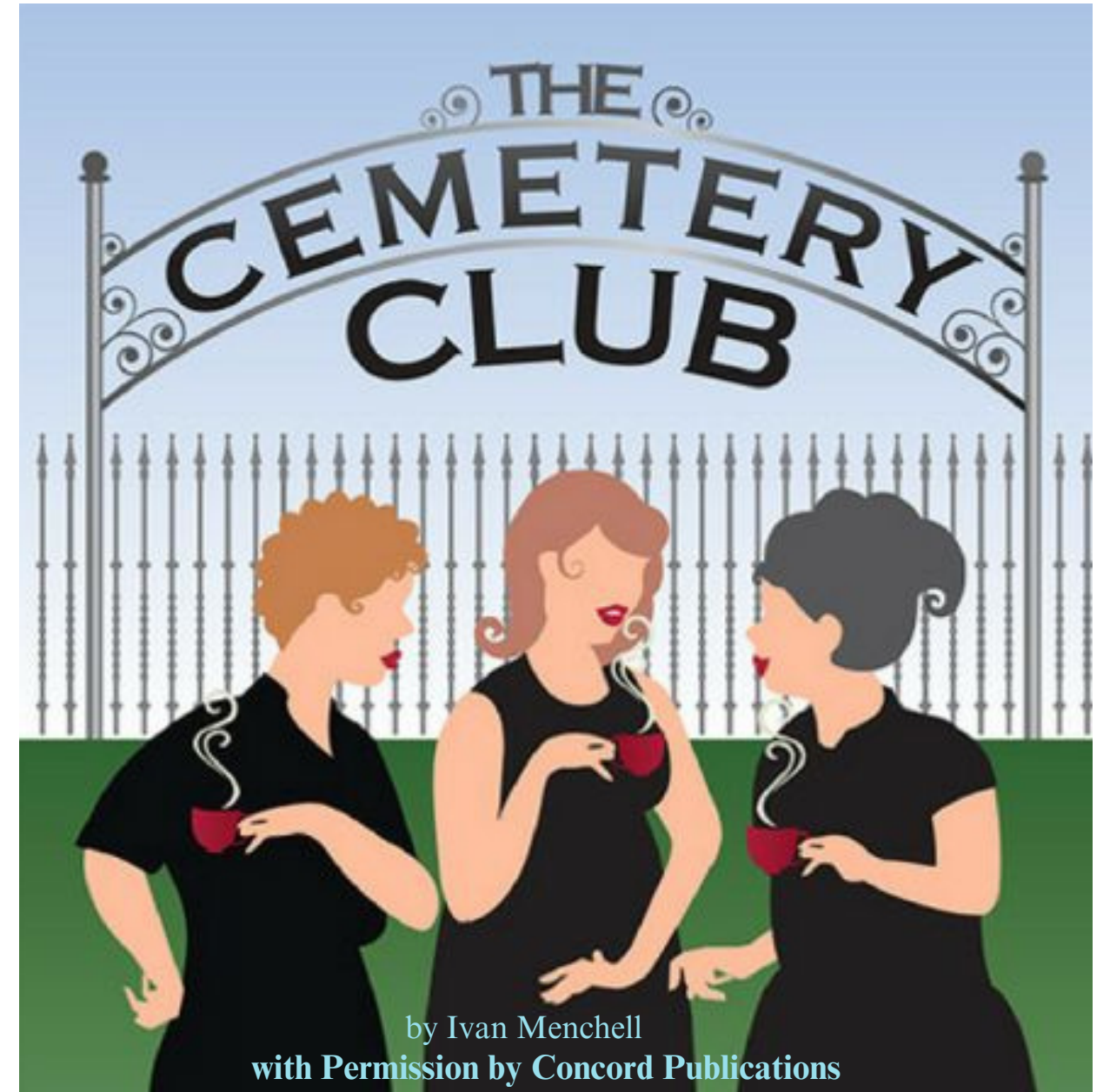


ACT NEWSLETTER



SHOW DATES
SEPTEMBER 11-14 & 18-21

Tickets at www.tomahact.com or call 608-374-7469

ACT OFFICERS
 President -- Jerry Fushianes
 Vice-president -- John Shuck
 Secretary -- Amy Kleespies
 Treasurer -- Barbara Sullivan

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE
 Sharon Larkin, Brian Shutter,
 Lori Ripley, Bonnie Dana,
 Amanda Schmock, Shannon Wilcox

Lisa McCormick, Theatre Manager
 Business Office Hours: 10am - 5pm
 Monday - Friday

Celebrating 50 Years of Live Theatre!

