



# Spotlight

## Harvey Opens Friday, October 25th

- By Donna Klein

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

### Inside this issue:

President's Corner	2
How'd They Do That?	2
CTAM Master Class	2
Kichstarter Campaign for Digital Projector	3
Ticket Order Form	3
About Our Theatre	4

### Did You Know..

Rogers City Community Theatre is a member of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) and together:

- We foster a closer relationship among member theatres.
- We encourage high standards of theatrical productions.
- We stimulate interest in theatre in Michigan.
- We provide a means for the exchange of ideas and information about theatrical production, acting, play-writing and the theatre arts.

The Rogers City Community Theatre concludes the 2013 season with a flourish, as it brings to life Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Harvey*. As many theater and movie lovers already know, *Harvey* is the story of Elwood P. Dowd and his pooka, an invisible, six-foot tall white rabbit named Harvey who is endowed with mysterious abilities. Harvey causes quite a stir in the Dowd household and at Chumley's Rest, the sanitarium where the family wants Elwood to be committed. A case of mistaken identity and Harvey's strange influence on those involved will keep you laughing from beginning to end.

"It's one of my all-time favorite plays," says director Donna Klein. "Even at the auditions, the actors couldn't help breaking into laughter. The script is just hilarious."

For the Rogers City Theatre production, the lead role of Elwood P. Dowd will be played by Wesley Eagleson. Theresa Gibson plays Elwood's sister, Veta Louise Simmons. Veta's daughter, Myrtle Mae Simmons, is played by Drew Rose. Robert Starnes III appears as Dr. William Chumley, the head of Chumley's Rest. The lead

physician at Chumley's Rest, Dr. Lyman Sanderson, is portrayed by Andy Hoffmeyer and Celestine Petoskey plays Ruth Kelly, the sanitarium's Registered Nurse.

Other performers in this beloved comedy include Bob Starnes IV as Duane Wilson, an orderly at Chumley's Rest, Ed Perrault as Judge Omar Gaffney, a Dowd family friend, Val Schalk as Betty Chumley, Dr. Chumley's wife and Jodi Collins as Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet, a socialite friend of the family. The cast is completed by Karl W. Heidemann playing E.J. Lofgren, the cab driver, and Karen Maher, playing her first on-stage role as Miss Johnson, the family maid.

Crew members include Director, Donna Klein, Assistant Director Karen Maher, Technical Director, Lawrence Anderson, Set Decorator and Prop Master Mary Chapp, Costume Designer and Seamstress, Val Schalk, Lighting Technician Mike Marx and Sound Technician Donna Klein.

The hilarity takes place at the Rogers City Theatre, located at 257 North Third Street, in Downtown Rogers City. The play opens on Friday, October 25, with additional performances on Octo-



ber 26 and 27, as well as the following weekend, November 1-3. The curtain time for Friday and Saturday performances is 7:30 pm, and 2:00 pm for the Sunday matinees. Information on ticket prices and ordering is provided on page 3 of this newsletter.

What exactly is a "pooka?" According to the Oxford English dictionary, pookas are animal spirits, palpable to the touch, who appear in English and Irish folk tales. Pookas are known for pulling pranks and tripping up the unsuspecting traveler. Come out to the show and see how our pooka *Harvey* carries on.

**Performance dates are:  
October 25, 26 & 27 and  
November 1, 2 & 3. Time:  
Fridays & Saturday, 7:30  
Sunday matinee, 2:00 pm**



## President's Corner by Mike Marx



Fall is in the air, and with that, the stage is back in the hands of the "big" kids. Thanks to all of you that supported our recent youth summer theatre production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.* Thanks especially to director Andrea and all her helpers who pro-

duced one of the best youth programs ever. The kids seemed to really enjoy themselves and it showed on stage.

Now its the "big kids" turn with the production of *Harvey*. The mix of veteran actors and new recruits make

this comedy one you will not want to miss. This being the last show of our 2013 season, we look to finish up with a bang. So mark your calendars for one of most beloved comedies the stage has to offer.

