



February, 2026

ACT NEWSLETTER

ACT OFFICERS
 President -- John Shuck
 Vice-President -- Shannon Wilcox
 Secretary -- Amy Kleespies
 Treasurer -- Barbara Sullivan

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE
 Sharon Larkin, Brian Shutter,
 Lori Ripley, Amanda Schmock

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

*Honoring the past 50 years of live theatre,
 embracing the future!*



By Jim Hesselman

Directed by Lisa McCormick
 Assisted by Elaine Reichardt

SHOW DATES:
MARCH 12, 13, 19 & 20 AT 7PM
MARCH 14, 15, 21 & 22 AT 1PM

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

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

Return Service Requested
 901 Kilbourn Avenue
 Tomah, WI 54660



*Happy
 Valentine's
 Day*

Bunco The Squad



Show Dates:

Opening Night:
Thursday, Mar 12
at 7pm

Additional Show Dates:
Mar. 13, 19 & 20
at 7pm
Mar. 14, 15, 21 & 22
at 1pm

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

Cast:

Lenna Chaffee.....Ceil
Ann Clark.....Marian
Danielle Davis.....Helen
Sam Komay.....Ginnie
Mary Neve.....Juli
Bridget Owens.....Allison
Lori Ripley.....Dodie
Elaine Reichardt.....Suzie



Synopsis:

In this hilarious brand-new comedy, you are invited to sit in on Bunco Night, which takes place in our own hometown of Tomah, Wisconsin! This squad of long-time friends drink, reminisce, gossip, complain about their husbands and occasionally remember to play another round of Bunco. Written by Jim Hesselman from Derby Dinner Playhouse, this comedy is a slice of life with characters we can all recognize from our own neighborhoods. With a scoop of sass, a dollop of drama, a heap of heart and loads of laughs, you will leave smiling ear to ear and ready to connect with old friends!

Tickets on Sale Now at www.tomahact.com

We would like to thank the following for donations from November 1, 2025 - October 31, 2026

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*
Bernadette Otto Foundation*
Harry Wellenkotter*

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

Frank Andres Grant*
JW Etzelmueller Trust*

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

Dr. Richard Ahn in Memory of Helen Ahn*
Tim & Terry Amundson*
Thomas B. Earle Foundation*
Houston Dental Clinic-Dr. Clyde Houston*
Lamont & Dilynn Kiefer*
The Kindness Community
Susan Murphy*
Oakdale Electric Cooperative*
Kurt & Louise Olson*
Pete & Elaine Reichardt*
Jim & Nodji VanWychem*

Standing Ovation (\$500 - \$999)

John & Rose Berry*
Chris & Sharon Borek*
The Carpenter's Touch-Mark Pierce*
Stoney & Julie Felts*
Jerry & America Fushianes*
Jimmy John's-Jason & Jennifer Mubarek-Adler
Julie Kenmitz*
Fred & Kathy LeSavage*
Joe & Carrie Martinez*
Aleda Moseley*
Barbara Munding*
Keith & Kathy Peterson*
Michael & Tess Saunders
Christine Schreiber*
Katie Tackmann*
Ann Thompson*
Don & Pat Tralmer*
Vine Vest, LLC*
Anne Wallus
Mike & Cheryl Weber*

Super Stars (\$200 - \$499)

Chris & Myra Anderson
Brian & Debra Buswell
Amy Hedrick*
Mary Beth Leum*
Kay Mark
Scott & Dorothy Nicol
Cindy Parris-Owens
June Potter
John & Sandra Schindler
Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

Show Stoppers (\$100 - \$199)

Scott & Stephanie Brookman
Dennis & Barbara Clinard
Joy Cunningham in Memory of Lyda Lanier
Deb Hanson
Lynxx Networks
Karen Rapp
Anna Mae Rudolph
Barb Sullivan
Barbara Westrate
Woodsmen Hockey

Spot Lighters (\$50 - \$99)

Belcher Construction & Main-Jim & Tracey Belcher
Oakley & Susan Moser
Shawn & Amy Stoffregen
Jim & Cindy Suzda
Marie Wiedl*

Curtain Pullers (\$25 - \$49)

Renee Fletcher
Lorna Rosenow
Lori Welcher



Thank you to everyone who donated to ACT's Name a Chair-Leave a Legacy Theatre Renovation Project! We could not have completed this project so quickly without your support! Donations will continue to fund this project as well as the many plans we have for 2026!

*Donated toward Chairs

Donate Today!

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.




