.

Please hold the number and type of tickets indicated below:

Number:

- _____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50
- _____ General Admission to *My Fair Lady*@ \$12 each
- _____ Senior Admission to *My Fair Lady* @ \$10 each
- _____ Student Admission to *My Fair Lady* @ \$6 each
- _____ Angel Donation (see box at right)

Amount:

Total: _____

Information for program listing or ticket pick-up:

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ email: _____
 Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theater
 Mail ticket order form to: 257 N. Third Street,
 Rogers City, MI 49779



Are you an Angel?

The Rogers City Community Theatre is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation committed to bringing quality theater to NE Michigan. Donations are an important part of our budget. Please consider enabling our work through your gifts, at any level.

- _____ \$500 Heavenly Host
- _____ \$250 Archangel
- _____ \$100 Guardian Angel
- _____ \$ 50 Seraphim
- _____ \$ 25 Cherubim

Angels will be recognized under the appropriate category heading in all 2016 show programs. Thanks for your continuing support!

We have the lowest ticket price in NE Michigan. Help keep it that way with your donations.

Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street
Rogers City MI 49779



Find us on the web:
<http://rcctheatre.org>

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257 North Third Street
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Theatre Office Phone: (989) 734-7368
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Web: <http://rcctheatre.org>
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Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Heidemann



See you at the show!

Wow! It's that time again. Summer is on its way so that can only mean one thing – Youth Theatre! This year's production, “Dear Edwina, Jr.” takes place in Michigan, so we're using Rogers City as our backdrop instead of Paw Paw. *Dear Edwina* is the story of Edwina Spoonapple, creator and star of *The Dear Edwina Show*. She and her friends produce the show from Edwina's garage. Edwina is a master of invaluable advice. Each week she and her friends answer letters from around the world. When Dr. Phil can't attend the big advice-a-palooza in Kalamazoo, a talent scout comes to the show to determine if Edwina will be invited to join the panel. Dear Edwina Jr. is a show-within-a-show, exploring the life of the characters. Edwina and friends share wisdom through the songs they sing as part of *The Dear Edwina Show*.

A variety of talent is needed for this show. There are singing and non-singing roles, with room for everyone to shine. There are also technical crew positions to fill. We need cheerleaders, a piano player, a drummer, a comedic ballerina, a pratfall artist able to fake a twisted ankle, letter readers with vocal solos, small ensembles, and a 'Greek chorus' of back-up singers. Can you sound like Count Dracula? We have a role for you! We even have a role for someone who speaks Spanish or can present a Spanish accent.

Some of the roles aren't gender-specific, but there are a number of roles that must be filled by boys. So, if you know of a young man who would benefit from learning (or learning more) about the theatre arts, please encourage him to be part of our show. We have a lot of fun while learning about responsibility, discipline, and being a team player. All area youth age 8 to 17 are invited to participate. **Auditions are Wednesday and Thursday, July 6 & 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the theater.** Comfortable clothes and shoes are recommended. Bare feet, sandals, and flip flops are forbidden on stage. If you need an alternate audition time, please let me know. I will try to accommodate anyone's schedule who wants to be in the show. For more information, please call me (Donna Klein) at 989-306-3951 or email klein.donna.j@gmail.com. Information will be posted to our website, rcctheatre.org, and on our Facebook page as we get closer to auditions. –Donna Klein