

Volume III Issue 2
April, 2020

www.MontanaPlaywrights.org

The official newsletter of the
Montana Playwrights Network

Montana
Playwrights
Network



MPN News

Spring is here, and the world has changed for us all in the last weeks with the onset of the Covid-9 Pandemic. As we all adjust to the challenges of the stay-at-home mandate, social distancing, and the Phased reopening of our state, and everything else that is happening as a result, MPN is adapting to the situation. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Open House Reception for MPN's new home at the new Helena Avenue Theatre (HAT) as well as the Gala Grand Opening production of *Bards of the Big Sky* featuring new plays by Montana playwrights, and original music by Helena composer and musician, Steven Gores. We hope that circumstances allow these events to be presented in June and July of 2020. As soon as we're certain, we'll be announcing specific new dates.

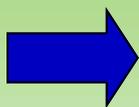
So, stay safe and healthy, everyone! Find ways to be creative, stay in touch with your family and friends, and cherish your life.

Read on for more information about the HAT and other MPN news. Have a very happy and prosperous spring!

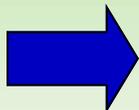


Pamela Mencher
MPN President

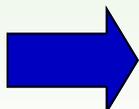
MPN Updates!



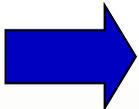
Don't forget to **submit your new play for the 2021 Montana Premiere Project!**
Deadline for submissions is in August, 2020.
Go to our website for complete guidelines. www.montanaplaywrights.org



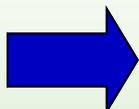
Congratulations to Elisabeth Martell
who has accepted the position of MPN Regional Board Representative for the Central Region.
Ms. Martell lives in Lewistown and works with the Judith Mountain Players there. You can read her bio on the Board of Directors page on our website.



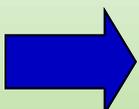
Congratulations to Andree O'Shea
who has accepted the position of MPN Regional Board Representative for the South End.
Andree lives in Butte and is the Director for the forthcoming Butte City Theatre. Her bio will appear soon on the Board of Directors page on our website.



Special thanks are offered to **Kim Shire and the Carroll College Theatre** department for allowing MPN to use their FLEX Theatre to shoot scenes for our video featuring an original song composed by Helena musician, Steven Gores with lyrics by Andrea Crossguns; written for the Helena Avenue Theatre called, "Puttin' On the HAT!" Performers from the HAT's Top Hat Players are featured in the video. The video is produced by Cow Tipping Comedy Company and will be shown as part of the HAT's Gala Grand Opening production of *Bards of the Big Sky*.



Look for our **new Facebook page featuring Helena Avenue Theatre**. A huge thank you is extended to **Ellie Youde** for being our "Page Master". The page should be up and running very soon.



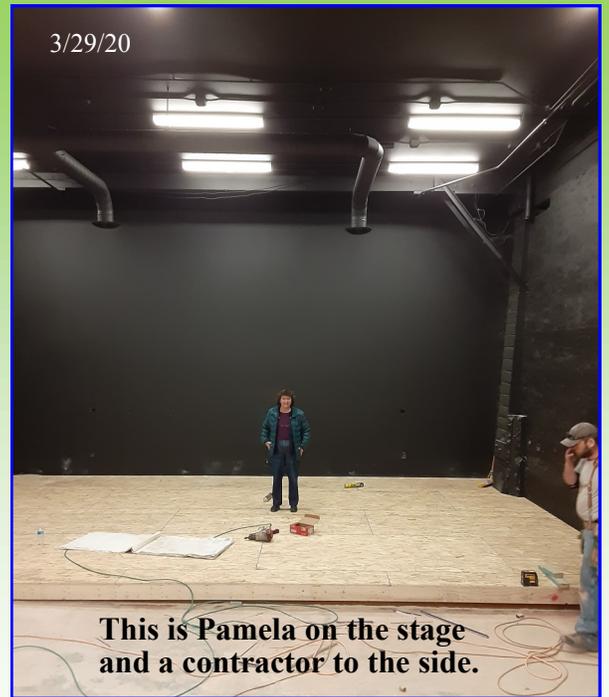
Watch for the **Last Chance New Play Festival** to be offered at the HAT in November, 2020. To submit scripts and projects for consideration, visit their website for details. The deadline is coming up, so check it out today! www.experimentaltheatrecoop.org



HAT Update!



