



# ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Fall 2022

Volume 14, Issue 3

# Spotlight

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## Hilarious Slapstick Comedy Opens October 28

By: Jodi Kamyszek, Director

## Cast & Crew

### Cast:

Garrison Benson	George Hay
Pennie Hoeft	Charlotte Hay
Baylee Lijewski	Rosalind (Roz)
Bob Starnes IV	Howard
Alex Czarnecki	Paul
Judy Fischer	Ethel
Lawrence Anderson	Richard
Casey Gross	Eileen

### Crew:

Jodi Kamyszek	Director
Jeff Kamyszek	Asst. Director
Katy Carignan	Producer
Garrison Benson	Set & Tech
Brittany Getzmeyer	Stage Mngr.
Val Schalk	Costumes

### SHOW SCHEDULE

#### Evening Shows:

Fri. Oct. 28 & Nov. 4

Sat. Oct. 29 & Nov. 5

Shows start at 7:30  
(doors open at 7:00)

#### Matinees:

Sun. Oct. 30 & Nov. 6

Shows start at 2:00  
(doors open at 1:30)

#### Tickets:

Adults: \$14

Students: \$6

Tickets available at the box office one hour before each show.

Rogers City Community Theatre will be presenting a screwball comedy on stage in Rogers City. Opening weekend is October 28-30, with performances continuing the following weekend of November 4-6.

In the comedy tradition of farce, the hilarious *Moon Over Buffalo* centers on fading 1950s stars George and Charlotte Hay. Currently, they're playing *Private Lives* and *Cyrano De Bergerac* in rep in Buffalo, New York with five actors.

On the brink of a disastrous split-up caused by George's hooking up with a young ingénue, they get word that Frank Capra is coming to see their matinee and if he likes what he sees he might cast them in his movie.

As in all comedies, every-

thing that could go wrong, does go wrong, helped by a visit from their daughter's clueless fiancé, as well as uncertainty about exactly which play they're performing.

Given the level of comedic mayhem and slapstick action that ensues on stage, it's fitting that the original 1995 cast featured Carol Burnett, returning to Broadway after a 30-year lapse. Both Burnett and her co-star Philip Boaco, were nominated for Tonys as best actress/actor.

Their roles were later reprised by Lynn Redgrave and Robert Goulet. Since that time, there has never been a theatrical season without *Moon Over Buffalo* being played somewhere on the nation's stages.

Join our cast for a rollicking good time as the moon rises over Buffalo.



## Library to Restore Theater Wall & Marquee

By Amber Alexander, Director, Presque Isle District Library



Presque Isle District Library received a Capitol Improvement grant through Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) to restore the north wall of the Rogers Theater. This is phase one in a multi-phase improvement project that will be spread out over several years. The north wall will be replaced with an exterior foam and covered in mesh with a base and finish plaster coat. The second phase of the project includes an art mural. Community members will have an opportunity to provide input on the design elements for a professionally painted mural on the north wall. The concessions outer wall will be repainted and the current awning will be replaced with newer canvas.

Fund raising efforts are in full swing. The grant was awarded for \$26,606 with matching funds from the Kenneth Hall Memorial Fund, the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan (CFNEM), private funds and through the Rogers Theater Capital Campaign. The district library continues to receive individual donations with over \$4,300 since the campaign began. Demolition

and restoration of the north wall will be completed by the end of the year 2022.

In addition, the library submitted an application for a Resilient Lakeshore Heritage grant through the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to restore the original theater marquee. The grant will enable a professional marquee contractor to rehabilitate the authentic iconic design and lighting features along with restoring it to its full mechanical function. The marquee restoration includes new neon lighting, repair of rusted porcelain, new Lexan faces and lower panels, new LED sockets and lighting, and return of the chaser lights. All the work will take place on site. Pedestrian access of the sidewalk and street parking will be blocked off during the proposed four week restoration period. It is interesting to note that both the restoration of the Soo Theater (Sault Ste. Marie) and State Theater (Ann Arbor) had to have both their marquees removed in order to conduct the extensive repairs at a much greater cost. The cost of the marquee repairs are estimated at \$62,000. Part of the grant

stipulation is that upon completion of the marquee restoration, the historic Rogers Theater will be listed on the National Register, administered by the National Park Service.

On a final note, in celebrating the Rogers Theater's 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we retained the theater's original name of the Rogers Theater. The theater continues to see an increase in patrons from a large geographic area in northern Michigan and we're seeing more out of state visitors to the area. Many choose to come to the Rogers Theater because they like the acoustics, the large single screen, and the ambience of the auditorium seating...and many like the fresh smell of popcorn. With so many downtown communities losing their local theaters, we intend to continue to rehabilitate our historic downtown Rogers Theater as the artistic and cultural center of the community.

We will be seeking additional funding for the concessions, lobby area and the auditorium. Donations can be made at the Presque Isle District Library administration offices at the Rogers City library.

## How'd they Do That? Glinda's Bubbles

Fans of the original *Wizard of Oz* film may recall that Glinda the Good Witch floats onto the scene inside a magic bubble. But bubble transport is a bit more difficult to accomplish on stage than in film. What's a director to do?

In the Rogers City youth summer theater production, the bubble theme was established in a slightly different

way, preserving the feeling of the original, while adapting the technology. Glinda carries her bubbles on her back.

A bubble-making toy was located on line, mounted to a pair of fairy wings. Unfortunately, it was designed for a toddler. Once a larger set of wings was acquired for our local Glinda, the battery operated bubble making machine

was re-mounted on the larger frame. The actress was able to simply flip a switch to make scores of dainty little bubbles float out in an aura around her head. The effect: magnificent!