ACT Members


January 1 - December 31, 2026

Sandra Ahlquist	Diane Field	Terry Larkin	Amanda Schmock
Dr. Richard Ahn	Bruce Fischer	Fred LeSavage	Jason Schmock
Patty Ambort	Kathy Fischer	Kathy LeSavage	Cheryl Schoeny
Terry Amundson	Bonny Fish	Alta Leuthold	Mike Schoeny
Tim Amundson	Kathy Flatoff	Mary Maas	Christine Schreier
Sharon Anderson	Renee Fletcher	Marian Martin	Donna Shuck
Chris Baker	Robert Forbush	Carrie Martinez	John Shuck
Randy Ball	Lisa Frost	Joe Martinez	Molly Shields
Tiffany Banaszkravic	Sue Geurkink	Lisa McCormick	Peter Shields
Wanda Barwald	Deb Gilles	Mara Mednis	Brian Shutter
Richard Baumgarten	Lynn Glancy	Peggy Meiners	Dan Smithburg
Joyce Billings	Linda Greeno	Joe Minney	Kelly Smithburg
Dean Blegen	Ann Grygleski	Katherine Nastachowski	Colleen Springman
JoEllen Blegen	Ed Grygleski	Taz Noble	Dave Stelter
Paulette Bolton	Deb Hanson	Lori Norquay	Nancy Storkel
Judy Bonn	Lorna Harvey	Bridget Owens	Melissa Strait
Lavena Brady	Nancy Jacob	Cindy Parris-Owens	Renee Stroh
Chelsea Brohaugh	Gabby Johnson	Allen Pasch	Susan Stump
Stephanie Brookman	Julie Kenmitz	Sue Pergande	Barb Sullivan
Liz Brown	Dilynn Kiefer	Kathy Peterson	Chris Suzda
Diane Buchda	Lamont Kiefer	Keith Peterson	JD Sydow
Pam Buchda	Lisa Kirschbaum	Missy Peterson	Shelly Trowbridge
Daniel Burton	Martha Klatt	Dawn Pierce	Tina Turner
Josh Buzbee	Wesley Klatt	Elaine Reichardt	Jim VanWychen
Mary Carney	Amy Kleespies	Pete Reichardt	Nodji VanWychen
Jerry Chaffee	Jeanne Knapp	Lori Ripley	Cheryl Weber
Lenna Chaffee	Dennis Koranda	Kerry Rose	Mike Weber
Lynda Clay Palmer	Jan Koranda	Mark Rose	Shannon Wilcox
Bonnie Dana	Denise Krofta	Darlene Rudolph	Stephanie Woods
Natalie Divyak	Kevin Krofta	Michael Saunders	Travis Woods
Sandra Dresbrow	Sharon Larkin	Tess Saunders	Wendy Wright
		Jane Schave	

2026 Memberships Available

Your membership is important to us. Many grants to improve the theatre ask for membership numbers to prove community engagement. We appreciate you.

Get your 2026 ACT Membership today by calling 608-374-7469, go to our website at www.tomahact.com or stop by the Business Office at 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah. Office open Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm.

Member Benefits:

- Half Off Opening Nights on all 5 Shows in a Season (\$50 savings)
- Free Small Popcorn at every show you attend (5 shows/popcorns = \$20 savings)
- ACT Newsletters
- Voting privileges at ACT Annual Meeting
- Ability to be elected to ACT Board of Directors
- Recognition in all program booklets
- Plus additional surprise benefits throughout the year!



**From the Director:
Lisa McCormick**

This show has been a lot of fun so far! We have laughed our way through every rehearsal! The jokes, one-liners, funny stories, and sibling rivalry have you in stitches but underneath it all is a heartfelt story about lifelong friends who will stick by one another through thick and thin! This cast has bonded very quickly. You would think they had known each other for years. We have 3 newcomers to the ACT stage: Ann Clark, Danielle Davis, and Mary Neve (who has been behind the scenes for many years at Tomah High School but it's her first time in front of the stage). Returners to the ACT stage include Lenna Chaffee (Driving Miss Daisy), Samantha Komay (The Cemetery Club), Bridget Owens (The Cemetery Club), Elaine Reichardt (Drinking Habits) and Lori Ripley (The Mousetrap). The game Bunco is a dice game where you roll 3 dice trying to get 3 of a kind! In this show, they may not always play by the rules, but they sure have a lot of fun trying! Be sure to get your tickets early for this show, it is sure to be a popular one! Plus, you must see the newly renovated theatre! The new chairs, flooring, and paint make it look so beautiful! See you at the show!



