

## Record Number Enter AACTFest 2003

History was made at the Platteville Municipal Auditorium March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at AACTFest 2003. For the first time in the history of Wisconsin Festivals, ten community theatres entered shows in the Wisconsin state AACTFest. This historic event allowed Wisconsin to send two entries to Region 3 AACTFest 2003.

All of the performances were presented according to the established guidelines of the American Association of Community Theatre's Festival Commission. The performing companies were allowed ten minutes to set their stage, sixty minutes to perform, and ten minutes to strike back to a bare stage. Following the strike, a panel of adjudicators critiqued the performance. This year's adjudicator's were Dennis Yslas from Fort Worth, TX, Ann Meyer from Cedarburg, and Ted Brown from Madison.

The three adjudicators were faced with the challenge of selecting two shows to proceed on to the Region 3 AACTFest. The two companies selected to represent Wisconsin were: The LaCrosse Community Theatre with their production of *The Seventh Monarch*, and The Brookfield Players'

production of *The Dining Room*. The Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa's production of *The Laramie Project* was selected as the alternate.

Cindy Voigts, President of the Platteville Community Theatre, and Dick Davies, President of the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre, aptly chaired Wisconsin AACTFest 2003. With the assistance of volunteers from Platteville and its community theatre the festival was an excellent example of the festivals that can be produced by community theatres. People in attendance were impressed with the quality of the performances from each of the participating companies.

On Sunday morning the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre (WACT) held their annual membership meeting prior to the Awards Brunch. At this meeting the members selected a new WACT logo, which you see used for the first time on this newsletter. Dick Jellings, Elaine Jellings, Bob Kafka, and Carla Gallum were elected as new members to the board of directors. Dick Davies, Sandi Ceason Weber, and Frank Peot were reelected to the board of directors. A change was made to the By Laws of WACT to include a dissolution clause which was required by the IRS.



Performing Company	Production
Barron Spotlighters	Men In Suits
Beaver Dam Community Theatre	The Importance of Being Earnest
Platteville Community Theatre	The Eleventh
Sheboygan Theatre Company	The Zoo Story
LaCrosse Community Theatre	The Seventh Monarch
Red Bud Players	Send Me No Flowers
Island Players	All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,
Brookfield Players	The Dining Room
Lancaster Community Theatre	The Case of the Crushed Petunias
Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa	The Laramie Project



## La Crosse to Host 2004 Conference

While the beautiful bluffs and mighty Mississippi of "God's Country" will provide dazzling scenery, the fun will be inside when community theatre people gather for the 2004 WACT Off-Year Festival hosted by La Crosse Community Theatre on March 5-7. Join your theatre friends for a weekend filled with workshops, shows, fellowship, and fun.

The workshops feature two national talents, Kevin Moriarty and Kenny Ahern.

Kevin will be leading master classes in acting and directing. Many years ago, Kevin came to the La Crosse area as a music teacher. Community Theatre changed his life and he began a career in professional theatre. Kevin directed the current national tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and has served as assistant director for several Broadway shows. He chairs the M.F.A. program at Brown University and is the Artistic Director for The Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, New York.

Kenny is a comic performance artist and a former Ringling Brothers clown. Kenny infuses his show with humor from commedia, mime, vaudeville, and the circus. He is a former instructor for Ringling's Clown College and teaches for UW-L's Clown Camp each summer. He has performed all over the United States, in Japan and Taiwan. Kenny will be leading a physical comedy workshop.

Wisconsin's own community theatre talent pool will also be conducting workshops. Bob Kafka (Wauwatosa), Frank Peot (Sun Prairie), Ralph Maffongelli (Sheboygan), Cheri Sailors (La Crosse), and Lori Portner (La Crosse) will be leading workshops in lighting, make-up, stage management, costuming, and youth theatre. Bob will also be leading a round table discussion session specifically for theatres with operating budgets of \$24,000 or less.

La Crosse Community Theatre is currently looking for two companies to perform shows. The performances will be conducted within AACT Festival guidelines so they will be given a 10 minute set up, 60 minute performance, and 10 minute strike. The performances will be adjudicated but with no awards or placing. The goal is to give everyone a taste of what AACT Festivals are like. If your group is interested in performing at the conference, contact Morrie Enders at [MorrieEnders@lacrossecommunitytheatre.org](mailto:MorrieEnders@lacrossecommunitytheatre.org) or at 608-784-9292. Performing groups get a registration discount!

