



Spotlight

Willy Wonka Jr. Opens Thursday, August 25th

Willy Wonka Jr. is the youth theater stage adaptation of Ronald Dahl's beloved book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. In the book and play, Willy Wonka is the inventor and operator of a mysterious and magical candy factory. Wonka is ready to retire, but first needs to find and train a young replacement to carry on his work.

To attract likely candidates, Wonka creates a contest where five children will win a tour of his factory by finding a Golden Ticket hidden in a Wonka Bar. One by one the tickets are found and the candidates come forward. Charlie Bucket is the son of an unemployed factory worker who is down on his luck and

unable to buy Wonka Bars for his son. But Charlie earns a chocolate bar doing a good deed, and finds the final chocolate factory tour ticket inside.

As fans of the book and movie already know, the chocolate factory tours turns into a test of character to determine the best replacement and protégée for Willy Wonka. Along the way, the audience is treated to sweet adventures and award winning songs like "Candy Man."

The Youth Summer Theatre cast includes 33 young actors and 4 crew; the largest youth participant group to date. This will be a production you won't want to miss. See you at the show!



SHOW DATES & TIMES:

Evening Performances:

Thursday, August 25

Friday, August 26 and

Saturday, August 27 at

7:30 pm (doors open @ 7:00)

Matinee Performance:

Sunday, August 28 at

2:00 pm (doors open @ 1:30)



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<http://rcctheatre.org>

Did you know that:

- The Community Theater Association of Michigan (CTAM) held their July Board of Directors Meeting in Rogers City, and toured the Rogers City Community Theatre while in town
- CTAM's Fall Conference will be held September 23-25 at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac, featuring classes and workshops on theater arts and management
- Check CTAM's web site for conference details: www.communitytheater.org

Characters and Cast for Willy Wonka Jr.

Will Wonka, Carly Rasper; Charley Bucket, Bradley Heidemann; Mrs. Bucket, Emilee Madison; Grandpa Joe, Karl A. Heidemann; Grandma Josephina, Demi-Jo Flewelling; Grandma Georgiana, Skylar Clark; Grandpa George, Drew Flewelling; Jamie, Kylee LaFleche; Finola, Kaylee Fenstermaker; Phineous, Ashley Nowicki; Augusta, Jade

Shadbolt; Mrs. Gloop, Elaina Madison; Veruca, Salena Heidemann; Mr. Salt, Joshua Alexander; Little Orphan Annie, Lily Nordenbrock; Finnian, Andrea Madison; Violet, Ashley Bunton; Mrs. Beauregard, Alyssa Sedwick; Finnegan, Baylee Lijewski; Mikayla, Ava Kelly; Mrs. Tea-vey, Grace Darga; Finale, Linnea Hentkowski; Chorus

& Oompa Loompas: Caitlynn Shadbolt, Madison Thornton, Cheyenne Bober, Elle Bredow, Mackenzie Bruning, Caden Fenstermaker, Chloe Hentkowski, Grace LaLonde, Colby Nordenbrock, Aaron Smith, Madison Tulgetska. Techs: Alysse Hemple, Heather Hentkowski, Raelyn Hoef, Amber Nowicki; along with adult helpers & crew.

Editor's Corner

Shakespeare Comes to Rogers City (via Germany)



It's ironic that the first Shakespeare play presented on stage at the Rogers City Community Theatre was performed by a travelling troupe of German theater students. The Kaiser-Karl Schule Theater Group from Itzehoe Germany came to Michigan as part of a performing arts exchange through Blue Lake Arts Camp, and Rogers City was one of four Michigan performances.

The students arrived in town on the Fourth of July and left July 7. They stayed with area host families who provided food, lodging and guide services. Jay and Marilyn Kettler of Presque Isle hosted five of the group. "They had fun at the sand castle contest and the fireworks in Alpena," said Marilyn. "We got them on a glass-bottom boat tour to see some of the local shipwrecks. They just loved Lake Huron."

Before arrival at Rogers City, the students performed at Sebewaing, Grand Haven and New Era. However, the Rogers City stop provided the biggest and most appreciative audience

of all. Although the Kaiser-Karl production took sometimes startling liberties with The Bard's text, according to Jay Kettler, "they played it the way Shakespeare intended it, with all his gross humor, topical references and raw energy. It was simply the best performance of Shakespeare I have ever witnessed."

