



ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Spring 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spotlight

“Murder at Café Noir” Two Nights Only!



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The Rogers City Community Theatre presentation of the murder mystery dinner theater experience, “Murder at Café Noir,” will be staged on Saturday, May 16 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, May 17 at 5:30 pm at TayBeck’s Grille and Bar, 351 N Bradley Hwy. in Rogers City. The play is a comic tribute to the Bogart movies of the 1940s. Written by David Landau, “Café Noir” features a cast of twelve and several songs from the era.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$50 per couple and include dinner. Seating is limited and only ticket holders will gain admittance to the show. Tickets may be purchased at the Rogers City Area Chamber of

Commerce, 292 S. Bradley (734-2535), the Presque Isle Advance, 103 S. Third (734-2105), TayBeck’s (734-4531) and at the Rogers City Theater (734-3861 or 734-7368).

Director Donna Kline said, “We have an excellent cast, a wonderful and slightly risqué mystery to solve, and plenty of comedic entertainment for our community. This play promises to provide plenty of laughs and edge of your seat suspense.”

The dinner menu includes tropical shrimp, salad and rolls, chicken breast with brandy sauce, home-made bread pudding for dessert and soft drinks (cash bar).



Two dinner theater seatings are available:

Saturday, May 16

At 6:30 pm and

Sunday, May 17

At 5:30 pm

TayBeck’s Grille & Bar

351 N. Bradley (US 23)

Rogers City

Did you know that:

- Current work on the façade of the Rogers City Theater building is designed to restore the structure to its 1937 historic “Art Deco” glory, complete with glossy black tile and orange trim
- Our theater office has a vintage post card of the old theater facade
- New volunteers are always welcome on stage and behind the scenes

“Café Noir” Dinner Theater Cast Members

Ed Perrault plays the male lead role of Rick Archer, private eye and Bogart wanna-be. Valerie Schalk plays Madam Toureau, the Café manager who’s seen it all. Danielle Farmer plays the female lead, Sheila Wonderly, a spoiled little rich girl who learns about life at the Café.

Bob Starnes plays Anthony Cairo, a black market dealer who works at the Café to avoid the police. Meghan Riordan plays Maria LaRue, the illegitimate daughter of a Creole voodoo priestess. Paul Hopkins plays Simon Gutterman, a lawyer implicated in several affairs

affairs with wealthy female clients. Wesley Eagleson plays three different shady characters, while Sheela Welch Allum, David Crull, Karl W. Heidemann, Andrea Shadbolt and Morgan Suszek play the denizens and drop-outs who frequent the Café Noir.

President's Corner by Donna Klein Spring into the Theatre!



Donna Kline plays the role of Domina in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at Rogers City Theatre

It's finally Spring in Northern Michigan! As a cast member of the musical "Hello Dolly!" I can tell you there is no better way to move old man winter along than to participate in a play through the Rogers City Community Theatre. Cold, snow and wind don't stand a chance when you are surrounded by the warmth and camaraderie shared during the production of a show. Time flies by, and before you know it, the show is over and spring

is in the air!

We are currently up to our eyeballs in preparing the next production for your enjoyment. The dinner theater murder mystery "Murder at the Café Noir" is going to be presented at TayBeck's Grille and Bar on Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17. Look for further details in this newsletter and then join us for some murderously hilarious fun over a multi-course meal.

If you want to stay in touch with what's coming up on the Rogers City Community Theatre agenda, check out our website : <http://rcctheatre.org>

Should you prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, a form is available on line, along with news of upcoming performances and ticketing information. Old issues of the newsletter are archived on line as well.

See you in the dark!

Youth Summer Theater Program for 2009 Will Perform Disney's Aladdin

The 2009 summer season will feature a youth performance of *Disney's Aladdin*. The musical play is modeled off the highly successful 1992 animated film *Aladdin* by the Disney studio. It was part of the so-called "Disney Renaissance" that began with *Little Mermaid*. *Aladdin* was the 31st animated feature film in the

Disney canon and was the most successful film of the year, grossing over \$217 million in the United States, and \$504 million world-wide.

The plot of *Aladdin* is taken from the Arab folk tale of *Aladdin and the Magic Lamp*. It revolves around a love story between the lowly street urchin

Aladdin and the princess Jasmine. The film's love song, "A Whole New World" won an Academy Award, Grammy and Golden Globe for best Original Song.

Audition information will be published in the *Advance* this summer. All area youth are encouraged to try out.

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



"A great set helps lift up the actors performance level!"

Karl W. Heidemann
Set Designer

How'd They Do That? Setting the Set was a Dance Routine Of its Own

Theater fans at "Hello, Dolly" were fascinated by the ongoing set transformations. A single giant, interconnected assemblage of doors and walls portrayed eleven different scenes. The set modulated in a flash from feed store to hat shop, to city street and fancy restaurant.

The magic was achieved through a complex series of unfolding, twisting and turning movements all choreographed and drilled as carefully as the play itself. Each actor had an assigned place on the set moving team, and wall locations for each successive scene were

mapped by color coded tape on the stage floor. The set was built on a wheeled frame to allow motion. All set wheels were recycled and stored along with the lumber, Styrofoam walls, stairs and doors when the set was dismantled after the final show. That's show biz!



Community Characters: Pennie Kelly

Many Rogers City residents know Pennie Kelly as the long-time director of the Nautical Festival Queen's Pageant. Not only has Pennie directed the pageant for 13 years, she is herself a former Miss Rogers City. But her local musical theater debut came when Pennie played the role of "Scarefro" in the *Wizard of Oz, Rogers City Version*, brought to the stage by Brian Mills and the Rogers City High School drama club. She also played the role of Frenchy in the Drama Club's version of *Grease*.

Since that debut, Pennie has performed many memorable roles for the Rogers City Community Theatre, including Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, Eulalie Shinn in *Music Man*, Roxie in

Chicago, and Penny Pennywise in *Urinetown*. Last fall, Pennie starred with the role of Babe in the Community Theatre's production of *The Pajama Game*.

Directing musicals has been another artistic challenge undertaken by Ms. Kelly. After directing pageants and co-directing both *Chicago* and *I Buried an Idol*, Pennie directed a crowd pleasing production this spring of *Hello, Dolly*.

On the management side, Penny presently serves as Vice President of the Rogers City Community Theatre organization, and works on both the Finance and Program committees.

Thanks, Pennie, for being one of our favorite Community Characters!



It all started with the role of "Scarefro"

Become a Youth Summer Theater Sponsor for Just \$25

Youth Summer Theater Program Sponsor Form and Ticket Order Form

I wish to support youth theater at the level indicated below:

Number:	Amount:
_____ Footlight Level Sponsorships @ \$25 each	_____
_____ Spotlight Level Sponsorships @ \$50 each	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>Disney's Aladdin</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Disney's Aladdin</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Disney's Aladdin</i> @ \$6 each	_____

Sponsor name and/or ticket mailing address: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theatre
 Mail completed form to: 257 North Third Street
 Rogers City, MI 49779



All youth theater sponsor names will be printed in the "Disney's Aladdin" show program.



Children participate in youth summer theater at no fee. Please support this program!

Tickets will be mailed two weeks prior to the Aug. 27-30 show dates and may be used at any performance

Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street
Rogers City MI 49779



PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
ROGERS CITY, MI 49779
PERMIT NO. 115

To:



ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theater Office Phone: (989) 734-7368
Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861

Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Heidemann



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 Theatre. 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!

See you at the show!