Register now for the 2004 WACT Off-year Festival in La Crosse. It will be a memorable weekend!

## Wisconsin Hosts Regional AACTFest

The Fort Atkinson Community Theatre in cooperation with the Association of Region 3 and the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre hosted this year's Region 3 AACTFest 2003. The Fort Atkinson High School Theatre was the site of performances from six community theatres from the states of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. (Illinois, which is also in Region 3, did not have a representative.) Adjudicators for this festival were Geoff D. Leonard-Robinson, Florida; Stephen Taft, Iowa; and Cheryl Starr, Wisconsin.



Productions at the festival were: *The Civil War* presented by The Showbiz Players from Cincinnati, Ohio; *The Dining Room* presented by The Brookfield Players from Brookfield, Wisconsin; *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* presented by the Elkhart Civic Theatre from Bristol, Indiana; *Agnes of God* presented by the Carmel Community Players from Carmel, Indiana; *Visiting Mr. Green* presented by

the Kalamazoo Civic Players, Kalamazoo, Michigan; and *The Seventh Monarch* presented by the LaCrosse Community Theatre, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Tina Lechner served as the Festival Chairperson and Lisa Rammelt was the Festival Technical Director. Many volunteers from the Fort Atkinson Community Theatre helped to provide for a smooth running festival.

Following the productions an Award's Reception/Dinner/Dance was held at Jansen's Restaurant in Fort Atkinson. At this reception the production of *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* was announced as the production to represent Region 3 at the 2003 National AACTFest held in Torrington, Connecticut. *The Dining Room* was selected the alternate production. (The production of *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* was awarded third place at the National AACTFest held in June.)

On Sunday morning, April 13, 2003, AACT Region 3 held their annual business meeting. Morrie Enders the Region 3 Representative to the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) chaired this meeting. At this meeting Joanne Berry from Bay City, Michigan, was elected the new Region 3 Representative for 2003-2005. Michigan will be the host for the next Region 3 AACTFest to be held in 2005.

Further discussions at this meeting centered on festival procedures and changes AACT Region 3 wanted to suggest to the National AACTFest Commission. A recommendation was forwarded to Festival Commission to change the guidelines so

any disqualified group would be notified of their disqualification and the reason for the disqualification.

This has not been done in the past. States

were also asked to discuss the "Bare Stage to Bare Stage" concept presented by Region 2 of AACT. The decision was made to have each state discuss this idea and share their thoughts and decisions with AACT's Vice President for Festival Kathie



Maldonado who was present at the meeting. The Region 3 Board further voted to thank the Fort Atkinson Community Theatre, the Fort Atkinson High School, and all of the volunteers from Fort Atkinson for a wonderful and successful festival.

## Notes from the Board of Director's Meeting

The Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre Board of Directors met on Sunday morning, July 20, 2003, in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Highlights of this meeting include the election of Bob Kafka as President, Frank Peot as Vice President, Sandi

Season-Weber as Treasurer, and Don Nelson as Secretary.

Other board members are Elaine Jellings, Dick Jellings, Dick Davies, and Carla Gallum. The



board decided to produce a newsletter four times each year with

publication dates of April 1, July 1, September 1, and December 1. The April, July, and December newsletters will be sent to members only. The September 1 issue will be sent to WACT's entire mailing list and will include new and renewal membership information. The contract with the LaCrosse Community Theatre for the off-year festival in 2004 was agreed upon. WACT now has received its 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. There will be no increase in membership fees. A call will be issued to host the 2005 Wisconsin AACTFest. The board further passed the 2003-2004 Budget, which projects Total Income of \$2,225.00 and Total Expenses of \$1,655.00. The board further agreed to use \$600.00 of the 2002-2003 net income to retire part of our outstanding debt. This reduces WACT's outstanding debt to \$799.15, which will be paid off as funds become available.

