

**THE CIVIC**  
*Senior Class*  
READER'S THEATRE  
BIGGER. **BOLDER.**

# AUDITIONS



# The Good Doctor

By Anton Chekhov and Neil Simon

## April 20 – April 29

THE CARVER CENTER STUDIO • COMEDY  
SENIOR CLASS READER'S THEATRE

Take one part 19th century Russian playwright, add in one part 20th century American playwright and you have a full-length play that exposes the ridiculous, tender, outlandish, ludicrous, innocent and weird frailties of human beings! *The Good Doctor* is a series of short plays, based on short stories and other works of Chekhov, framed by a writer making comments on them to the audience. The stories are droll, the portraits of the characters are affectionate, the humor infectious, and the fun unending!

To register or for more information visit  
**KazooCivic.com**  
or email **Volunteer@KazooCivic.com**  
or call the Director of Volunteers at  
**269-343-2280 x1013**

**ADVANCE  
REGISTRATION  
IS REQUIRED**

### AUDITION DATES

Sunday, March 11th at 7:00pm  
Monday, March 12th at 7:00pm

### LOCATION

Carver Center – Carver Studio  
426 S Park St

*(Those auditioning are encouraged to arrive thirty minutes prior to audition time.)*

### CASTING

Seeking a highly diverse cast of 10 - 12 men and women ages 50 and up

### REQUIREMENTS

Those auditioning will be asked to read from the script.

### CREW

Production Crew positions are available for Light Board Operator, Sound Board Operator, and Floor Crew.

### DIRECTOR/ CHOREOGRAPHER

Michael Ray Helms

### REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday 5:30pm – 7:00pm  
March 19th – April 19th, 2018

### PERFORMANCES

Friday, April 20th at 2:00pm  
Saturday, April 21st at 7:30pm  
Sunday, April 22nd at 2:00pm  
Friday, April 27th at 7:30pm  
Saturday, April 28th at 7:30pm  
Sunday, April 29th at 2:00pm

### AUDITION PREP

**FREE** Inside the Civic Audition Workshops  
Saturday, February 24th, 2018  
ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

### GENERAL INFORMATION

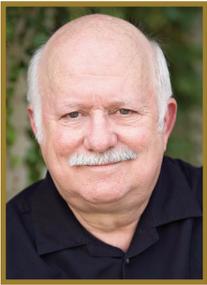
Our Senior Class Reader's Theatre program was established eleven years ago as a way of providing more performance opportunities for our veteran actors. Needless to say, this reader's theatre program has proven to be very popular with volunteers and patrons alike. It is designed to meet the needs of actors 50 and older. All productions are "reader's theatre" in nature, lines and lyrics are learned but not memorized.

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## MEET THE DIRECTOR

**MICHAEL RAY HELMS**  
Director of  
*The Good Doctor*

### BIOGRAPHY



**MICHAEL RAY HELMS**  
Director

A 1975 graduate from Central Michigan University in Theatre and Library Science, Michael took the first job he found as Elementary Librarian with Bloomingdale Public Schools. During his first year, he auditioned and was hired by Millbrook Playhouse (<http://www.millbrookplayhouse.com/>) in Mill Hall, Pennsylvania to do summer stock theatre.

He returned to his “paying job” until December of 1978 when he auditioned for *The Royal Family* at the Civic. He fell in love with the Civic

and its volunteer friendly atmosphere, managed by a man who came to be one of his best friends, and a phenomenal actor and director – Jim Carver.

Over the past 30 years, he’s acted, worked backstage, and stage-managed for many Civic shows. You know you’ve been at one venue for a long time when you end up repeating a show (*My Fair Lady*).

One of the highlights of his time with the Civic came in 1972, when he played Dr. Zubritsky in Neil Simon’s *Fools*. The comedy was the perfect choice to be entered into the Festival of American Community Theatre competition.

*Fools* won the state competition in Dearborn, MI, the regional competition in Racine, WI, and went to the national competition in Haines, Alaska. Michael and fellow actor, Jim Dracy, drove a rental box truck with set, props and costumes for 5 straight days and met the rest of the company in Haines. The Civic finished 2nd in the competition and was invited to Manchester, England to perform at an international theatre festival.

Over the years Michael has acted with many different theatres, including The Civic, Farmers Alley, The Barn Theatre in Augusta, Lakeshore Community Players, Kalamazoo College Repertory Theatre and the

Whole Art Theatre. In 2003, the Civic mounted Jeff Daniels’ *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* where Michael played Albert Soady, Jr. He has played this role three summers at The Barn, and also at Farmers Alley Theatre, for a total of 67 performances – to date.

Over the years he has had the opportunity to do other shows more than once. “I have played both fathers – Hucklebee and Bellamy – a total of five time in *The Fantasticks*. I also have done *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* several times playing Marcus Lycus (CMU), Senex (Montcalm Community Players and Millbrook Playhouse) and Pseudolus (Lakeshore Community Players). I played Jamie and Alfred P. Doolittle (Eliza’s dad) in *My Fair Lady* both at the Kalamazoo Civic. He has done *Comedy of Errors* twice, the latest Flying Karamazov Brothers version was at The Civic where everyone in the cast learned to juggle for the performance.”

“I lean toward comedy and musical comedy, but I’ve done my share of serious work as well at the various theatres mentioned. I enjoy an occasional Shakespeare and like the challenge of not always relying on laughter as my reward from an audience.”

“I have always enjoyed playing characters and doing impressions since I was a kid. Since 2002, I have been involved with All Ears Radio Theatre sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.”

In the fall of 1979, he met his future wife Susan Bensinger, a retired school social worker, at a conference for the Michigan Education Association. They were married on September 13, 1980 and continue to live in the house Sue has owned since 1968. Together they have four grandchildren.

After leaving his elementary library position in 1982, he found a position as a teacher working with migrant and bilingual students for the Van Buren Intermediate School District. He spent the next 33 years working with migrant students.

“I have served on several boards and committees at the local state and national level during the past 34 years. I have learned from every experience.”