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 204
 Tomah, WI

**AREA
COMMUNITY
THEATRE**
 901 Kilbourn Avenue
 Tomah, WI 54660
 Return Service Requested



Show Dates:

Opening Night:
September 11
at 7pm

Additional
Show Dates:
Sept 12, 18 & 19
at 7pm
Sept 13, 14, 20 & 21
at 1pm

****NOTE****
Saturday AND
Sunday Matinees
at 1pm

Synopsis:

Three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life; Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun; and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene. He meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida. They are guilt-stricken when this nearly breaks Ida's heart.

**Directors: Sharon Larkin
& Molly Shields**

The Cast of "The Cemetery Club"



Bridget Owens as Lucille



Joe Minney as Sam



Lenna Chaffee as Ida



Kelly Thayer as Doris



Samantha Komay as Mildred

From the Director: Sharon Larkin

The first time I ever saw "The Cemetery Club" was in 2004 at the ACT Theatre on Superior Avenue. Our son, Mike, directed the play. I will never forget how I laughed and cried. I LOVED it!! I wondered, "Would I ever be able to direct a show?" The director must choose the actors who fit the parts, who can portray the characters, who can memorize a ton of lines and who can bring those characters to life in front of a live audience. Once selected, the work begins, as the director must move them about the stage without one blocking another so the audience can see all at once. Each line in the play becomes an opportunity to paint a picture, to create emotion, to bring laughter or tears and best of all, to create a memory for the audience. This experience is like no other, as the play begins to take on a life of its own. Seeing your ideas come to life, bringing out the best of the actor's performance is a thrill in itself! Never is there a rehearsal where there are no changes made, and the actors must bear with us as the directors change things time after time. It is my privilege to share the director's duties with Molly Shields and to teach her all the intricacies of directing, since this is her directorial debut. We have a great relationship and the same vision, which makes our job together a great deal of fun. Molly and I have been blessed with very talented actors who have dedicated hours of rehearsal time as well as hours of their home time memorizing lines so they can bring "The Cemetery Club" to life in front of your eyes. There is nothing quite like live theatre. We would like to thank each of our cast members, all who are helping behind scenes and our generous sponsors and underwriters. Please join us at the cemetery! Do not miss the fun. It will be our pleasure to entertain you. Get your tickets today! tomahact.com

We would like to thank the following for donations from November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025

These donations will be put towards ACT's building fund and to help cover costs of putting on shows.

Saints (\$5,000 and Up)

Burnstad Family Foundation
Terry & Sharon Larkin
David Rezin
Harry Wellenkotter

Archangels (\$3,000 - \$4,999)

Richard, Jason & Lindsey Gerke
Bernadette M. Otto Charitable Trust
Pete & Elaine Reichardt

Angels (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

The Berry Family
Diana Gerke
The Kindness Community, Inc.
Susan Murphy
Christine Schreier
Top Dog Marketing

Standing Ovation (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Richard Ahn in Memory of Helen Ahn
Wesley & Martha Klatt
Kurt & Louise Olson
Dr. Michael & Tess Saunders
Ann Thompson

Super Stars (\$200 - \$499)

Chris & Myra Anderson
Dean Blegen in Memory of David Schreier
Pam Buchda
Cardinal IG
Natalie Divyak
Fred & Kathy LeSavage
Kay Mark
Geraldyn Musielewicz
Scott & Dorothy Nicol
Kurt & Louise Olson
Oakdale Electric Coop Federated Youth Foundation
June Potter
Eric & Mary Prise
Pat Reis
Rockland Flooring
Mark & Kerry Rose
John & Sandra Schindler
Walmart DC 6085

Show Stoppers (\$100 - \$199)

