

**IOWA COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION**

**Winter Issue**  
**January/February/March 2015**

**WATERLOO TO HOST STATE FESTIVAL 2015**



If you have participated in AACTFest in the past, you know what a tremendous experience it is for your cast, crew and theatre. Your theatre is encouraged to enter this year's state competition. Even if your theatre is not 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 theatre friends.

The Waterloo Community Playhouse/Black Hawk Children's Theatre (WCP/BHCT) is thrilled to be hosting the State AACTFest on **April 9-12, 2015**. The festival and most of its activities will take place inside the Waterloo Center for the Arts and the Hope Martin Theatre, located at 225 Commercial Street in Waterloo.

AACTFest is the national theatre event held in odd-numbered years that brings together the best community theatre productions from across the country. The winning show will go on to Regional AACTFest to be held in Newton April 23-26. Iowa can have two winners if at least four theatres compete at the state level.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, April 9**

*Evening welcome party, WCP/BHCT Walker building*  
*Optional Activity: CultureFest*  
*Waterloo Center for the Arts, 5:30-7:30 pm*

**Friday, April 10**

*Workshops, rehearsals, performances, evening party*

**Saturday, April 11**

*Workshops, rehearsals, performances,*  
*ICTA Gala and awards, final cast party*

**Sunday, April 12**

*Showcase production, Festival awards, closing festivities*

This schedule may be adjusted based on number of entries.

**ADJUDICATORS**

The adjudicators for Festival who will provide comments on each entry and determine the winner(s) are

**Marc Devine**

Assistant Professor of Voice  
 Ball State University in Muncie, IN

**Chad Kolbe,**

Associate Professor of Technical Theatre  
 Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI

**Lara Maerz**

Production Manager  
 The Edge Theatre Company in Lakewood, CO

Our Festival Commissioner is **Katrina Ploof**.

Each adjudicator will present two workshops, one on Friday and one on Saturday. Topics and descriptions TBD and will be announced as they are available. Watch the ICTA website for updates.

**DEADLINES**

**All the guidelines for this year's Festival are located on the ICTA website at [www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.org](http://www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.org)**

**March 6, 2015**

**Theatre entry information with applicable fee \$50**

*Each competing company must be a member of the Iowa Community Theatre Association or provide a check payable to ICTA in the amount of \$45 to begin membership.*

*An additional festival fee of \$65 payable to American Association of Community Theatres is due if the company is not currently a member of AACT.*

**March 13, 2015**

**4 Scripts (as cut)**

**March 20, 2015**

**Warranty of Company Compliance**  
**Affidavits of AACTFest Actor Eligibility**  
**Program Information**  
**Technical Information**

(Continued on page 2)

## INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES

*Early bird pricing on Festival packages is good through March 31, 2015!*

### Festival Package I

Full festival package includes all performances with adjudication, four meals, six workshops, three parties, ICTA awards gala, showcase performance, festival awards and closing festivities. (Special note: Each member of the cast and crew that are in the start up box of a competing theatre are required to purchase this full festival package.) Early bird price: \$115. Price beginning April 1: \$130.

### Festival Package II

Friday only package includes three workshops, Friday's performances with adjudication, two meals and evening party. Early bird price: \$55. Price beginning April 1: \$65

### Festival Package III

Saturday only package includes three workshops, Saturday's performances with adjudication, two meals, ICTA awards gala and final cast party. Early bird price: \$65. Price beginning April 1: \$75.

### Festival Package IV

Gala only package includes the ICTA awards dinner and final cast party. Early bird price: \$30. Price beginning April 1: \$45.

### Festival Package V

Sunday only package includes showcase production, I-AACTFest awards, and closing festivities. Early bird price: \$15. Price beginning April 1: \$25.

### A La Carte Options

Lunch: \$10, Dinner: \$15, One workshop: \$15  
One performance with adjudication: \$10

*A la carte options are available for purchase during the Festival.*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The preferred host hotel is the Days Inn  
1809 LaPorte Road, Waterloo, 319.235.4461  
Days Inn is holding a block of 20 rooms at \$75/night

Rooms are also available at  
Comfort Inn & Suites, \$95 per night  
2011 LaPorte Road, Waterloo, 319.234.5452

Ramada Inn, \$70 per night  
205 West 4th Street, Waterloo; 319.236.9504

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Festival Chairperson: **Constance Grimm**  
[iaactfest@wcpbhct.org](mailto:iaactfest@wcpbhct.org)

