



Spotlight

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Two Fall Plays? Wow!

**Starts
Oct. 27**

**Starts
Nov. 30**



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A COUNTY FAIR IN DA U.P., YAH, SURE!

Story by Karl W. Heidemann, Director

Our Fall production at the Rogers City Community Theatre is musical comedy for the whole family, *A County Fair in da U.P., Yah Sure!* This is RCCT's adaptation of the hilarious musical originally titled *A Don't Hug Me County Fair*, with book and lyrics by Phil Olson and music by Paul Olson. These two brothers have written five musicals together in the "Don't Hug Me" style, based on the standoffish nature of their Scandinavian heritage.

It's County Fair time at the Bunyan Bar, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which means one thing: The Miss Walleye Queen Competition. Bernice the waitress sees this as her big chance to win the title of Miss Walleye Queen, to be discovered, and more important, to have her face carved in butter at the State Fair.

The trouble begins when Clara Johnson, the co-owner of the Bunyan Bar with her cantankerous husband, Gunner Johnson, decides she also wants to win Miss Walleye Queen. But when Gunner's estranged twin sister, Trigger, shows up to try to win the beauty pageant, things get ugly. Adding

to the mayhem, Kanute Gunderson, a local fishing guru, who gets Gunner to bet the bar that he can win the Fishing Contest, and Aarvid Gisselsen, a fast-talking karaoke salesman, who is competing with Kanute for Bernice's hand in marriage, and you have an all-out U.P battle with every man, woman, and walleye for himself.

The show features 18 original songs you'll want to sing while eating a pastie, including *Our Butter Face Queen*, *Pontoon Ladies*, *I'm Just a Pretty Forest Ranger*, *My Campfire is Burnin' For You*, *If I Could Win Miss Walleye Queen*, and *I'm a Bunyan Woman*. There is even a sing-along song so the audience can join right in on the fun.

Who will win the fishing contest? Who will win Bernice's affection? And who will win Miss Walleye Queen? Come to the show to find out the answers to these and other silly questions.

Meanwhile, call 989-734-3861 for further information about the production or about ticket purchase. See you at the show!

(cast and crew listed on page 2)

The Brothers Grimm Spectac- ulathon

Story by Julie Riddle, Director

The 2017 season began with the resurrection of high school theatre in Rogers City through production of *The Miracle Worker*. As the year draws to a close, high school students are preparing to once again entertain the loyal patrons of RCCT, this time with a rollicking comedy entitled *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*.

As described by author: "Told in a similar style to The Reduced Shakespeare Company, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* is a madcap romp through the collected stories of the Brothers Grimm. Two warring narrators attempt to combine all 209 fairy tales into one impossibly complicated storyline in a hilarious theatrical event. (cont'd. on page 2)

Show Times & Tickets:

- **Performance dates for *A County Fair* are Oct. 27 thru Nov. 5.**
- **Friday and Saturday shows start at 7:30 pm and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 pm.**
- **Our tickets are the least expensive in all of Northern Michigan for live theatre: \$12.00 for adults; \$6.00 for all students.**
- **Tickets are available at the Presque Isle County Newspapers office, or at the door beginning one hour before curtain time.**

Program Committee Corner: 2018 Season

By Heather Nordenbrock



The Rogers City Community Theatre proudly announces the productions scheduled for our new, 2018 season, as follow.

Shrek, The Musical: Musical Comedy. Directed by James DeDecker. Produced by Donna Klein. Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation, This is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure that brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears. Performed by all ages. March 2-4 and 9-11.

Beer for Breakfast: Poignant Comedy. Directed by Karl W. Heidemann. A group of middle-aged buddies reunite for a "guys' weekend" in a snowed-in cabin to eat chili, drink beer, and relive the good old days. Despite divorce, unemployment, and a stroke, spirits are high until Jessie, the wife of absent friend Adrian, shows up in his place. An epic battle of wits and stamina ensues: will the men win their

right to an all-out guy fest, or will woman be crowned the stronger sex after all? Adult performers. May 4-6 and 11-13.

Once on This Island, Jr. Summer Youth Theatre Musical. Directed by Heather Nordenbrock. Combining story-telling and movement, this full-hearted musical tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest that will test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and even death. Performed by youth ages 7-17. August 23-26.

Don't Dress for Dinner: Comic Farce. Directed by Jodi Collins. Produced by Karl W. Heidemann. Bernard is planning a romantic weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in his charming converted French farmhouse, whilst his wife, Jacqueline, is

away. He has arranged for a cor-don bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights, and has invited his best friend, Robert, along too to provide the alibi. It's foolproof; what could possibly go wrong? Well... come find out! An evening of hilarious confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed. Adult performers. Oct. 26-28 and Nov. 2-4.

The Curious Savage: Charming comedy, directed by Julie Riddle. Mrs. Savage was left ten million dollars and wants to make best use of it, despite her grown-up stepchildren's efforts to get their hands on it. Hoping to "bring her to her senses," the stepchildren commit her to a sanatorium, where she meets various social misfits- men and women who just cannot adjust themselves to life, people who need the help Mrs. Savage can provide. The dominant mood is high comedy, and the audience is left with a feeling that the virtues of kindness and affection have not been entirely lost in this world. High school youth performers. Nov. 29-Dec. 2.

