



# CUELINES



Newsletter of the Ohio Community Theatre Association  
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February 2019

## It May Be Cold—But it's still a Season of Love... Getting Ready for the 2019 Conference

*from Michelle Johnson, 2019 Conference Co-Chair*

### 2018-19 OCTA Dates:

- February 23—Board meeting—Dublin (rescheduled January meeting)
- March 16—Board meeting—Dublin
- May 1—Spirit of Community Theatre, Hall of Fame, and scholarship deadline
- May 18—Board meeting—Dublin
- July 20—Board meeting— ?

### FESTIVALS

- June 8 Central
- June 15 NE
- June 21-22 SW
- June 29-30 NW
- July 6 West
- July 13 SE
- August 3 OCTA, Jr.



When Jesse Bernal and I last checked in, we were reeling from the news that our contracted hotel had been sold and would be razed—before our scheduled conference! As Mother Superior says, “You can’t hide from your problems, you have to face them!” And we did. It’s time to sign up for your room at the Hilton Garden Inn or Room 2 Suites at Levis Commons. To access the links for room reservations, join the Facebook group OCTA State Conference where you’ll find all of the important registration and conference info as we finalize plans. Also keep an eye on OCTA: The Ohio Community Theatre Association Facebook newsfeed. Your Regional Reps are doing a great job sharing our information to your regional and theatre newsfeeds.

Tracy Turnblad said it best: “You have to dream big to be big!” And we’re dreaming big for workshops! I’m excited to bring you my favorite percussionist Tom Montgomery, a virtual sound f/x genius who will show you some of his fun gizmos he’s created for shows all over the Toledo area in a sort of From Junk to Funk musical workshop! Jim Toth, Ft. Findlay director and local playwright, is going to show you the Hoops You’ll Have to Hurdle to get your show published and produced. For all you who are putting together a fundraiser cabaret for your theatre group, get the scoop on just what you need to have in order before you open the doors! Matthew Zwyer, Waterville Playshop Chair, and Jim Merillat, the MTI sing-a-long fella, will walk you through the entire process of licensing your selected music, how much of a scene you can borrow from a work, and how to get the most out of your favorite composer’s music—all while staying legal! And of course, there will be Responder Training led by DeeAnne Bryll of the Cincinnati area. DeeAnne is a choreographer by trade and is no stranger to responding at the regional level throughout our state.

OCTA needs some help. In an effort to bring you the best workshops we can, we need to find funds to help defray the costs of our workshops: leader stipends, supplies, etc. If you have a business or individual willing to sponsor a workshop for \$50-\$100, please give me a shout and we’ll set them up with a donation form just for that purpose! I’d love to find at least twelve donors.

Are you remembering to set aside your apparel following each season this year? Why not start packing an OCTA bag so you’re ready for a great weekend of celebrating our favorite holidays? I just added my favorite Christmas t-shirt and dangling Christmas bulb earrings and a big red Santa hat! We have lots of surprises for all of you who “dress to impress” for each holiday at conference! *(cont’d on page 2)*

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(continued from page 1)

Happy Winter! Jesse and I are off to plan our menu and lock down the excerpt schedule. It's almost Valentine's Day so remember: People come into our lives for a reason! Take a minute or two to send out that Valentine (and by a box or two to share at the conference brunch). I just pulled out my Valentine's t-shirt so that it's ready for my OCTA bag.

We'll see you in March with an updated OCTA for Dummies for OCTA 2019: Seasons of Love!

Retired Executive Director **Eleanor Smith** has moved into a new home. Since it's February, why not send her a Valentine at: The Ashford on Broad, 4801 East Broad Street, Apt 117, Whitehall, Ohio, 43213. She'd love to hear from you!



Summer Logan is inviting everyone to the High School Musical Theatre Festival, March 29-31, at **Shawnee State University** in Portsmouth, Ohio. The festival is open to students currently enrolled in grades 9-12. Participants will have the opportunity to take classes, perform, and audition for scholarships and special recognition. For more information, visit their website: [www.musicaltheatrefest.org](http://www.musicaltheatrefest.org).

Any seniors who wish to audition for the SSU MT program can apply for early acceptance through admissions: [www.shawnee.edu/offices/admission/apply.aspx](http://www.shawnee.edu/offices/admission/apply.aspx).

