



September,
2024

NEWSLETTER

ACT OFFICERS

President -- Jerry Fushianes
Vice-president -- John Shuck
Secretary -- Amy Kleespies
Treasurer -- Barbara Sullivan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Larkin, Brian Shutter,
Lori Ripley, Bonnie Dana,
Amanda Schmock, Shannon Wilcox

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Area Community Theatre
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Tomah, WI 54660
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www.tomahact.com

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Blaine Hackett **Joseph Refsland** **BJ Witcox** **Roger Jones**

Pete Reichardt **Latisha Walker**

Directed by:
Jerry Fushianes
Will Hicks

Show Dates
October 31
November 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10

ESCANABA IN DA MOONLIGHT by Jeff Daniels

Show Dates: Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 7, & 8 at 7 p.m.
Nov. 3, 9 & 10 at 1 p.m.

Special Event Performances at Brick Sip Haus
800 Superior Avenue, Tomah
Nov 9 & 14 at 7pm

Tickets: 608-374-7469 or www.tomahact.com
or at the door, if available

Permission granted by Dramatists Play Service, Inc.



901 Kilbourn Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660

SAVE THE DATES!

- “Driving Miss Daisy” Auditions
October 15 & 16 at 6-8pm in
Cabaret Room. Callbacks
October 17, if necessary.
- Dr. B.’s Bingo
Spooktacular
Friday, October 25
at 7 p.m. in ACT’s
Gatsby Room
- “Escanaba In Da
Moonlight”
Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 7 & 8 at 7pm
Nov. 3, 9 & 10 at 1 pm
Nov. 9, 14 at 7pm*
Brick Sip Haus Show
- “Celebrating ACT’s Progress”
Annual Progressive Banquet
November 16 at 5:30pm
- “Canceling Christmas”
Jan., 2025
- “Driving Miss Daisy”
March 13-16, 20-23

ACT Presents

“Escanaba In Da Moonlight”

Jerry Fushianes & Will Hicks, Directors

Get ready for a hilarious and heartwarming theatrical experience as the Tomah Area Community Theatre proudly presents “Escanaba In Da Moonlight”, a play by Jeff Daniels. This delightful comedy opens on October 31 and runs for two weekends at our theatre, with special event shows at the Brick Sip Haus in Tomah on November 9th and 14th.

“Escanaba in Da Moonlight” tells the story of Reuben Soady, played by Joseph Refsland, who is determined to break his family’s curse of never having bagged a buck. Set in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, this play is filled with quirky characters and laugh-out-loud moments that will leave you in stitches.

The cast features a talented lineup of local actors, including:

- **Blaine Hacket** as Albert
- **Joseph Refsland** as Reuben
- **BJ Wilcox** as Remnar
- **Roger Jones** as Jimmer
- **Pete Reichardt** as Ranger Tom
- Introducing **Latisha Walker** as Wolf Moon Dance, making her debut on our stage.

Don’t miss your chance to see this uproarious production! Tickets are available now at tomahact.com. Join us for an evening of laughter and community spirit as we bring this charming story to life.

Show Dates:

- **Opening Night:** October 31 at 7pm
- **Regular Performances:**
 - November 1, 2, 7, 8 at 7pm
 - November 3, 9, 10 at 1pm
- **Special Event Shows:**
 - November 9 & 14 at 7pm at the Brick Sip Haus

We would like to thank the following for donations from November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024

These donations will be put towards ACT’s building fund to help pay for the new parking lot at 920 Kilbourn Ave. and to help cover costs of putting on shows.

Saints (\$5,000 and Up)

Harry Wellenkotter
Vic & Rita Burnstad Foundation
Ocean Spray Grant
Terry & Sharon Larkin
Hollis & Alyce Herbison
David Rezin
Frank Andres Charitable Trust

Archangels (\$3,000 - \$4,999)

Bernadette Otto Foundation

Angels (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

Richard A. Gerke
Al Bernhardt
Kurt & Louise Olson
First Weber Foundation

Standing Ovation (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Mike & Tess Saunders
James & Susan Murphy
Wesley & Martha Klatt
Dr. Richard Ahn
Kurt & Louise Olson
Vaughn B. Wolford Trust
Scott & Dorothy Nicol

