



On The Road Again Wisconsin AACTFest 2009



It is time to register and make your plans for Wisconsin AACTFest '09 being held at the River Arts Center in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, on February 27, 28, and March 1, 2009. Everything is being made ready and many groups are in the process of preparing their shows for the festival. We know everyone can learn something from being an audience member, a cast member, or a crew member for this great festival. Following the format of AACT's handbook, each show is limited to a sixty-minute performance spot, with a ten minute set up and a ten-minute strike. The strike is followed by public adjudication from three highly qualified judges.

Entries are still being accepted for the festival, so it's not too late to enter. With four or more entries we will be able to send two shows to represent Wisconsin at the Region III AACTFest in South Bend, Indiana. We sometimes have a tendency to look at these festivals as a competition between theatres.

Although there are competitive aspects, it is much more accurate to view the festival process as a chance to

learn, grow, and share with others. Most of us don't get to see as many other community theatre productions as we would like. (After all we're always doing shows with our own community theatres.) This is a chance to see what other community theatres are doing, shop for new shows to produce at home, share ideas with other community theatre people, and network with like minded people.

Our hotel will be the Holiday Inn Madison West in Middleton. The good news is that it's not a horribly long trip from Prairie du Sac and the highway is four lanes the whole way. The hotel was remodeled in 2007 and has a fitness center, pool, whirlpool, waterpark, high speed internet, a restaurant, and two bars.

Festivities will start as they traditionally do on Friday with rehearsals, registration and a get acquainted party at the hotel. Saturday the activities will begin in earnest with workshops, productions, and adjudications. Registration will, of course, continue and the famous (or perhaps infamous) WACT auction will also be taking place. Lunch will be included and when everything's said and done we'll journey back to Middleton where the partying will commence, the commiserating will continue and networking will happen with a vengeance. Sunday will



see us returning to the River Arts Center stage for the awards brunch.

Individual registration fees are only \$65.00 and include all the shows, workshops, the Friday night welcome party, Saturday lunch, the Saturday night party, and the Sunday awards brunch. Individual session tickets will be available for \$18.00 at the door, \$15.00 in advance. Student tickets will be \$15.00 at the door and \$8.00 in advance.

Forms and information are available on the WACT website (www.WACT.org). As more details are finalized they will be posted on the WACT website or drop a note with your questions to AACTFest@wact.org.



2009 WACT Annual Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre will take place on Sunday, March 1, 2009 in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. This is the annual meeting required by the organization's By Laws. At this meeting the membership will vote for new members of the Board of Directors. The terms of office for Allen Ebert, Carla Gallun, Bob Kafka, and Donna Thompson will expire at that time. In addition, there will be reports on the activities of the previous year and any proposed bylaw changes. The meeting will also deal with any other items which may come to the floor.



Region III AACTFest 2009

The next step in the AACTFest process after the Wisconsin festival in Prairie du Sac will be the Region III Festival. This festival will be in South

Bend, Indiana. The Region III festival will have participants from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The regional festival will take place April 17-19, 2009 at the South Bend Civic Theatre. For more information go to www.region3aact.org or drop a note to Regional Representative Darrin Murrell at DarrinM@Region3AACT.org



Upcoming Events

January 11, 2009 WACT Board of Directors Meeting Verona, Wisconsin	March 27-29, 2009 Indiana AACTFest Muncie, Indiana
February 20-22, 2009 Ohio AACTFest Columbus, Ohio	April 17-19, 2009 Region III AACTFest South Bend, Indiana
Feb 27 – March 1, 2009 Wisconsin AACTFest Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin	June 23-27, 2009 National AACTFest 2009 Tacoma, Washington
March 11-15, 2009 Minnesota AACTFest Fairbault, Minnesota	





Open Board Positions

The Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre is a volunteer organization that benefits community theatre people throughout the state of Wisconsin. Each year a number of positions become vacant as people fulfill their terms. The Board of Directors is seeking qualified people to run for these open positions. In order to continue to function effectively WACT needs new individuals to share their knowledge, opinions, and expertise that are important to the future functioning of WACT. Don't let Joe, or Connie, or Sam do it! Don't depend on those who have done it in the past.

The future of WACT depends on you! Representation on the board is an honor and privilege and is needed from all areas of the state. You can help find these candidates or twist a friend's arm. We all know someone – even ourselves – who can bring new ideas, valuable skills and contributions to WACT. If you're interested in serving on the Board of Directors, contact Allen Ebert at AEbert@wact.org.



