



# Spotlight

From the desk of

**Thereas Gibson, Director:**

I am so excited to have the opportunity to spend this summer with the amazingly talented kids participating in our Rogers City Community Youth Theatre. During the summer of 2015, I directed, "Yearbook Reflections" for RCCT Youth Program and was in awe of the talent that our local youth possess and are so eager to display. I couldn't wait to tackle a full-on Broadway production.

I put a lot of thought into selecting a show that would be both award winning and appropriate for kids of all ages. *Godspell, Jr.* was the natural choice. The story of *Godspell* is writer Jon Michael Tebelak's interpretation of the Gospel according to Matthew which focuses on the themes of love, kindness, tolerance, and building a community. The message can give us insights about bullying as well as the bible.

*Godspell* opened Off-Broadway in 1971, moved to Broadway beginning in 1976,

Welcome to our 2017  
Summer Youth Production:



and ran for more than one year. A movie version was released in 1973 starring Victor Garber as "Jesus". In 2011 the revival opened on Broadway. The musical score is created by award winning composer Steven Schwartz, who also wrote the scores for *Pippin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Wicked*, among others. Schwartz won a Grammy award in 1972 for his *Godspell* score, and was nominated for a Tony Award in 1977.

Every summer we do a kid's show and inevitably end up with the music as an ear-worm in our head for three months. In choosing *Godspell, Jr.* I decided if we were

going to have music stuck in our head this summer it will at least be awesome music! Schwartz treats us to cross genre pop rock, rhythm and blues, jazz, simple ballads, and even Vaudeville style entertainment.

The kids, ages 8-19, are working hard and playing hard as we prepare this Broadway Extravaganza for the community. *Godspell* has been one of my very favorite productions since I first saw it in the early 70's through the 2011 Revival. I have complete confidence that RCCT's Youth production of *Godspell, Jr.* will make it one of your favorites as well.

*For a complete list of cast and crew, see page 2.*

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<http://rcctheatre.org>

**Youth Theater  
SHOW SCHEDULE**

**Evening Shows:**

Thursday, Aug. 17

Friday, Aug. 18

Saturday, Aug. 19

Shows start at 7:30 pm

(doors open at 7:00)

**Matinee:**

Sunday, August 20

Show starts at 2:00 pm

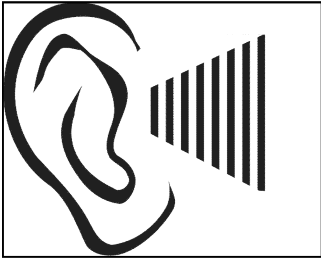
(doors open at 1:30)

**Tickets:**

available at the door  
or at the Advance

**Adults \$12**

**Students \$6**



## Treasurer's Corner: New Sounds

by Karl W. Heidemann

The Rogers City Community Theatre is delighted to announce the acquisition of an enhanced theatrical sound system, including a set of lavalier microphones for our actors. The enhancements are made possible by a generous gift from the Huron Shores Humanities Council (see related story on page three, under Community Characters).

In addition to nine lavalier mikes, the new sound equipment includes nine transmitter and receiver packs that plug into our existing sound board, plus a new amplifier and two new speakers.

Advantages of the lavalier mikes include their ability to capture sound from any direction, as well as their portability. Actors can wear the mikes on their costumes, tucked into their wigs or hooked over the ear with the mike stem close to their mouth.

Using these mikes effectively will require practice, but Theresa Gibson may be able to try them out for this summer's youth production. Theresa requested the equipment earlier, but our Board had to say no due to the expense. With the Humanities Council gift, we can step up our sound

technology and take it to the next level.

The new speakers have advantages as well: high output but small size. We can mount them permanently on the theater ceiling without interrupting the movie projector. This means fewer trips up and down the ladder to re-position equipment. The ceiling placement also avoids the problem of squealing feedback that often occurs when speakers are placed on the stage floor.

Our theatre would not exist without community support. Applause for the Humanities Council and their resounding gift.

