



Voices Theater

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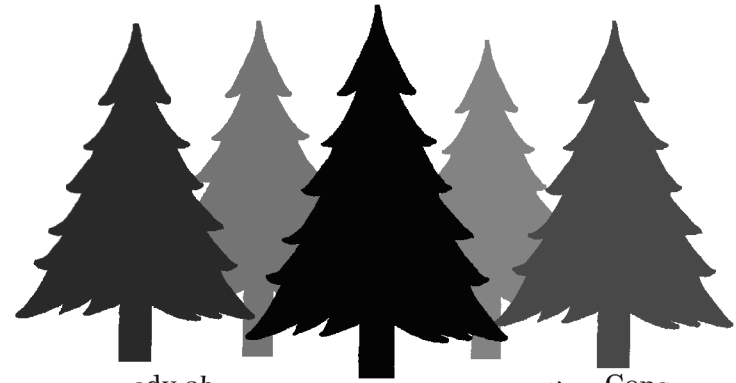
a non-profit, grassroots community-based theatre of human relations, which writes and produces original dramas on issues of social concern.

Milwaukee Public Theatre

626 E. Kilbourn Ave, Suite 802, Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-347-1685 www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org

a professional non-profit touring company that increases awareness of current social issues, promotes cultural diversity, and provides healing arts resources.

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A musical comedy about life in Wisconsin's Civilian Conservation Corps

Camp We-Kan-Tak-It

Making Wisconsin Home Statewide Tour

- September 18, Stevens Point
- September 24, Eagle River
- September 25, Spirit
- September 26, Athens
- October 3, Ashland
- October 7, Mazomanie
- October 8, Madison
- October 11, Medford
- October 15, Hales Corners
(school group shows)
- October 16, Hales Corners

Discover the hidden legacy of the CCC in your family history!



Partially funded through grants from the Wisconsin Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Triskeles Foundation, the Plum Creek Foundation, the Wisconsin Arts Board with funding from the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the United Performing Arts Fund.





“We Can Take It” was the national slogan for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of the well-known “alphabet soup” of public works programs created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. From 1933 to 1942, the CCC gave jobs to three million unemployed young men, brought relief to their families, and helped conserve America’s natural resources.

That historic era and “can-do” attitude are brought to life by Voices Theater and Milwaukee Public Theatre in the original musical comedy production, ***Camp We-Kan-Tak-It.***

Based on Wisconsin CCC camp newspapers, the show incorporates original pictures and drawings, songs, and stories from the 1930’s, bringing to life the reality many young men faced during the Depression and emphasizing the positive environmental effects of the project. Audiences may also discover a hidden legacy of family members who served in the CCC but never shared their stories.

Humanists and historians for post-show discussions

Mary Schueller, all shows
Eric Olson, Stevens Point
Trisha Moore, Eagle River
Dawn Meier and Steve Oberle, Spirit
Kat Becker, Athens
Kurt Nelson, Ashland
John Bonine, Mazomanie
Steve Oberle, Bill Dallas and Mark Berglund, Medford
Michael Gordon, Hales Corners, 2 pm Oct. 16
John Gurda, Hales Corners, 7 pm October 16

Others not confirmed at press time.

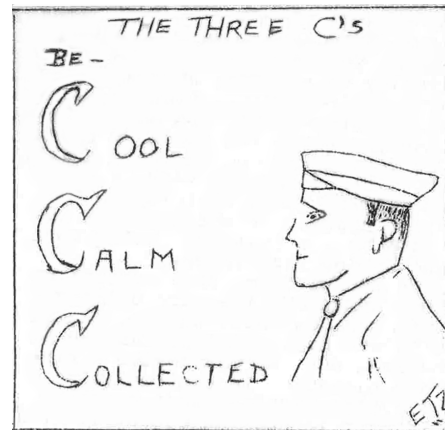
Thank You

Army & Navy Store, Ashland; Tony Schultz; Kori Keene; Kaaron Keene; Michael Beebe; Bob Pekol; Mark Berglund; Joyce Summers; Scott Wolner; Wisconsin Historical Society, Center for Research Libraries; Ruth Gudinas; Frank Knasinski for photos; Lori Blennert; Maryo Gard Ewell; Donna Peckett, Bob Duncan, 94 years old, Camp Trump Lake, Co. 643, Soperton; Anna Haines; Linda Mittlestadt; Medford radio stations WKEB FM/WIGM AM, radio interview; Eric Olson, UW-Stevens Point radio interview; Mark Berglund, Medford Star News interview/article; Claire Duquette, Ashland Daily News, interview/article; Shirley Dommer Walczak, Botanical Gardens Director, Boerner Botanical Gardens; Jeff Baudry, Marketing Director, Milwaukee County Parks.