2026 Season Underwriters

- Julian Hutchinson
- KARES-Just for You, Inc-Karen Dorn
- Terry & Sharon Larkin
- Murray's on Main-Mike Murray
- John Shuck Plumbing
- State Farm Insurance-Jeff & Kristi Holthaus
- Stroh's Barber Shop - Jim Stroh
- Taphouse Twenty-Tyson & Julia Koput
- Top Dog Marketing-Steve Peterson
- Torkelson Funeral Home - Todd Torkelson
- Wetherby Cranberry Co - Jim & Nodji VanWychen

"The Bunco Squad" Sponsors

- All American Do It Center
- Family Vision Center
- Pete & Elaine Reichardt
- Safe Ship-Georgette Martin
- T-Town Nutrition-Miranda Zellej
- Walmart Distribution Center

In-Kind Sponsor

Magnum Media



2025...a Year in Review



"Canceling Christmas"
 Directed by Jerry Fushianes
 & Latisha Walker



"Driving Miss Daisy"
 Directed by Sharon Larkin
 & Lori Ripley



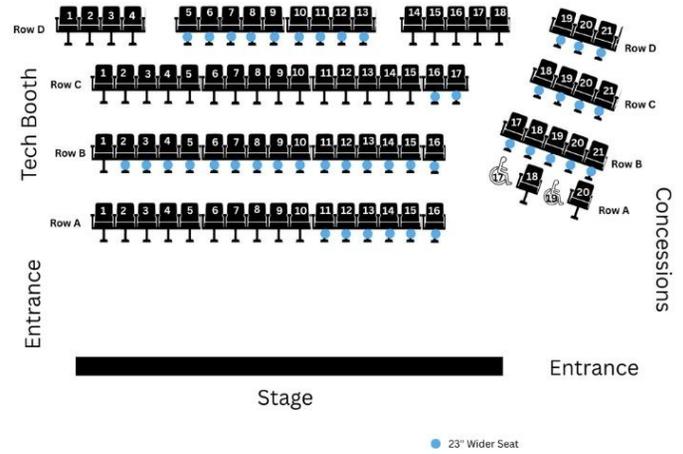
"The Play That Goes Wrong"
 Directed by Latisha Walker
 & Jerry Fushianes

ACT's Newly Renovated Theatre

After months of planning and construction, ACT is excited to reveal the newly renovated theatre. Thank you to JWC Building Specialties Inc and Irwin Chairs for working so closely with us on the design. Thank you to our incredible volunteers for removing all of the old chairs, tearing up the old platform and hauling it to the recycling center. Volunteers were: Chris Anderson, Chris Baker, Max Brohaugh & crew, Tom Frei, Dawson Graewin, Matt Larkin, Terry Larkin, Bridget Owens, Jason Schmock, Pete Shields, and John Shuck. Mark Pierce and his crew from The Carpenter's Touch built the new platforms. Max Brohaugh from Max Electric wired the platforms for new lights. He also changed out all of the lights above the seating area to more efficient lighting as well as worked tirelessly with the tech team (Chris Baker, Kathy Cipriani & Pete Shields) on cleaning up the lights, cords, and adding additional outlets. Once the lights were all set on the stage, all ceiling panels were repainted by Terry Larkin & Pete Shields.

The new seating arrangement in the theatre was created to give everyone a better view of the stage. The aisles are now up to code with two aisles - one along the wall near the tech booth and the other is on an angle near the concessions side of the theatre. These aisles will be illuminated with rope lighting under the steps. Rows B, C, & D will have illuminated row letters on the end of each row. All seats are now 22" and 23" wide whereas our seats prior were 19" & 21" wide. On this diagram, the seats that are 23" have a blue dot at the base of the seat to denote that they are a wider seat. All seats now have a much thicker seat cushion and a cup holder for extra comfort and convenience. An accessible area is set aside at Row A Seats 17-20. We will be leaving these seats open for wheelchairs only with space for a portable companion seat to be added if needed. If you would like to reserve an accessible seat, you must call the box office to reserve these seats. They will not be able available online.

Thank you again to everyone who donated to this project! We could not have done it so quickly without all of your support! We hope to enjoy the new theatre renovations for many years to come!



2025...a Year in Review



UPCOMING PLAY READINGS

ACT does two play readings a month to read potential plays and musicals to put into the upcoming seasons. Come anytime! Want to join us? Call Lisa at the ACT office at 608-374-7469 or boxoffice@tomahact.com to get on the contact list!