Until next time, "See you at the Theatre."

## How'd They Do That? The Digital Underwater Wave Machine

One of the most striking technical aspects of the Youth Summer Theatre production of *Disney's Little Mermaid, Jr.* was creation of a hypnotically wavy underwater environment through the use of light effects. How'd they do that?

Earlier in the summer, the Rogers City stage welcomed a Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Band. That band brought with them phenomenal lighting equipment. Karl Heidemann, set designer for *The Little Mermaid*, asked the band for their lighting secrets. Using their recommendations

Heidemann was able to identify an equipment company specializing in light effects that replicated water using four different variables: color, light intensity, wave motion and wave speed.

Wavelike effects and colors were painstakingly worked out using these variables to create two different underwater scenes. The first scene represented the underwater environment of King Triton and his mermaid daughters, based on a blue-green color scheme. The second scene used purple tones to represent the Sea Witch's lair.

All the show's wave lighting effects were projected against a blue painted wall. However, for some of the scenes, a thin gauzy scrim painted with seaweed and coral was pulled in front of the wall to add depth, texture and detail.

The wave machine could not project directly toward the stage without blinding the actors. Instead, it had to be mounted above mid-stage, projecting downward toward the back wall at a steep angle to avoid actor interference.

The final results? Simply magical.

## CTAM Master Class at Higgins Lake



The Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) held a Masters Class in July entitled "Solving Director's Problems." The intensive, three-day class took place at the MacMullen Conference Center overlooking Higgins Lake. Taking advantage of the Rogers City Theatre's CTAM membership,

our own Donna Klein was able to attend and participate in the class.

Klein, who is currently directing the Rogers City Theatre production of *Harvey*, expressed thanks to both the CTAM and Rogers City Community Theatre Boards for helping her attend the special

training session. "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience," said Klein, "and deeply appreciated the opportunity to learn more about directing."

Donna plans to bring her newly acquired skills back to the Rogers City Community Theatre and put them to good use on our stage.

# Kickstarter Campaign for Digital Projector a Success!

Just 51 days from the campaign kick-off date, The Rogers City Theatre Kickstarter campaign reached the \$100,000 fundraising goal set to obtain and install a digital projector system. By the campaign's completion at day 60, over \$116,000 had been raised. Funds received in excess of \$100,000 will be applied to the purchase and installation of new theatre seats. At approximately \$200 per seat, the project can now afford eight rows of new seating in the theatre's center section.

Funding for digital conversion came none too soon. According to Karl W. Heidemann, theatre owner, it is already extremely difficult to obtain movies printed on film. By year's end, the major movie distributors will stop printing film altogether, providing movies in digital

format only. It truly was a choice between going digital or going dark.

While the stage productions put on by the Rogers City Community Theatre (RCCT) do not directly use the movie projection system, the RCCT cannot afford to underwrite all the operation and maintenance costs of the theatre building on its own. Without a viable movie business to share in the building expenses, the live stage productions would also come to an end.

Happily, attention can now move from fundraising to equipment selection and installation. This phase will have its own set of challenges, including a temporary theater closure to provide time for dismantling, retrofitting and rebuilding the projection booth and digital projection equipment, not to mention installing a new section of more comfy seating.

These improvements would not be possi-



ble without the support and encouragement of live theatre fans and movie patrons in Rogers City, Northeast Michigan, and around the globe. Our hats are off to the 558 backers who contributed, to all those who passed the word along, and to Rachel Goodstein, who kick-started the Kickstarter campaign. Thank you, friends!

- Mary Ann Heidemann

## 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 reserve 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>Harvey</i> @ \$12 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Harvey</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Harvey</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ List me as a footlight sponsor in the program @ \$25 for this show	_____
_____ List me as a spotlight sponsor in the program @ \$50 for this show	_____
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 the 2013 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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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.