Primary Sources for Show Content: 39 Camp Newspapers

Camp Mt. Horeb, Co.1694, Mt. Horeb	Headquarters Company CCC, Sparta
Camp Nine Mile, Co. 641, Eagle River	Camp Riley Creek, 12th Forestry District, Fifiel
Camp Blue Lake, Co. 654, Minocqua	Camp Estabrook, Co. 1699, Milwaukee
Camp Honey Creek, Co. 656, Milwaukee	Camp Perkinstown, Co. 1692, Perkinstown
Camp Ontario, Co. 3664, Ontario	Chequamegon National Forest
Camp Madison, Co. 2670, Madison	“The Chequamegon”, Park Falls
Camp Blue Mound, Co. 2615, Milwaukee	Camp Connors Lake, Co. 1610, Phillips
Camp Haywood, for transients, Haywood	Camp Rusk, Co. 3652, Glen Flora
Camp Devil’s Lake, Co. 2669, Baraboo	Sparta CCC District paper & 6th Corp Area Annual (190 pages)
Camp Whitnall Park, Co. 636, Hales Corners	Camp Elcho, Co. 657, Elcho
Camp Whitnall Park, Co. V-2625, Hales Corners	Headquarters Company CCC, Sparta
Camp Arbutus, Co. 655, Arbutus	Camp Rib Mountain, Co. 3649, Wausau
Camp Sailor Lake, Co. 651, Ashland	
Camp Mineral Lake, Co. 638, Marengo	
Camp Taylor Lake, Co. 3653, Ashland	
Camp Clam Lake, Co. 653, Clam Lake	
Camp Horse Shoe, Co. 3653, Ashland	
Camp Brinks, Co. 3653, Washburn	
Camp Pigeon, Co. 640, Drummond	
Camp Delta, Co. 2622, Drummond	
Camp Mondeaux River, Co. 1603, Westboro	
Camp Trump Lake, Co. 643, Soperton	
Camp La Valle, Co. 2668, La Valle	
Sparta CCC District, Sparta	
Camp Upson, Co. 1607, Upson	
Camp Mercer, Co. 660, Manitowish	
Camp New Wood, Co. 2616, Merrill	
Eyes and Ears of the 15th Forestry District: 2 pages from Companies 636 Hales Corners, 656 Honey Creek, 1644 Sheridan Park, 2615 West Allis	



Picture from the Dugout, Company 2625-V, Hales Corners, WI, Camp Whitnall Park newspaper drawing, Vol.2, No. 4, Pg. 4, April, 1939. Artist: ETZ Heinz. Courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society.

BIOS

Rogers Keene. I run *Voices Theater* out of Medford, Wisconsin. I enjoy collaborating with individuals and social agencies to write and produce grassroots theater concerning social concerns. This has included a play on hospice; another on Darfur. I worked closely with Barbara Leigh, Mary Schueller and David Peterson on our musical. From 39 camps in Wisconsin, I gathered newspapers, which chronicled the men's camp life and their work projects with our natural resources. It was goose-bumpy time. My colleagues and I based all the scenes and songs on primary source writings in these newspapers. For example, when the character, Smitty, said that Manny spotted a fire from the fire tower, I had read that in a camp paper. What I found in my research of the camp papers was the similarity of experiences among camps. This allowed us to create for our musical a composite camp, *Camp We-Kan-Tak-It*, which faithfully gives you a look at what these young men went through.

Mary Schueller. Before my mother passed away in March 2000, she handed me a small box containing my father's CCC patches and said, "Do something special with these." At the time, I did not know enough information to tell the story that went with the patches and a handful of family pictures of my dad in snowshoes at Copper Falls State Park. That's when I realized I wanted my kids to know what their lives would have been like had they been born in 1912. I wanted them to know what men like my dad did for this country so their Depression years of sacrifice would never be forgotten. After ten years of research, my dad's story is told in *The Soldiers of Poverty* that I self-published (www.rusticbooks.net) in 2005.

In a collaborative effort with the Mellen Area Historical Society, I wrote the document and gave a presentation before the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Board in September 2005, to petition that Copper Falls State Park be listed on the State and National Registers. Now recognized for its contribution to conservation and tourism of Northern Wisconsin, Copper Falls is the first park site in Wisconsin's State Park system to be listed for its Rustic Architecture from the CCC and WPA-era. This documentation is found in my book, *Rustic Reflections of Copper Falls State Park*.

