

# ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Winter 2012

Volume 5, Issue 1

## Spotlight

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

### Christmas Belles Ring on Rogers City Stage January 20-22 and January 27-29



#### Inside this issue:

<b>President's Corner</b> <b>Mike Marx</b>	2
<b>Tap Dance Classes</b>	2
<b>Why'd They Do That?</b> <b>The Rubber Chicken</b>	2
<b>Community Characters:</b> <b>Bob Starnes</b>	3
<b>Ticket Order Form</b>	3
<b>About our Theater</b>	4

Christmas Belles was written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten. It is about the trials and tribulations of the three Futrelle Sisters. Honey Rae Futrelle, played by Donna Klein, is trying to put on her first Christmas Show at the Tabernacle of the Lamb. Frankie Futrelle, played by Pennie Kelly, is sick and fed-up with being overdue to deliver twin boys, and has a deep, dark secret. Twink Futrelle, played by Laura Winkle, is in jail for burning down half the town of Fayro, Texas, after setting her ex boyfriend's mobile home alight because he dumped her after 20 years of dating.

Frankie's husband, Dub Duberly, played by Ed Perrault, is a tired and less than happy camper while he moonlights as Santa at the Super SmartMart. Frankie and Dub's daughter, G.J., played by Emily

Perrault, is helping her Aunt Honey Rae put on the Christmas Show while ducking the advances of Interim Pastor Justin Waverly. Pastor Waverly, played by Robert Starnes IV, works along side Dub at the Super SmartMart, and just can't understand why G.J. won't accept his proposals, since he's prayed long and hard on the matter. Geneva Musgrave, played by Donna Mullen, is the town's florist and recently fired Christmas show director after 27 seasons at the Tabernacle of the Lamb. John Curtis Buntner, played by Chris Flewelling, is the sheriff in charge of making sure that Twink doesn't escape police custody to take revenge on her ex. Rhonda Lynn Lampley, played by Theresa Gibson, owns and operates the Dairy Dog, and is wearing out her welcome with Honey Rae and Twink. Patsy Price, played by Denise Perrault, is the

social/fashion maven of Fayro, and isn't happy to be related by marriage to Frankie and Dub, since her son married their older daughter. Last but not least is Raynerd Chisolm, played by Charlie Harp, who loves Christmas, pulls a red wagon behind him, works at the Dairy Dog, and has an I.Q. slightly lower than Forrest Gump.

As a result of throwing these characters and circumstances together, the mixture makes for a fantastic comedy! The set will be very minimalist in nature, with invisible walls delineated only by where the lit space ends. Action takes place on separate sides of the stage, making for a fast progression of scenes. The play is the third directed by Bob Starnes. The producer is Lawrence Anderson, and the assistant director/stage manager is Karen Maher. — by Bob Starnes

#### Did you know that:

- The Rogers City Community Theatre elected a new slate of officers for 2012-13:
- President, Mike Marx
- Vice-President, Val Schalk
- Secretary, Heather Nordenbrock
- Treasurer, Karl W. Heidemann

### Auditions for R.C.T. Pinafore Jan.31 & Feb. 1

Rogers City Community Theatre will be holding open auditions for a new original musical, "R.C.T. Pinafore," directed by Karl W. Heidemann. This rollicking musical is the Rogers City version of the most famous Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "H.M.S. Pinafore." It uses Sullivan's great score (which is in the public domain) and replaces Gilbert's libretto with all new lyrics and an original story rewritten for

our time and place.

Auditions will be held at the Rogers City Theater at 257 North Third Street on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 31 and February 1, at 7:00 pm. Those auditioning will be asked to read from a script (provided at site), sing and dance, and must be at least 16 years old. Bring appropriate clothing and shoes. There are many roles for men and women.

Rehearsals will be held on Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 7:00 to 10:00 pm and Sat. from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, starting Thurs., Feb. 2 and running through dress rehearsal Thurs., April 19, 2012.

Performances of R.C.T. Pinafore are scheduled for April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29. For more information, call (989) 734-7368.

—Karl W. Heidemann

## Welcome to the 2012 Theatre Season! President's Corner by Mike Marx



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our upcoming 2012 season is going to bring you some of the best productions available. We are excited to share these excellent plays with you.

We begin, just in time to shake away some of those post holiday and winter blues, with *Christmas Belles*, a Texas sized comedy with plenty of hilarious subplots to help you forget our northern Michigan winter. This is coming up quick with weekend performances January 20th thru January 29th; a can't miss opportunity.

In April we follow up in

with *R.C.T. Pinafore*, a high seas comedy with a Rogers City twist. We will be bringing back dinner theater, June 23rd, with *Contempt of Court*. The kids take the stage again in late August and we finish up with another comedy, *Lend me a Tenor*, in the fall.

As you can see, we are tackling a huge schedule with 5 plays! So it would be a great opportunity to pick up season tickets and save some money. How about a late Christmas gift? The recipient will not be disappointed.

We would like to thank those individuals that donated

money for our sewing machines. This will truly make our seamstresses' job much easier. We are very grateful.

This year, we will be trying to upgrade our speaker system to enhance our microphones and new sound board. A work in progress, to say the least, but one we are working on to increase your play-going experience. So if you could help, please let us know. Also, Spotlight and Footlight program sponsorships are now available.

That's it for now. A great season is ahead. See you at the theatre!