Festival Planning Co-Chairs:  
**Kyle N. Weber, Sam Card, & Kim Sitting**  
[iaactfest@wcpbhct.org](mailto:iaactfest@wcpbhct.org)

Technical Director: **Scott Schuster**  
[scott.schuster@wcpbhct.org](mailto:scott.schuster@wcpbhct.org)



## AACT REGION V FESTIVAL Hosted by Newton Community Theatre April 23-26, 2015

AACTFest Chair, Sue Beukema is pleased to announce plans for the upcoming AACT Region V Festival. The schedule begins on Thursday, April 23, with closed practices and an evening get-acquainted party.

The following adjudicators will be critiquing the productions and selecting the one that will advance to the AACT National Festival in Grand Rapids, MI June 23-27.

Allen Ebert from Madison, WI  
Ron Ziegler from North Port, FL  
Kristi Quinn from Dakota City, NE

The following workshops and a Region V meeting are scheduled for Friday and Saturday mornings, April 24 & 25.

"Beards, Sideburns, and Mustaches"

Cindy Healy & Julie Goodman, Newton CT

"Creating Costumes"

Joni Sackett, Theatre Cedar Rapids

"Directors—Polishing a Production"

Ron Ziegler, adjudicator

"Fundraising"

Kristi Quinn, adjudicator

Allen Ebert will also present a workshop, TBD

Festival entry productions followed by the adjudications will take place on Friday and Saturday afternoons, April 24 and 25. States in Region V include Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

There's plenty of time for fun and networking too. The host theatre has planned a party for every night! Festival will end on Sunday morning with the breakfast and the award announcements!

The registration form is included in this newsletter. Save some \$\$\$ by registering by April 15. Make copies of the registration form so other members of your theatre can attend too. Hope to see many of you there!

**Be sure to send your upcoming production information and news about your theatre to the *Center Stage* editor, Loween Getter at [loweengetter@wmtel.net](mailto:loweengetter@wmtel.net)**

**The deadline is March 20, 2015 for the Spring Issue. Electronic submissions are preferred!**

## MARSHALLTOWN COMMUNITY THEATRE *THE HUNDRED DRESSES & PETER PAN*

Marshalltown Community Theatre and the NOT IN OUR TOWN Marshalltown Project are collaborating with the local school district, Park and Rec, and The Arts & Children Together program to provide a matinee performance of *The Hundred Dresses* by Mary Hall Surface for all fifth grade students in the district on February 19.

The play, adapted from the book by Eleanor Estes, is a timeless tale about the power of words and finding the courage to stand up to others even if it means standing alone. Set in 1938, the powerful story is about the treatment of a newly arrived immigrant family from Poland and the effects on Wanda Petronski, the target of merciless bullying because she wears the same faded blue dress to school every day. She insists she has a hundred bright, shiny new ones at home. As the story unfolds, her class mates learn the secret of the hundred dresses and a lesson in tolerance, taking responsibility, and living with the consequences of one's actions. The story addresses so many issues facing communities like Marshalltown.

Public performances of *The Hundred Dresses* will be February 20-22 and 27-28 at the Martha-Ellen Tye Playhouse. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

Marshalltown Community Theatre has also received a grant from the Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation for \$20,165 to produce *Peter Pan*. The grant will be used to pay royalties, hire a rigging company, afford expansive set, lighting, and special effects, and to costume the cast of 35—including \$700 for the crocodile costume and light up sword alone!

Directors Rick Gooding and Shannon Mitchell say the musical will enable the community to “fly away” to Neverland July 24-26, 31, and August 1-2. The final performance will be a free performance for youth. It will also be the basis for a week-long summer youth theatre performance camp for 7-14 year olds, directed by Laura Stansberry & Shannon Mitchell.

According to Mitchell, “With the approval of this grant, MCT will now be able to engage, educate, and entertain a whole new generation of theatre lovers and provide services to our community that it has not normally been able to provide. To say we are honored and excited about this endeavor is really just an understatement because we are truly thrilled to be given this opportunity and cannot wait to see it all unfold.”

Rounding out the production team are Kimberlee Kups-Benson, choreographer; Andrew Geysens, music director; Grant Gale, sound and lighting; and Kevin Lageschulte, set design.

