



# Spotlight

Youth Theatre Yearbook Reflections Opens Aug. 27

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<http://rcctheatre.org>

**Did You Know...**

This is the 10th Anniversary Year for our Summer Youth Theatre. Past shows are listed below.

- 2015 Yearbook Reflections
- 2014 Curtain Call
- 2013 Little Mermaid
- 2012 Buggy Malone
- 2011 Willy Wonka
- 2010 Aladdin Jr.
- 2009 Honk Jr.
- 2008 Alice in Wonderland
- 2007 Cinderella
- 2006 Beauty and the Beast

Steven Fendrich, author of *Yearbook Reflections*, wrote his work as a tribute to young people. Fendrich, who lived near the site of the Columbine tragedy, was disturbed by the negative portrayal of youth coming after that event. In response, he produced a sensitive, upbeat musical about the will power, compassion and humor found in our schools.

The plot begins when Susan and Beth ask Jack and Eric to help move newly received yearbooks. Between loads, they flip through the pages of time, reflecting on the year's highlights. Flashbacks help reveal the struggles and triumphs of the year. Through it all, author Fendrich tries to show the school community working as one cohesive unit, from Principal to cafeteria staff. A rich blend of humorous, poignant and light vignettes come to life with the help of an ensemble of students that remains on stage through the entire play.

Theresa Gibson, Director, commented that: "This production is unique, inasmuch as it is truly youth driven. We have a 13-year-old music director and a 15-year-old choreographer and the talent in this show is truly amazing." Come to the show and see our young talent for yourself!



**Crew**  
 Director: Theresa Gibson  
 Asst. Director: Elaina Madison  
 Producer: Mike Marx  
 Choreography: Ashley Nowicki  
 Music: Maddie Tulgetska  
 Set: Bradley & Karl Heidemann  
 Director's Aide: Mary Parsons  
 Parent Volunteer: Amy Schultz

<u>Cast List</u>	<u>Character</u>
Andrew Bruski	Chris
Jacob Bruski	Jack
Ashley Bunton	Debbie
Mackenzie Bruning	Tammy
Jayden Hanson	Joan
Mataya Hanson	Breanne
Ethan Harp	Ethan
Bradley Heidemann	Eric
Karl Heidemann	Mr. Turner
Erica Jumper	Rachael
Alyssa Kinsey	Marsha
Trenton Kinsey	Sean
Brielle Kulik	Anna
Baylee Lijewski	Lauren
Izabelle Loughran	Jasmine
Elaina Madison	Beth
Ashley Nowicki	Melissa
Angelee Piechan	Suzanne
Chloe Schultz	Cathy
Maddie Tulgetska	Susan
Savannah Tulgetska	Savannah
Emma Welch	Delilah

**SHOW SCHEDULE**

Evening Shows:  
 Thursday, Aug. 27  
 Friday, Aug. 28  
 Saturday, Aug. 29  
 Shows start at 7:30  
 (doors open at 7:00)

Matinee:  
 Sunday, August 30  
 Show starts at 2:00  
 (doors open at 1:30)

Tickets:  
 available at the door

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## President's Corner

Wow, summer is finally here and the theatre has been really busy with all sorts of activity. Between the Super Scoop, blockbuster movies and now the kids rehearsing for the upcoming play, Karl must be tired at the end of the day! But summers in Northern Michigan pass too quickly...so much to do with too little time, but take advantage of every opportunity to enjoy what makes our community a special place when temperatures finally rise.

One of those special opportunities is the chance to see the youth of our community present a quality play. Director Theresa

Gibson has gathered a group of talented youth actors to perform *Yearbook Reflections*. They have been rehearsing hard every afternoon to bring the audience another fabulous show. Don't miss this year's Youth Theatre production of *Yearbook Reflections*.

Thanks go to those of you who attended our youth theatre fundraising dinner production of *The Altos*. As you know, all event profits went to benefit youth productions. We had to scramble to make arrangements in a new venue, but cast and crew had a great time and we hope the audience did as well.

by Mike Marx

Looking forward, the RCCT Board of Directors has already set next season's calendar of plays. Revealing those titles does not normally occur till our Fall production, but to give you some hints...there's a murder mystery comedy, a huge, very well known musical, a classic youth production and we get a return visit from our friends north of the Bridge. So thinking in advance, getting season tickets to the new set of shows might just be a great idea; for yourself, and as a holiday gift for friends and relations.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and see you at the show!

## Producers Needed! by Heather Nordenbrock

Are you interested in being involved in RCCT productions, but aren't quite ready to get on-stage? Maybe you just don't have the time for rehearsals but would still love to help out. Do you have organizational skills you're dying to use? Are you fantastic at motivating people? Then we have the perfect volunteer position for you!

RCCT is currently seeking producers for our upcoming shows. Helping with production is a great way to become involved in our theater, whether you are a long-time theatre veteran, or a total newcomer. The producer helps mold the people

involved in the production into a team, with each doing their assigned job. Production meetings begin even before auditions and continue until the show is done. The number of meetings vary depending on the needs of each production, but are generally held once a week. The producer is in charge of scheduling and facilitating meetings.