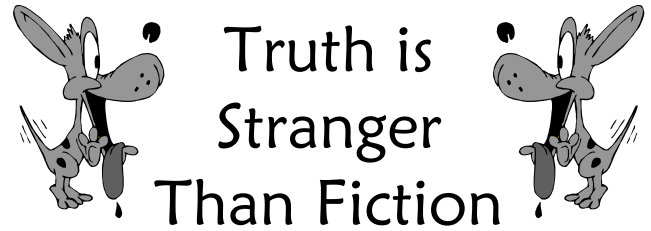
2010 Festivities

WACT is currently seeing a host for the 2010 WACTFest off year festival. Unlike AACTFest years, the off year festivals have no rigidly defined form. A common framework consists of workshops, showcase performances and social events. But within that framework the parameters are entirely fluid.

So now is the time to step forward and join previous successful festivals hosts and show off your group for the state. If you're interested in

hosting or would like more information, drop us a note at info@wact.org.

It may seem like 2010 is a long way off, but the farther ahead everyone begins, the easier it is.

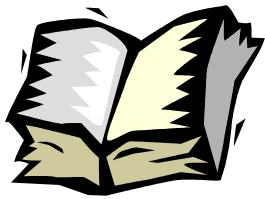


We all have amusing theatre related stories that have to be true because they're so unbelievable that no one could ever make them up. This is your chance to share yours with the world. Just e-mail them to newsletter@wact.org and we'll publish them as space permits.

You gotta love your house staff. The facility we rent comes with its own house staff that we're required to use. The studio space we were using had been the victim of clueless design features. One of which was putting the only control of the architectural house lights on wall switches next to the doors. During one performance suddenly the house lights pop on. I look over towards the door and see an usher leaned up against the wall switches. Of course I was trapped with no way to get there to fix it. Finally an actor waiting to make an entrance from the back of the house points out to the usher that she'd lit up part of the house. The user then proceeds to jab frantically at the buttons trying to find the correct switch. Finally the house is once again dark. End of story? Oh no. The same usher proceeded to do the same thing twice more in the next ten minutes. At that point the House Manager, thankfully, moved the usher away from the switches.

WACT News is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre for its members and is annually distributed to an expanded list of known community theatre organizations and interested individuals. Publication dates are March, June, September (expanded list) and December.

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

There is one bylaw change under consideration for membership approval at the annual meeting. Presently the WACT Board has no means of taking any necessary action except by convening a meeting of the Board. To ease taking action between meetings, this bylaw change allows for voting on action items by electronic mail. The proposed language is as follows:

Article VI
Board of Directors
(To be added following the section entitled Quorum)

Action by Electronic Mail: In between formal Board of Directors meetings, the President may originate and submit motions requiring action to Board Members by electronic mail for their approval or disapproval. These motions will not need to be seconded and subsidiary motions will not be allowed. This process is intended to deal only with necessary and non-controversial items. Therefore, in order for an item to be approved by electronic mail it is necessary that:

- (1) the originating electronic mail message deal only with one specific item
- (2) the item may not alter or negate any previous Board action
- (3) there be positive responses from a minimum of 75% of current Board members,
- (4) there are no negative responses.

Responses should be sent to both the President and the Secretary within ten (10) business days of the date stamp of the originating electronic mail message. Any motion that has not received enough votes to pass within the proscribed time limit will be considered to have failed. The motion will be considered passed or failed upon the concurrence of the President and Secretary as to the results of the voting. Any motion dealt with by electronic mail will be recorded in the minutes of the next Board Meeting.



The Verona Area Community Theater has honored Dee Baldock with a lifetime achievement award.

"Bravo" is where we recognize special achievements or actions by and for community theatre. If you have an item for us, e-mail it to newsletter@wact.org and we'll publish them as space permits.



Martha Stewart's Holiday Calendar

December 1

Blanch the carcass from the Thanksgiving turkey. Spray paint it gold, turn it upside down and use it as a sleigh to hold Christmas Cards.

December 2

Have the Mormon Tabernacle Choir record the outgoing Christmas message for my answering machine.

December 3

Using candlewick and hand gilded miniature pinecones, fashion a cat-o-nine-tails. Flog the gardener.

December 4

Repaint the Sistine Chapel ceiling in a lovely ecru, with delightful mocha trim.

December 5

Get new eyeglasses. Grind lenses myself from homemade glass.

🌲December 6

Fax the family Christmas newsletter to the Pulitzer Committee for consideration. Begin acceptance speech.

🌲December 7

Debug Windows Vista.

🌲December 10

Align all of the carpets to adjust for the curvature of the Earth.

🌲December 11

Lay a Faberge egg.

🌲December 12

Take the dog apart. Disinfect and reassemble.

🌲December 13

Collect dentures. They make excellent pastry cutters, particularly for decorative pie crusts.

🌲December 14

Install plumbing (including bidet and Jacuzzi) in the gingerbread house.

🌲December 15

Replace the air in the mini-van tires with Glade "holiday scents" in case the tires are shot out at the mall.

🌲December 17

Child-proof the Christmas tree with a glittering garland of barbed wire.

🌲December 19

Adjust the legs of all the dining room chairs so that each Christmas dinner guest will be at the same height when sitting at his or her assigned seat.