The theatre is recruiting a number of adult volunteers for back stage and orchestra musicians. An informational meeting for volunteers will be held May 17. Auditions are slated for May 16-17. Rehearsals will begin June 1

Go to [www.marshalltowncommunitytheatre.org](http://www.marshalltowncommunitytheatre.org) or their Facebook page at Marshalltown Community Theatre for more information.

Have you gone on the Iowa Arts Council website at [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org) to the link for the Iowa Arts Organizations to add your community theatre on their map of Iowa?

## NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR ICTA BOARD

Five of the current board positions will be up for election in April. Votes will be cast during the annual membership meeting at the State Festival in Waterloo.

If you are interested in committing to a three-year term on the board, contact any of the following members of the nominating committee: Peggy Brown, Loween Getter, Gerard Schwickerath, Bobbi Lutzen, or R.J. Lundgren (their emails are on the last page).

The board meets at various locations around the state once per quarter or as needed. It's a great way to help promote community theatres throughout our state.

## Greetings from Newton Community Theatre

We had a great holiday production with *Christmas In Comfort* in December. With 45 children and 15 adults in the cast, directors, Pam Ratliff and Sue Beukema called it “organized crazy.” It was fun to watch the great cast come together and make new friends.

NCT is rehearsing *No Sex Please, We're British* which runs February 20-22, 26-28. John Dougan is directing this classic comedy, assisted by Linda Dougan.

Our musical in June will be *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, directed by the fine trio of Melinda Worthington, Cindy Healy and Cathi Wickett. We will be holding auditions March 9-10.

NCT is excited to be bringing *The Hallelujah Girls* to the ICTA State Festival. We tried something different this festival cycle. We did readings of three scripts and then discussed the pro's and con's of each script. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Iowa Festival in Waterloo. See you there!

Submitted by Sue Beukema

## The Excitement Continues at Ankeny Community Theatre

ACT is celebrating 33 years of bringing fun, laughter, drama, and music to the Ankeny community. We began the season in September with local playwright Cynthia Mercati's *The Little Princess*.

Families celebrated the holiday season at the production of *Uh-Oh Here Comes Christmas* by Robert Fulgham, author of the popular *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

With over half the season left, there is still plenty of good entertainment waiting for audiences to attend. *Adam's Eve* by Matthew Carlin, will run February 13-15, 20-22, 27-28 and March 1.

In April, ACT will be performing *Francine's Will* by Mary Datillo. Performance dates for this show are April 10-12, 17-19 24-26.

Sherman L. Sergel's *Twelve Angry Jurors* will take the stage June 5-7, 12-14, 19-21. This show tells the same story as *Twelve Angry Men*, but in this version, directors have the option of casting both men and women as the jurors. Auditions for the show will be held April 11 and April 13 at the theater.

The 2014-2015 season will wrap up July 31, August 1-2, 7-9, 14-16 with *Drinking Habits* written by Tom Smith. Audition dates are set for June 9 and 10 at 7:00 at the theater.

Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 pm. Ticket prices are adults - \$15, seniors (60+) - \$12, and youth (ages 5-18) - \$10. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com). The theater is located at 1932 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Ankeny. Directions and more information about ACT can be found on our website. Like us on Facebook, too.

ACT will also offer its popular summer drama camps for Kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth. These camps offer children an opportunity to learn about the various aspects of theater and allows them to create their own theatrical productions for their families. Camps will be announced by March 1. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year of offering educational opportunities to area youth.

Submitted by Lynn Arterburn, ACTMarketing Coordinator

## IT'S HAPPENING AT WCCT

Webster City Community Theatre's current production of *Almost, Maine* opened on February 6 and will continue through February 15. Show times are 7:30 on Friday and Saturday and 2:00 on Sunday. Tickets are only \$12.

First time director Mark Andrew suggested we produce the show a little "out of the box" to give more people the opportunity to try their hand at directing and being on stage without a major time commitment or tons of memorization.

So, "Jeezum Crow," six directors and a cast of nineteen took on the "\_\_\_logues" and eight vignettes that all take place at the same time, on the same winter night, in the small, mythical town of Almost, Maine. It's been a successful experiment with this romantic comedy perfect for the Valentine's holiday. The local Rotary Club is coming for a special dinner theatre performance.

Next up, are auditions for our Theatre for Youth production of *The Trial of Goldilocks* which opens April 10, and WCCT's Festival entry, *Honeymoon Motel* by Woody Allen.

