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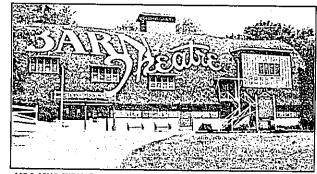
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## Summer made sweeter by straw hat theatre

Augusta, Michigan—Nestled in the foothills just west of the village of Augusta, is one of the best known summer stock theatres in the country, the historic Barn Theatre of Augusta, Michigan.

Every season for the past 47 years, producer Jack Ragotzy has assembled a professional Equity acting company that presents a summer of plays and musicals from early June through Labor Day. The theatre is comfortable, colorful (it was originally built as a dairy barn) and the level of production is considered by many to be the best in the area. There's even a cocktail lounge, "The Rehearsal Shed", that offers after—the—show entertainment.

This season, the Barn's 48th, opens with two stars heading the resident Equity cast in the romantic western comedy, "The Rainmaker." Tom Wopat, who was Luke Duke on TV's action series "The Dukes of Hazzard" and more recently has starred on Broadway, plays Starbuck, the rainmaker. Tom shares the stage with Kim Zimmer, winner of three Emmy Awards for her work on "The Guiding Light." "The Rainmaker"



MOO-VING THEATRE EXPERIENCE— Originally the home of a dairy herd, the Barn Theatre of Augusta presents productions considered the best in the area.

runs June 15-27.

Wopat also stars in the company's first musical of the season, "City of Angels." A Tony Award-winning hit from the 1990 Broadway season, "City of Angels" is set in Hollywood in the 1940s. Wopat plays a tough Sam Spade-like detective named Stone, the same role he played on Broadway a season ago. "City of Angels" plays June 29-July 11.

The season continues with "A Few Good Men," July 13-25; "Nunsense II," featuring Edwina Lewis as Sister Mary Hubert, July 27-Aug. 8; "Fiddler on the Roof" or "Grand Hotel," Aug. 10-22; "Li'l Abner" or "Don't Dress for Dinner," Aug. 24-Sept. 5; and closing the season, Neil Simon's latest comedy "Jake's Women," Sept. 7-12.

Performances at the Barn are 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6 and 9 p.m. on Saturday, and at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Ticket prices are \$17.50 Tuesday through Thursday, and \$20 Friday through Sunday. The theatre also offers group rates for parties of 20 or more, as well as special discount coupon books. The theatre box office, 616–731–4121, is open daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Theatre enthusiasts may want to include seeing a summer stock production in their vacation travel plans this year. Michigan is home to a number of professional theatres; among the best:

Adrian, Michigan Crosswell Opera House June 17-20, 23-27: Me and My Girl July 8-11, 14-18: Gypsy July 29-Aug. 1, Aug. 4-8: Big River Located at 129 E. Maumee St.,

Located at 129 H. Maumee St., Adrian. Call 517-264-SHOW. Alpena, Michigan Thunder Bay Theatre June 30-July 24: Oklahoma July 28-Aug. 14: Sweet Charity Aug. 18-Sept. 5: Nunsense II Located at 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Call 517-354-2267.
Augusta, Michigan
Barn Theatre
June 15-27: The Rainmaker
June 29-July 11: City of Angels
July 13-15: A Few Good Men
July 27-Aug. 8: Nunsense II
Aug. 10-22: Fiddler on the Roof, or
Grand Hotel
Aug. 24-Sept. 5: Don't Dress for
Dinner, or Li'l Abner
Sept. 7-12: Jake's Women
Located on M-96 highway, I 1/2

miles southwest of Augusta. Call 616-731-4121. Coldwater, Michigan Tibbits Summer Theatre June 30-July 10: Fiddler on the Roof July 14-24: Blithe Spirit July 28-Aug. 7: I do! I do! Aug. 11-21: The Cemetary Club

July 28-Aug. 7: Idol I dol Aug. 11-21: The Cemetary Club Located at Tibbits Opera House, 4 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Call 517-278-6029.

Manistee, Michigan Ramsdell Theatre

June 11-12, 18-19, 25-26: Tintypes Aug. 20-21, 27-28, Sept. 3-4: A Day at the Ramsdell, A Night on Broadway Located at the Ramsdell Theatre,

101 S. Maple St., Manistee. Call 616-723-9948.

Marshall, Michigan Cornwell's Dinner Theatre April 28-July 3: Fascinating Rhythm July 7-Aug. 28: Last of the Red Hot Lovers

Sept. 1-Oct. 30: Ain't Misbehavin'
Located at Cornwell's Turkeyville
U.S.A., 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd.,
Marshall. Call 616-781-4315.
Traverse City, Michigan
Michigan Ensemble Theatre
June 14-July 10: Ain't Misbehavin'
July 14-31: Lend Me a Tenor
Aug. 4-Sept. 4: Pump Boys and
Dinettes

Sept. 15-Oct 17: Nunsense
Located at 1701 E. Front St.,
Traverse City. Call 616-922-1552.



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**GREAT LAKES GETAWAY** 

JULY 199