Super Stars (\$200 - \$499)

Kay Mark
Ann Thompson
Active Health Chiropractic Center
John & Sandra Schindler
Chris & Myra Anderson
Molter’s Fresh Foods
Barb Sullivan

Show Stoppers (\$100 - \$199)

Ed Gryleski
Aleda Moseley
Karen Rapp
Lyda Lanier
Jerry Fushianes
Bonnie Dana
Lavena Brady in recognition of
Pam Buchda’s Services
Terry & Sharon Larkin in
memory of Dave Schreier
Terry & Sharon Larkin in
memory of Joyce Cain
Cleaning Solutions, LLC
Susan Murphy
Stephanie Brookman

Spot Lighters (\$50 - \$99)

Mark & Kerry Rose
Marie Wiedl
Richard & Rebecca Foster in
memory of Bill Blanchard
Glen & Diane Pergande in memory
of Bill Blanchard
Terry & Sharon Larkin in memory of
Ron Tralmer

Curtain Pullers (\$25 - \$49)

Amy Kleespies
Brian Shutter
Shannon Wilcox
Lori Ripley
Mike & Theresa Burns-Gilbert
in memory of Bill Blanchard
Anonymous
Marie Wiedl

Donations at any level are greatly appreciated and help to defray the operational costs of our theatre. If you would like the opportunity to have your name on our beautiful sculpture, a cumulative donation of \$3,000 from 2024 is required.

Meet Lisa McCormick



My name is Lisa McCormick, and I am the new Tomah Area Community Theatre Business and Facility Manager. I am so excited to start this new position with all of you! I have 3 children: Kaia, who teaches 4K at Kids Kountry Learning Center; Megan, who is a Business Manager up near the Cities; and Jeffrey, my son who passed away in 2016. I am passionate about the topics of addiction, recovery and human trafficking because of the journey I went through with my son prior to his death. I am a public speaker, Parent/Peer Specialist, Recovery Coach where I work with Next Steps for Change, and am actively involved in the Monroe County Safe Community Coalition.

I recently graduated from Viterbo University's Non-Profit Leadership course and hope to bring all I learned to ACT. I am also the director of the Tomah Middle School musical for the last 12 years. I really enjoy teaching middle school students all about theatre. It is so much fun to watch them bring a character to life and even add a little backstory!

My most favorite theatre memory was the summer of 1982, Tomah Area Community Theatre conducted summer productions called Summer Recruit Troupe (SRT). That summer we did "Fiddler on the Roof". That was a summer to remember, getting ready in a tent outside the Holiday Lodge Golf Club. It was a dinner theatre so the guests had dinner and then watched our show on a small stage in the corner of the room, but we used the entire restaurant to perform! It was amazing and has stayed with me my entire life!

I can't wait to bring memories like this to many others in the area. I look forward to meeting all of you as I learn my new position! Stop in to say 'Hi' when you are in the building so I can meet you!

New Office Hours: 10am - 5pm Monday-Friday

***During Lisa's musical rehearsals she will be leaving at 3pm and a volunteer will be in the office until 5pm. (Sept. 16-December 6)
If you can spare 2 hours to help out please let Lisa know.**

From Your Director of Development,

Sharon Larkin

The ACT Board of Directors has taken another big step to ensure the future of ACT. Jeanette Brownell has done a wonderful job as our Business and Facility Manager for the past few years, working 20 hours a week. ACT has grown. Things have gotten busier. Therefore, it was determined that we needed someone in the office 35 hours a week. We are so excited to welcome Lisa McCormick as our new Business and Facility Manager! She comes to us with experience and innovative ideas and is eager to implement the changes necessary to move forward. Thankfully, Jeanette will still be with us in a volunteer position so you will still see her around the office now and then.

We are looking forward to our Annual Banquet, which will be held on November 16th. Mark the date on your calendar now so you will not miss it. We are planning something different than in the past. It will be a progressive dinner, moving throughout the building, socializing in our beautiful rooms for the various parts of the meal and ending the evening in the Cabaret Room for the awards ceremony and exciting announcements. Seating is limited so make your reservations early!