Early production meetings are also underway for our summer musical, *Spamalot*. We will be using Theatrical Rights Worldwide's "Show Ready" and "Stage Track" during rehearsals and performances of this show instead of a live orchestra. Let Loween Getter (515-297-0846) know if any of your theatres have experience with these digital music programs? A grant from the Webster City Hotel Motel Tax Committee has covered the expense of using them.

## AACT "Spotlight" Corner...

- The Audubon County Players Community Theatre will present "Pistols and Posies" March 6 and 7. Doors open for the dinner theatre at 6:00 pm at the AgriHall at the Audubon County Fairgrounds. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved by calling 712-563-2541.
- The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group in Shenandoah has a backdrop and a variety of *Seussical* items for rent. Call 712-246-1061 or 712-245-8414 for more information.
- The Community Players of Greene County will be performing "Pools Paradise," a farce in three acts March 6 and 7 at 7:00 pm and March 8 at 2:00 pm at the Greene County High School located on Hwy 4 South in Jefferson. They encourage you to come and hear their improved sound system made possible with grants from The Community Foundation of Greene County and the Jefferson Rotary Club. Tickets are \$12.50 and can be reserved by calling John Schoening at 515-370-0965.
- A Director's Workshop was held at The Corning Opera House Cultural Center on January 20. John Olson of Shenandoah led the workshop. John won the ICTA Award of Excellence in Directing in 2012 for Clarinda Community Theatre's production of *Honk!*
- Treasurer Gerard Schwickerath has reported that ICTA's application for 501c3 non-profit status is in process.

# PRODUCTION CALENDAR

**You are encouraged to support your peers and broaden your theatre experience by attending performances at their theatres.**

**Check the website for more details at [www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com](http://www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com)**

February 6-8, 13-15	"Almost, Maine" at Webster City Community Theatre
February 6-8, 13-14	"Dream Girls" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
February 6-8, 11-15, 18-22	"A Streetcar Named Desire" at Des Moines Playhouse
February 6-9, 13-15	"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" at ACTORS in Ames
February 13-15	"Godspell" at Great River Players, Keokuk
February 13-15, 20-22	"Same Time Next Year" at Spencer Community Theatre
February 13-15, 20-22, 27-28, March 1	"Adam's Eve" at Ankeny Community Theatre
February 20-22, 27-28	"The Hundred Dresses" at Marshalltown Community Theatre
February 20-21, 26-18	"No Sex Please, We're British" at Newton Community Theatre
February 20-22, 27-28, March 1	"Boeing, Boeing" at Cedar Falls Community Theatre
February 20-28	"Snow White" at Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo
February 26-28, March 1	"Anne of Green Gables" at Union Street Players, Pella
February 27-28	"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" at The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group, Shenandoah
February 27-28	"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at Iowa City Community Theatre
March 1, 6-8	"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at Iowa City Community Theatre
March 1, 6-8	"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" at The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group, Shenandoah
March 6-7	"Pistols and Posies" at Audubon County Players Community Theatre (Dinner Theatre)
March 6-8	"Pools Paradise: A Farce in Three Acts" at The Community Players of Greene County in Jefferson
March 20-28	"A Murder Is Announced" at Waterloo Community Playhouse
March 27-29	"The Great Gatsby" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
April 3-5, 10-11	"The Great Gatsby" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
April 3-6, 10-12	"A Murder Is Announced" at ACTORS in Ames
April 10-12, 15-19, 22-26	"Around the World in 80 Days" at Des Moines Playhouse
April 10-12 & 17-19	"The Trial of Goldilocks" at Webster City Community Theatre
April 10-12, 17-19, 24-26	"Francine's Will" at Ankeny Community Theatre
April TBA	"Leaving Iowa" at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah
April 17-25	"The Cat in the Hat" at Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo
April 17-19, 24-26	"The Man Who Came to Dinner" at Iowa City Community Theatre
April 24-26, 30, May 1-3	"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Spencer Community Theatre
May 1-3, 8-10	"Prescription: Murder" at The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group, Shenandoah
May 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31	"Mary Poppins" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
May 8-10	"Thoroughly Modern Millie" at Great River Players, Keokuk
May 15-23	"Tons of Money" at Waterloo Community Playhouse
May 29-31	"The Addams Family" at Des Moines Playhouse
June 3-7, 10-14, 17-21	"The Addams Family" at Des Moines Playhouse
June 5-7, 12-14, 19-21	"Twelve Angry Jurors" at Ankeny Community Theatre
June 11-13, 18-20	"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Newton Community Theatre
June 12-14, 18-21, 25-28	"Shrek: The Musical" at ACTORS in Ames
June 26-28	"Les Miserables" at New Minowa Players Community Theatre, Decorah
June 26-28	"A Chorus Line" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
July 3, 5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26	"A Chorus Line" at Theatre Cedar Rapids
July 10-12 & 15-19	"Monty Python's Spamalot" at Webster City Community Theatre
July 9-12, 16-19	"When You Wish from A to Z" at The Southwest Iowa Theatre Group, Shenandoah
July 24-26, 30-August 1	"Fiddler on the Roof" at Union Street Players in Pella
July 24-26, 31, August 1	"Peter Pan" at Marshalltown Community Theatre
July 31, August 1-2, 7-9, 14-16	"Drinking Habits" at Ankeny Community Theatre
October 9-13, 15-17	"Ham Buns and Potato Salad" at Newton Community Theatre
December 3-6, 2015	"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" at Union Street Players, Pella