**Congratulations to...**

MTVarts who received the Knox County Chamber of Commerce **2018 Quality of Life Award** which is given to a non-profit whose work has enriched the lives of Knox County residents.



MTVarts grew from a vision to mount *Peter Pan* and fly! No cash, few volunteers, just a dream. Twelve years later, all-volunteer MTVarts has produced 42 shows and has a home-of-their-own at warehouse 14.

Sponsored and presented by Knox Community Hospital, the award is a cherished acknowledgment that creating community theatre is hard work but so worth it. Many give thousands of hours of their time on and off the stage to engage, educate, and entertain. We love making theatre and hope to continue for many years to come.

Originally designed as a communication tool, MTVarts grew from a local theatre troupe, Bruce Jacklin & Company which offers dinner theatre at The Alcove Restaurant, a 100-year-old institution in historic Mount Vernon. Our first venture outside the dinner theatre realm was a 2007 production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. In 2008, MTVarts was granted Public Charity Status 509(a)(2) and is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS. Congratulations to this innovative Central Region theater.

## RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Looking for some set pieces or props? Can't figure out how to make that cool effect happen? Interested in knowing how someone else has done the show you're involved in? Then GET ON THE OCTA RESOURCE DIRECTORY!

All member theatres are asked to email your show lineups from the last four years to Mendell Hibbard at [hibbardm@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:hibbardm@ohiodominican.edu). He is gathering your information and will eventually produce an Excel spreadsheet for the membership to use on the OCTA website.



Who will the resource directory benefit?

Directors – learn from those who have done your show

Tech people – you might find props and/or set pieces

Planning committees – a catalog of produced shows is always good information

And it's SO SIMPLE! Please send to Mendell a) your theater group name and OCTA region; b) your show lineup (just the titles) for 2017, 2018, and 2019. He has heard from five of the member theatres, and the initial Excel sheet looks fabulous! It will be more valuable to everyone after YOUR theater gets in on it. Show lineups from our approximately 100 member theaters would provide a wonderful resource! So what are you waiting for? Get on it – we're all waiting for you!

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### **BroadwayCon and Me**

*by Mendell Hibbard*

I have been attending BroadwayCon since its inception in 2016. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the event – it is a weekend in January where all us “theatre nerds” gather in New York City and celebrate the artform. Attending the event also happens to be a LOT of Broadway actors. They attend BroadwayCon as a part of a panel, an autograph session, a photograph session, or promoting their show. It is normal to see them walking about and having conversations with whoever wants to meet them.

One of the more striking things you see there (in addition to all the Broadway celebrities) is the number of high school students attending. They get involved in everything including cosplay. There are some attendees who think they are annoying. Personally, I love it. They are young theatre fans having a good time. They represent the future (both participants and consumers), so I'm happy to put up with their giddiness.

Last summer those of us who secured tickets to this year's Con were sent an email asking for suggestions for panel discussions. I sent in two – one, preparing a high school student for college auditions; and two, trends and strategies in community theatre. They came back to me asking if I would run the panel discussion about community theatre. I agreed (of course) to do it. I mean, how often is one asked to moderate a session in New York?

I was interested in adding some “star power” to the panel in order to attract people, and I was fortunate to get my wish. Christine Pedi from SiriusXM Radio agreed to join me and a couple of people I knew in New York (actor Anthony Logan Cole and stage manager Natalie Chernicoff). The discussion proved valuable to all who attended and I learned how valuable a thing OCTA is – there are NOT that many state theatre associations out there.

My goal for the discussion was to get a dialogue started that would continue past BroadwayCon. I started a Facebook chat group called ConArtists (see what I did there?). Its purpose is for theatre folks from all over the country to enjoy what we in Ohio have – dialogue with other theatre people. It's an open chat room, so feel free to join – it's the one with the Phantom and Christine as the wallpaper.

I will of course be at OCTA state conference, and I will have my purple BroadwayCon lanyard and ID on. Please feel free to stop me and chat about the event!

## **Hudson Players to Feature Truck from Original Broadway Show in *Hands on a Hardbody* Production from Gary Maher**

A few years ago the Hudson Players became aware of a show called *Hands On A Hardbody*, fell in love with the great music by Amanda Green and Trey Anastasio of Phish, and the genuine stories of people, their struggles, and their dreams of how winning a truck in a contest could change their life. There was one problem however, to do the show you needed a truck: an actual truck on stage that would be able to be turned by the actors; was safe for indoor stage use (no gas tank, etc.); and was somewhat accessible. After not producing the show for a year or two because of these limitations, the board tackled the issue and set about finding a truck.