Active Health Chiropractic Center
Bonnie Dana
Amy Hedrick
Sherry Heilman
Kelly Larkin
David & Bryanna Miller
Karen Rapp
Anna Mae Rudolph
John Rusch
Barb Sullivan
Summit Spirits
Latisha Walker

Spot Lighters (\$50 - \$99)

Donna Goede
Edward Grygleski
John Haeberlin
Amy Hedrick
Lyda Lanier
Eric Pedersen
Sue Pergande
Nancy VanderMeer & David Hall

Curtain Pullers (\$25 - \$49)

Libby Berry
Renee Fletcher in memory of Don Fletcher
Randy Pribbemow
Lorna Rosenow
Monica Stenerson

Donations at any level are greatly appreciated and help to defray the operational costs of our theatre. If you would like the opportunity to have your name on our beautiful sculpture, a cumulative donation of \$3,000 through the past years is required.

*Thank
you*

Thank you for donating to the
Theatre Flooring Project:

Frank Andres Grant
Thomas B. Earle Grant
Aleda Moseley
Sue Murphy
Ocean Spray
Kurt & Louise Olson
Marie Wiedl



Check out our
new QR Code to
Donate Today!



ACT Members

January 1 - December 31, 2025

Chris Baker
Chelsea Brohaugh
Liz Brown
Pam Buchda
Kristi Cossette
Mike Cossette
Bonnie Dana
Justin Derhammer
Natalie Divyak
Bruce Fischer
Kathy Fischer
Renee Fletcher
Rob Forbush
Melanie Frei
Tom Frei
America Fushianes
Jerry Fushianes
Brent Garringer
Shelly Gasper
Diana Gerke
Deb Gilles
Amy Hedrick

Shannon Hogie
Sandy Humphreys
Nancy Jacob
Steve Jones
Julie Kemnitz
Dilynn Kiefer
Lamont Kiefer
Lisa Kirschbaum
Amy Kleespies
Jeff Klonecki
Sandra Klonecki
Sam Komay
Lyda Lanier
Sharon Larkin
Terry Larkin
Alice Leis-Murray
Fred LeSavage
Kathy LeSavage
Alta Leuthold
Mary Maas
Carrie Martinez
Joe Martinez

Lisa McCormick
Mara Mednis
Kim Miller
Amanda Mills
Joe Minney
Susan Murphy
Mary Neve
Sam Neve
Bridget Owens
Dawn Pierce
Elaine Reichardt
Pete Reichardt
Lori Ripley
Pamela Rixie
Kerry Rose
Mark Rose
Michael Saunders
Tess Saunders
Ann Scheckel
Larry Scheckel
Amanda Schmock
Christine Schreier

Ginny Schroeder
Molly Shields
Donna Shuck
John Shuck
Brian Shutter
Dan Smithburg
Kelly Smithburg
Pam Steinmetz
Monica Stenerson
Rose Storkel
Susan Stump
Barb Sullivan
Lynne Trainor
Shelly Trowbridge
Brayden Tupper
Louise Urmanski
Latisha Walker
Anne Wallus
Shannon Wilcox
Leland Wildes

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,

SHARON LARKIN

Today I took time to think about all that has been accomplished since ACT had to move from Fort McCoy to Tomah. The years have flown by. The theatre made a temporary home in a building on Superior Avenue for five years, before moving into the present building in 2007. ACT purchased a massive office building and, with your help, transformed it into a lovely theatre, banquet facility and art complex. It would take pages for me to list all the improvements that have been made. (Be sure to come to the Annual Banquet later this year to hear about them!) Each time something was needed, you were there to help. Every time we sent a request, you were there. Simple words cannot express our appreciation. Once again, we are asking if you can assist. The seats in the theatre are old. They were used for many years at Volk Field and then donated to us twenty-four years ago. Springs are broken. Seats are torn. They are terribly faded and ugly colors! All have certainly seen their better days. They desperately need replacement! After careful consideration, we have chosen seats that will be perfect for all. They will have cup holders, thicker cushions and aisle seats that will be a bit wider. We would like to remove the existing seats and paint the theatre walls before installing the new ones. This will take place sometime this winter if we can raise the necessary funds. We are looking at \$60,000 to complete the project. Any amount would be appreciated and will help us reach the goal. A \$500 donation will purchase a single seat, and your name would either be placed on the seat itself or on a plaque on the wall. Checks should have "seat campaign" written in the memo. If purchasing one or more seats, please include the name(s) you would like inscribed or listed. If you prefer to be named on a certain seat, please indicate your preference.... First come first served! It is exciting to think that our theatre will look new, and we will all be more comfortable in the future. Thank you for your support!



