



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2010

Center Stage Theatre presents:

What: *Escanaba in Love*
Up North Getaway Raffle
"Ask Big Betty!"

When: **September 17, 18, 24, 25, 30 & October 1, 2 • 8 pm**
September 26 • 3 pm

Where: **Little Theatre, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd.,
Midland, MI 48640**

Cost: **\$18 Adults | \$14 Students**

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

Find this on our website: <http://www.mcfta.org/OnstageGroups.html#escanaba>

MIDLAND – Center Stage Theatre (formerly Theatre Guild and Music Society) at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI, presents *Escanaba in Love*, the prequel to the stage hit *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. Performances are September 17, 18, 24, 25, 30 & October 1, 2 at 8 pm; September 26 at 3 pm. Tickets cost \$18 for adults; \$14 for students. Tickets are available at mcfta.org or by calling (800) 523-7649.

Written by Jeff Daniels and outfitted with a cast of wacky Yoopers, *Escanaba in Love* is sure to tickle your funny bone and pull at your heartstrings. Return to the Soady deer camp, 40 years ago, during World War II. Eighteen-year-old Albert Soady Jr. is celebrating his final hunting season before he becomes a U.S. Army sharpshooter. Before long, he falls head-over-heels for the legendary Big Betty Balou – the woman destined to become Rueben and Remnar's mother. The question is: does she have what it takes to become part of Escanaba's "royal" family?

Jan Huff (*Duck Hunter Shoots Angel*) directs a "reunion" of cast members from *Escanaba in da Moonlight*: Jim Ely, Shawn Finney, Bill McCartney, John McPeak, and Cathie Stewart, all of **Midland**.

Center Stage Theatre's 2010-2011 season is sponsored by Independent Bank, Mead Dental Associates, ParkShore Resort and Shirlene's Cuisine.

UP NORTH GETAWAY RAFFLE

No need to travel to all the way to Escanaba to find romance! Support Center Stage Theatre when you buy raffle tickets to win an "Up North Getaway" at the ParkShore Resort in beautiful Traverse City, Michigan! \$250-value prize package includes two-night accommodations for two, and much more! **Raffle tickets are \$5** and available at mcfta.org, through the Ticket Office, and in the Little Theatre lobby during each performance of *Escanaba in Love*. Winning ticket will be drawn on October 4; need not be present to win. Proceeds benefit Center Stage Theatre. Sponsored by ParkShore Resort.

“ASK BIG BETTY!”

For a limited time, Big Betty Balou, star of *Escanaba in Love*, will be dishing out relationship advice on the Midland Center for the Arts page on Facebook.com. Discover where Yooper ladies turn for style inspiration, get answers to U.P. etiquette dilemmas and more! You can even submit your own questions – Big Betty is here to help!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-MI/Midland-Center-for-the-Arts/99036986256?ref=ts>

Center Stage Theatre (formerly Theatre Guild and Music Society) is one of the most successful and exciting community theatre companies in the Midwest. Center Stage Theatre continues to present high quality plays, musical theatre, children’s theatre, and programs of community service, theatre classes and workshops in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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