Initial contact with the Blue Lake international arts exchange program was made by Marilou Ikens. But when Ikens could not shoulder the project on her own, Donna Klein and the Rogers City Community Theatre Board stepped into the breach as local sponsor. The Rogers City Theatre provided a perfect performance venue, though the short time available for preparation proved to be a challenge. "If it weren't for Ed Perrault and other last minute helpers, they wouldn't have had much of a set," said Jay Kettler.

The Kettlers, who are already Facebook friends with their guests, are planning a visit to Itzehoe soon. "It's up in the north of Germany, near the

Danish border. Fortunately, the kids gave me a book about their area with German, English and French text. I'm reading the English and I'm ready to go."



This poster for *Midsummer Night's Dream* shows the character of Bottom transformed into a jackass. He then becomes the unlikely love object of Titania, Queen of the Fairies, while she is under a spell. Confusing? It's all part of Shakespeare's zany plot, which the German theater students played to the hilt. Judging from the laughs and standing ovation they received, the audience loved every minute.

How'd They Do That?

Donors Create New Costume Workshop

Through the timely generosity of 14 donors, the Rogers City Community Theatre will have a new costume workshop in the theatre's second floor, furnished with two industrial-strength sewing machines.

Fundraising for the project began with an article in the Spring issue of this newsletter,

and readers responded quickly. While the initial hope was to raise \$400 for one machine, the drive netted a total of \$935, allowing for purchase of a second machine and general workshop set up expenses. In the words of donor Kellie Hall, "You can't have just one machine. You need two, so people can work together!"

Many thanks to our donors:
Bob Centala, Rachel Goodstein, Sue Grulke, Beach & Kellie Hall, Mary Ann Heidemann, Marky Jatkowski, Kathryn & Lew Kunze, Gene Modrzynski, Jackie Poch, Barbara Rodewald, Rosemary Stankewitz, Larry Syrett, Rosemarie Trafelet and Laura Winkel.





Community Characters: Heather Nordenbrock

Oklahoma! was Heather Nordenbrock’s first Rogers City theatre production, when she was enlisted by her dad and show director Karl Heidemann, to serve as choreographer and music director. Then at audition time she won the play’s lead role as Laurie, and the multi-tasking, multi-talented pattern of intense theatre involvement was set. Though Heather has been in many Rogers City plays since then, her favorites are *Chicago*, *Urinetown* and *Curtains*.

Currently, Heather serves as Director for the Youth Theater production of *Willy Wonka*. With a Bachelor’s in Music Education and many years experience in teaching and coaching music and drama, she is well qualified to bring the

best out of the young cast. “Theater is a great way to teach children the life skills they will need in the future; things like cooperation, teamwork, public speaking, organization and stress management,” says Nordenbrock. As a working mom with three young children, she has plenty to teach on those topics.

When asked about the attraction of musicals as an art form, Heather replied: “I love the fact that musicals bring all the different elements of song, dance, and acting together in order to tell a story.”

Heather herself has served in just about every role the theatre arts offer: producer, director, music director, choreographer, actor, singer, dancer, lighting designer and stage manager, not to mention serving on



The Rogers City Community Theater Board and heading the program committee. She also coaches the Alpena High Masquers Club and occasionally makes a cameo appearance in the Rogers City Band, where she previously played flute and served as the first (and only) female band director. Asked how she manages it all, Heather smiled and said: “I’ve learned how to budget my time.”

Buy Your Theatre Tickets with a Six Pack

Ticket and Sponsorship Order Form

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

Number:

Amount:

- _____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50
- _____ General Admission to *Willy Wonka Jr.* @ \$10 each
- _____ Senior Admission to *Willy Wonka Jr.* @ \$9 each
- _____ Student Admission to *Wonka Jr.* @ \$6 each
- _____ List me as a footlight sponsor for Youth Theater @ \$25 this show
- _____ List me as a spotlight sponsor for Youth Theater @ \$50 this show

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

Rogers City, MI 49779



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.

Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street
Rogers City MI 49779



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

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Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861
Web: <http://rcctheatre.org>
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Heidemann



See you at the show!

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 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 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 theatre 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.