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## Waterville Resident to Receive National Theatre Award

Joe Barton of Waterville, Ohio, is being honored with the Distinguished Merit Award by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). The 2021 AACT National Award presentations will be pre-recorded and streamed during Virtual AACTFest 2021 National Theatre Festival, Saturday, June 19, beginning at 11:45AM (Eastern). To view the AACT National Awards presentations and participate in other exciting Virtual AACTFest 2021 events during June 14–20, 2021, register at [aact.org/21](http://aact.org/21).

The AACT Distinguished Merit Award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of contributions made to promote and develop the highest standards for community theatre. Visit [aact.org/awards](http://aact.org/awards) for information on all AACT National Awards, 2021 AACT Award winners, and previous honorees.



Joe Barton

Joe has been serving the local and state theatre community for over 25 years, including 20 years with the Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA), serving as President for three of those years, and as Regional Representative for OCTA's Northwest Region. In 2005, Joe and several friends formed 3B Productions, and is proud that it has "set the standard for high quality productions and has been invited to OCTA State Conference almost every year since their inception." Joe has directed over 100 productions for multiple theatres in Northwest Ohio. Besides acting, directing, and producing, he has costumed hundreds of productions, winning numerous costume design awards. He is the owner/operator of 3B Costumes, and was manager and head costumer for Kostumes, Ltd. for 15 years. "Community Theatre has been and will continue to be a huge part of my life," he says. "To me, theatre people have become family!"

AACT provides networking, resources, and support for America's theatres. AACT represents the interests of more than 7,000 theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the U.S. Military Services overseas.

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