



Spotlight

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



**Fall
Double
Header!**



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Did you know that:

- The Rogers City Community Theatre is always looking for new participants
- Auditions are open to the public and first-time actors are welcome
- The theatre always needs help with set building, painting, costumes, props, lights and sound
- Being an usher, ticket taker or sweeper is a way to help
- The marketing, program and funding committees are open to non board members
- Contact a board member for more information. They are listed on the theater web site
- Visit <http://rcctheatre.org>

Don't Dress for Dinner

Oct. 21-26; Nov. 2-4

Story by Jodi Lynn Kamyszek, Director

Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. This statement couldn't be more true for Bernard and his best friend Robert. While Bernard's wife Jacqueline is away at her mother's for the weekend, Bernard makes special plans of his own. He invites his mistress for a romantic dinner. Bernard's best friend Robert is also invited over for what he thinks to be a weekend when good friends catch up on old times. But everything falls apart when Jacqueline's plans change, putting Bernard in quite a pickle. The real fun begins when Bernard enlists his best friend Robert in his angst. Meanwhile an unsuspecting cook is in for the most interesting dinner party of her career.

A note from the Director: Having the opportunity to direct this play has led me on such an exciting journey! I have gained great respect for what is done behind the scenes, letting those of us who appear

on stage look so polished and professional. I dedicate this play to all of the unseen that help so much to make our productions so fantastic. A special thank you to my Orchard Manor Family and my husband Jeff. You have moved schedules around and filled in where needed, all so that I can do what I love! (see page two for a listing of our cast and crew)

Show Times & Tickets:

- Performance dates for *Don't Dress* are **Oct. 26 thru Nov. 4.**
- **Friday and Saturday shows start at 7:30 pm and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 pm.**
- **Ticket price: \$12 for adults; \$6 students.**
- **Tickets are available at the Presque Isle County Newspapers office, or at the door beginning one hour before curtain time.**

Curiouser and Curiouser

by Julie Riddle, Director

On the second weekend of December, Rogers City high school students will present *The Curious Savage*, a gentle comedy about the unexpected, curious creature that is mankind. Wealthy widow Mrs. Ethel P. Savage has been placed into a home for the mentally unstable by her three exasperating adult children, who are determined to get their hands on their father's money.

Mrs. Savage encounters the sweetly unbalanced residents of the home, who have each retreated from the world into their own quirky reality. Comic mix-ups, eavesdropping and a weight loss trick involving playing cards lead to pandemonium that will leave the audience giggling and getting teary-eyed at the same time.

With warmth and humor, the play explores society's standards of "normal" and raises the question of whether (story continues on page two)

Editor's Corner: New Voices

By Mary Ann Heidemann, Newsletter Editor Emeritus



This season's theatre newsletter, "Spotlight" is marked Volume 11, Number 4. That means, as your loyal newsletter editor, I have been involved in getting the news out about upcoming shows and the people who create them for at least eleven years. The earliest newsletter file in my possession dates back to 2009. That one covered our fabulous production of *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. It was labeled "Volume 2, Number 4." I know I wrote some earlier newsletters, but those files have been lost through the passage of time and multiple computer melt-downs. I do remember, during the previous year, searching the internet for dancing pajamas to illustrate *The Pajama Game* (Fall 2008). Earlier yet, I recall writing a "How'd They Do That?" article regarding our set for the play, *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Fall

2007). To prepare the *Forum* set, my husband Karl made Roman columns by recycling the foam liners that protected his ice cream shop waffle cone shipments. The cone box liners had protective ridges that looked just like fluting on a classical column, and were flexible enough to bend into a cylinder. To tell our readers about this thrifty and visually appropriate material, I wrote the phrase "The columns of *Forum* were formed of foam." We loved the tongue-twisting rhythm of that phrase, and it became an oft-repeated chant in our household. Are we theatre nuts? Yes, of course, and if you are reading this, you may be one too.

What I'm trying to describe is how much fun I've had over the years sharing theatre stories. But after more than a decade of hearing from me, it's

high time to hear from new voices. I am extremely pleased to announce that Riconda Lamb will be taking over as Newsletter Editor for the 2019 theatre season and beyond. Riconda is certainly not new to the theatre enterprise (see the accompanying Community Characters story about Riconda, on page 3), but next year will be her debut organizing and editing our "Spotlight" publication.

