

OUR LONG-AWAITED, NEW WEBSITE IS UP!

www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com

Many thanks to Jenn Beukema of Newton Community Theatre for agreeing to be our new web master.

Check out our new website now to search for

- Calendar of Events
- Board Member information
- Community Theatres in Iowa
- Membership information
- Festival 2015 information
- Center Stage newsletter
- Awards of Excellence information and list of 2014 winners



The website is a work-in-progress and will be updated as more information is obtained. That is where you come in.

Please submit information about your theatre to our web master:

- Theatre Name ~ Address ~ Phone Number ~ Website ~ Email
- Contact Person with contact information
- Your Season with Dates of Auditions and Performances.

If there is something you'd like to see on the website and/or a correction, please let our web master Jenn know by contacting her at:

iowacommunitytheatre@gmail.com

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FESTIVAL 2015
The proposed dates are April 10-11, 2015

The Waterloo Community Playhouse has extended an offer to the ICTA Board to host the 2015 Festival.

Your theatre is encouraged to enter the competition.

All the guidelines for this year's Festival are on the ICTA website.

Even if your theatre isn't presenting, Festival is a wonderful opportunity to watch a number of performances, hear the adjudicators' comments, sit in on their workshops, and network with like-minded friends.

DON'T STOP THERE...
After you've taken a look at our new ICTA website, go to **www.aact.org** and check out all that the American Association of Community Theatres has to offer you.

AND THEN...
Go to the Iowa Arts Council website at **www.iowaartscouncil.org** to the link for the Iowa Arts Organizations to put your performing arts theatre on their map of Iowa.

GREAT RIVER PLAYERS, KEOKUK

Great River Players (GRP) wrapped up it's 2013-14 season with their Summer Youth Group for grades 8-12 performing "Honk". Prior to that, their Marilyn Hart Children's Theatre for grades 4-7, performed "Annie, Jr."

The shows were well-attended and, as usual, the young people did a wonderful job, learned a lot about theatre, came out of their shells, made new friends, and had a fantastic summer experience.



On August 15th, 2014 they held their annual "Curtain Call," an event at which GRP members recap the previous season and announce the upcoming season. They will begin the season with "Of Mice and Men" this fall, "Godspell" this winter, and "Thoroughly Modern Millie" next spring. Further information for Great River Players may be found on their website at www.greatriverplayers.com.

GRP also awards their annual scholarship to an area student who is continuing their education in the arts and present the annual "Outstanding Service Award" to a member who has gone above and beyond in their service to GRP during the previous year.

NEW MINOWA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, DECORAH

Since 1975, New Minowa Players Community Theatre has presented over 120 straight plays, musicals, revues, melodramas, and cabarets in a variety of locations. The past 39 years have shaped our organization into what it is today: an incredibly active community theatre dedicated to celebrating the building of community through the arts. With our upcoming 39th season, we look forward to promoting teamwork, inspiring change, and inciting action, all through creating incredible theatrical performances.

The New Minowa Players (NMP) presented the following in the 2013-14 Season:

- Children's show (K-6 grade): BEGINNINGS: A MUSICAL BASED ON MAORI MYTHS
- Musical Cabaret
- Family Show: JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH
- Comedy: LAST OF THE CLASS
- Summer Musical: SUESSICAL THE MUSICAL
- Young People's Production: THE BURNT PART BOYS

The Young People's Production, for youth 7th grade through college, began at NMP in 2004. The program started as a way to give the kids another chance to perform when the high school cut back to only one theatre production a year. Since the beginning, it has been directed by a student. The youth do almost everything under the guidance of several adults.

NMP currently produces five theatrical productions per season with a variety of performance types for a range of ages. Their 2014-2015 season includes:

- Children's show: A TOUCH OF GINGERBREAD, a fantastical, locally written musical, late October 2014
- Musical: THE SECRET GARDEN, the last two weekends of January 2015
- Comedy: LEAVING IOWA, the classic family road trip, April 2015
- Summer Musical: LES MISÉRABLES, last weekend of June 2015
- Young People's Production: an original production written by NMP alumni.

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L.K. Boutin Grant Applications Due October 17, 2014

By now, your theatre should have received application information about the L.K. Boutin Grant. (If you have not, email Gerard.Schwiderath@kemin.com, phone him at 515-822-1875, or mail request to Gerard Schwickerath, 4740 Iowa Street, Newton, IA 50208.)

L.K. Boutin was a founder of ICTA who passed in 1985 and left a portion of his estate to the organization to carry on the work of developing community theatres in Iowa. Since his death, the Board has awarded grants of up to \$500 to member theatres in support of specific projects.

Applications are now being accepted for grants to be awarded in 2015. Complete the application including project information, background about your theatre, names and contact information about your officers and board members, and financial condition.

