

# ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Fall 2012

Volume 5, Issue 4

## Spotlight

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

### Lend Me a Tenor Opens October 26

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#### 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's final production for 2012 will be the hilarious comedy, "Lend Me A Tenor," written by the award-winning American playwright, Ken Ludwig. This play has been performed by numerous professional and amateur theatre groups around the world. It was first produced in London's West End by none other than Andrew Lloyd Webber, and was recently revived on Broadway to rave reviews. Director Karl W. Heidemann says, "I'm so happy to have such a riotous cast to put on this wonderful show. It's one of the funniest plays I've had the pleasure to see."

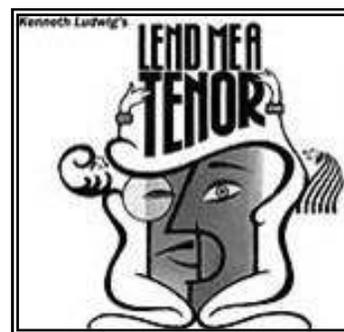
"Lend Me A Tenor" is a door-slamming, dress-dropping farce with mistaken identities, mischievous misunderstandings and compromising positions. In 1934, the world-renowned tenor, Tito Merelli (Ed Perrault), known to his fans as "Il Stupendo," is scheduled to sing the lead in the opera "Otello," which is being produced as a gala fundraiser for the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. Unfortunately, even before the star leaves his hotel room, everything begins to unravel. Chaos ensues when Merelli's wife (Theresa Gibson), who has mistaken an autograph-

seeker hidden in his closet for a secret lover, leaves Merelli a "Dear John Letter." The distraught Merelli is accidentally given a double dose of tranquilizers to calm him down and he passes out.

Saunders, the opera company's General Manager (Bob Starnes III) and his timid assistant Max (Mike Marx) mistake the "dear John Letter" for a suicide note and think Merelli is dead. Saunders is determined that the show will go on (for his own financial sake), so he coerces Max to impersonate the opera star. Max reluctantly agrees because he wants to keep Saunders happy in order to marry Saunders' daughter Maggie (Meghan Riordan.) Neither of them know that Maggie was the autograph-seeker in the closet who started the chain of events.

Meanwhile, a belligerent hotel bellhop (Bob Starnes IV) attempts to meet Merelli, but instead gets in an ongoing feud with Saunders. The Chairwoman of the Opera Guild Julia (Val Schalk) is determined to charm the great tenor, and the lead soprano Diana (Denise Perrault) wants to seduce Merelli so he will get her a job with the New York Met.

Max puts on the wig and



costume required for the role of Otello, and his disguise succeeds admirably – until Merelli wakes up and heads for the stage, also in wig and costume. What follows is a chain-reaction of mistaken identity, farcical plot twists, double entendres, innuendos, and constant entrances and exits through many doors. Confused? Then you understand the plot! Now come see the action and share the laughs.

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**Performance dates are:  
October 26, 27 & 28 and  
November 2, 3 & 4. Fridays  
and Saturdays at 7:30 and  
Sunday matinees at 2:00.**

For more information, call (989) 734-3861. See you at the show!  
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For a full description of the cast and characters in this show, see the article on page two. Rated PG-13 due to adult innuendos and mild language.



## President's Corner by Mike Marx



Wow, the year has flown by, leaving us with our final production for the 2012 season – *Lend Me A Tenor*. I am sure that many of you will find that we may have saved the best for last! Truly, a fast paced comedy that will leave you with a smile and a sore belly from laughing; something needed for these cold damp days ahead.

It was great to see so many take advantage of our summer youth program with their production of *Bugsy Malone, Jr.*

To see those kids, working so hard to create a fantastic show, insures that community theatre in Rogers City will be alive and well for years ahead.

Since this is the last newsletter for the 2012 season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has made RCCT possible. First, Karl Heidemann for the stage and theater, along with his many other talents, that make it possible for us to “hone our hobby”. Then,

there are the actors, “techies”, and those who have promoted RCCT, without you, well, it wouldn't be much fun.

To those who have donated funds, property, and talents...thank you! It is your help that gives us that “little extra,” to create fantastic shows. And finally, our audience: you are the real reason we do this. Thank you for your energy and support.