Capaul's Floor Covering will be installing new flooring in the theatre next week! We are grateful to the Frank Andres and Thomas B. Earle grants for their generous donations toward the flooring. In addition, our appreciation is extended to those individuals whose general donations supported this much needed project.

The best part about volunteering at ACT is being where the action is! There is always something going on and much to do. No need to sit at home doing nothing. Look at the list of opportunities to help your theatre while having fun with friends.

The Annual Meeting

The Area Community Theatre's 2023-24 Annual Meeting was held Monday, August 12, 2024, in the Cabaret Room at ACT. Items on the agenda included introduction of scholarship recipients, review of 2023-24 accomplishments and challenges, financial review 2023-24, proposed 2024-25 budget, and future plans.



ACT Scholarships

Area Community Theatre in Tomah presented scholarships at our annual meeting on August 12th. The recipients were Adam Johnson (Tomah) and Jade Levendowski (Westby). Adam will be attending UW - Eau Claire majoring in Molecular Biology and Jade will be studying at UW - Madison majoring in Art Education. Each recipient received a \$250.00 scholarship. Both students were actively involved with the arts while they attended high school. ACT wishes them a successful future!

Box Office News

**Are you a member of the Area Community Theatre yet?
Do you want to save money on a show ticket?**

Members can purchase any opening night show ticket for Half Off the ticket price. **With 5 shows per season, it is a savings of \$50.00 (plus taxes and fees) also free popcorn at every show!** Members also have voting rights at the Annual Meeting, the opportunity to serve on the board, recognition in programs, newsletters and many other surprises throughout the year! For just \$20.00! Become a member of ACT by going to www.tomahact.com or call the box office at 608-374-7469.

HALLOWEEN BINGO

Friday, October 25 in the Gatsby Room

Join us for some ghoulish fun! Playing BINGO just isn't like any other BINGO game when Dr. B is calling the game! Cards are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. Each game ends with a winner receiving an amazing basket donated by our generous community sponsors!

Come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume for the Costume Contest sponsored by Murrays on Main.

Not an ACT member yet or need to renew? Its a great time to do that for 2025 because you get the chance to win the Members Only Gift Basket!

Also returning will be Shannon's delicious cookies and more!

Reserve your table at tomahact.com or call 608-374-7469.

Thank you to this years' sponsors: Max Electric, Diana Gerke at First Weber, Murray's on Main, Active Health, The Station, Gr8 Buy Auto Sales, Rockland Flooring, Terry & Sharon Larkin, Pete & Elaine Reichardt and Dan & Kelly Smithburg.



"Into the Woods"

ACT's summer show, "Into the Woods", was a huge success. Christy Hennegan and Kate Buehner did a wonderful job directing this musical. The actors and pit band under the direction of Jen Schraufnagel were also superb!



Young Actors' Classes

The 2023-2024 Young Actors' Classes have ended and another session is being prepared. The young actors had a wonderful learning experience with these classes, and they also had fun making new friends.

Registration is open now and our first session will begin September 21. All classes are on Saturdays. Classes will perform monologues, skits, learn about set construction, makeup, costuming, lighting and sound and more! The classes will end with shows on May 16-18. \$500 if paid by December 1st or by class it is \$45 (16 classes). Anyone interested in theatre classes, please send the following information to the boxoffice@tomahact.com. before December 1, 2024.

Student's Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Student's Address _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone No. _____

Parents' Mailing Address _____

Parents' Email Address _____

Any parent willing to help in classes could receive a deduction of fees.

COMMITTEES:

ACT desires to grow the participation within committees and would love your help. Committees meet on a bi-monthly basis or as needed for specific events. A minimum of one board member is required to sit on a committee to report back at the board meetings the progress of the committee. Current committees available to join are:

Box Office: Sell tickets, Work Will Call window before shows.

House Management/Concessions: Ushering, hand out programs at the door, work concession stand, Clean up theatre after show, Watch performance for free!

Fundraising: Plan, Organize and put on fundraising events such as Bingo, Mr. Legs, Annual Banquet, etc.

Artistic: Attend play readings, Select shows for season, Assist with production as needed.

Public Relations/Publicity: Membership, Ad Books, Sponsorships, Underwriters, Help to hang posters for shows & events.