Producers are often heard asking questions like, "How are the costumes coming along?" "Has anyone been found to run lights?" "Do we have a design for the t-shirt yet?" or "How are rehearsals going?" Basically, it's a team meeting to make sure

everyone is on the same page and the work is getting done.

Producer packets are available giving detailed descriptions of the producer's job. Even if you're not sure what questions to ask, everything is laid out for you! You don't have to have a lot of experience, but you do need dedication, people skills, organization and a desire to see productions succeed.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the RCCT team in this capacity, we'd love to have you join us! Just e-mail Heather Nordenbrock, head of the Programming Committee, at: [heathernordenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:heathernordenbrock@gmail.com).

## Auditions September 8 & 9 by Riconda Lamb

Auditions for the critically-acclaimed play, *Leaving Iowa*, by Tim Clue and Spike Manton will take place Sept. 8 and 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Rogers City Theater. Ages 16 and above are encouraged to come and join the fun on our friendly stage.

*Leaving Iowa* centers on Don Browning, a middle-aged writer, and his decision to finally take his father's ashes to his childhood home for burial as requested. When a surprising turn of events emerges, he trav-

els in search of a proper resting place. As a memory play, while he drives along familiar roads, the action shifts between the present and memories of the annual tortuous summer vacations of Don's youth. This family friendly comedy is suitable for ages 10-110.

It is suggested to wear comfortable clothing for auditions and bring along your personal calendar to help fill out audition forms. Be prepared to read from the script and have fun with community theater buffs. Scripts are available auditions nights only.

There's something for everyone who auditions. Veteran performers and newcomers alike will find a part suitable for their skill level. So if you've ever wanted to get your feet wet in local community theater, now's your chance.

Co-directing the Rogers City Community Theatre's final 2015 production are Riconda Lamb and Mike Marx. The show opens October 30 and runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through November 8.



# Community Characters: Karen Maher

“That Donna Klein is quite a salesperson,” said Karen Maher. “She told me the theatre needed volunteers, and pretty soon I had a notebook, a play binder, a pen and a title of Assistant Director.” The play was *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and the experience hooked Karen on theatre work. “I had no idea about all the details involved in getting a play up on the stage,” Maher noted. “Props, costumes, set pieces; it all has to be thought out and acquired in advance, not to mention approved by the Director.”

For *Arsenic and Old Lace*, perhaps the most interesting props required were ten “dead” bodies needed for the final scene. “I played a dead body,” laughed Karen, “but I also recruited my daughter, several friends and even Ted Beck from the Funeral Home. Ted didn’t quite know what to say when I first called and asked to borrow a body, so I had some explaining to do.”

Maher eventually served as Assistant Director for three plays, then moved on to

Stage Manager. “As Stage Manager, you are expected to make sure all the props appear when needed and all the costumes are in hand, along with helping the actors make their entrance on time, which can be quite a task.”

Initially, Karen had no interest at all in an speaking role, preferring to work behind the scenes. But she did agree to take a part if she could wear fishnet stockings and stiletto heels; confident that no such part would ever appear. Then came *Harvey*, where Maher played the French maid, complete with feather duster, low-cut blouse, fishnet stockings and, yes, stiletto heels. “Of course, I had to get the costume approved by the Director (Donna Klein) and by Karl (Heidemann). I wish I had a picture of Karl’s face when I whipped open my trench coat to show him the costume. It got approved.”

“I can’t imagine Rogers City without the theatre, said Maher. “Our theatre welcomes everyone, and gives a safe haven to many unique people whose talents might otherwise be lost in a small town environment. At the theatre, they can grow and develop their skills and abilities.”



**Karen Maher, Community Character**

When asked what she likes best about the Rogers City Community Theatre, Karen replied without hesitation: “I like working with Karl because he is such a good teacher and I am constantly learning new things. The theatre brings out talents in the actors and crew we didn’t imagine we possessed. It changes lives.”

## Order Your Tickets Today

**Ticket Order Form** (Fill out, clip and mail to address below. Tickets will be held for pick up at 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	_____
_____ General Admission to <i>Yearbook Reflections</i> @ \$12 each	_____
_____ Senior Admission to <i>Yearbook Reflections</i> @ \$10 each	_____
_____ Student Admission to <i>Yearbook Reflections</i> @ \$6 each	_____
_____ List me as a footlight sponsor for Youth Theatre @ \$25 this show	_____
_____ List me as a spotlight sponsor for Youth Theatre @ \$50 this show	_____
_____ Other donation amount toward Summer Youth Theatre program	_____
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 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 Program Sponsorships 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 all 2015/16 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:  
[rogerscitytheater.com](http://rogerscitytheater.com)

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### About Our Theatre



#### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

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Rogers City, MI 49779

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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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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 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.

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.

During the fall of 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. All the more reason to come enjoy the show!