## Cast and Crew for *Godspell, Jr.*

### Jesus

Ashley Nowicki

### Judas/Guitar

LexiaHaske

### John the Baptist

Hannah Meharg

### Soloists

Ashley Bunton

Baylee Lijewski

Izabelle Loughran

AngeleePiechan

Emma Welch

### Soloist/Ballet

Chloe Schultz

### Ensemble

Cole Boulis

### Ensemble (cont'd.)

Grace Cousins

Aiden Monroe

Bella Whitford

### Director

Theresa Gibson

### Music Director

Denise Perrault

### Technical Director

Karl W. Heidemann

### Producer

Heather Nordenbrock

### Assistant Director

Baylee Lijewski

### Choreographer

Ashley Nowicki

### Lights

Zack Wilbur

Mike Marx

Andrea Madison

### Sound

Bob Starnes III

Katie Adair

### Props

Mary Parsons

### Set Painters

Lawrence Anderson

Riconda Lamb

### Additional Assistance

Amy Schultz

### Special Consultant

Richard Schultz

## How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall?

Mike Idalski, Rogers City native and aspiring thespian now working in Chicago, was one of three talented young performers who led theatre skills workshops for the cast of *Godspell, Jr.* The workshops, held on June 23-24, were intended to develop abilities in vocal projection, singing, dancing and engaging audiences.

During the workshops, cast members learned two songs from the show, well enough to wow an audience composed of family, friends and community members at an on-stage performance held Sunday evening, June 25.

In addition to training young talent and providing a

preview of the show, Mike and his Chicago colleagues, vocalist Caitlyn Cerza and pianist Tyler Kivel delivered musical numbers of their own, and won the group a standing ovation.

As we all know, the answer to the headline question on Carnegie Hall (and punch line to the old joke) is "practice, practice, practice." But Mike proved practice can be a great deal of fun, while producing remarkable results.

Mike also demonstrated that involvement in youth theater can have life-changing results. Mike performed in the very first RCCT youth theater production, *Beauty and the Beast*, playing the Beast.

He continued to perform in each summer show until he graduated and went on to attend Central Michigan University, where he studied music, theater, conducting and dance.

The summer before graduating from college, Mike was a member of the core company at Alpena's Thunder Bay Theater, performing in several shows.

But what about Carnegie Hall? Yes, Mike performed there too, in Joseph Haydn's oratorio, "The Creation," as a member of CMU's Advanced Choral Ensemble. Bravo, Mike! Thanks for sharing your energy and talent.



# Community Characters: Huron Shores Humanities Council

In this issue, we are spotlighting one outstanding group of supporters that has backed the Rogers City Community Theatre from the start: the Huron Shores Humanities Council (HSHC). In 1994, when newly-formed Community Theatre was planning its very first show, *Oklahoma*, the theatre approached the HSHC for financial support.

In response, the Council took the generous and bold step of bankrolling the entire \$11,000 production cost, on one condition: that all proceeds from the show be rolled into the next production, so the theatre could become self-sustaining.

Pauline Cousins, an HSHC Board Member at the time, said: "I remember that decision. There was no negative vote; not one. We all wanted to support the theatre." *Oklahoma* proved to be both an artistic and financial success, and as promised the funds were rolled into the next production. Now thirteen years and more than fifty shows later, the wisdom of the investment is clear.

A year after *Oklahoma*, the Rogers City Community Theatre began a summer youth theatre production program. Unlike many other theatre groups that charge children a stiff participation fee, youth theatre in Rogers City has been provided free to participants since its inception. The Humanities Council has made several gifts to the youth program over the years that continue to make this policy possible.

Five years ago, the theatre was in danger of closing due to extensive costs associated with digital conversion. Once again, the Humanities Council stepped forward and made a \$5,000 gift to the community-initiated Kickstarter fundraising program. The fund supported installation of a state of the art digital projection and sound system for use in movies, live shows, public performances and events; successfully bringing our theatre into the digital age.

Today, the HSHC has again proved willing to support new theatre technology



by funding an actor's wireless microphone and sound amplification system (see the Treasurer's Corner article on page 2 for full details), that will make productions more audible for all.

Meanwhile, the Huron Shores Humanities Council has supported dozens of other artistic, scientific and historical projects for youth and adults that continue to improve the quality and enjoyment of life in our community. But the Rogers City Community will always be grateful for our special relationship with HSHC. Thank you Council, for believing in and supporting the theatre! We appreciate all you have done for us and for the entire community.

## 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:

Number:	Amount:
_____ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50	_____
_____ Adult Admission to <i>Godspell, Jr.</i> @ \$12 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Godspell, Jr.</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ Angel Donation (see box at right)	_____
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



Be an Angel!

### 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 2017 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*

## Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779



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

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### About Our Theatre



#### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theatre Office Phone: (989) 734-7368  
Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861  
Web: <http://rccttheatre.org>  
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



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*See you at the show!*

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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.