Housekeeping/Maintenance: Assist with cleaning the building as necessary, Mowing, Shoveling, General maintenance.

Backstage: Costumes, Props, Lights, Sound, Set Construction.

Community Relations: Assist in community events such as Community Meals, Downtown Thursday Nights, Feed My Starving Children, etc.

General Office Help: Covering days when Theatre Manager is out, Assemble newsletter prior to mailing.

50th Anniversary: Plan events, publicity, special commemorative ideas



Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities within ACT. If you would like to become an ACT volunteer, please call Lisa at 608-374-7469 and I will be glad to connect you to the committee chair.



“Driving Miss Daisy”



ACT is excited to present the first show of the 2024 season, “Driving Miss Daisy” directed by Sharon Larkin & Lori Ripley. Auditions will be on October 15 & 16 from 6-8pm and Callbacks on October 17, if necessary.
Shows dates: March 13-16 & 20-23, 2025.



Christmas is just around the corner and what are you going to get that person who has everything? Well, tickets to the local community theatre, of course!

Tickets: \$22 for an Individual Ticket

Can be redeemed on any performance throughout the year!

Flex Pass: \$106 for 6 Tickets

Can be used together or separately on any performance! Can even be carried over to the next year!

Go to www.tomahact.com or call 608-374-7469 for more information or stop in at the Box Office at 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah.



Upcoming Show “Canceling Christmas” “She loves the theatre...he was just doing his job”

Cast:

Tiffany Saggio & Wriley Hoffner

Greg Mason

Amy Radloff

Lori Ripley

Brian Shutter

Kelly Thayer

*Coming Soon...
January, 2025*



**Celebrating ACT's Progress
Annual Banquet and Awards
Saturday, November 16, 2024**

5:30pm

Progressive Dinner

Begin Tour in Concessions with a Complimentary Beverage

Tour through Theatre to Stage Left for Light Hors d'oeuvres

Proceed into the Gatsby Room for Dinner and Drinks

Conclude in the Cabaret Room for Dessert, Drinks and Awards

*Donated by The Bakers Table

Tickets \$40

Table of 6 \$240

**Ticket include one complimentary drink
from concession stand**

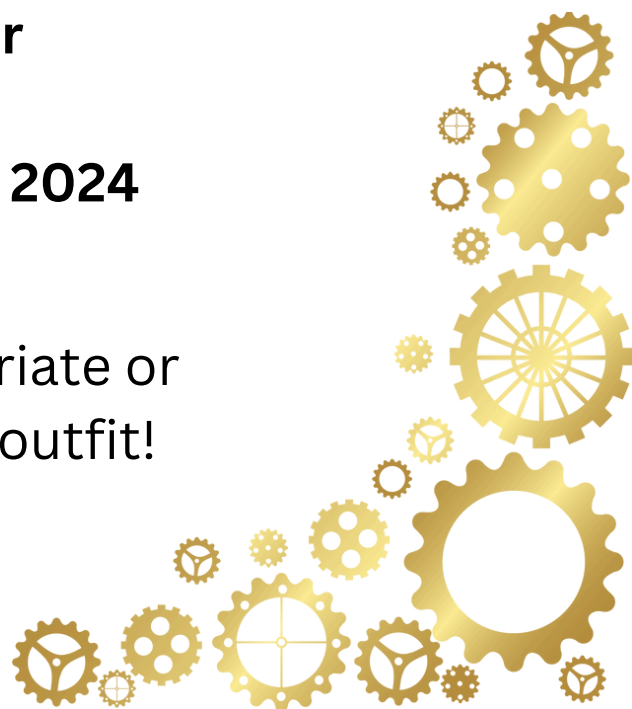
Make Your Reservations Online at:

www.tomahact.com or

call 608-374-7469

no later than November 1, 2024

Casual attire is appropriate or
your best Steampunk outfit!



2023 Award Nominations:

Ed Thompson Award:

Lyden's Auto Body
Murray's on Main

Wetland's Catering/Tap House Twenty

Carolyn O'Connor Award:

Gage Parris-Owens
Lori Ripley
Jerry Fushianes
Sharon Larkin

2023 Awards were unable to be presented due to the cancellation of last years' banquet.
2024 Awards will also be presented.