A few were located, some as far away as California. This of course presented a problem of accessibility. How is a truck from California going to get on a stage in Northeast Ohio? Research continued to be done, and finally a small note online in a chat area indicated an available truck in New Jersey. While at this point a couple other options for trucks had been located that may have worked, something about this option seemed to make sense, and this was the truck that was secured. Interestingly, during one of the calls where some truck capabilities and logistics were being discussed, a great fact emerged...this was the truck from the Broadway production; the actual centerpiece of the Broadway show! The Broadway truck was now going to be part of the 2018-19 season for The Hudson Players.

Of course the hard part was still ahead: getting the truck. To address, this four members of the Hudson Players, Tim Steiner, Dan Gerbracht, Will Crosby, and Gary Maher set out on a trek to New Jersey on January 12. The ride took approximately 7.5 hours and was followed by a night of rest at a local hotel. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> they arrived at the warehouse to pick up the truck at 8 a.m. Of course the weather, which had been nice, decided to threaten snow. This meant the truck would need to be loaded, secured, and covered. This whole process took about 2.5 hours and was documented by a number of photographs. The truck was wrapped in plastic, covered, wrapped again, tarped, and wrapped again. The 7.5 hour journey there took approximately 9 hours on the return trip due to multiple stops to check on the truck, adjust the packaging, etc. Around 7:30 p.m., the group was met at the theater by a number of volunteers who helped unload (went much quicker), move the truck into the theater, and finally onto the stage. Amazingly it fit through the doorway with very little room to spare (theater doors had to be removed), but it made it.

Recently, as prep for the show for its audiences, the Hudson Players held a licensed screening of the multi-award winning *Hands On A Hardbody, The Documentary* so that audiences and actors could see the background on the contest the show was based on. This was well received and was an interesting precursor to the actual event.

Performance dates for the Hudson Players production of *Hands On A Hardbody* are February 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22 & 23 at 8 pm (the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are 2 pm matinees). Tickets for the musical are available at [www.HudsonPlayers.com](http://www.HudsonPlayers.com) or by calling 330-655-8522.

Of course, any of you who saw the excerpt from this show last fall at the OCTA state conference – now is your chance to see the show in its entirety! Hudson Players perform at the Barlow Community Center, 41 South Oviatt Street in Hudson.

The musical unfolds as the audience meets ten down-on-their-luck Texans who enter a contest at a car dealership to see who can keep their hands on a Nissan truck “hardbody” the longest. The last man, or woman, standing while touching the truck gets to keep it. The players include boastful former winner Benny (Josh Larkin); Jesus-loving Norma (Jessica DeFrange); injured and out-of-work J.D. (Mark H. Durbin), and his devoted wife Virginia (Sharon Lloyd); hopeful dreamers Kelli and Greg (Korinne Carroll Courtwright and Kyle Burnett); sexy schemer Heather (Brooke Lytton); tough and funny Janis (Shelly Palumbo), and her biggest supporter husband Don (Elliott Ingersoll); hard-working Tex Mex Jesus (Santino Palma); troubled Marine Chris (Noah Meaux); boastful ladies’ man Ronald (Adam Clifford Harris); sketchy dealership manager Mike (Sean Donovan); ex-beauty queen PR person Cindy (Jennifer Ranaudo Kubinski); and radio announcer Frank (Jacob Schafer.)

*Hands on a Hardbody* is directed by Will C. Crosby, with musical direction by Bridget Jankowski and choreography by Mo Martin.

If you are considering *Hands on a Hardbody* for your next season, don’t miss this great opportunity to see it performed up close and personal. And we’ll even let you touch the truck after the show...but you gotta wear gloves before you put the “hands on!”

# Callboard

Callboard items should be sent to the Cuelines Editor.

The April issue will have the Callboard items for April, May, and June.

