



Behind the scenes of your Community Theatre – Winter 2021

STAGE-M *Curtain Call*

We hope you find this publication helpful, entertaining, and informative.

The Board Room

The Executive Board:

We are excited to announce the newly elected Executive Board for 2021 – 2023!

The Executive Board is as follows:

President: Philip Himebaugh
Vice President: Laura Taylor
Treasurer: Chris Kesting
Secretary: Emily Aslakson
Member at Large: Chris Lamar
Member at Large: Lori Hathaway
Member at Large: Amy Walling

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President's Remarks

STAGE-M is working to adapt during these unprecedented times.

Welcome to 2021! Here at STAGE-M, we, like many of you, are relieved to see 2020 in our rearview mirror. However, that does not mean that 2020 was without its accomplishments. STAGE-M did its best to successfully navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result we were extremely proud of in our three-part radio drama, "Punchdrunk Fortune", authored by our very own Chris Kesting. Broadway in the Park, which was supposed to happen in October was all set to be our grand reintroduction to a live audience. Unfortunately, the weather over that weekend did not cooperate. We are very excited to announce that

Broadway in the Park will be making a triumphant return in 2021! Furthermore, the executive board has met, and is thrilled to announce that we have put together a tentative season for 2021. Theatre lovers everywhere are anxious to get back into audiences, backstage crews, casts, or anywhere else they feel at home within the theatre. We hope to provide ample opportunities for all of you this coming year. While COVID-19 will still impact the way we are able to fulfill our mission of bring quality community theatre to the area, we see the pinprick of light at the end of the tunnel and are so excited to share our love of theatre with all of you.

Theatre lovers everywhere are anxious to get back to normal!

Spotlight

Amy Walling

Meet STAGE-M's new Member at Large!

A Big Rapids native, Amy Walling is no stranger to the arts! She has been heavily involved in band, choir, dance, and of course, STAGE-M for most of her life. She attended Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in music education. She worked in Bay City for a time, and has been hired as the middle and high school choir teacher for BRPS. She is thrilled to be back in the Big Rapids area with her fiancé, Lukas,

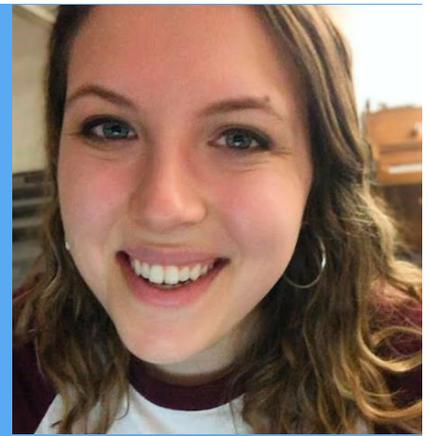
who works at Artworks.

Amy's first STAGE-M production was Grease Riverdays in 2006, and since then, she has been involved in several musicals and Riverdays productions after that. Her most recent STAGE-M involvement was serving as choreographer for Fiddler on the Roof in 2015.

In addition to being on stage, Amy has directed several middle and high school musicals, and she is

currently the musical director for both the middle and high school drama programs.

She firmly believes that arts can shape a community and she is happy to be back and able to serve her community's arts programs in a new way. She believes that theatre is one of the best ways to explore empathy and humanity, and is integral to our understanding of our selves and others.



Announcements

Follow our Facebook page and watch your emails for important announcements regarding auditions, performances, and more! If you'd like to receive STAGE-M emails, please email us at: stagembr@gmail.com

In order to continue STAGE-M's mission "to create an outlet for community engagement by providing a wide range of quality theatrical experiences to enrich the cultural life of Mid-Michigan", we have had to change with the times! For the upcoming season, we will be presenting small productions that can be safely performed. We will be offering streaming of our performances with a limited number of audience members, and when the weather allows it, we will be performing live, outside.

Coming Attractions

We are excited to announce our 2021 Season!

