

ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Summer 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

Spotlight

Honk! Jr. Opens Thursday, August 26th



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What a joy it is to return to the director's chair for this summer's youth production of Honk! Jr. This musical retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's story of the Ugly Duckling is a hit with the actors, and I'm sure you will have as much fun experiencing it from the audience as we are having in presenting it to you!

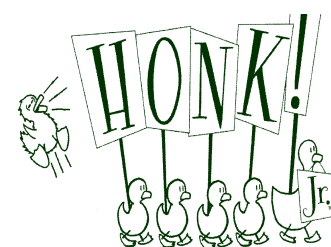
Twenty-seven young actors from around the county are taking part in this 2000 Olivier Award winning musical (it beat out the Lion King). This is the largest cast to date for one of our summer productions. We've been rehearsing since just after July 4th and we open on Thursday, August 26 for a **four** day run,

ending on August 29th with a Sunday matinee.

We've been having a lot of fun exploring, not only being ducks, chickens, swans, etc., but also developing the characters that drive the story. Each week all of us are growing as actors and tech crew.

This is the third summer production in which I've been involved, and it is such a pleasure to see how much the kids who've participated in several past productions have grown in self-confidence and team skills. They help each other to become the best they can be in all aspects of acting, singing, and dancing.

- Donna Klein, Director



SHOW DATES & TIMES:

Evening Performances:

Thursday, August 26

Friday, August 27 and

Saturday, August 28 at

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

Matinee Performance:

Sunday, August 29 at

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

Did you know that:

- In August, 2010 the Rogers City Community Theatre was awarded a \$500 grant from the United Community Foundation, to be used to offset the royalty costs associated with the summer youth theater production of Honk! Jr. Our sincere thanks are extended to the Foundation for their generous gift!
- New volunteers are always welcome on stage and behind the scenes.

Note to the Parents, Cast and Crew

To the parents of our cast members, I say thank you for allowing your child to be involved in this production. It requires a summer-long commitment, and it only works when we all come together to make it happen! To the young actors and crew members, I

say without you, we have no show to present. Thank you for taking part of your summer and sharing it with the Rogers City Community! To Karl Heidemann and Bill and Sally Halsey, and everyone else who pitched in to help make our sets, I thank you for

creating the backdrop against which we will travel with Ugly ; from his first steps out of the egg, through his transformation into the beautiful swan he's always been on the inside!

- Donna Klein, Director



President's Corner Donna Klein



Hope you are enjoying the summer! The Rogers City Community Theatre is busy rehearsing our summer youth theater production, Honk! Jr. Don't miss the performances set for the last weekend in August. We also participated in the Nautical City Festival parade with a float this year. Did you see us?

As we head into autumn, our own Mike Marx will direct the last production of the 2010 season, Rogers and Ham-

merstein's incomparable classic, *The Sound of Music*.

While most of us will never become a Mary Martin or Theodore Bikel, we still can experience the thrill of helping bring a masterwork to life, by becoming a member of the cast or crew for this production. Consider joining in the fun, and come out for the *Sound of Music* auditions announced elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter. And if you're not yet ready for the spotlight, con-

sider helping back stage.

Also this fall, some of us will be attending the Community Theater Association of Michigan's convention. We will spend the weekend learning about theater through the many classes being offered. These are busy times.

We are proud of our organization and the individuals within it as they grow and develop in new and unexpected directions. See you in the dark!

Auditions for *Sound of Music* September 7 & 8



Open auditions for the Fall show, *Sound of Music*, will be held on Tuesday September 7 and Wednesday September 8, at 7:00 p.m. each evening, at the Rogers City Theater.

Roles are available for both children and adults. Children age seven and up are encouraged to try out, as well

as adults of any age.

Parts will require plenty of singing. Practices will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday September 14. Saturday rehearsals will be required as well. Some flexibility is available in scheduling, if we know your

conflicts in advance.

Fall performance dates for *Sound of Music* are October 29-31 and November 5-7. No prior experience in theater is required to try out. Step right up and join the fun!

For further information on the auditions, contact Mike Marx, Director.

How'd They Do That? Striking and Recycling the Set



Theater people have unique rituals. One of them is "striking the set." Immediately after the last performance, cast and crew work together to dismantle the set. Despite weeks or months spent to design and build a complex set, by tradition and necessity it is taken apart in a

few hours. For small budget theaters like Rogers City, every part is stored and recycled for the next show. Sets are joined with screws not nails; the better to disassemble without damage. The 2x4 frame pieces and Styrofoam wall boards are particularly useful, so they have spe-

cial storage locations set aside in the theater. Set walls are often built on wheeled platforms so they can be moved, and every wheel is salvaged for re-use. Most of our doors and windows have been in more shows than any of the actors. Now that's show business!



Community Characters: Karl W. Heidemann

Karl W. Heidemann enjoyed the practice of law, but he felt Rogers City needed more than just another lawyer. When Karl saw what Brian Mills was able to give the community through a theater program, he was inspired to buy the Rogers Theater, and put in a live stage. The rest, as they say, is history.

Although Heidemann has had many memorable roles since the stage was christened in 2004, he loves all aspects of putting a show together. His set designs are the stuff of legend, as those who saw the stairways and balconies in *Hello Dolly* and *Noises Off* can attest. Karl expertly employed the smoke machine and fart sound track to establish the "atmosphere" for *Escanaba in da*

Moonlight. He also recalled fondly the special lighting invented for the sunrise scene in *Oklahoma*, and the "cameo" appearance of Marion in *The Music Man*.

The most fun Karl has had with choreography was arranging "Everybody Aught to Have a Maid," for *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. "It was just great dancing with those guys, especially when my sandal came loose and Wes stepped on the strap, and I couldn't move. The audience loved it! And another guy dance I did was "Nothing Like a Dame" for *South Pacific*. That worked fantastically." Not to mention the dancing cornstalks he dreamed up for the ballet scene in *Oklahoma!*

In terms of acting roles, one of



Karl's favorites was playing Amos in *Chicago*. "I got to sing "Mr. Cellophane," and I could really feel the audience's emotional response." But most of all, Karl just really appreciates watching how other people are transformed by their theater experiences. "Helping support positive change and personal development in people's lives is the very best part about being a theater owner."

Buy Your Theater 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 <i>Honk! Jr.</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Honk! Jr.</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Honk! Jr.</i> @ \$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 season	_____

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
- ▶ Theater 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

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To:



ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street
Rogers City, MI 49779

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Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861

Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Heidemann



See you at the show!

About Our Theater

The Rogers Theater was constructed in 1937 as a classic, single screen small town movie palace in the Art Deco style. After a fire in 1947, the theater was re-built and expanded. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theater 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 theater façade.

Once the stage was available, an informal group of local theater 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 theater 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.