



NUTS

 BY TOM TOPOR

October 2 & 3, 2026

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A Note from the Director...

Nuts is a 1979 play by Tom Topor. It is a courtroom drama suspense and psychological thriller that exposes issues of sexual abuse, family and social power dynamics, and aspects of the criminal court system.



Fifteen years ago, on a trip to Florida with a friend, he insisted we see a small community theater production of *Nuts*. I instantly knew I wanted to present it in Traverse City. I had it staged and cast in my head. The Old Town Playhouse Artistic Committee said “no”. The reader's theater mentor passed over it. Yet it nagged at me. As the years passed, my original cast passed away or moved away. This year, I again presented *Nuts* to the Aged to Perfection Readers Theater Steering Committee. They said “yes”! I had to totally let go of the old cast in my head and recast and re-stage the entire show.

At our first rehearsal, I asked my cast to write a backstory for their character. It was amazing. We have a character with guilty feelings because his parents survived the holocaust, one whose father was in and out of mental hospitals, one whose character has 10 children. Their backstories are affecting how they present their character!

Nuts is being produced as a staged reading with minimal set and costumes and using scripts. When you enter the seating area, decide if you want to sit with the prosecution or with the defense. Do you want to change sides during intermission? At the bottom of your program is a space to vote. Is she sane or is she nuts?

– Margaret Anne Slawson, Director



Cast

Aaron Levinsky Steve Lett
Franklin McMillan Larry Hebert
The Recorder Marley Navin
Rose Kirk Kenzie King
Arthur Kirk Larry Hains
Dr. Herbert Rosenthal Colin Bohash
Judge Murdoch Fred Szczepanski
Claudia Faith Draper Cathy Louis
Officer Harry Haggerty John Hinnners

Production Team

Margaret Anne Slawson Director
Laurie Hinnners Stage Manager
Don Kuehlhorn Lighting Design
Ken Louis Board Operator
Betsy Dillon Stand-in Reader

Special Thanks

Central United Methodist Church
Jena Van Wagner
Tanner Presswood
Wes Curry

Next Fall

by Geoffrey Nauffts



A witty and provocative look at faith,
commitment and unconditional love.



November 6 - 14



AGED TO PERFECTION

A lively, social community of theater-loving adults 55+, Aged to Perfection (ATP) brings together longtime members and newcomers alike. Twice a month—on the second and fourth Saturday at 10AM—the group gathers to read scripts, explore new skills, and enjoy the creative spark that comes from shared story-telling. Readers Theater performances are produced periodically, giving those who love to be onstage plenty of opportunities to shine. For anyone not ready to perform, there are countless meaningful ways to contribute: ushering, stage management, lights, sound, and other behind-the-scenes roles that keep a show running smoothly. At the heart of it all is a supportive environment where people can learn, grow, connect, and have fun.



The cast of *Nuts*: (Front) Marley Navin, Margaret Anne Slawson, Cathy Louis, Laurie Hinnners, (Back) Ken Louis, Colin Bohash, Larry Hebert, Fred Szczepanski, Kenzie King, Larry Hains, Steve Lett, and John Hinnners.

HONKY TONK LAUNDRY

Written by Roger Bean

Music Arrangements by Jon Newton

Performing at the Milliken Auditorium
OCTOBER 9-11, 2026

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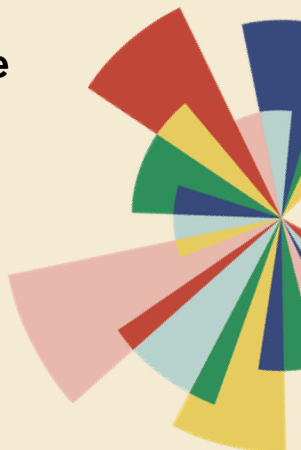
OTP Executive Director



2026-2027

Artistic Committee

Aria Davis (26-29)
Colleen Hill-Rakunas (26-29)
Cathy Louis (25-28)
Danielle Pelshaw (25-28)
Eric Ranke (24-27)
Ed Ronco (24-27)
Cameron Stefanski (26-29)
Fred Szczepanski (26-27)
Katelyn Wilson (25-28)
Wes Curry (Artistic Director)



Technical Chairs

Peg Brace - House Management
Kathy Verstraete - Costumes
Bill Fishburn - Lights
Sam Clark - Music
Bernadette Groppuso & Nan Worthington - Properties
Kerr Anderson & Jeff Kroeger - Sets
Karla Morner Fishburn & Nik Van Wagner - Sound
Denni Don Hunting & Eric Ranke - Stage Management

Staff

Deb Jackson, Executive Director
Wes Curry, Artistic Director
Sally Smarsty, Business Manager
Melissa May, Education Program Manager
Terésa Hirt, Young Company Assistant
Jim Muratzki, Box Office Manager
Tanner Presswood, Production Manager
Jena Van Wagner, Marketing Manager
Robbin Flask, Building Resource Manager