"Help Desk" by Don Zolidis

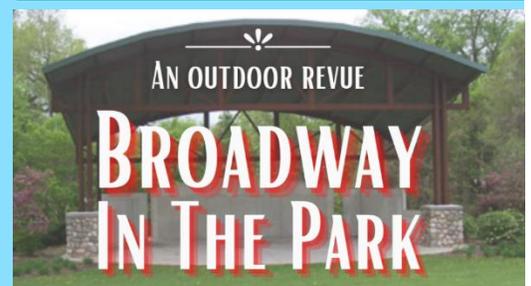
Directed by Audree Stephens
A series of hilarious vignettes with wacky and unconventional characters highlighting the frustrations of calling the "help desk". Auditions Feb 20-21 @ 6:30 PM. Flexible Cast, ages 14+.

Broadway in the Park

Directed by Laura Taylor
Postponed due to inclement weather last year, we are excited to showcase the amazing talent in our community this May!

"1 in 8: The Hope Zone" by Emily Aslakson

Written by a STAGE-M regular and board member, this original piece explores the challenges and heartache of infertility. 6 Women, 1 Man, 1 Either Gender. Auditions TBA. Live performances in July.



1 in 8: The Hope Zone

by Emily Aslakson



The stories and struggles that aren't told

Membership Drive

We rely on the support of our members to continue to provide quality live-theatre to our community!



Due to the unexpected cancellation of the last two regularly scheduled shows of the 2020 season, “The Foreigner” and “Evita”, as well as the weather postponement of “Broadway in the Park”, we were unable to have our usual membership drive.

We have made several changes to our membership structure. Membership is now a flat fee of \$20.00 for a single person, and of course, we always appreciate donations if you are able. Members are eligible to vote in elections and receive discounted ticket prices for our productions this year.

If you would like to become a member, visit our website and pay via Paypal, **or** send your name, address, email and a check to:

STAGE-M
708 West Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307

THANK YOU to those who have become members of STAGE-M for the 2021 Season!

Keith Bogucki
Cheryl Courtney
Netty Cove
Rick and LeAnn Dethlefsen
Stephen Erlewine
Julie Foust
Lori Hathaway
Paul and Maryanne Heideman
Philip Himebaugh and Emily Aslakson
Jeanna and Chris Lamar
Ginny and Bill Kerwin
Chris Kesting
Sarah Kirby
Gordon Mallett
Wayne and Maxine McKay
Evelyn Sheltrown
Daniel Taylor
Jon and Laura Taylor
Amy Walling



STAGE-M Scholarship

Pictured: Isabel Bitler, winner of the 2020 STAGE-M scholarship for her commitment to the performing arts.

STAGE-M is proud to support students who are interested in the theatrical arts by offering one scholarship to a senior in the Big Rapids and surrounding areas school districts.

Students may be nominated by their theatre teachers or may inquire directly to STAGE-M. If you are interested in applying for a STAGE-M scholarship, please contact Chris Lamar, Member at Large and Chair of the Education Committee at clamar@brps.org for an application.

To be considered for the scholarship, applications must be completed and returned to Chris Lamar by April 1st, 2021.

Community Theatre works best with maximum participation – from the community!

Have you ever wanted a creative outlet in a fun and inclusive environment? If yes, STAGE-M is for you! Please reach out to us at stagembr@gmail.com to get involved!

Missed It?

If you are missing STAGE-M performances (and let's be honest, who isn't?), be sure to check out last summer's **free audio production** of our original piece **"Punchdrunk Fortune"** by **Chris Kesting**. Head over to stage-m.org and click on 38th season to get the link to listen to **all three episodes!**

STAGE-M headquarters is located at 708 West Ave, right here in Big Rapids! All of the mail for STAGE-M is now being delivered to this address. Our new email address for inquires and information is:

stageubr@gmail.com.

Visit us at www.stage-m.org

General membership meeting: TBD due to COVID-19 precautions



708 West Ave
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coming soon
In The Next Issue

Executive Board Updates

2021 Season Updates

Spotlight Feature

...and MORE!