Submit your completed application by
OCTOBER 17, 2015

by email to Gerard.Schwickerath@kemin.com
or by mail to

Gerard Schwickerath, Treasurer ICTA,
4740 Iowa Street, Newton, Iowa 50208

The applications will be reviewed at the November 1st meeting of the ICTA Board and winners will be notified.

Testimonial from 2014 Grant Winner

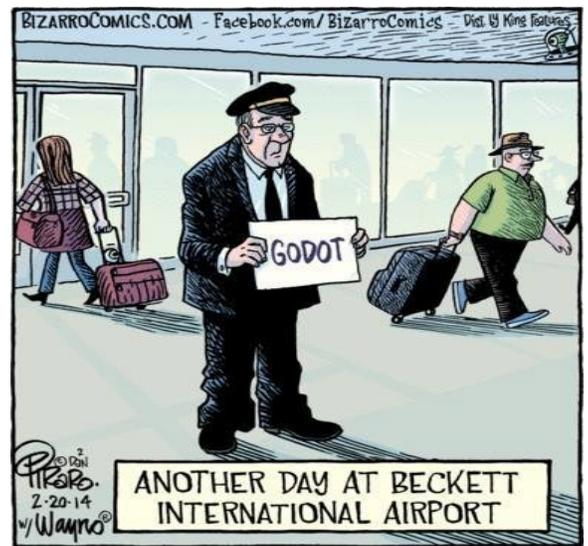
"Ankeny Community Theatre has completed another successful year of summer camps. Part of that success was due to the L.K. Boutin Grant and the improvements that it allowed us to make in our program.

ACT camp instructors lean heavily on popular fairy tales for many of their Friday productions. We were lacking in costumes for these characters and were able to purchase fabric and notions to sew three different-sized costumes for each of these characters. That's twelve costumes that we did not have before!

Makeup is a must at camp in order to give the campers a true theatrical experience. In the past, the four camps have had to share our limited supply of makeup with everyone needing it at the same time on Friday. This year we were able to create makeup kits for each camp to have their own kit. We were also able to purchase some color wheels that we had not had for some time. Instructors were thrilled that they no longer had to share the makeup and excited to have new options to choose from.

Last year's music camp instructor used her laptop for much of the music but her speakers were barely strong enough for classroom use let alone in the large performance space we utilized. The new speakers that we purchased were a tremendous improvement over the quality of the sound that we had last year. People could actually hear the music in the back of the room this year.

Thank you so very much for providing this funding to our program. We appreciate your support which allowed us to provide a quality educational program to our participants."



Webster City Community Theatre

WCCT will be celebrating the past season at its Annual Recognition Dinner later this month. All cast and crew members who were associated with *House Guests Can Be Murder*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and *Guys and Dolls* will receive a token of appreciation. Winners of the Willing Worker, Friend of WCCT, and President's Awards will be announced.

WCCT is looking forward to its 2014-2015 season and celebrating the completion of its new 6,000 sq. ft. addition.

The season opener *Alone Together Again* runs November 14-16, 21-23. This comedy is a sequel to "Alone Together" which was the first show performed in our own facility in 1992. Twenty-two years later, we find our couple finally enjoying their "empty nest" now that their three sons have finally moved out...again. And then their parents move in with them!

Our donors and patrons will help us kick off the season with a champagne gala on opening night and tours of our expanded facility throughout the run. Work continues to finish sprucing up the building inside and out plus organizing the wardrobe, props, makeup and wigs, set pieces and lumber in time for opening night.

Also slated for the season are

Almost, Maine for February 6-8, 13-15
The Trial of Goldilocks for April 10-12, 17-19
Monty Python's Spamalot for July 9-12, 16-19

WCCT is also looking forward to participating in Festival at Waterloo Community Playhouse in April.

WATERLOO COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE SELECTS NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Last fall after 44 years as artistic director, Chuck Stilwill announced his retirement plans for mid-September 2014 with the close of his final production, *Steel Magnolias*.

The board of directors immediately began searching for the right candidate to fill the director's chair. Search committee members were tasked with reviewing applications that came from across the country and moving candidates through the interview process. The board completed that process and selected Matthew R. Kerns as the new WCP artistic director.

Executive Director Constance Grimm supports the board's decision, stating: "Matthew Kerns is a multi-talented artist with a vision that echoes what the board of directors has outlined for the future of the playhouse. He is committed to the use of his gifts to engage, entertain, and energize our current audiences while building on our rich history to reach out to the community and discover new opportunities as well."

Matthew originates from the Midwest and has been working most recently in Cedar Rapids. Matthew says that he is thrilled beyond belief and is extremely honored and excited to be following in the footsteps of Charles Stilwill. Matthew has had great success as a theatrical work maker. He holds an MFA in Contemporary Performance from Naropa University in Boulder, CO and joined the Playhouse family in August. Kerns' debut production will be *Seussical the Musical* in December.

