



# ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Spring 2012

Volume 5, Issue 2

## Spotlight

### Pinafore Sailing Into Rogers City April 20

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

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#### Did you know that:

- The flashing house lights before a performance have a set time schedule
- The first flash occurs five minutes before the show starts
- The second flash comes two minutes before the show
- The same time system is used at intermission
- This system safely seats our audience without disrupting the performance

Rogers City Community Theatre will be presenting a new original musical titled "R.C.T. Pinafore." Many people are familiar with the famous Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera, "H.M.S. Pinafore." They are in for a pleasant surprise when they come to the Rogers City version of the classic, directed by Karl W. Heidemann. This rollicking new musical uses Sullivan's great score (which is in the public domain, free of copyright restrictions) and replaces Gilbert's libretto with all new lyrics and an original story rewritten for the present time and place. While all the individual cast names from the original have been preserved, the characters take on entirely different personalities, and some completely new characters have been added to multiply the hilarity.

The original comic opera was a satire on politics, pompous public officials, and the Victorian system of class distinction. It is all great fun, but slightly dated for theatre audiences of today. The Rogers City version freshens up the production by ridiculing our own local area and customs, as well as local government offi-

cial. It even mocks musical theater in general, several of our local area theatres in particular, and especially the Rogers City Community Theatre itself.

Director, Karl W. Heidemann, who also wrote the new lyrics and story line, says, "This show is so much fun. The cast is great! We keep adding laugh lines. It is truly a collaborative effort, with everyone contributing to the comedy. We are also very lucky to have Meghan Riordan as music director. She has been amazing in teaching Sullivan's fast and tricky melody lines to the cast. Thanks to her coaching they can really spit those words out!"

The principal characters are played by: Mike Marx, Meghan Riordan, Robert Starnes IV, Nicole Grulke, Karl W. Heidemann, Pennie Kelly, Lawrence Anderson, Andrea Schulwitz, Ed Perrault, Denise Perrault, and Charlotte Heidemann. Playing the parts of the Grandkids are Salena Heidemann, Bradley Heidemann and Ava Kelly. Appearing as the "Techie Quintet" will be Bob Centala, Gene Modzynski, Larry Syrett, Robert Starnes IV and Karl W. Heidemann.

Rounding out the ensemble are Theresa Gibson, Jenifer Geyer, Elaine Heidemann, and Alison Marx.

This will be the world premiere production of "R.C.T. Pinafore," and will be performed on the Rogers City Theatre stage. This is a "don't miss" event.



**Photo:** Theater impresario, writer, director and actor, Karl W. Heidemann, with his popcorn.

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**Performance dates are April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2:00.** For information, call (989)734-7368.

## Marketing Committee Seeks Volunteers

Are you a creative person? We can use your creativity on our Marketing Committee. Marketing can include many types of activities, from hanging up show posters in prominent locations, to ticket sale promotions, devising a social

networking system to interconnect our audience and actors, or getting the word out on upcoming performances.

If you think our theatre activities deserve a wider audience, or you have ideas on how to showcase what we do

at the Rogers City Community Theatre, consider joining the marketing committee.

For more information, please contact Donna Klein, committee chairperson, at 989-306-3951 or by e-mail to: [ocqueoclover@yahoo.com](mailto:ocqueoclover@yahoo.com).

## President's Corner by Mike Marx



"Merriment is what we're here for; let the silliness commence. It's a musical and therefore...". This verse is from one of the many songs from the upcoming production of *R.C.T. Pinafore* and pretty much describes what this play, and our theatre, is all about: "Merriment" for both the actors and the audience. If you haven't heard, this is an adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, written by our own Karl W. Heidemann who has given it a Rogers City twist.

This show is a light, fast paced, hysterical, musical that

you will not want to miss. So mark you calendars for the last two weekends in April and be sure to take some time and have a few good laughs! "It's a musical and therefore..." join us to find out just what comes next!!!

RCCT's season started with *Christmas Belles*. Thank you to all of you that attended and were a part of the production. After *R.C.T. Pinafore*, look forward to a return of our dinner theater, with the show *Contempt of Court*.

Go to [www.rcctheatre.org](http://www.rcctheatre.org) for information on this show and all of our past, present,

and future shows. Past newsletters are posted there too.

As mentioned in my last article, we are looking to upgrade our audio system by purchasing speakers for our stage microphones. This will enhance the theater experience by properly amplifying the actors' voices. We are still looking for a few more donations to help cover the cost of the speakers. If you could help us out, please consider a donation. Thank you.

So, as we prepare to bring the lights up on our next production, till next time, see ya at the theater!!!