## Tap Dance Classes Enliven the Rogers City Stage



In the fall of 2011, for the first time ever, the Rogers City Theatre stage hosted tap dance classes for youth and adults. The idea grew out of the dancing scenes from *Singin' in the Rain*. Theatre owner Karl Heidemann asked Morgan Suszek if he might help train local talent in tap, so a core group would be available for future musicals. When an adult

tap class formed, local moms asked Morgan to offer tap for young girls as well. Both groups finished a 10-week class on tap basics with a plenty of enthusiasm and success. The youngsters ended their sessions with a "mini-recital" on our stage.

Tap teacher Suzek has done a great deal of choreography locally, including numbers for

*Chicago*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and children's routines for *Aladdin* and *Willy Wonka*. "I like working with the kids," said Morgan. "Show them a step once or twice, and they've got it down."

When asked if future dance classes are in the works, Morgan said it will depend on interest and schedule. For further information, call him at (989) 306-2391.

## Why'd They Do That? The Theatre's Rubber Chicken Tradition

Sharp-eyed audience members may have noticed a rubber chicken sticking out of the children's toy box in last fall's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. What you may not realize is that rubber chicken appearances are a whacky tradition in all Rogers City Community Theatre productions.

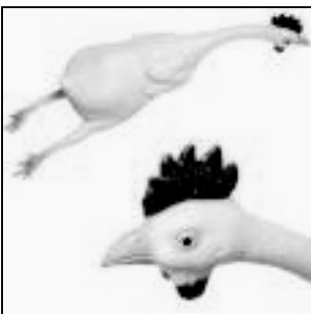
What's the chicken thing all about? The rubber chicken has

long been a classic sight gag in juggling acts, vaudeville slapstick routines, and by comedy kings such as Grocho Marx and Monty Python. Some contend that the chicken tradition in theatre is older yet, descending from the inflated pig bladders mounted on sticks used by jesters and minstrels.

At the Rogers City Community Theatre, chicken sightings

have occurred in more than twenty shows, including the dinner platter in *Hello Dolly*, an eating scene in *Willy Wonka*, in a nun's laundry basket during *The Sound of Music* and stuffed in *The Little Shop of Horrors* garbage can.

Where will the rubber chicken turn up next? Buy a ticket to our show and find out for yourself.





# Community Character: Bob Starnes III

Bob Starnes, the Director of Christmas Belles, got his first lead role in a high school play, *The Lottery*. Only many years later did he rekindle the love of theatre when cast as Billis in the Rogers City production of *South Pacific*. But unfortunately, Bob broke his collar bone in a rehearsal fall, and another actor had to take over the part.

Once recovered, Bob returned to our stage in a series of great roles: Hasler, the boss in *Pajama Game*, a memorable Protean in *Forum*, Senator Fipp, a bad guy in *Urinetown*, and the best Jimmer ever, in *Escanaba in Da Moonlight*. Most recently, Bob played Teddy Roosevelt in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Bob admits that the Jimmer was his favorite role to date, but he has received much positive feedback on Teddy as well.

Coming from out of town, Bob says that performing in the theatre helped him feel more a part of the community. The appreciation expressed by audience applause is a big part of his reward; along with the sheer fun of working with the other cast and crew.

*Christmas Belles* is Starnes' third time as Director, following the productions of *Night Mother* and *The Odd Couple* (female version). According to Bob, *Christmas Belles* is a very different play, built up from many short scenes coming in rapid succession. "The focus is on the acting, with a minimal set and staging," says Bob.

"Being involved in the Rogers City Community Theatre is a great way to give back to the community," notes Starnes, "and I am happy to have the chance to do so."



Bob Starnes as the Jimmer, second from left, lower level; with the rest of the cast from the Rogers City Community Theatre production of *Escanaba in Da Moonlight*. Photo credit: Presque Isle County Advance.

## Order Your Tickets Today

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

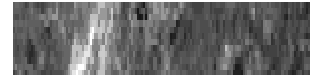
Please send me the number and type of tickets indicated below:

Number:	Amount:
_____ Season Tickets at \$35 for admission to 4 plays (excludes dinner theatre)	_____
_____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>Christmas Belles</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Christmas Belles</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Christmas Belles</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ List me as a footlight sponsor in all 2010 programs @ \$25 this season	_____
_____ List me as a spotlight sponsor in all 2010 programs @ \$50 this season	_____
_____ Donation toward sound system improvements	_____

**Send Tickets to:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Are you an Angel?

The Rogers City Community Theatre has the lowest live theater ticket price in Northeast Michigan, making donations an important part of our budget. Therefore, the RCCT Board has decided to expand levels of Program Sponsorship to include the following new categories for donations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Donor
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Patron
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Angel

All Program Sponsors will be recognized under the appropriate category heading in all 2012 show programs. Thanks for your continuing support!

## Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779



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

**To:**

Return Service Requested

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



### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theatre Office Phone: (989) 734-7368  
Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861  
Web: <http://rcctheatre.org>  
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



---

*See you at the show!*

---

#### About Our Theatre

The Rogers Theatre was constructed in 1937 as a classic, single screen small town movie palace in the Art Deco style. After a fire in 1947, the theatre was re-built and expanded. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theatre 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 theatre façade.

Once the stage was available, an informal group of local theatre 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 theatre 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.