Mark your calendar for August 25 – 28. You don't want to miss Dear Edwina Jr., RCCT's 2016 summer youth production! Nineteen talented young people have come together to present this gem of a show for you. With music by Zina Goldrich and book and lyrics by Marcy Heisler, Dear Edwina is often described as “Glee” for kids, but this show is bound to satisfy the whole family!

The story follows a day in the life of Edwina Spoonapple, young advice-giver extraordinaire, as she and her friends present their weekly show from the family's garage in Paw Paw, Michigan. This week the gang is auditioning for the Advice-a-palooza coming up in Kalamazoo. Dr. Phil had to back out, so a slot is open.

Comedy ensues as Edwina and her friends ask and answer questions from kids who write in to the show. This week they sing about picky eaters, party etiquette, how to properly set a table, how to make friends when you move to a new place, and the value of saving for the things you want. A good dose of family dynamics is mixed in as Edwina feels she is competing with her siblings for a spot ‘up on the fridge.’ She's also the love interest of Scott. Too bad she doesn't feel the same about him.

This all adds up to 90 minutes of fun on stage and in the audience!

Tickets are $12 for seniors, $10 for adults, and $6 for students. Tickets are available at the Presque Isle Advance newspaper office, at the box office and always at the door!

**Cast List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ziggy</td>
<td>Brianne Alexander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abigail</td>
<td>Maiah Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>Jacob Bruski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludmilla</td>
<td>Ashley Bunton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisa</td>
<td>Alisa Clement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myra</td>
<td>Lily Clement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie</td>
<td>Muriel Garms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becky</td>
<td>Jayden Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphrodite</td>
<td>Lexia Haske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>Izabelle Loughran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwina</td>
<td>Hannah Meharg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aiden</td>
<td>Aiden Monroe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susie</td>
<td>Ashlee Nowicki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen</td>
<td>Emmalyn Riddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelli</td>
<td>Chloé Schultz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Mollie Spens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Isabella Whitford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Many actors will play multiple roles, but only their favorite role is listed above. See the show program for a full list of characters portrayed.
Editor’s Corner: Our Grads
by Mary Ann Heidemann

This summer marks the eleventh consecutive summer youth theater, reminding us all how very important our young people are to the vitality and future of the community theater enterprise. This spring, several young thespians graduated both from high school and from our productions. Before they make their dramatic exit, I want to tell you about their many past accomplishments, and some of their future plans.

A recent theatrical recruit is Nolan Ryan, a home-school grad whose only prior experience in acting came from participation in a couple of church plays. But he saw an ad in the Advance about open auditions for the play, Leaving Iowa, and thought he’d give it a try. He landed the part as the younger version of Don Brownie, and it jump-started his love of acting. Another jump happened when he auditioned for My Fair Lady this year, and was cast as Freddy, memorably singing “On the Street Where You Live” opposite Lucy DeDecker playing Eliza Doolittle.

Not surprisingly, Freddy was his favorite role, and he successfully managed the age gap between himself and Lucy by focusing on Freddy’s fresh, youthful charm. Nolan also enjoyed meeting all the new and different types of people in the cast, and picking up acting tips from more seasoned performers.

Though Nolan felt somewhat intimidated by his first audition, working in the theater has helped build his self-confidence. Nolan also believes the people skills he gained in theater will help him in the future.

Beginning this fall, Nolan will attend Hillsdale College, where he intends to study journalism and politics. But Nolan plans to (this story continues on page 3)

How About Those Hats!
with help from Julie Riddle

“When you think about My Fair Lady,” says Rogers City Community Theatre Board Member Julie Riddle, “you can’t help thinking about all those fantastic hats.” So when the Marketing Committee was looking for a way to enhance the theatre experience, they decided to offer a free hat try-on booth during My Fair Lady performance dates last May, complete with instant photo services, so guests would have a show memento to take home.

“The Photo Booth iPad app was great, because it produced strips of four different snapshots, just like the old photo booths from our youth,” said Riddle. “Considering that we already had a printer and backdrop for the photos, setting up the booth was cheap, easy and fun.”

Using numerous Edwardian-era hats on loan from the historic clothing retailer, Recollections, the RCCCT Board was able to create a booth at the rear of the auditorium, where it was intensely patronized before and after shows, as well as during intermission.

“From our statistics, we had 98 separate photo sessions, with one to four people per session. It was a great turnout,” said Julie, “and an homage to the magic of hats. Pop one on and you become a different person; unique, strong, and brave enough to let your inner child out to play. Special things, hats.” Yes, indeed. Thanks, Julie!