🌲December 20

Dip the sheep and the cows in egg whites and roll them in sugar to add a festive sparkle to the pasture.

🌲December 21

Drain the city reservoir; refill with mulled cider, orange and lemon slices, cloves and cinnamon sticks.

🌲December 22

Extract the beeswax from honeycomb to make votive candles to float in the toilet tank.

🌲December 23

Seed clouds to create snow for a charming white Christmas.

🌲December 24

Do my annual good deed. Go to several stores and be seen engaged in last minute Christmas shopping. This will make the little people feel less inadequate than they really are.

🌲December 25

Bear a son. Wrap him in hand loomed swaddling clothes. Lay in a color-coordinated manger scented with homemade potpourri and lined with 1000 thread count Egyptian cotton sheets.

🌲December 26

Organize all the spice racks by genus and phylum.

🌲December 27

Build a snowman in the exact likeness of Michelangelo's David.

🌲December 31

New Year's Eve! Give the staff all their resolutions. Call a friend in each time zone of the world as the clock strikes midnight in that country to wish them a Happy New Year.

In Community Theatre
There Are No Strangers –
Only Friends You Haven't
Met Yet!

**Wisconsin
Association of
Community Theatre**

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2008-2009**

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Merry Christmas



to all the
WACT
people doing theatre





Upcoming WACT Member Productions



November 28 - December 21	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
December 4 - 7, 2008	<i>Plaid Tidings</i>	Fond du Lac Community Theatre
December 4 - 14, 2008	<i>Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical</i>	Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild
December 5 - 7, 2008	<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr</i>	Sun Prairie Civic Theatre
December 5 - 7, 2008	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>	Evergreen Productions
December 5 - 13, 2008	<i>The King and I</i>	Sheboygan Theatre Company
December 11, 12, 2008	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Wausau Community Theatre
December 11 - 21, 2008	<i>Yes Virginia There Is A Santa Claus</i>	La Crosse Community Theatre
December 12 - 20, 2008	<i>The Santaland Diaries</i>	Over Our Head Players
December 12 - 20, 2008	<i>A Christmas Cactus</i>	Lakeside Players
December 19 - 2, 2008	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild
January 8 - 18, 2009	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>	Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild
January 9 - February 1, 2009	<i>Dearly Departed</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
January 16 - 31, 2009	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>	Lakeside Players
January 25, 2009	<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
January 29 - February 15, 2009	<i>Godspell</i>	La Crosse Community Theatre
January 30 - February 22, 2009	<i>Snowdance 10 minute Comedy Festival</i>	Over Our Head Players
February 6 - 8, 2009	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
February 6 - 14, 2009	<i>Our Town</i>	Sheboygan Theatre Company
February 6 - 15, 2009	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Sun Prairie Civic Theatre
February 8, 2009	<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
February 12 - 22, 2009	<i>Sylvia</i>	Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild
February 13 - 24, 2009	<i>Sisters Rosensweig</i>	Evergreen Productions
February 20 - March 15, 2009	<i>Leading Ladies</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
March 6 - 8, 2009	<i>Robin Hood</i>	Evergreen Productions
March 7, 2009	<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
March 12 - 15, 2009	<i>Funny Girl</i>	Wausau Community Theatre
March 13 - 28, 2009	<i>Cheese Louise</i>	Lakeside Players
March 14, 2009	<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
March 19 - April 5, 2009	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	La Crosse Community Theatre
March 27 - 29, 2009	<i>The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
March 27 - April 4, 2009	<i>Our Town</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
March 27 - April 4, 2009	<i>Over the River and Through the Woods</i>	Sheboygan Theatre Company
March 27 - April 12, 2009	<i>Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead</i>	Over Our Head Players
April 2 - 5, 2009	<i>Laughing Stock</i>	Fond du Lac Community Theatre
April 17 - 26, 2009	<i>The Boys Next Door</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
April 23 - 26, 2009	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild
May 1 - 10, 2009	<i>All Shook Up</i>	Sun Prairie Civic Theatre
May 1 - 16, 2009	<i>The Attempted Murder of Peggy Sweetwater</i>	Lakeside Players
May 7 - 24, 2009	<i>The Producers</i>	La Crosse Community Theatre

Is your show not listed here??? All organizations who are WACT members can have their show listed on the WACT website and in WACT News. Just send your schedule to webmaster@wact.org



WACT Membership Form

Return form to:
WACT c/o LCCT
PO Box 1852
La Crosse, WI 54602

Name _____

Contact Name (Organizational Members) _____

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Web Site (Organizational Members) _____

Individual Membership @ \$15.00 _____

Additional Donation to WACT _____
(Donations to WACT are tax deductible)

Organizational Membership @ \$50.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Please make checks payable to WACT -- All memberships run from August 1 to July 31



Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre
PO Box 1852
La Crosse, WI 54602