CAFÉ MURDER

February 17 at 6pm

March 4 at 6:30pm



NEW...ACT GIFT CARDS!



With our updated website, we now can sell electronic gift cards! Sold in increments of \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80 and \$100. Go to www.tomahact.com and click on the tab labeled: Gift Card. A great gift for the theatre lover who is hard to shop for!



Mr. Legs 2026



**March 26th
Cranberry Country Lodge**



2025...a Year in Review



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Mr. Legs 2026

SAVE THE DATE

**March 26th
Cranberry Country Lodge**



HOLIDAY HANGOVER BINGO

Lots of Players = Lots of Winners!



Big Winners!

From Your Director of Development, Sharon Larkin

Grateful: To have a deep, appreciative sense of thankfulness for benefits, kindness or good things received, recognizing they were not necessarily earned but freely given by others.

Dear Friends,

As I contemplated the different subjects that I should write about today, one thing remained clear; The deep appreciation that I and others on our Board of Directors, the members of our theatre, the patrons who enjoy the performances and those who utilize the wonderful ACT building have for those who have freely given of their time, talent and treasure to transform the theatre building into what it is today. No words can express how thankful we are to have a building of this nature that is used every day by so many organizations, families, and businesses. There was a need in Tomah. With your support, the Area Community Theatre met that need. At the end of January, the theatre remodel will be complete, with long-awaited new seating, new lighting, and the new sound system! Please enjoy the five wonderful plays that ACT has planned for 2026. Experience the comfort of the new seating, with holders for beverages, better viewing, new flooring and lighting and the newly painted walls. Your support, through donations, attendance, membership, purchase of 50/50 tickets, and refreshments has made this transition possible and we cannot thank you enough. See for yourself what we accomplish when we all work together!

P.S. There is still time to have a seat inscribed with your name or a memorial.

A Season for Giving

2025 delivered a fabulous 50th Anniversary of the Area Community Theatre and the opportunity to share lots of memories and brought back some classics from the past! 2025 brought the best actors, directors, tech teams, and patrons! Thank you for being a part of this momentous 50th Anniversary year! 2026 is already looking to be another fabulous year at ACT! This season's lineup of shows will be spectacular and will have you laughing until your cheeks hurt!

Here at ACT, we are so thankful for all of the donations for the Theatre Chair Project – Name a Chair, Leave a Legacy so far! We are almost done with renovating the theatre, and the new chairs are here! We are only within \$10,000 of reaching our goal to fully complete this project!

During this new year, when you pause to reflect and plan your charitable giving, we respectfully ask you to keep the Area Community Theatre in mind. There are many things that ACT is still in need of, such as repairing the front entryway, new carpeting in the Business Offices and an digital marquee. Visit tomahact.com, call us at 608-374-7469 or mail your contribution to 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660.

Thank you for being a part of the last 50 years, and we look forward to the future as we believe in the power of community, creativity, and live theatre. Together, we'll keep inspiring the next generation to enjoy the arts!

2025 ACT Award Winners

Carolyn O'Conner
Volunteer of the Year Award
Chris Baker



Ed Thompson Friends of the Theatre
Business of the Year Award
Max Electric



Brian "Rocky" Shutter
Artistic Achievement Award
Amanda & Jason Schmock



Harry Wellenkotter
Patron of the Year Award



Sharon Larkin & John Shuck
 presenting the Patron of the Year
 Award to Harry Wellenkotter for his
 generous support to ACT!



Thank You to All of our Volunteers!



NEW TICKETING PROGRAM & MEMBER TICKET DISCOUNTS

ACT just made purchasing tickets to a show or event even safer with our new ticketing program. Now when you purchase a ticket for a show, you will no longer be leaving our secure website, and all payment transactions will be direct with ACT, our bank and your credit card companies (no more middle man). You will notice that the total ticket price will vary depending on your credit card company's fees. To purchase a ticket, it is relatively the same as before. Since it is a new program though, you will have to enter all of your contact information. But, once it is in your computer, it will auto populate the next time you purchase tickets. If you do not have an email address, it will not allow you to reserve tickets, so please just call the ACT office and we will help you with that!

Members still receive half off the opening night shows. To purchase those tickets, you will have to apply your code in the box that says, "Apply Coupon". This will automatically put the discount onto your tickets. Your membership code was mailed to you in the middle of January. If you have not received it, please give the ACT office a call at 608-374-7469. If you have trouble with this at home, just call us and we will be glad to help you through it!

