



# Spotlight

## Youth Theater Opens August 23 with



Article by Heather Nordenbrock, Director

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<http://rcctheatre.org>

**Youth Theater  
SHOW SCHEDULE**

**Evening Shows:**

Thursday, Aug. 23  
Friday, Aug. 24  
Saturday, Aug. 25  
Shows start at 7:30 pm  
(doors open at 7:00)

**Matinee:**

Sunday, August 26  
Show starts at 2:00 pm  
(doors open at 1:30)

**Tickets:**

available at the door  
or the Advance Office

Adults \$12  
Students \$6

Storytelling has been an important part of every culture since our very earliest history. The cast and crew members of this year’s Summer Youth Production, *Once on This Island, Jr.*, are excited to share a poignant story with a catchy Caribbean-flavored score by the Tony award-winning team of Lynn Ahrens and Steve Flaherty.

The show is a highly original and theatrical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson’s fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*, with elements of *Romeo and Juliette* added to the mix. It adeptly incorporates storytelling techniques into nearly non-stop song and dance numbers.

The show’s style will encourage audience members to

use their imagination as this full-hearted musical tells the tale of a quest that will test the strength of love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and even death.

The Broadway premier of *Once on This Island* occurred in 1990, when the production won eight Tony award nomi-

nations. The show was revived last year, and won the 2017 Tony for Best Revival. The revival production is still playing on Broadway, but save yourself the price of a New York City hotel by joining us at the Rogers City Theater beginning August 23rd. (cast and crew list on page 2)





Riconda Lamb (left) and Karl W. Heidemann (right) at the Harry H. Whiteley education building in Higgins Lake State Park, attending a CTAM masters class in directing.

## Board Member's Corner: Our Master Class by Riconda Lamb

Rogers City Community Theatre board members Karl W. Heidemann and Riconda Lamb recently attended a Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) summer master class in directing at the Ralph A. MacMullen (RAM) Conference Center in North Higgins Lake State Park. The class was led by longtime director and actress Penelope Notter, who recently retired as Associate Artistic Director of the Grand Rapids Civic Theater, and is presently directing a new show (*On the Town*) at the Grand Rapids Circle Theatre.

Our masters class encouraged participants to explore the artistic collaboration needed between directors and actors in order to deliver a high-quality performance. It outlined the process of discovering a play, learning about its

history, background and author (dramaturgy), and then demonstrated why this information is important for both directors and actors.

Participants focused on one play; first creating a dramaturgy, then going through script analysis and character analysis. Only after this process was complete did participants discuss auditions.

Notter next explained how the actor and director can apply their wealth of knowledge through the "table work" process, with each partner providing insights about the character from individual analysis. Actors can then create a back-story about their character, in collaboration with other cast members.

With characters firmly established, director and actors read through the play to develop a sense of the overall

story, and how to best present it on stage. Rounding out the week-end session, other class topics included callbacks, casting and rehearsals.

The RAM Center is a wonderful workshop location, with dorm accommodations, a central dining hall, and a new educational building named after our own Harry Whiteley (see photo). Sadly, wet weather prevented scheduled lake-front campfire sessions, but we still made many worthwhile contacts and wonderful friends. The class included members from community theaters across Michigan, all with varied levels of experience and knowledge. The 11-member, 16-hour class unearthed valuable information, tools and concepts we will share with future cast members and directors at the Rogers City Community Theatre.

## Cast and Crew for *Once on This Island, Jr.*

### TiMoune

Chloe Schultz  
Papa Ge  
Jasmine Ramus  
Erzulie  
Lily Nordenbrock  
Asaka  
Lexia Haske  
Agwe  
Sophia Schiepke  
Momma Euralie  
Emmalyn Riddle  
Tonton Julian  
Jonah Riddle  
Daniel  
Colby Nordenbrock  
Andrea  
Izabelle Loughran  
Little TiMoune  
Amelia Pritchard

### Gatekeeper

Makayla Tennant  
Daniel's Father  
Jackson Nordenbrock  
Daniel's Son  
Dylan Grulke  
Storytellers  
Elly Berryman  
Brooke Crawford  
Dylan Grulke  
Haley Grulke  
Natalie Grulke  
Sierra Grulke  
Hannah Guenterberg  
Hannah Meharg  
Jackson Nordenbrock  
Marleea Piechan  
Makayla Tennant  
Bella Whitford

### Director

Heather Nordenbrock  
Assistant Director  
Denise Perrault  
Assistant Choreographer  
Ashley Nowicki  
Technical Director  
Karl W. Heidemann  
Sound Operator  
Bob Starnes IV  
Props  
Mary Parsons  
Becky Klinkhamer  
Mike Klinkhamer  
Backstage Assistance  
Ed Perrault  
Light Operator  
Jacob Bruski  
Microphone Operator  
Lucy DeDecker

Mike Marx (right) as Pseudolus in in the RCCT production of *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, shown with Wes Eggleston (left).