That's it for this year. See ya at the theater!!

## Cast and Character Descriptions for *Lend Me A Tenor*

**Saunders (Bob Starnes III)** General Manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. Tries desperately to maintain control of every situation. He just wants everything to go right (which it usually doesn't).

**Max (Mike Marx)** Saunders' timid assistant. He wants to keep Saunders happy and marry Maggie. He would also like to be an opera singer, but lacks confidence.

**Maggie (Meghan Riordan)** Saunders' daughter and Max's girlfriend. She is enamored with Tito and would like to

have one last fling before she marries Max.

**Tito Merelli (Ed Perrault)** He's a life-loving, over-indulgent world-class tenor with a passion for food, wine, women, and especially opera. And women. And women.

**Maria (Theresa Gibson)** Tito's wife. A moody, hot-blooded, hot-tempered Italian who's a little bit like Sophia Loren. She's a jealous, territorial animal. Grrr...

**Julia (Val Schalk)** Chairwoman of the Opera Guild. Well dressed and very proper, she likes to rub elbows with

famous people.

**Diana (Denise Perault)** A soprano with the opera company. Ambitious and sexy, she wants to sing with the New York Met. She doesn't hesitate to use her feminine charms to get whatever she wants.

**Bellhop (Robert Starnes IV)** A bellhop at the hotel. Mr. Wiseguy, also known as the eyes, the ears, and the mouth of the hotel. He also wants to be an opera singer, and doesn't mind letting everyone know it.

-Karl W. Heidemann

## CTAM Training Conference in Cadillac



The Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) held its annual conference in Cadillac on September 29 and 30. The conference drew representatives from community theatres across the state. Karl W. and Mary Ann Heidemann represented our theatre at the CTAM conference.

Classes included training on the business of theater, fundraising, dance, development of a character on stage, and the use of “green” approaches in theatre management to save energy and encourage recycling.

Entertainment during the opening reception included performance of an original play en-

titled: *Shirt Power*. Written for middle and high school students, the play examines our tendency to “label” people, leading to misunderstanding, isolation and often cruelty.

The play will tour CTAM communities in the coming year, and Rogers City could be one of the stops. I hope so.

# Community Characters: Bill and Sally Halsey

“Acting is not my forte,” says Bill Halsey. “I’m more the guy behind the scenes who make things work.” The things Bill makes work have included the theatre lights, sound board, and even the building plumbing and heating. Bill has also lent his skilled hands to help build sets for many of the Rogers City Community Theatre productions. “Karl designs them, I help build them, and Sally helps get them painted.”

While Sally Halsey has volunteered as theatre usher and ticket taker, the set painting is by far the most time-consuming. “Most people don’t realize all the work that goes into the shows,” says Sally. “But I’ve learned so much in the process, including how to make the sets look real for the audience.” Sally’s pride and joy in set work was painting

mountains for *The Sound of Music* set. After the set was dismantled, she saved her mountains and they now decorate her craft room at home. “I also loved painting the mural over the bar for *Curtains* (a partially clad reclining lady). She’s in my craft room too.”

Sally has successfully avoided any acting parts, but Bill has been on stage for several shows, including his first role as Sheriff for *Oklahoma*. But when asked to identify his favorite show, Bill named *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. “After one *Escanaba* performance, I met a guy up from Ann Arbor. He made it his mission to see every performance of *Escanaba* in Michigan. He’d been to 13 or 14 other shows, but said of all he’d seen, the one in Rogers City was best!”

Bill and Sally are strong theatre supporters. “It’s remarkable that a small town like Rogers City can have live theatre,” says Sally. “What a great community asset!” But Bill notes: “It’s more than entertainment.



**Bill and Sally Halsey**

When a show’s on, the restaurants are all busy and downtown is full of people. I also think our building is the best maintained theatre in Northern Michigan. Plus the theatre is well managed, and makes very good use of a small budget by saving and recycling all materials.” “Even so,” says Sally, “I finally had to throw out my painting clothes. They were just too far gone.”

## 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>Lend Me a Tenor</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Lend Me a Tenor</i> @ \$9 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Lend Me a Tenor</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	_____
_____ 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 the 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  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theatre Office Phone: (989) 734-7368

Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861

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.