We will no longer be printing out actual tickets. Your tickets will be emailed to you where you can print them out at home or show them to us on your phones. We will also have a list of tickets purchased for each show at Will-Call and with the Ushers. We hope you will enjoy the changes we have made and purchasing tickets for a show just got a little easier!



Flex Plan Tickets

Flex Plans have always been a great way to purchase tickets to a show at a discount and that is not changing! Flex Plans can now be purchased on the ACT website with just a few clicks of your mouse! Go to www.tomahact.com and click on the tab labeled "Flex Plan" on the top of the page. There you will see you can purchase a Flex Plan for yourself or even for someone else (a great gift idea). When gifting a Flex Plan you can include a message to the recipient as well! Click on Add to Cart if you want to purchase tickets to a show or event or just click on Buy Now to finish your transaction.

Once you purchase the Flex Package, you will receive a code to use when purchasing future tickets. You will place this code in the Apply Code box to receive your discounted Flex pricing.

In the next month, we will be reaching out to those of you who have purchased Flex Packages in the past to confirm how many Flex Tickets you have left. We will then build them into our new program so that you can still redeem the tickets. This includes the small bright blue perforated tickets as well as the blue printed tickets.

AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE

2026 Show Season

Directed by Lisa McCormick & Elaine Reichardt

The One That Got Away

By Eddie McPherson



By Jim Hesselman

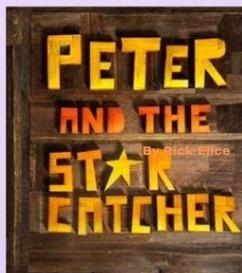
March 12-15 & 19-22

Directed by Amanda & Jason Schmock



May 7-10 & 14-17

Directed by Lisa McCormick & Caitlin Elenteny



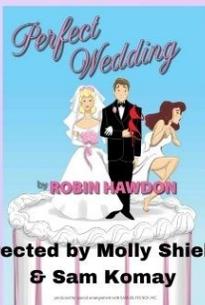
July 30-August 2 & 6-9

KEN LUDWIG'S MOON OVER BUFFALO



Directed by Brian Shutter & Connie Hurd

September 17-20 & October 1-4



Directed by Molly Shields & Sam Komay

November 5-8 & 12-15

Area Community Theatre
901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah
tomahact.com
608-374-7469

We ♥ Our Volunteers!



New Building Cleaners:

Molly and Pete Shields and Tom Clark have joined our volunteer team and are doing a fabulous job!



Thank you

ACT celebrated 50 years of Volunteers on Sunday, January 25th. Many volunteers from the past and current attended the event.

Thank you to ALL of you! YOU are what has built ACT to where it is today!

ACT Trivia Night

New Categories!



Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026
7PM - DOORS OPEN AT 6PM



Reserve Your Team:
www.tomahact.com
or call 608-374-7469

BONUS POINTS:

ENTIRE TEAM DRESSES UP AS
MOVIE OR TV CHARACTER
GET 40 EXTRA POINTS



ENTIRE TEAM PERFORMS A SONG
FROM A MOVIE OR TV SHOW
GET 20 BONUS POINTS



Event Sponsors: Prize Sponsors:



907 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah



Show Dates:
May 7-10 &
14 - 17

DIRECTED BY AMANDA & JASON SCHMOCK
THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY
WRITTEN BY EDDIE MCPHERSON

AUDITIONS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 6-8PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST 2-5PM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND 4-6PM

Cast: 5 Men & 5 Women

FISHING...
ROMANCE...
AND HOW TO GET BOTH WRONG!

Click on QR Code to Sign Up for Audition!




SHOW DATES:
MAY 7 -10 & 14-17

AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE
www.tomahact.com
907 KILBOURN AVENUE, TOMAH 608-374-7469

Synopsis:

A headline of the state newspaper reads "Annual Fishing Tournament Expecting Record Number of Female Participants." This news is great for women who love the sport of fishing. It's even better news for men who love the sport of "picking up chicks." When Brad and his buddies hear the news, they pack their backpacks and head to Weiss Lake where the tournament is being held. Because the guys know that women at the tournament will be impressed with men that exude expert fishing knowledge, they conduct research by picking up a couple of fishing magazines at the local Seven Eleven. They think that by the time the "chicks" figure out they know nothing about fishing, they have already won them over with their "charm and animal magnetism." But when one of the men's inept cousin accidentally spills the beans to the women about the men's intentions, the weekend becomes more than anyone bargained for. Then, Brad's fiance' shows up. The women have a plan to put the ego-filled men in their place-and it's not going to be pretty!