

December,  
2024

AREA  
COMMUNITY  
THEATRE

# NEWSLETTER

## 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



## CONTACT US:

Area Community Theatre  
901 Kilbourn Avenue  
Tomah, WI 54660  
608-374-7469  
boxoffice@tomahact.com  
www.tomahact.com

**New Office Hours: 10am - 5pm  
Monday - Friday**

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Moonlight” Photos

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## “Canceling Christmas”

Presented by Special Arrangement with Image Pictures, LLC

**Show Dates:**

**January 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, & 18 at 7pm  
January 12 & 18 at 1pm**

**Tickets:**

**608-374-7469**

**www.tomahact.com**

**At the door, if available**



# ACT Presents “Canceling Christmas”

Jerry Fushianes & Latisha Walker, Directors

## THE CAST:

Ashley Williford as Emily Harper  
Wriley Hoffner as Elliot Ryan  
Amy Radloff as Stacey Bennett  
Kelly Thayer as Amber Collins  
Lori Ripley as Martha Ryan  
Greg Mason as Don Ryan  
Brian Shutter as Bob Honel

## Show Dates:

- **Opening Night:** January 9 at 7pm
- **Regular Performances:**
  - January 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18 at 7pm
  - January 12 & 18 at 1pm



## SYNOPSIS:

“Canceling Christmas” is a heartwarming romantic comedy set in a charming small town during the festive holiday season. The story follows Emily Harper, a dedicated nurse who unexpectedly inherits the local theatre. Eager to bring the community together with a Christmas play, Emily’s plans are thwarted when Elliot Ryan, the town’s meticulous public health officer, orders the theatre to be shut down due to a severe mold infestation in the basement. The cost to clean up the mold is staggering \$15,000, a sum that neither Emily or the theatre can afford.

Initially, Emily and Elliot are at odds, with Emily viewing Elliot as the Grinch who stole Christmas. However, as they work together to find a solution, they begin to see each other in a new light. Their budding romance faces a major setback due to a misunderstanding, threatening to end their relationship before it even begins.

Enter Stacy, Emily’s zany and well-meaning friend, who is determined to play matchmaker. With her quirky antics and relentless optimism, Stacy concocts a series of hilarious schemes to bring Emily and Elliot together. Despite the chaos, Stacy’s efforts pay off, and Emily and Elliot realize their feelings for each other.

In a heartwarming twist, the community rallies around Emily and Elliot, raising the necessary funds to clean up the mold. With the theatre saved, Emily and Elliot’s relationship blossoms, and they manage to get the Christmas show on stage just in time, proving that love and community spirit can overcome any obstacle.

## 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 to help pay for the new parking lot at 920 Kilbourn Avenue and to help cover costs of putting on shows.

### Saints (\$5,000 and Up)

Terry & Sharon Larkin  
Burnstad Family Foundation  
David Rezin

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

Bernadette M. Otto Charitable Trust

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

Christine Schreier  
The Kindness Community, Inc.  
Diana Gerke

### Standing Ovation (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Richard Ahn in Memory of Helen Ahn  
Dr. Michael & Tess Saunders

### Super Stars (\$200 - \$499)

Scott & Dorothy Nicol  
Dean Blegen in Memory of David Schreier

### Show Stoppers (\$100 - \$199)

Anna Mae Rudolph

### Spot Lighters (\$50 - \$99)

### Curtain Pullers (\$25 - \$49)

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 2025 is required.

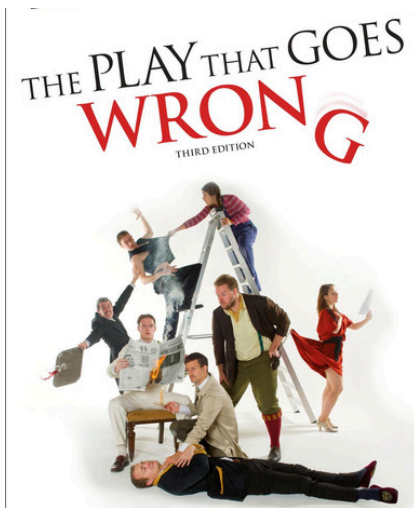
# Thank You



**Thank you for donating to the  
Theatre Flooring Project:**

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





Play Written by: Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

**Call ACT Box Office  
with any questions  
608-374-7469**

## Auditions:

**Saturday, February 15 at 4-6pm  
Sunday, February 16 at 3-5pm**

## Show Dates:

**May 8-11 & 15-18, 2025**

**Directed by Jerry Fushianes &  
Amanda Schmock**

### Casting:

**2 Females: 1 older & 1 younger**

**6 Males: Various ages**

**Must be able to do physical comedy**



**Christmas is just around the corner. Do you still need that last minute gift? Purchase Gift Certificates for tickets to the local community theatre, of course!**

### Gift Certificates

**Tickets to a Show (\$20 Individual Ticket plus \$2 taxes & fees)**  
Can be redeemed on any performance throughout the year!

**Flex Pass (\$100 for 6 Tickets plus \$6 taxes & fees)**

Can be used together or separately on any performance!  
Can even be carried over to the next year!

Go to [www.tomahact.com](http://www.tomahact.com) or call 608-374-7469 for more information or stop in at the Box Office at 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah.