# Call to Host Wisconsin AACTFest 2005



Wisconsin AACTFest 2005 may seem like the distant future, however, to put on a successful festival requires time and effort on the part of the hosting group. WACT would encourage all groups to consider hosting AACTFest 2005. Hosting a festival is a great opportunity to support the work of community theatre in the state, show what your group can do, and be a good fundraiser at the same time. WACT would like to have a host in place prior to the 2004 LaCrosse Conference. In this way an announcement can be made of the time and place a full year prior to the festival. Announcing early provides companies thinking of entering the opportunity to budget and plan to be a participant at AACTFest 2005. Anyone interested in hosting Wisconsin AACTFest 2005 **or any** future conference should contact Frank Peot, 1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, Sun Prairie, WI, 53590, or any other member of the WACT Board of Directors. There are hosting guidelines available to help with organizing and planning. Members of the Board of Directors are also willing to come to your board meeting to answer questions and offer assistance. It isn't as difficult as it seems and it can be fun for your whole group **and** your community.

## Membership Renewal

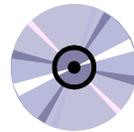
The time has come to renew your WACT membership or to become a member for the first time. The membership year runs from August 1 to July 31. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find either a membership renewal form or a form to join WACT now. Show your support for Wisconsin Community Theatre by renewing or joining. Our membership dues are among the least expensive around. Individual



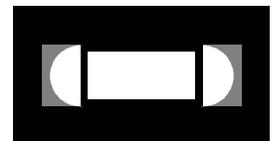
memberships are \$15.00 per year while organizational memberships are \$50.00 per year. With your membership you receive discounts at participating community theatres, discounts to all WACT events, access to our state-wide communications network via the WACT website, invitations to annual festivals and conferences, the quarterly newsletter, and a chance to network with other community theatres around the state. Through your membership you show your support for the work of community theatres across the state and help them to improve and provide the best entertainment ever. Join now! You have nothing to lose and only a whole lot to gain.

## Silent Auction

Those of you who attended the state and regional festivals this past year will remember our silent auctions. The auctions are an excellent method of earning money for WACT. It is also an



excellent way for you to clean out your closets and bookshelves and donate unused items to a worthy cause. Now that WACT has received its 501(c)(3) determination, the value of any item you donate is tax deductible. Everyone has something to get rid of that someone else would love. How about those VHS tapes you've replaced with DVDs? How many of us have books and knick-knacks that we don't want any more but are "too good to throw out"? Or how about something that showcases your hometown? Is your area famous for a type of pastry? (Have you ever seen theatre people that don't eat?) Even better, does your town have a microbrewery? (Have you ever seen theatre people that don't drink?) Whether or not you donate, you can always bid high and bid often when you attend a festival or conference. Remember anything you pay above the listed value of the item is also tax deductible. Just think! You can take a tax deduction for donating something, and then take a tax deduction for buying something else. The savings could be endless and at the same time you're supporting your statewide



# Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre Conference 2004



March 5, 6 and 7, 2004  
La Crosse Community Theatre  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

**Registration** *(Please make additional copies of this form for each individual registering.)*

Send this completed form to La Crosse Community Theatre, PO Box 1852, La Crosse, WI 54602-1852.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a WACT member for 2003-2004?  Yes  No

Are you a member of a participating organization?  Yes  No

*We will be confirming reservations by e-mail whenever possible.*

.....  
 • We are looking for two groups to partici-  
 • pate in the mock festival. Please call or  
 • e-mail us if you would like more info.  
 • 608-784-9292 or  
 • info@lacrossecommunitytheatre.org  
 •  
 .....

**Cost**

Your registration includes a pizza buffet welcome party at Pizza Doctors on Friday evening (pop/beer available for purchase), workshops/roundtable discussions on Saturday morning, festival performances, dinner party at The Radisson on Saturday evening (cash bar), and Sunday breakfast/WACT meeting at The Radisson.

<input type="checkbox"/> 2003-2004 WACT Member	\$65.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed. (Make checks payable to LCCT.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Non WACT Member	\$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of Participating Group (up to 15 cast/crew members)	\$55.00	Number _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Fee (after 1/15/2004)	\$5.00	Expiration _____

Total Registration Payment \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a WACT member now!**

I have enclosed my \$15.00 WACT membership dues for 2003-2004. (Please make checks payable to WACT.) This entitles me to the WACT Member rate for registration. All memberships run August 1 to July 30.