Recollecting My Fair Lady
with help from Val Schalk

Recollecting, the world-class historic fashion manufacturer located in Hawks, has long been a generous friend of the Rogers City Community Theater, but costumes created for the recent production of My Fair Lady were simply over the top. When Val Schalk, costumer for the show, told Recollections owner Marianne Fairbanks about the upcoming production, a unique collaboration began. Fairbanks has always featured Edwardian-era clothing in her catalogue, but she developed a special collection based on My Fair Lady characters, particularly Eliza Doolittle.

“We produced more than 30 new items around show themes,” said Schalk. “Then Donna Klein, (theater marketing chair, as well as advertising consultant to Recollections) would use our Garment Gossip Blog to talk about the costumes, the show, Edwardian fashions, and topics like British high society behavior at the Ascot races. The blogs generated customer interest, and we sold quite a few of the featured costumes during the show. We plan to keep them available as part of the permanent collection.”

The Ascot race scene in the Rogers City theater production of My Fair Lady was an especially effective venue to show off the costumes, because the actors slowly strutted across the stage one by one, generating gasps of awe and appreciation among the audience.

In addition to the Ascot dresses, which were elegant black and white formal wear, Eliza’s Cockney flower-girl dress was a big hit. If you missed the show, or want to relive it, you can see the costumes on the Recollections web site, www.recollections.biz
leave room in his program for a minor in theatre arts.

Another of our theatre grads, Baylee Lijewski, has appeared in five youth shows and two adult RCCT productions. Her experience began with Willy Wonka, Jr., where she played a ballerina, a dancing squirrel and a chef. Now she’s choreographing and teaching dancing moves to youngsters cast in the current youth show, Dear Edwina, as well as helping show director Donna Klein with production notes.

Baylee’s favorite role came last year, when she played Lauren in Yearbook Reflections. She identified with Lauren’s penchant for helping others. Baylee still sings one of the songs from that show, A-B-C-D-F, when she has to get through tough times. Theatre, say Baylee, has helped her open up as a person, and relate to others.

This fall Baylee will attend Alpena Community College and begin studies in early childhood education. But she won’t leave acting totally behind. Like Nolan, she will be incorporating theatre classes into her college program.

Salena Heidemann, as the granddaughter of theater promoter Karl Heidemann, has the longest performance history of our three grads. Her experience began at age six, when she appeared in The Music Man. When asked how many shows she’s been in, Salena said: “I counted once, and it was 15, but that was a couple years ago, and now the total’s more than 20. Theatre’s fun. It sucks you in, then you just can’t quit.”

The favorite role for Salena came playing, in her own words, “that annoying older sister in Leaving Iowa.” She could be a brat at home, and just tell her mom she was practicing for the show!

Theater has helped Salena learn how to work with others, “especially during production week when everyone is crazy.” It’s also helped her learn to speak and communicate more clearly, and get over her shyness. Salena will be attending Ferris State University this fall, where she plans to study dental hygiene. But like our other grads, she wants to keep acting. “I’ll find a community theatre wherever I go.”

We will miss you three, but good luck and pass along that theatre magic!

Order Your Tickets Today

Ticket Order Form (Fill out, clip and mail to address below. Tickets will be held for pick up at the Box Office)

Please reserve for pick-up the number and type of tickets indicated below:

Amount:

Number:  
____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for $50
____ General Admission to Dear Edwina, Jr. @ $12 each
____ Senior Admission to Dear Edwina, Jr. @ $10 each
____ Student Admission to Dear Edwina, Jr. @ $6 each

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 Theatre
Mail completed form to: 257 North Third Street
                        Rogers City, MI 49779

Are you an Angel?

The Rogers City Community Theatre is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation committed to bringing quality theater to NE Michigan. Donations are an important part of our budget. Please consider enabling our work through your gifts, at any level.

____ $500 Heavenly Host
____ $250 Archangel
____ $100 Guardian Angel
____ $  50 Seraphim
____ $  25 Cherubim

Angels will be recognized under the appropriate category heading in all 2016 show programs. Thanks for your continuing support!

We have the lowest ticket price in NE Michigan
We can keep it that way with your donations
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 rebuilt 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 ceramic work of the original 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 summer youth theater program began as well. Community cast members have ranged from age 6 to 94. New cast and crew volunteers are always welcome! 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 tax deductible as allowed by law.

In 2013, a community-based fundraising drive provided support for installation of new theatre seating, sound system improvements, a digital 3-D projector and a new highly reflective screen, putting our theater at the cutting edge of stage and movie technology. In June 2016, Mary Ann and Karl Heidemann donated the theater building to the Presque Isle District Library for use as a community education and entertainment center, with a long-term lease for the Rogers City Community Theatre, ensuring access to theatre and fun for the next generation.