

aact News

Improving Communities
One Theatre at a Time

American Association of Community Theatre

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COUNTY SEAT THEATER COMPANY TO PRODUCE AWARD-WINNING WORLD PREMIERE

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is pleased to announce County Seat Theater Company of Cloquet, Minnesota has been selected to participate in AACT NewPlayFest 2018 as a Producing Theatre.

Keeping in line with the AACT mission of providing support and resources to community theatres, the AACT NewPlayFest addresses the critical need for new, high-quality plays for community theatre audiences around the globe.

Many theatres have new play contests, but few produce the winning scripts beyond staged readings. Playwrights are always striving to get their work produced, because a script is not likely to be published unless it is produced and creates a buzz; and it is not likely to reach future audiences if it is not published.

With AACT NewPlayFest the winning playwrights see their play published in an anthology by Dramatic Publishing Company and their play receives a full production by an established theatre. County Seat Theater Company is one of only six theatres in the nation to receive this honor. As a producing theatre, County Seat Theater Company will choose the play to produce from the final selected scripts. Playwrights will submit original works this fall, and selected reviewers will choose the finalists.

County Seat Theater Company has been producing top-notch theatre in Carlton County since 1987. In 2008 the nonprofit organization moved into its current facility, the Encore Performing Arts Center and Gallery. The Arts Center includes a space for local artists to showcase their work and provides the community with a full season of plays, concerts, and events. The theatre produces four to five adult productions throughout each year. It also produces children's



theatre four weeks during the summer, allowing over 160 youth to participate. There is an additional week dedicated to teen theatre, allowing another 30 teenagers to perform.

Many theatres across the country applied to be a producing theatre. “It is a high honor to have been selected,” states AACT Executive Director, Julie Crawford. Producing theatres receive the recognition that comes with premiering a national award-winning play, national publicity, the experience of working directly with the playwright, the honor of introducing an award-winning playwright to their community, and will have a direct impact on the future of the play. The winning plays will receive a full production by the producing theatre between June 2017 and December 2018. In addition to County Seat Theater Company, the selected Producing Theatres for AACT NewPlayFest 2018 are Cottage Theatre in Cottage Grove, Oregon; Elkhart Civic Theatre in Bristol, Indiana; Lincoln Community Playhouse in Lincoln, Nebraska; Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyoming; and The Vortex Theatre in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

AACT NewPlayFest has proved to be a great success with six original plays being produced as world premieres across the country in 2014, and seven original plays currently being produced as part of AACT NewPlayFest 2016. Visit aact.org/newplayfest to see information on those winning plays and their productions. The winning plays are available to be produced through Dramatic Publishing Company following the AACT NewPlayFest world premiere production. Visit dramaticpublishing.com for information on producing these new works.

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. Armed Services overseas.

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