

Volunteer & Board Member Randy Hansen



Randy, its good to catch you for a moment. You've been going a mile a minute since you retired. Tell me, how long have you been involved with the performing arts (theatre)? I've loved the theater since I was a teenager, but I was never really involved in any aspect of a show until 2012 or so. I guess that would be a decade, though it seems like a lot longer. So many shows.





I know what you mean. Do you remember what actually got you started with it?

I have always loved a wide variety of music and musical theater was no different but what drew me to be involved was that my oldest daughter was going to be in a CWCT production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (JATATD). I volunteered for stage crew and that's where my journey began...





So that means CWCT was your start?

Yes, I started volunteering because my daughter was in JATATD and it made me feel like I was more involved. After that first show I was hooked and pretty much a part of every show my kids were a part of. Over the time I've been involved from Stage Hand to Stage Manager to Assistant director to Director. I also joined the Board of Directors and that gave me an even different exposure to the work of CWCT.

With everything you've done, are there any volunteer highlights that you could offer ?

I can't think of any particular story off the top of my head. For me, I think my biggest highlight of volunteering is just being able to be involved with so many talented people. I've met so many adults and children that have just blown me away with their talents.

Other highlights include being able to direct/co-direct some shows (Lion King JR, Madagascar, A Musical Adventure and Honk). In fact, I'm getting ready to direct Moana JR. this fall (<u>Audition Signup</u>). I'm really excited about that and think we are going to have a great year.

I don't know how you do it all. Tell me what kind of hobbies (if any) do you have outside theatre?

Well, I've been bowling since I've been 4 years old and I love fishing. In the fall I do a little hunting. Of course, when I'm involved with a show I like making props and set pieces. Always looking for more volunteers.

On another note, since theatre is now an official "hobby" I'm excited that later this year I will get the opportunity to do some directing for Wausau Community Theatre (WCT) for their June 2023 production of "<u>Heathers, the Musical</u>".

I know CWCT is important to you. Why?

I believe Children's Theater is so important because it gives an avenue for Children to become involved in the arts. It helps children to overcome their fears and build character. It helps them to meet new friends that they will most likely know throughout their childhood and into high school. I've seen both my daughters start at CWCT without knowing anyone and they quickly made friends and then after numerous shows looked forward to theater to meet up with their friends.

Final question - what would you like people to know about CWCT?

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Theatre Joke or Meme as we close out? I love a good dad joke (or would that be a really bad one?) so here goes:

My friend had to step in as the lead in Little Shop of Horrors at the last second. He was Suddenly Seymour!

Randy, thanks a lot for taking the time. Get ready for Moana JR auditions and we'll see you soon!