This is looking at the control booth and the seating risers.



This is Pamela on the stage and a contractor to the side.

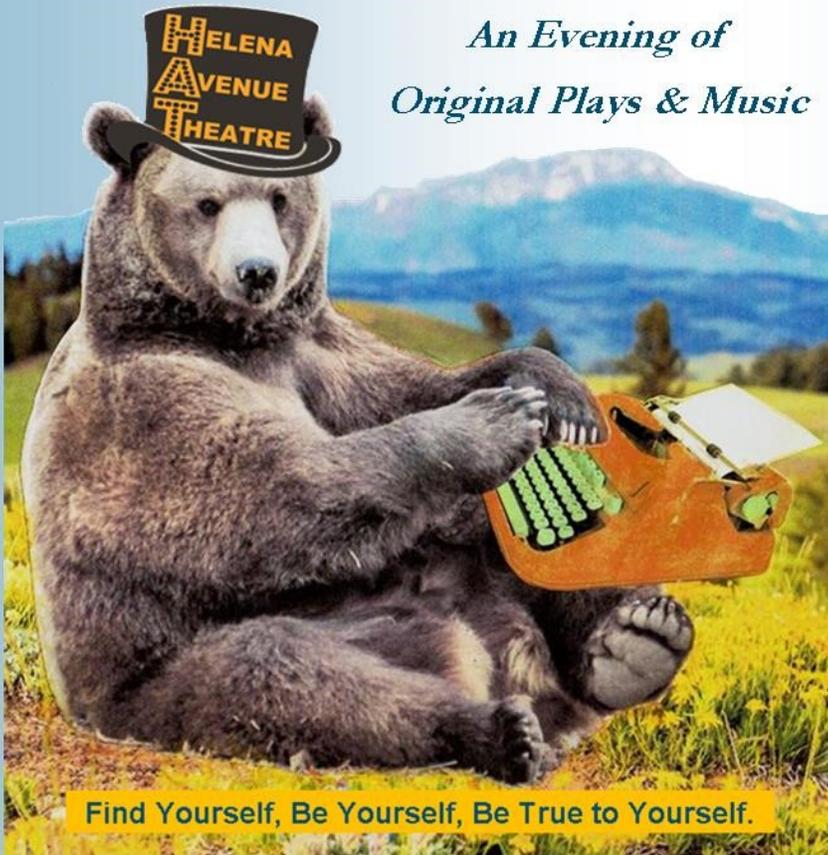
The HAT is coming along well. The painting of the entire facility is nearly done. The sidewalks and drainage out front should be done by the end of April. The interior ceilings and light fixtures should be finished soon. The seats will also be installed in this same time span. Carpeting should be installed throughout by the end of the month. Doors are nearly finished. The stage equipment will be the last to come in. It's been a long wait, but it'll be worth it! We'll be announcing our new dates for the Open House reception and the Gala Grand Opener as soon as we can be assured that all can happen as planned. Thanks to all who have helped us bring this project to life! We can hardly wait to share it with you.



Risers for 71-73 seats. The windows are in the control booth.

Montana Playwrights Network
Presents the
Gala Grand Opening
of the new
Helena Avenue Theatre!

Bards of the Big Sky



(Associated production with the MPN 2019 Montana Premiere Project)

*An Evening of
Original Plays & Music*

Original Music

Composed & Performed by
Steven Gores

Driver's Ed

A Play By
Cynthia M. Webb

Montana Fish Story

A Play By
Pamela Jamruszka Mencher

Flotsam, Jetsam, & Bill

A Play By
Jay Kettering

DATES TBA Curtain: 7:30 pm

1319 Helena Avenue

Admission: \$18

For reservations call or text: 406-235-0353

Purchase tickets in advance on our website: www.montanaplaywrights.org