## Bugsy Malone, Jr.

## RCCT Summer Youth Program by Donna Klein

The Rogers City Community Theatre Summer Youth Program's goal is to provide a positive experience to students interested in developing theatrical skills. This year we hit the ground running! Auditions for youth ages 7 – 17 will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 26 and 27 from 2 – 5 pm at the Rogers Theater, 257 North Third Street. Students need to wear sneakers or other closed-toed shoes. **NO FLIP FLOPS OR SANDALS are allowed on stage** for safety's sake. Students need to be ready to read from the script. They will be taught a section of a song and dance in the audition. Rehearsals start July 9, Monday – Thursday from 3 to 5 pm each week. Show dates are August 23 – 26.

Based on the Academy

Award nominated 1976 film musical starring Jodie Foster and Scott Baio, this year's play is **Bugsy Malone, Jr.**, a part of Music Theatre International's Broadway Jr. Collection™. This wild and wacky show includes a child's dream come true: A classic pie fight fought with "splurge blasters." The cast is expandable from a minimum of 11 to 20 (mostly females), but we do have a number of **roles that must be filled by males**. Check out Music Theatre International's Web site (<http://mtishows.com>) where you can hear snippets of Paul William's songs (Muppet Movie, Evergreen – with Barbra Streisand) and read character bios.

At the beginning of June, a brochure, including an audition form, will be mailed to

families who participated in last summer's production. This brochure will also be available at the Rogers Theater and other locations, and the RCCT Web site (<http://rcctheatre.org>).

If your child (or children) would like to be in the show but cannot attend auditions, an alternate arrangement can be made. A **mandatory parent meeting** will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Rogers City Servicemen's Club, 171 Erie St. If you are unable to attend and your child wants, or other children you know want to audition for the show, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact the director, Donna Klein at 989-306-3951 or via e-mail : [ocqueoclover@yahoo.com](mailto:ocqueoclover@yahoo.com).





# Community Characters: Our Faithful Fans and Supporters

Without an appreciative audience, there is no theatre. This issue, we focus on the wonderful fans and supporters that keep the Rogers City Community Theatre alive and well. Kellie Hall is one such fan. "Except when we're out of town," says Kellie, "Beach and I are at every production. We think the theatre is a great asset to the community." Kellie also noted it's nice not to have a long drive in order to reach the shows. The Halls often bring friends along and make a group event out of play nights. "We've always been theatre goers, but it's fun to see characters we know up on stage." Kellie's favorite show is *South Pacific*. "The talent in our town is impressive."

Another local fan is Theresa Krist. "I don't know if people realize all the time and dedication it takes to put together a

show," says Theresa. "I love the sets. Karl has such vision that he can start with a little diagram on a scrap of paper, and voila, a fantastic set explodes on stage. The set for *Arsenic and Old Lace* was amazing!"

Theresa has taken advantage of the tap dance classes offered at the theatre. "My mom made me take ballet lessons as a kid, so when I saw the newspaper announcement about the tap class, I thought I'd try it. Morgan is such a dynamic and innovative teacher. The class is fun and great exercise."

Another positive aspect of the theater in Theresa's view is providing access to the arts for local people, especially kids. "It's unusual to have great theater in a small town. I thank everyone making it possible."

Ellen Nordin loves the theater because of the community involvement and local pride it fosters. "Seeing the marquee lights shining out on a dark night is great," says Ellen.



"It also brings visitors to town from all over the area, and helps our businesses." Ellen enjoys the great old musicals like *Oklahoma!* and *The Sound of Music*. And like Kellie Hall, she loves seeing friends and neighbors up on stage.

So why do our fans support the theater? As Kellie Hall put it, "If we don't give the theatre our support, it can't continue to exist." Well said indeed. Our applause for the audience.

## Order Your Tickets Today

**Ticket Order Form** (Fill out, clip and mail to address below. Tickets will held for pick up at box office.)

Please send me the number and type of tickets indicated below:

Number:	Amount:
_____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>R.C.T. Pinafore</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>R.C.T. Pinafore</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>R.C.T. Pinafore</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ List me as a footlight sponsor in all 2012 programs @ \$25 this season	_____
_____ List me as a spotlight sponsor in all 2012 programs @ \$50 this season	_____
_____ Donation toward sound system improvements	_____
	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 Theater  
 Mail ticket order form to: 257 North Third Street  
 Rogers City, MI 49779



### Are you an Angel?

The Rogers City Community Theatre has the lowest live theater ticket price in Northeast Michigan, making donations an important part of our budget. Therefore, the RCCT Board has decided to expand levels of Program Sponsorship to include the following new categories for donations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Donor
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Patron
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Angel

All Program Sponsors will be recognized under the appropriate category heading in all 2012 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



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

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### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
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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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#### 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 theater 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.