

## Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779



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**ROGERS CITY  
COMMUNITY THEATRE**

Spring 2011

Volume 4, Issue 2

# Spotlight

## Red, White and Tuna Opens May 6

Two men, 20 characters and 47 costume changes. *Red White and Tuna* is a tour de force, as well as being a rip roaring comedy. When the show made its debut in 1998, *Red White and Tuna* was the third production in the Tuna Trilogy; preceded by *Greater Tuna* and *Tuna Christmas*, both of which have been seen on stage here. A new addition, *Tuna does Vegas*, has yet to come to Rogers City.

If you missed the earlier shows, Tuna is a fictional town in Texas, said to be the third smallest in the state. The Tuna shows are a send-up of southern small town life, both loving and scathing in their satire.

The plays were written by

the team of Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard. Williams and Sears have toured the country acting in the two-man shows, with Howard directing.

The Rogers City Community Theatre production will feature actors Karl W. Heidemann and Wes Eagleson, directed by Meghan Riordan, with Val Schalk and Mary Hazlett creating the costume changes.

The plot of this show revolves around Tuna's 4th of July homecoming and fireworks celebration, bringing many former Tuna residents back to town. If you're looking for an old friend, check out the list of characters below.



### SHOW DATES & TIMES:

#### Week One:

Fri. & Sat., May 6 & 7

at 7:30 pm and

Sun. May 8 at 2:00 pm

#### Week Two:

Fri. & Sat. May 13 & 14

at 7:30 pm and

Sun. May 15 at 2:00 pm

## Characters Portrayed in Red, White & Tuna

### Played by Karl Heidemann:

Helen Bedd, Waitress

Charlene Bumiller, Bertha's kid

Stanley Bumiller, Taxidermist

Momma Byrd, Didi's mom

Vera Carp, Town Snob

Petey Fisk, Humane Society

Garland Poteet, Soda Salesman

Didi Snavelly, Gun Store Owner

Arles Struvie, Disk Jockey

Amber Windchime, Flowerchild

### Played by Wes Eagleson:

Star Birdfeather, Flowerchild

Bertha Bumiller, Housewife

Pearl Burras, Bertha's Aunt

Leonard Childers, Mayor

Inita Goodwin, Waitress

Joe Bob Lipsey, Director

RR Snavelly, UFOlogist

The Reverend Sturgis Spikes

Elmer Watkins, "Citizen"

Thurston Wheelis, OKKK

## About Our Theatre

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 theater 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 tile work of the original theatre 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 youth summer theatre program began as well. Community cast members have ranged in age from 6 to 94. New theater volunteers are always welcome, both on stage and behind the scenes. Come join the fun!

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 now tax deductible.

## ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

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Mary Ann Heidemann



See you at the show!

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### Did you know that:

- The costume crew spent more than 400 hours creating the costumes for *Singin' in the Rain*
- All the rose costumes that children wore in *Beauty and the Beast* were made from 2nd hand green motel bedsheets; a dozen roses for less than \$10 in material cost
- The silk for *Aladdin* costumes was rescued from the trash in Farmington Hills and donated to the theatre

## Editor's Corner, by Mary Ann Heidemann Help Fun-Raise for a Industrial Strength Costume Machine



One of the things I enjoy most at our theatre is the fabulous quality and creativity of the costuming. I am not exaggerating when I state that our stage features some of the best costume work I have seen in community theatre anywhere.

The last show, *Singin' in the Rain*, was only the most recent example of excellence, with wow factor clothes showing up in the big dance numbers, the character outfits, and the made-from-scratch cream and bro-

cade tux worn by the lead.

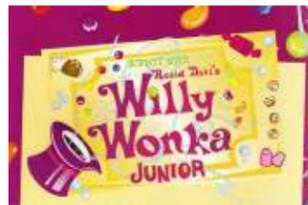
Elsewhere in this issue, you can read about the people who contribute their talent to the costume effort. But if you appreciate their work as much as I do, here's a proposal: help us raise the funds needed to buy the costume crew a professional, industrial-strength costume sewing machine.

Now is the time to act. This summer, a new costume production space will be cleared

upstairs in the theatre. To date, the costume crew has worked at home, using (and abusing!) their own home sewing machines. It's high time to give these creative artists a hand, and supply them the tools and equipment they deserve.

I don't call this fund-raising; I call it fun-raising. If you agree, please use the coupon on page 3 to make a tax deductible contribution for the costume sewing machine. Then we can all enjoy the results together.