Cast for A County Fair in da U.P., Yah, Sure!

This show's cast includes community favorites, Ed and Denise Perrault, perfectly cast as the husband and wife, Gunner and Clara Johnson. Also appear-

ing are seasoned performers, Bob Starnes and Robert E. Starnes IV, as Kanute and Aarvid, and two new faces to the RCCT stage, Carrie Thornton and Pearl T.

Rude, as Bernice and Trigger. Our crew includes Karl W. Heidemann as Director, with Karen Maher as Assistant Director. Riconda Lamb is serving as the show's producer.

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon (continued from p.1)

Using audience participation, cross-casting, cross-dressing, quick costume changes and some creative re-imagining of the stories, the narrators utilize other actors to tell as many fairy tales as possible.

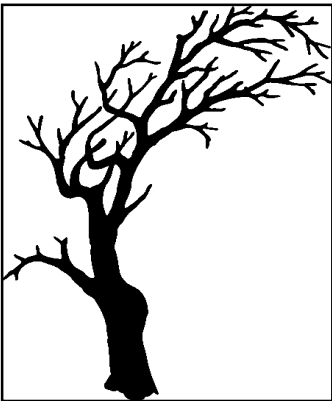
Famous stories such as Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, The Frog Prince, Snow White, and Little Red Riding Hood are told alongside bi-

zarrer, obscure tales like Lean Lisa, The Girl Without Hands, and The Devil's Grandmother, all culminating in a frenetic one-man Cinderella in which one unfortunate actor is corralled into performing all of the roles in a mind and gender-bending dash to the finish line...It's wild, silly fun."

The show is a perfect fit for a high school setting,

allowing for a flexible cast and giving young actors opportunities to explore multiple characters while they hone their comedic timing.

Audiences fortunate enough to be in the seats for the final show of the 2017 season will be rewarded with an evening of laughter and the pleasure of watching young people have the chance to shine.



Community Characters: Mary Parsons

Mary Parsons had a unique start in community theatre. It all began at the dentist’s office, when Dr. Ron Mishko, DDS, suggested to Mary that she call Donna Kline and offer to help out with the shows. That was back in 2013, and *Harvey*, the play about a giant rabbit, was then in production. The director needed help finding props for the show, so Mary pitched in at what was to become one of her several theatrical specialties.

These days, Mary has a large and supportive group helping her find props. “Yep, when I go into Huron Bank, the tellers all ask me, ‘Mary, what’s on your list for this show?’ Grulke Hardware helps out, too. It’s the whole community, really.”

The search for props starts

off with the prop list provided by the director. Mary first searches the theatre prop room, to see what may already be available. Next, she talks to the cast members, to find out what they might have at home. The third step is canvassing the community. “It’s all about talking to people,” says Mary, “and getting their help. Especially with the kids’ plays, when they help find props it gets the kids and their families more involved.”

In terms of props, the biggest challenge was *My Fair Lady*, especially finding a Victrola. “We actually had to buy one, which is our very last resort,” Mary said with a laugh, familiar with the theatre’s stingy set budget. On the other hand, there was no problem at all getting

props like antlers, fishing nets and skis for the play *Christmas Carol in da U.P.* “In fact, just one person was able to give me all the antlers I needed for that set. Karl was the director, and his eyes just bugged out when he saw all of them.”

As prop mistress, Mary is also responsible for making sure the borrowed items are not damaged during the play, and then getting all the items back to their owners; a time-consuming task.

Another job requiring time and energy is distributing the show posters. Mary has developed a network of businesses around town, willing to display notices about the upcoming plays. “I have a regular route with 50 or more spots. I love



telling people about the shows when I put up the posters. I can also get good feedback, and find out what people like or don’t like.”

When asked what the theatre has done for the town, Mary immediately responded: “It’s brought us all together.” When asked what she personally has gained, Mary said: “I love being part of that togetherness. And I’m proud that I’ve made my own job, and it helps out.”

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
- _____ Season Ticket, one admission each to each of four plays for \$35
- _____ General Admission to *A County Fair* @ \$12 each
- _____ Student Admission to *A County Fair* @ \$6 each
- _____ Angel Contribution (as checked in 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 Theatre

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. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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

Angels will be recognized by category in all upcoming show programs. Thanks for your 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



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<http://rcctheatre.org>

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About Our Theatre



ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

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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!

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 ceramic work of the original 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 summer youth theater program began as well. Community cast members have ranged from age 6 to 94. New cast and crew volunteers are always welcome! 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 tax deductible as allowed by law.

In 2013, a community-based fundraising drive provided support for installation of new theatre seating, sound system improvements, a digital 3-D projector and a new highly reflective screen, putting our theater at the cutting edge of stage and movie technology. In June 2016, Mary Ann and Karl Heidemann donated the theater building to the Presque Isle District Library for use as a community education and entertainment center, with a long-term lease for the Rogers City Community Theatre, ensuring access to theatre and fun for the next generation.