As long as the bubble juice and the batteries were replenished before each show, Glinda's bubbles could continue to demonstrate her trademark brand of magic.



# Community Character: Theresa Gibson

At six years of age, Theresa Gibson watched Carol Burnett perform *Once Upon a Mattress* on TV, and was instantly infatuated with theater. She began writing plays and organizing productions involving all the kids in her neighborhood. When the Dearborn Players mounted *Mattress*, Theresa dreamed of taking Burnett's role as Princess Winnifred. Being much too young at the time, she volunteered instead to handle the lights, beginning a life-long involvement in every aspect of theater at the high school, college and community theater level.

Gibson took courses in theater at several Michigan colleges as her own schooling progressed. She was extending her reach to Chicago when pregnancy interrupted her audition plans. Selecting Rogers City as a good place to raise her growing family, she became a local resident in 1982.

Theresa's son Mike inherited his mother's interest in theatrics, becoming involved in the early days of the Rogers City Community Theater's summer youth theater program, moving into adult productions then pursuing theater

professionally in Chicago.

It took a year of severe stress to get Theresa back on stage. Enduring a lay-off, an illness and her own mother's death, Gibson re-evaluated her life, deciding to seek the joy she had always found in theater. A 2009 ad in the local paper announcing auditions for the play *Christmas Belles* provided a path. Since then, Theresa has performed numerous roles in RCCT productions, helped out with technical support, directed plays and now serves on the RCCT Board of Directors as President.

Asked to name her favorite acting role over the years, Gibson mentioned playing Veta Louise, in *Harvey*, followed as a close second by Jinx Jenkins in *Savannah Sipping Society*. "It seemed like I didn't act for the Jenkins role," laughed Gibson. "It was just my life on stage."

As a director, Gibson has specialized in organizing summer youth shows, most recently the production of *Wizard of Oz*, with 26 young actors involved. "The talent of these kids is just amazing," she marveled. "And theater is such a benefit to them. They learn comradery and social skills, along with learning their lines, music and dances. It all works to improve their school



Theresa Gibson

performance when they return in the fall."

Unlike most youth theater programs, RCCT has no participation fee. "Charging creates exclusion," says Gibson. "The kids who need theater most wouldn't be able to participate if there were fees." She's grateful to the donors who support a program that opens doors to everyone. "Theater is creative expression, and we all need that."

## Ticket Information (Purchase tickets at the door. Box office opens one hour before show)

Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions	\$ 60
General Admission to <i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>	\$ 14 each
Student Admission to <i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>	\$ 6 each

## Angel Donation Form

Angel Donation Amount (see box at right): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

### Angel information for program listing:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theater

Mail check to: 257 N. Third Street,



### 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 2023 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



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## Rogers City Community Theatre Flashbacks: How many of these 76 live shows did you see?



### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theatre Office Phone: (708) 808-7228  
Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 341-3277  
Web: <http://rcctheatre.org>  
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



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*See you at the show!*

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Oklahoma, 11/04	Singin' in the Rain, 3/11	The Miracle Worker, 3/17
The Music Man, 10/05	Red, White and Tuna, 5/11	Oliver! 5/17
A Tuna Christmas, 1/06	Willy Wonka, Jr. 8/11	Godspell, 8/17
Chicago, 5/06	Arsenic and Old Lace, 10/11	County Fair in da UP, 10/17
Beauty and the Beast, 8/06	Christmas Belles, 1/12	Spectaculathon, 11/17
South Pacific, 11/06	R.C.T. Pinafore, 4/12	Shrek The Musical, 3/18
Greater Tuna, 1/07	Contempt of Court, 6/12	Beer for Breakfast, 5/18
Urinetown: The Musical, 3/07	Bugsy Malone, Jr. 8/12	Once on this Island, 8/18
Night, Mother, 5/07	Lend Me a Tenor, 10/12	Don't Dress for Dinner, 10/18
Cinderella, 8/07	Annie Get Your Gun, 3/13	The Curious Savage, 12/18
A Funny Thing...Forum, 1/07	The Cemetery Club, 5/13	Mamma Mia! 3/19
Boardwalk Radio Murders, 12/07	Little Mermaid, Jr. 8/13	Point Noire, 5/19
Little Shop of Horrors, 5/08	Harvey, 10/13	The Lion King, 8/19
I Buried an Idol, 6/08	9 to 5: The Musical, 2/14	Death by Design, 10/19
Alice in Wonderland, 8/08	Murderous Crossing, 5/14	Prime of Jean Brodie, 12/19
The Pajama Game, 11/08	Curtain Call, 8/14	Sister Act, 3/20
Hello, Dolly! 3/09	Xmas Carol in da UP, 10/14	Evening w/ Mark Twain, 8/20
Café Noir, 5/09	The Singin' Cowboy, 3/15	Tuna Does Vegas, 2/21
Aladdin, Jr. 8/09	The Altos, 5/15	Savannah Sipping Soc., 4/21
Escanaba in da Moonlight, 10/09	Yearbook Reflections, 8/15	Cemetery Historic Tour, 8/21
Curtains, 2/10	Leaving Iowa, 10/15	The Nightingales, 10/21
Odd Couple, 4/10	The Game's Afoot, 1/16	All Together Now! 11/21
Noir Suspicions, 6/10	My Fair Lady, 5/16	The Addams Family, 3/22
Honk! Jr. 8/10	Dear Edwina, 8/16	Trial by Media, 7/22
The Sound of Music, 10/10	Carol Burnett Show, 10/16	Wizard of Oz, 8/22
		Moon Over Buffalo, 10/22