Not the actual chairs, but similar to what style we will be ordering.
Fabric is actual fabric-woven black, taupe and gray.

Use our new QR Code to
become a Member of ACT!



Your membership
helps us to
receive grants.

**2025 Season Members
Must Bring Their
Pink 2025 Membership
Card to Concessions in
Order to Receive Your
One Free Small Popcorn
per Show!**

ACT -OUT IN THE COMMUNITY!



4th of July Parade



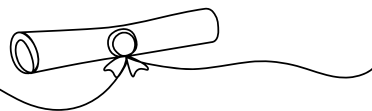
Americana Music in the Park

Congratulations ACT Scholarship Winners



**Ava Nielsen & Marcus Hansen with ACT
Board Member, Shannon Wilcox-
Necedah High School**

Ava Erickson-Sparta High School



Area Community Theatre is pleased to announce that we have selected three graduating high school seniors who have expressed an interest in furthering their education to receive individual college scholarships. After careful consideration, committee members Rocky Shutter and Shannon Wilcox, read several applications and chose the following students to be recipients of the scholarships:

1. Ava Erickson: A recent graduate of Sparta High School, Ava is planning to attend UW-Madison to study biology or chemistry.
2. Marcus Hansen: Marcus graduated from Necedah High School and will be attending UW-Stevens Point to double major in Graphic Design and Interior Architecture.
3. Ava Nielsen: Ava also graduated from Necedah High School and will be majoring in Interior Design at Western Technical College.

Scholarships were presented during high school awards ceremony in May. Recipients were also invited to the Area Community Theatre monthly board meeting in June where they were congratulated by board members for their accomplishments. Best wishes to these students for a successful time during and after college.

Submitted by: Rocky Shutter

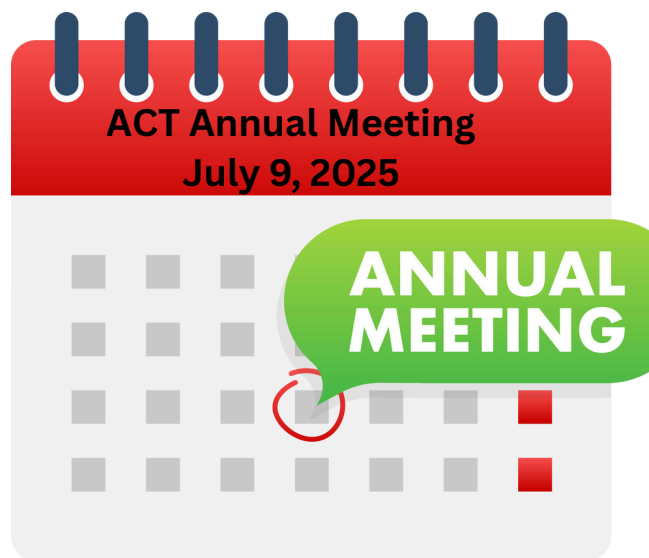


Flex Packages Available Online

Flex Tickets have changed to make it a little easier for the ACT Office and yourself to track how many Flex Tickets you have left to use. Many of you misplace your little blue tickets or forget to bring them in when you purchase a ticket to a show, which causes the tracking of tickets to be inaccurate. ACT is now changing over to all Flex Tickets being purchased through our ticketing program, Ticketor on our website, tomahact.com. Tickets are still 6 for \$100 (plus \$6 fees) which comes to just \$16.67 per show (instead of the normal \$20 per show. This is a savings of \$3.33 per ticket! When purchasing a Flex Package online, the program will issue you 6 tickets. They will look just like a regular ticket to a show, but will say “Flex Ticket Package” on it. It will have a number along the edge of the ticket, by the UPC symbol. When redeeming your flex tickets, you will put this number into the box that says “Season Pass Number” It will then track your Flex Ticket Purchases. If you purchase 6 tickets and only use 4, it will know that you have 2 tickets left to use on the next show. ACT will no longer be tracking the amount of Flex Tickets that you have left to use. It is up to you to keep track of your tickets. The old blue tickets are still good and continue to have no expiration date. If you have any questions at all, please contact Lisa McCormick, Theatre Manager at 608-374-7469 or stop by the Business Office Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm at 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah.