## Mike Marx Selected as 2018 Parade Grand Marshal

Our very own Mike Marx, President of the Rogers City Community Theatre, was selected as 2018 Grand Marshal for the Nautical City Festival Parade. Mike's civic, business and personal contributions to

our town are numerous and formidable, but his theater family remembers most his legendary stage roles, including Tidy Bowl Man in *Wizard of Oz*, Jud in *Oklahoma!*, Pseudolus in *Forum*

(see photo at left), Albert in *Escanaba*, and most recently Richard in *Beer for Breakfast*. Congrats, Mike, on your "roll" of a lifetime as Grand Marshal!

# Community Characters: Heather Nordenbrock



**Heather Nordenbrock**

It's been a busy summer for Heather Nordenbrock, who is not only directing the summer youth production of *Once on This Island Jr.*, but also using the production as her final project to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Applied Drama and Theatre for the Young from Eastern Michigan University. Two of her three thesis committee members will travel to Rogers City to view the production in person, and the third will view it on video.

As the daughter of former theater owner, Karl W. Heidemann, involvement in local theatre productions is nothing new for Heather. Beginning with her first role as Laurie in *Oklahoma!*, she has acted in, directed, choreographed and produced shows, as well as being stage manager and musical director. During the recent production of *Shrek*, Heather was pulled in on an emergency basis to run lights when a crew member had a medical emergency mid-show. In addition, Nordenbrock serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Theatre, faithfully driving up from her graduate studies downstate to attend meetings or help out with shows.

When asked about her favorite production, Heather named a lesser-known play, *Urine-town*, which she directed while also playing a

lead role. But her satisfaction came from the opportunity to introduce a challenging show to our rural area as a regional premier, while developing a core creative team among the cast that moved the whole theatre enterprise forward and up a notch. "We had some pretty amazing tech stuff in that show as well, like the water tower that transformed into the spiral of death. But what I remember best is all the fun we had putting the show together."

Outside of Rogers City, Heather has taught music and drama from kindergarten through high school and college levels. For eleven years, she coached the drama club at Alpena High School, and served as actor and Artistic Director for the Thunder Bay Theatre for many years as well. But once her graduate studies are completed this summer, Heather will be back in the job market. "My ideal job," said Heather, "would be teaching musical theater at a college or junior college, with the ability to take on acting roles on the side."

Meanwhile, there's a show to put on. "The kids are really working hard this year, catching on fast, and really taking ownership of their performance." As part

of her degree work, Nordenbrock is experimenting with different training techniques, including improvisation workshops, facilitation and creation of customized script materials that apply the play to her young actors' lives.

This year the youth theater cast includes all three Nordenbrock children: Lily, Colby and Jack. But that's not so unusual; several other sibling groups are also involved, helping tie the production back into Rogers City's family networks. According to Heather, it's the theater's ability to bring people together for shared experiences that most profoundly benefits the community, especially during this era of polarization. So on with the show!

## Order Your Tickets Today

**Ticket Order Form** (Fill out, clip and mail to address below. Tickets will be held for pick up at the Box Office)

Please reserve for pick-up the number and type of tickets indicated below:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Number:   | Amount: |
| _____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50  | _____   |
| _____ Adult Admission to <i>Once on This Island, Jr.</i> @ \$12 each  | _____   |
| _____ Student Admission to <i>Once on This Island, Jr.</i> @ \$6 each | _____   |
| _____ Angel Donation (see box at right)                               | _____   |
| Total:  | _____   |

Information for program listing or ticket pick-up::

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theatre  
 Mail completed form to: 257 North Third Street  
 Rogers City, MI 49779



Be an Angel!

### 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 2018 show programs. Thanks for your continuing support!

*We have the lowest ticket price in NE Michigan  
 We can keep it that way with your donations*

## Rogers City Community Theatre

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### About Our Theatre



#### 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://rccttheatre.org>  
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



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*See you at the show!*

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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 rebuilt 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.