**“ESCANABA IN DA  
MOONLIGHT”  
WAS A HUGE SELLOUT!**

**“I haven’t laughed that hard in a long time!”**



**“Hilariously funny!”**

**“Really great show,  
everyone should go!”**



*Save the Date*

- “Canceling Christmas” January 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18 at 7pm & January 12 & 18 at 1pm
- Dr. B’s Bingo - January 31
- “The Play That Goes Wrong” Auditions: February 15 4-6pm & February 16 3-5pm
- Academy Awards Trivia Night - February 21
- “Driving Miss Daisy” March 13-16 & 20-23
- Mr. Legs & Taste of Tomah - April 3
- Spring Show “The Play That Goes Wrong”  
Show Dates: May 8-11 & 15-18





BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

## “DRIVING MISS DAISY”

By Alfred Uhry

Directed by Sharon Larkin & Lori Ripley

In January, ACT will begin a year of celebrating 50 years of bringing live entertainment to the area community. We hope you will join us as we bring back a few of our most popular plays and introduce you to exciting new ones as well.

Sharon Larkin & Lori Ripley are proud to announce that “Miss Daisy” will once again grace our stage with laughter (and perhaps some tears) in March! A wonderful cast will bring the incredible story to life.

The place is the Deep South, the time 1948, just prior to the Civil Rights movement. Daisy Werthan, a sharp-tongued 72 year old Jewish widow (played by **Lenna Chaffee** along with her understudy, **Molly Shields**) has just demolished another car. Her son, Boolie (played by **Greg Mason**) is determined to hire a chauffeur (played by **Will Hicks**) to drive his mother around. Over a number of years, Hoke, the chauffeur, slowly and steadily breaks down the stern defenses of the ornery old lady and they discover they have more in common than they ever believed possible or would admit.

“Driving Miss Daisy”      March 13-16 & 20-23, 2025



### ACT 50th Anniversary - 2025

Would you like to help us plan some special events, recognitions, or have any ideas on ways to celebrate this monumental anniversary?

Contact Lisa at the Box Office at [boxoffice@tomahact.com](mailto:boxoffice@tomahact.com)

# HALLOWEEN BINGO

A Spooktacular Night of Fun!



Save the Date:  
January 31st!

### Volunteers Needed



Would you be willing to help us clean up the basement and garage? Put away clothes, props, furniture, etc from donations and previous shows? We want to get ourselves organized and then create a digital inventory of what we have. Contact Lisa McCormick at [boxoffice@tomahact.com](mailto:boxoffice@tomahact.com) and she can guide you to the scheduled work days coming in the new year!



## COMMITTEES:

ACT desires to grow the participation within committees and would love your help. Committees meet on a bi-monthly basis or as needed for specific events. A minimum of one board member is required to sit on a committee to report back at the board meetings the progress of the committee. Current committees available to join are:

**Box Office:** Sell tickets in box office, work the “Will Call” window before shows.

**House Management/Concessions:** Ushering, hand out programs at the door, work concession stand, clean up theatre after show, watch performance for free!

**Fundraising:** Plan, organize and put on fundraising events such as Bingo, Mr. Legs, Taste of Tomah, Academy Awards Trivia Night, Annual Banquet, etc.

**Artistic:** Attend play readings, select shows for season, assist with production as needed.

**Public Relations/Publicity:** Membership, ad books, sponsorships, underwriters, hang posters for shows & events.

**Housekeeping/Maintenance:** Assist with cleaning the building as necessary, mowing, shoveling, general maintenance.

**Backstage:** Costumes, props, lights, sound, set construction.

**Community Relations:** Assist in community events such as Community Meals, Downtown Thursday Nights, Feed My Starving Children, etc.

**General Office Help:** Covering days when Theatre Manager is out, assemble newsletter or other mailings.



### Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities within ACT. If you would like to become an ACT volunteer, please call Lisa at 608-374-7469 and I will be glad to connect you to the committee chair.

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,

### SHARON LARKIN

It seems that we are always reminding you of the many wonderful benefits of being a member of ACT; half priced tickets for opening nights of the productions, free popcorn at the plays, reduced prices at many ACT events, chances on winning baskets for members only at bingo, voting rights, etc. **But how does your membership benefit ACT?** Let me tell you how important a large membership base is to the organization. Grants often require us to mention the number of members (people who support ACT in the community) we have in comparison to our regional population. The larger the membership, the better chance we have of receiving revenue from grants! Also, when our members attend the discounted opening night performances and pass a positive word along to their friends and family, it helps to fill the seats for the remaining shows. **Your membership is important to ACT.** For \$20 you can be part of the success of ACT by purchasing your 2025 membership now! Also an ACT membership makes a great gift! Thank you for your support!

## 2024-25 ACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jerry Fushianes - President**

**John Shuck - Vice President**

**Barb Sullivan - Treasurer**

**Amy Kleespies - Secretary**

**Board Members at Large - Brian “Rocky” Shutter, Bonnie Dana, Lori Ripley, Sharon Larkin, Amanda Schmock, Shannon Wilcox**



# Celebrating ACT's Progress Annual Banquet and Awards Saturday, November 16, 2024



Thank you for Donating to Our Annual Banquet:  
Wetlands Catering/Taphouse Twenty

The Bakers Table  
Wetherby Cranberries  
Bogs Edge Brewery  
Rose Berry  
Kathy Fischer  
Justin Towne



**2023 Award Winners:**  
Ed Thompson Award:  
Lyden's Auto Body  
Carolyn O'Connor Award:  
Lori Ripley

**2024 Award Winners:**  
Ed Thompson Award:  
Magnum Radio  
Carolyn O'Connor Award:  
Amy Kleespies  
Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Steve Jones



Amy Kleespies-2024 Carolyn OConnor Award  
Steve Jones - 2024 Jim Hanley Award  
Lori Ripley - 2023 Carolyn O'Connor Award