Volunteers

ACT can only operate if it has volunteers to help around the theatre. From actors, directors, people to run lights and sound, backstage crew plus someone to mow the grass, plow the parking lots and shovel sidewalks, dust and sweep the halls, clean the bathrooms, take out trash to folding newsletters, working house, concessions or the box office plus read plays for future shows, plan fundraisers and more! We need you! Our current board members are running all the committees and we would love your help and input! Email the theatre at boxoffice@tomahact.com or call the business office to see where you can be of help at 608-374-7469. We would love you once in awhile, whenever you are available - it doesn't have to be an every day, all the time thing!



- Topics Discussed:
- 2025-2026 Budget passed
 - New Ticketor program for members & flex tickets introduced
 - Discussed need for more volunteers for committees, tech, directors, actors, etc.
 - Board members should not make up all members on a committee
 - Want to add more events outside of plays at ACT
 - Will add a survey to ticket sales - "How did you hear about this show?"



NEW MEMBERSHIP CODES

Area Community Theatre would like to make it easier for our members to purchase their opening night tickets! One of the benefits of becoming a member of ACT is Half Off Tickets on Opening Night Performances. You can now book your own member discounted tickets online! All members were sent a letter with instructions and a code for the 2025 season. This code is entered in the box labeled Promotional Code. When you put in your 2025 season code, you will automatically see your discount applied to the total dollar amount due. Codes are different for individual memberships and for couples. If you need assistance with reserving a ticket, please call Lisa McCormick, Theatre Manager at 608-374-7469 or stop in the ACT office and she will be glad to help you!





**Directed by
Rocky Shutter &
Lori Ripley**

Audition dates have been set for ACT's upcoming production of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap."
Mark your calendars for these dates/ times: Sunday, Sept. 7 from 2:30-5:00 pm
Monday, Sept. 8 from 5:00-7:00 pm
Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 5:00-7:00 pm

Directors Brian Shutter and Lori Ripley are looking for 4 male and 4 females to be cast in the roles of the play. Please join us in the Cabaret Room located on the lower level of the theatre building at 907 Kilbourn Avenue in Tomah.

Christie's classic murder mystery is set at Monkswell Manor, a newly opened guesthouse, in England during a major snowstorm. Guests are unable to leave the manor during the blizzard. A murder is committed nearby which brings a police detective on the scene. The investigator starts to suspect that one of the guests at the manor may be responsible for the murder. The plot thickens and the tension escalates as we learn more about the remaining visitors at Monkswell Manor.

Show dates for "The Mousetrap" have been set for November 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 7:00 pm with Sunday matinees on November 9 and 16 at 1:00 pm.

Audition forms (via QR scan code) are located at www.tomahact.com. Further questions or concerns should be addressed to Theatre Manager Lisa McCormick at 608-374-7469.

Looking for a few good ideas!



Do you have an idea on fundraisers or events we could bring to ACT?

We would love to do more than 5 shows a year but at this time we do not have enough interested directors or actors. Would you like to learn to act or direct?

Are there other types of things you have seen in other communities that you think would work at ACT? *Play Readings - where actors read from a script and read out a show vs acting out a full show!
*Sing-a-long shows - have a song booklet and sing along with the actors on stage

What other ideas can you come up with? Let us know...



DR. B'S SPOOKTACULAR BINGO
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
7:00PM



AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE-GATSBY ROOM



Save the Date!!!



\$20 CARD OR 3 FOR \$50



**WIN FABULOUS GIFT BASKETS
DONATED BY LOCAL SPONSORS**

WANT TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT?
CALL LISA MCCORMICK AT 608-374-7469
OR BRIDGET OWENS AT 608-343-3350

TO BE A SPONSOR:
\$100 SPONSOR DONATION PLUS
GIFT BASKET VALUED AT \$100