# WACT Conference 2004



Hosted by

## La Crosse Community Theatre

118 Fifth Avenue N., La Crosse, WI 54601

608-784-9292

info@lacrossecommunitytheatre.org

Co-Sponsored by

## Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre

### Schedule

Friday, March 5

- Welcome Party at Pizza Doctors (renowned for specialty pizzas)

Saturday, March 6

- Workshops and Roundtable Discussions in the Morning
- Two Festival-Style Performances with Adjudication in the Afternoon
- Dinner Party at The Radisson

Sunday, March 7

- WACT Annual Membership Meeting
- Breakfast at The Radisson

### Workshops/Roundtable Discussion

- Advanced Acting with Kevin Moriarty, Director of Hangar Theatre and Director of the National Touring Company of *Jesus Christ Superstar*
- Directing with Kevin Moriarty
- Lighting with Bob Kafka of Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
- Makeup with Frank Peot of Sun Prairie Civic Theatre
- Stage Management with Ralph Maffongelli, Executive Director of Sheboygan Theatre Company
- Setting Up a Children's Education Program with Lori Portner, Education Director at La Crosse Community Theatre
- Roundtable Discussion for Groups with Budgets of Less Than \$25,000 moderated by Bob Kafka
- If you have a request for a roundtable discussion topic, please let us know.

### Lodging

The conference hotel is the Radisson Hotel La Crosse, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI 54601 (about three blocks from the theatre), phone (608) 784-6680. Please mention the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre Off-Year Festival to get the special festival rate of \$89.00 for two queen beds or \$79.00 for one king bed. The cut-off date for the festival rate is February 4, 2004. Any reservation received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a space or rate available basis.

Some other hotel/motel options nearby are:

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (about 1 block from the Radisson) - 800-465-4329 or 608-784-4444

Super 8 Hotel (about a 5 minute drive) - 800-800-8000 or 608-781-8880

Exel Inn (about a 5 minute drive) - 800-367-3935 or 608-781-0400

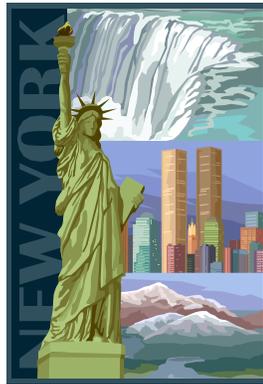
Guest House Motel (about a 2 minute drive) - 608-784-8840

theatre organization so they can provide more services, more programs and better communications.

Now is the time to begin setting items aside for the 2004 silent auction during the conference in La Crosse. "What can I donate?" you ask. The variety is endless! People donate scripts, books (on any subject), decorative items, CD's, DVD's, videos, costumes, wine, beer, Christmas decorations, unique souvenirs, autographed posters and pictures, etc. The list goes on and on. You'd be surprised what people will bid on at an auction.



## AACT to Hold New York Conference in 2004



The Big Apple will be the site of AACT's summer conference in 2004, June 23-27. The trip price includes:

- ❑ Four nights at the Park Central Hotel at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Streets
- ❑ Tickets to The Producers, Hairspray or any two Broadway or Off-Broadway plays
- ❑ Workshops and Panels
- ❑ Welcome reception
- ❑ Hospitality
- ❑ Tour Options
- ❑ Farewell party

Rates range from \$845 Double Occupancy for AACT members to \$1275 Single Occupancy for non-AACT members. Extra days at the Park Central are available for \$216 per night. If you plan to return home on Sunday, be sure to allow extra time to travel out of Manhattan as the 27<sup>th</sup> is the usual day for the Gay Pride Parade.

## You Know You Work in Community Theater if...

1. Your living room sofa spends more time on stage than you do.
2. You have your own secret family recipe for stage blood.
3. You've ever appeared on stage wearing your own clothes.
4. You can find a prop in the prop room that hasn't seen the light of day in ten years, but you don't know where your own vacuum cleaner is.
5. You have a Frequent Shopper Card at The Salvation Army.
6. You start buying your work clothes at Goodwill so you can buy your costumes at the mall.
7. You've ever cleaned a tuxedo with a magic marker.
8. You've ever said, "Don't worry - we'll just hot glue it."
9. You've ever appeared on stage in an outfit held together with hot glue.
10. You've ever seriously considered not doing in the murder victim because the gunshot might wake up the audience.
11. You name your son Samuel and tell him that his middle name is in honor the French side of the family.
12. You've ever appeared in a show where tech week is devoted to getting the running time under four and a half hours.
13. Your lighting director has ever missed a cue because he was blinded by the glare from the sea of bald heads in the audience.
14. You've ever appeared on stage in an English drawing room murder mystery where half the cast spoke with southern accents.
15. Your children have ever begged you not to buy them any more Happy Meals.

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