On the Waterloo Community Playhouse schedule for 2014-2015

***Seussical the Musical*, December 12-20, 2014** follows the adventures of Horton, an elephant, and the tiny race of Whos. Traveling everywhere from the Jungle of Nool to McEligott's Pool, some of the characters fall in love, some have desperate adventures, and some even save the world.

***Southern Fried Funeral*, January 23-31, 2015** Dewey Frye is dead and his wife Dorothy is left behind trying to pick up the pieces and hold her family together. Funerals bring out the best, the worst, and the funniest in people. The Frye family is no exception.

***A Murder Is Announced*, March 20-28, 2015** This adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel is a puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, not one but two deaths, a determined inspector who grimly follows the twists and turns, and Miss Marple who provides the final solution before the final curtain.

***Tons of Money*, May 15-23, 2015** An unsuccessful inventor who has accrued numerous debts inherits a fortune. The idea concocted by the inventor and his wife to save the inheritance doesn't go as expected.

Black Hawk Children's Theatre Season

***James and the Giant Peach*, October 3-11, 2014** James is miserable. His aunts are cruel, he has few friends, and very little to do. All this changes when he receives a mysterious bag from a little man who promises fabulous, marvelous things.

***Romeo and Juliet*, November 14-22, 2014** This adaptation brings the passion and poetry of Shakespeare's timeless tale of young love that brings unity to fighting factions. This show will also tour.

***Snow White*, February 20-28, 2015** Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all? The wicked Queen seeks to destroy the beautiful Snow White who escapes to the protection of the Seven Dwarfs and the Foolish, but brave, Prince Charming in this lovely and lovable legend.

***The Cat in the Hat*, April 17-25, 2015** The Cat in the Hat has fun in store for you on a rainy day. His hijinks and tricks can help escape the gloom, but Thing 1 and Thing 2 make a mess.

"If all the world's a stage... where is the audience sitting?"

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

You are encouraged to support your peers by attending performances at their theatres.

September 12-27 Sept 26-28, Oct 3-5	“Peter Pan” at Sioux City Community Theatre “A Thousand Clowns” at Old Fort Players, Fort Madison
October 5-13 October 10-12, 16-18 October 10-12, 16-19 October 17-19, 24-26 October 23-November 2 October 24-26 October 23-26	“James and the Giant Peach” at Black Hawk Children’s Theatre, Waterloo “Exit the Body” at Newton Community Theatre “Bingo: The Winning Musical” at Spencer Community Theatre “The Fantasticks” at Southwest Iowa Theatrical Group, Shenandoah “Dracula” at Sioux City Community Theatre “Of Mice and Men” at Great River Players, Keokuk “A Touch of Gingerbread” at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah
November 8-9 November 14-16, 21-23 November 14-22	“Singing (Mostly) Sondheim” at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah “Alone Together Again” at Webster City Community Theatre “Romeo and Juliet” at Black Hawk Children’s Theatre, Waterloo
December 3-7 December 5-7, 11-13 December 5-7, 12-13 December 5-7, 12-14 December 12-20 December 11-21	“The Carol” at Wilson Performing Arts Center, Red Oak “Christmas in Comfort” at Newton Community Theatre “The Snow Child” at Old Fort Players, Fort Madison “Our Town” at Spencer Community Theatre “Seussical the Musical” at Waterloo Community Playhouse “Tuna Christmas” at Sioux City Community Theatre
January 22-25, 30-31 January 23-31	“The Secret Garden” at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah “Southern Fried Funeral” at Waterloo Community Playhouse
February 13-15 February 13-15, 20-22 February 20-28	“Godspell” at Great River Players, Keokuk “Same Time Next Year” at Spencer Community Theatre “Snow White” at Black Hawk Children’s Theatre, Waterloo
March 20-28	“A Murder Is Announced” at Waterloo Community Playhouse
April TBA April 17-25 April 24-26, 30-May 3	“Leaving Iowa” at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah “The Cat in the Hat” at Black Hawk Children’s Theatre, Waterloo “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” at Spencer Community Theatre
May 8-10 May 15-23	“Thoroughly Modern Millie” at Great River Players, Keokuk “Tons of Money” at Waterloo Community Playhouse
June 26-28	“Les Miserables” at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah

Check out the Final Act Ensemble performances at the Des Moines Playhouse, too.

Be sure to send your upcoming production information to the editor at loweengetter@wmtel.net by November 1, 2014

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Like us on Facebook!

**Submit articles about your community theatre by November 1, 2014 to
loweengetter@wmtel.net. Electronic submissions are very welcome!**

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