**Be sure to submit your upcoming productions to the *Center Stage* editor at [loweengetter@wmtel.net](mailto:loweengetter@wmtel.net) by March 20, 2015 and to the Iowa Community Theatre Association's website calendar anytime at [iowacommunitytheatreassociation@gmail.com](mailto:iowacommunitytheatreassociation@gmail.com).**

Iowa Community Theatre Association  
Loween Getter, Editor  
2009 Beach Street  
Webster City, IA 50595

**Like ICTA on Facebook!**

**CENTER STAGE is YOUR newsletter. Members around the state want to read about what makes your theatre special and the shows you are staging. Be sure to send your upcoming production information and news about your theatre to the editor at [loweengetter@wmtel.net](mailto:loweengetter@wmtel.net) by March 20, 2015 for the Spring Issue of Center Stage. Electronic submissions are very welcome!**

### **Your ICTA Board Members**

**Rick Myers, President**  
3124 4th Avenue  
Sioux City, IA 51106  
[imacting@yahoo.com](mailto:imacting@yahoo.com)

**Helen Beneke, Vice President**  
207 NW 13th Street  
Pocahontas, IA 50574  
[hbeneke2@hotmail.com](mailto:hbeneke2@hotmail.com)

**Peg Brown, Secretary**  
303 West Ohio Street  
Lenox, IA 50851  
[brown.peggy41@gmail.com](mailto:brown.peggy41@gmail.com)

**Gerard Schwickerath, Treasurer**  
4740 Iowa Street  
Newton, IA 50208  
[Gerard-s@iowatelecom.net](mailto:Gerard-s@iowatelecom.net)

**Loween Getter, Past President**  
2009 Beach Street  
Webster City, IA 50595  
[loweengetter@wmtel.net](mailto:loweengetter@wmtel.net)

**Donna Smithson, AACT Region V**  
301 West Ohio Street  
Lenox, IA 50851  
[lenoxdonna@lenoxia.com](mailto:lenoxdonna@lenoxia.com)

**Carol Bellairs**  
322 North 18th Street  
Clarinda, IA 51632  
[carolbells@mediacombb.net](mailto:carolbells@mediacombb.net)

**Bobbi Lutzen**  
PO Box 112  
Keokuk, IA 52632  
[grp@greatriverplayers.com](mailto:grp@greatriverplayers.com)

**Mel Wilson**  
916 North 3rd Avenue E  
Newton, IA 50208  
[melba1453@gmail.com](mailto:melba1453@gmail.com)

**Molly Ketchum**  
322 South Boone Street  
Boone, IA 50036

**Pam Ratliff**  
2004 South 3rd Avenue E  
Newton, IA 50208  
[pamela.ratliff@gafg.com](mailto:pamela.ratliff@gafg.com)

**Cheryl Zieringer**  
11542 W4estwood Lane  
Omaha, NE 68144  
[wahlhubzier@hotmail.com](mailto:wahlhubzier@hotmail.com)

**R.J. Lundgren**  
3208 Garden Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
[stagehobo@aol.com](mailto:stagehobo@aol.com)

**Christine Wolf**  
1401 Riverside Boulevard  
Sioux City, IA 51109  
[Christine@scctheatre.org](mailto:Christine@scctheatre.org)

**Jason Paull**  
3310 Tripp Street  
Ames, IA 50014  
[japaul@gmail.com](mailto:japaul@gmail.com)