However, as most of you know, Riconda comes from a newspaper family, so she has printer's ink in her bloodstream and lay-out talent in her fingertips. The transition to Newsletter Editor should be as smooth as it is welcome. Please give Riconda your thanks and support as she grapples with the new undertaking. You may even want to contribute a story from time to time. It's your theatre, too. Enjoy the show!

Cast and Crew of *Don't Dress for Dinner*

Cast: This show's cast features Ed Perrault as Bernard, the errant husband, and Karl W. Heidemann as Robert, Bernard's best friend. Denise Perrault plays Jacqueline, Bernard's wife, with Sabrina Miller as their cook. George, Suzette's husband, is played

by Bob Starnes IV while Penne Hoeft plays Suzanne, the mistress.

Crew: Jodi Lynn Kamyszek directs the show and helped with props. Baylee Lijewski is assistant director and stage manager, while also assisting

with props. Val Shalk created the maids costumes. Riconda Lamb and Ava Kelly work lights and sound. Theresa Gibson serves as stage hand. Karl Heidemann is responsible for set design and technical direction, with Julie Riddle serving as the show's producer.

Curiouser and Curiouser (continued from page 1)

it is better to retreat from life's eccentricities or to live courageously among them. *The Curious Savage* accomplishes the rare feat of communicating profound truths while remaining playful and fun. The witty dialogue and endearing characters will delight audiences and offer an excellent training ground for the young actors.

Director Julie Riddle chose this play for the fall high school production be-

cause of the opportunities it will provide the cast members. A far cry from last year's fast-paced, hilarious *Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, *The Curious Savage* is full of well-rounded, lovable characters with strong inner lives that actors and director will be able to explore and bring to life.

"Theater offers students the opportunity to do more than just put on a fun play," Riddle said. "It encourages

them to think deeply, climb inside someone else's head, experience compassion, discover truths... The people who make up *The Curious Savage* have much to teach us about ourselves. I can't wait to be amazed by what the high schoolers do with this lovely show."

Auditions for *The Curious Savage* will be held October 16 and 17. Performance dates are December 6-9, Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.



Community Characters: Riconda Lamb

Riconda Lamb is no stranger to the Rogers City Community Theatre having experience as actor, director, crew member and ticket seller, as well as being a founding member of the Community Theatre Board. But as of the 2019 season, Riconda takes another role: Editor for the theater newsletter, "Spotlight."

As Editor, Riconda has no immediate plans for major changes in the newsletter, though she does hope to freshen up the graphics. In terms of articles, her favorite Spotlight piece is the director's synopsis of the upcoming play, because directors talk about their approach to the work, and what it means to each of them. Riconda also enjoys the How'd They Do That? piece, because it gives the public a glimpse of the offbeat, creative process involved in

putting a play on stage.

"I think the newsletter is an important part of our marketing and outreach program," says Lamb, who is also a member of the theatre's Marketing Committee. "We need to keep the theatre open and accessible to everyone in the community, so more people can get excited about our plays." It's that excitement that prompts new people to come join in the fun.

In Riconda's opinion, the future of the theater depends on bringing in those new faces, not just as actors, but as crew members and volunteers. "We need to make the theatre a safe place to learn new things." As an example, she points to the recent theatre skill workshops that gave young thespians the confidence to undertake new roles

and perform well under the stress of the stage.

While Riconda has enjoyed her own stage experiences, she values her Board membership as a way to help guide and support the future of the theatre. "I came to the theatre as an adult," she notes, "so I didn't have previous experience in other theatres. I just love being on the Community Theatre Board, and I even love the long two hour Board meetings, because I learn so much from the other members. They offer so many ideas and options on presentation methods and interpretation. It has really given me a broader perspective of the arts."

When not participating in Board meetings, Riconda can be found round about town,



Baylee Lijewski as Scooby Doo and Riconda Lamb as Daisy Duck help promote our youth summer theatre

promoting the theatre in creative ways. She recently found a Daisy Duck costume at a local yard sale, and wore it to the Saturday grocery store check-out line, distributing brochures for the summer youth productions. "The kids loved it," she says with a grin.

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 *Don't Dress for Dinner* @ \$12 each
- _____ Student Admission to *Don't Dress for Dinner* @ \$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

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About Our Theatre



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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. Additional sound and lighting equipment was added in 2017-18, keeping 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.