## **Central Region**

02/01-02/10	<i>Love Letters</i>	Out of the Box Community Theatre	614-992-2930
02/01-03/02	<i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>	MTVarts	740-358-0168
02/08-02/23	<i>Love/Sick</i>	Mansfield Playhouse	419-522-8140
02/08-02/24	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the NightTime</i>	Curtain Players	614-360-1000
02/15-02/23	<i>Deathtrap</i>	The Lancaster Playhouse	740-974-6648
02/15-02/24	<i>Saving Grace</i>	Galion Community Theatre	419-468-2662
03/01-03/09	<i>The Little Prince</i>	Portsmouth Little Theatre	740-353-7034
03/01-03/10	<i>The Real Inspector Hound</i>	Bucyrus Little Theatre	419-562-0731
03/08-03/17	<i>Hello! My Baby</i>	Licking County Players	740-349-2287
03/08-03/17	<i>On Golden Pond</i>	Mansfield Playhouse	419-522-8140
03/08-03/17	<i>All the King's Men</i>	Roundtown Players	740-474-5856
03/08-03/24	<i>Cabaret</i>	Little Theatre Off Broadway	614-875-3919
03/22-04/07	<i>Doubt</i>	Curtain Players	614-360-1000
04/26-05/05	<i>The Curious Savage</i>	Licking County Players	740-349-2287
04/26-05/05	<i>Making God Laugh</i>	Mansfield Playhouse	419-522-8140
04/26-05/12	<i>It's Only a Play</i>	Little Theatre Off Broadway	614-875-3919

## **NorthEast Region**

01/25-02/03	<i>Stage Fright</i>	Coach House	330-434-7741
02/01-02/16	<i>God of Carnage</i>	Twin Masks Performing Arts Center	330-888-3211
02/01-02/22	<i>Hands on a Hardbody</i>	Hudson Players	330-655-8522
02/08-02/24	<i>The High Road</i>	Dover Players	440-782-0095
02/14-02/16	<i>Dead and Deader</i>	Wolf Creek Players	330-825-3814
02/15-03/09	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Olde Towne Hall Theatre	440-327-2909
03/01-03/10	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Carnation City Players	330-821-8712
03/08-03/23	<i>Dead Certain</i>	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	440-247-8955
03/08-03/24	<i>Brighton Beach Memoirs</i>	Medina County Show Biz Company	330-722-5776
03/08-03/24	<i>Chapter Two</i>	Trumbull New Theatre	330-652-1103
03/22-04/14	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	440-247-8955
04/11-04/13	<i>Kalamazoo</i>	Wolf Creek Players	330-825-3814
04/11-04/14	<i>The Adventures of Dr Doolittle</i>	Medina County Show Biz Co.	330-722-5776
04/19-05/04	<i>Emma</i>	Western Reserve Playhouse	330-620-7314
04/26-05/11	<i>Middletown</i>	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	440-247-8955
04/26-05/11	<i>Beehive</i>	Olde Towne Hall Theatre	440-327-2909
04/26-05/18	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>	Hudson Players	330-655-8522

## **Northwest Region**

02/01-02/09	<i>Side by Side by Sondheim</i>	Harlequins, Inc.	419-621-1311
02/07-02/17	<i>Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will</i>	Fort Findlay Playhouse	567-525-3636
02/14-02/17	<i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i>	3B Productions	419-865-5533
02/15-02/23	<i>Escanaba in Da Moonlight</i>	Oregon Community Theatre	419-691-1398
02/15-02/24	<i>The Music Man</i>	Black Swamp Players	
02/15-02/24	<i>Twelve Angry Jurors</i>	Ritz Players	419-448-8544
02/22-03/03	<i>Ripcord</i>	Playmakers Civic Theatre	419-734-5044
03/01-03/10	<i>Kitchen Witches</i>	Genoa Civic Theatre	419-855-3103
03/01-03/10	<i>Sex Please, We're Sixty</i>	Williams County Comm Theatre	419-636-6400
03/29-04/07	<i>Sabrina Fair</i>	Archbold Comm Theatre	419-264-5717
04/05-04/14	<i>A Flea in Her Ear</i>	Toledo Rep	419-243-9277
04/05-04/14	<i>Lie, Cheat, and Genuflect</i>	Wapakoneta Theatre Guild	419-738-2248
04/12-04/14	<i>9 to 5</i>	Waterville Playshop	419-270-1204
04/25-04/28	<i>Hello Dolly!</i>	Fort Defiance Players	419-782-7529



## **Northwest cont'd**

04/26-05/04	<i>The Bardy Bunch</i>	Oregon Comm Theatre	419-691-1398
04/26-05/04	<i>Exit Laughing</i>	Harlequins, Inc.	419-621-1311
04/26-05/04	<i>Peanuts and Crackerjacks</i>	Black Swamp Players	