## Youth Summer Theater Program for 2011 Brings Willy Wonka Jr. to Rogers City



*Willy Wonka, Jr.* is a stage adaptation of the beloved story, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. With songs and script tailored to youthful abilities, this production aims at introducing kids to theatre in an accessible and fun-filled format.

As in prior years, children audition and participate in the production at no charge. Past casts have included children from Onaway, Posen and Milersburg in addition to Rogers City.

*Willy Wonka, Jr.* will be directed by Andrea Shadbolt.

Andrea previously directed the 2009 Youth Theatre production of *Disney's Aladdin*.

Rehearsals will be scheduled in July and run through August, with performance dates of Aug. 25, 26, 27 and 28. Watch the Advance and the theatre bulletin board for audition dates and casting age groups.

## How'd They Do That? The Rain Magicians



Making rain on stage for *Singin' in the Rain* was no small challenge. The feat was accomplished by rigging two sets of overhead pipes, each containing a specially perforated and screened interior pipe that created simulated raindrops. One set produced a spring shower; the other, a deluge.

It helped to have two professional plumbers in the cast, Ed Perrault and Mike Marx, dubbed "The Rain Magicians" by direc-

tor Karl Heidemann.

The rain fell into a trough pulled out from under the set stairs. According to Heidemann, the 16 ft. long, 4 ft. wide, and 3 inch deep trough was deliberately sized to hold the amount of water needed, but had to be pumped out during intermission.

While singing the title song, Morgan Suszek was able to dance, jump, kick and splash in the falling "rain." The water

was even heated so he wouldn't catch pneumonia.

During tests, the rain worked wonderfully but could not be seen by the audience. Special back lighting was needed to provide visibility, then light shields added to keep from blinding the audience.

In the final production number, each member of the cast got to walk (and splash) behind the rainfall. It all made for a splashing success.

## Community Characters: The Costume Crew Val Schalk, Mary Hazlett and Bernice Kelly

Val Schalk started helping out with costumes when Brian Mills began a drama program at 4-H, and followed to the High School plays. She helped out when the school brought *Grease* to the new Rogers City Theatre live stage, and she has been working on costumes throughout the eight years since then.

Known for being a cheapskate, Val shops garage sales, discount stores and even garbage bins in search of inexpensive clothes and material to fashion into costumes. A professional seamstress, Val has occasionally received donations for the theatre from her employer, Marianne Fairbanks, the owner of

Recollections. "The time period for both *Oklahoma* and *Music Man* was perfect for what Recollections makes, and Marianne was very generous to the theater," said Val.

Sometimes Val draws up a costume design, but just as often the idea goes straight from her mind to the cloth. In design and sewing, she is ably assisted by Mary Hazlett. Mary was taught to sew on a treadle machine by her grandmother, and began by making clothes for her Barbie doll.

Like Schalk, Hazlett helped out on costumes for the 4-H and High School productions. Mary met Val doing costumes for *Cinderella*.

"The girls just loved wearing the fancy ball gowns," said Hazlett.

While the costume crew puts in long hours, they know how to enjoy it. "The women in the cast of *Music Man* had a hat-making party that was so much fun, we did it again for *Hello Dolly!*" And Mary hosts sewing parties at her home. Bernice Kelly joins them to prepare for shows. "Bernice sewed all the nun habits for the *Sound of Music*, and we had a lot of nuns!"

Mary explains why the costume crew keeps at it: "Kids and adults both, they all love to dress up, and we get plenty of positive feedback from the cast and community."



Riconda Lamb dances in a fabulous costume from *Hello, Dolly!*

## Buy Your Theatre Tickets with a Six Pack

### Ticket and Sponsorship Order Form

Yes, I support live and local theatre in Rogers City, as ordered below :

Number:	Amount:
_____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>Red, White and Tuna</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Red, White and Tuna</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Red, White and Tuna</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ List me as a footlight sponsor @ \$25, for the remaining 2011 programs	_____
_____ List me as a spotlight sponsor @ \$50, for the remaining 2011 programs	_____
_____ My contribution towards the industrial strength costume sewing machine	_____

Sponsor name and/or ticket mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theatre  
Mail completed form to: 257 North Third Street

Theater tickets are also available for direct purchase at:

- ▶ Advance Office
- ▶ Rogers City Chamber
- ▶ Theatre Office

**Note:** Season tickets are good for any show performance date.



**Yes, you can buy tickets to all our shows at the door, on a space available basis.**