## **Southeast Region**

02/01-02/10	<i>The Little Foxes</i>	Zanesville Community Theatre	740-455-6487
02/08-02/24	<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County	330-343-4012
02/08-02/17	<i>Same Time, Next Year</i>	Mid Ohio Valley Players	740-374-9434
03/01-03/16	<i>Beer for Breakfast</i>	Coshocton Footlight Players	740-622-2959
03/01-03/16	<i>The Game's Afoot</i>	Actors Guild of Parkersburg	304-485-1300
03/07-03/10	<i>Having Hope at Home</i>	Striplight Community Theatre	304-919-2979
03/15-03/24	<i>Precious Heart</i>	Mid-Ohio Valley Players	740-374-9434
03/15-03/24	<i>Shrek the Musical</i>	Zane Trace Players	740-453-8481
03/ -04/	<i>Where There's a Will, There's a Way</i>	Riverby Theatre Guild	740-446-3834
04/05-04/14	<i>O'Donnell's Pub</i>	Zanesville Community Theatre	740-455-6487
04/19-05/11	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	Actors Build of Parkersburg	304-485-1300
04/26-05/05	<i>Nunsense</i>	Zane Trace Players	740-453-8481
04/26-05/05	<i>Clue</i>	Cambridge Performing Arts Center	740-432-7958

## **Southwest Region**

02/14-02/17	<i>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	Greater Hamilton	513-737-7529
02/14-03/02	<i>First Date</i>	Footlighters, Inc.	859-652-3849
02/15-02/23	<i>Father of the Bride</i>	Beechmont Players	513-233-2468
02/15-02/23	<i>Women Playing Hamlet</i>	Village Players	859-392-0500
02/15-02/24	<i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>	Fairfield Footlighters	513-867-5348
02/22-03/10	<i>Love, Loss, and What I Wore</i>	Drama Workshop	513-598-8303
03/01-03/16	<i>A Night of Short Plays</i>	Sunset Players	513-588-4988
03/01-03/17	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	Loveland Stage Co.	513-443-4572
03/08-03/24	<i>Outside Mullingar</i>	Mariemont Players	513-684-1236
03/15-03/17	<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>	Acting Up	513-494-6062
03/15-03/24	<i>Vanya &amp; Sonia &amp; Masha &amp; Spike</i>	CenterStage Players	513-588-4910
03/29-04/06	<i>Over the River &amp; Through the Woods</i>	Tri-County Players	513-471-2030
04/26-05/04	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Village Players	859-392-0500
04/26-05/05	<i>Hot L Baltimore</i>	CenterStage Players	513-588-4910
04/26-05/05	<i>Sorry, Wrong Number</i>	Loveland Stage Co.	513-443-4572

## **West Region**

01/18-02-03	<i>Ain't Misbehaven</i>	Dayton Playhouse	937-424-8477
01/25-02/03	<i>A Little Piece of Heaven</i>	Beavercreek CT	937-429-4737
02/08-02/17	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	XACT	937-372-0516
02/21-03/03	<i>Inlaws, Outlaws &amp; Other People</i>	Brookville Community Theatre	937-883-6790
03/01-03/10	<i>12 Angry Jurors</i>	Windmill Productions	937-592-9002
03/01-03/10	<i>The Sunshine Boys</i>	Troy Civic Theatre	937-339-7700
03/01-03/17	<i>Our Mother's Brief Affair</i>	Dayton Theatre Guild	937-278-5993
03/08-03/17	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Dayton Playhouse	937-424-8477
03/16-03/17	<i>Fairy Tale Misfits</i>	Sock & Buskin Players	
04/05-04/15	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	XACT	937-372-0516
04/19-05/05	<i>Nice Girl</i>	Dayton Theatre Guild	937-278-5993
04/25-05/05	<i>Rumors</i>	Brookville CT	937-883-6790
04/27-05/05	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Actor's Theatre of Fairborn	

***If your theater listing is incorrect or does not appear here...please be sure to send your season information to your Regional Rep for accurate information in the next issue.***

***Cuelines is published online five times per year as the official newsletter of the Ohio Community Theatre Association. Material for publication should be submitted by the third Monday of January, March, May, and October, and by December 10, and will be printed as space permits. Send Callboard listings to both the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Submissions without names will not be published.***