Much of my "retirement" in Richfield, WI, is spent as a public speaker on the CCC in Wisconsin and writer of biographical historic plays. As a contributing writer of *Camp We-Kan-Tak-It*, it is with great joy to honor with song and laughter all the men like my dad who left their imprint of CCC service upon our heritage and our landscape.



U.S. Forest Service Training Booklet, Woodsmanship for the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1937. Public Domain.

Camp We-Kan-Tak-It

A musical comedy about life in
Wisconsin's Civilian Conservation Corps

PROLOGUE

Aniishiik: "We are grateful" spoken by Dorothy Davids—Mohican.
Our Mother Earth spoken by Misty Cook—Mohican, Oneida.

SCENES & SONGS

1. No One is Hiring—
"Poor Man's Heaven" written by Carson Robison
"Three Cheers for FDR"
2. Classes—"Time to Go to School"
3. Food—"Power House Candy Bar"
4. Rookie Pranks—"Hunt the Snipe"
5. Magical Medicine—"CCC Wizard Oil"
6. Win a Ford
7. Sweat and Toil—"New Deal"
8. Safety & Clarence—"Rattles Like Tin"
9. Girlfriends & Clarence—"Bad Luck"
10. Auction—adapted from Triple A Plowed Under
11. Human Pests—"Debate a Skunk"
12. Fire Fighting—"Fire—a tale to Tell"
13. Fire Tower
14. 1983 Commemorative Stamp
15. Last Will
16. "Times Near Up"
17. "Shanty in Old Shanty Town" (Bob Duncan goes back
75 years to remember singing this song.)
18. Finale—"We-Kan-Tak-It"

Geezer Patrick Porten
Smitty Samuel Porten

EPILOGUE

Our Mother Earth. Aniishiik: "We are Grateful"

Please stay for a post-show discussion with historians and humanists

Who Did What

Script Collaboration Rogers Keene, Mary Schueller, Barbara Leigh,
David Peterson, James Pekol and Patrick Porten
Co-Directors Rogers Keene and Patrick Porten
Music Compositions David Peterson
("Poor Man's Heaven" Carson Robison)
Song Lyrics David Peterson, Mary Schueller and Rogers Keene
Orchestration and Sound Recording James Pekol
Visual Research Rogers Keene and Mary Schueller
Visual Design Rogers Keene and Patrick Porten
Actors Patrick Porten and Samuel Porten
Research of camp newspapers Rogers Keene and Mary Schueller
CCC Historian Mary Schueller
Resource Guide Mary Schueller
Graphic Design Linda Beckstrom

Making Wisconsin Home Statewide Tour **Most performances are free. Donations gratefully accepted**

Thank you to these sponsors

September 18. Stevens Point. 7 pm. Emy J's--The Garage. Guy Janssen
September 24. Eagle River. 7 pm. First Congregational UCC. Bernie Hupperts
September 25. Spirit. 7 pm. United Methodist Church.
Ten miles east of Ogema on Hwy. 86. Lavonne Meier
September 26. Athens. 5 pm. Stoney Acres Farm. Kat Becker
October 3. Ashland. 2 and 7 pm. Wisconsin Historical Society, Northern Great
Lakes Visitor Center. Roseann Haveri and Linda Mittlestadt
October 7. Mazomanie. 7 pm. Community Center. Mazomanie Lions Club.
John Bonine
October 8. Madison. 7 pm. First Congregational UCC. Jeff Rabe
October 11. Medford. 3 pm. St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Rogers Keene
October 15, 10 am and 12:30 pm and October 16, 12:30 pm. School matinees.
Whitnall Park, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Hales Corners. Barbara Leigh.
Tickets: Milwaukee Public Theatre, 414-347-1685
October 16. 2 and 7 pm. Adult performances. Whitnall Park, Boerner Botanical
Gardens, Hales Corners. Barbara Leigh. Tickets: Milwaukee Public Theatre,
4 414-347-1685. Optional dinner by Bartolottas, 4 and 5:30 pm; call 414-525-5635



Geezer



Smitty

BIOS

Patrick Porten (Geezer) is a DJ/Copywriter/Sports Announcer with WKEB/WIGM Radio in Medford, Wisconsin. He earned a BA in Comprehensive Theatre from the UW-Eau Claire in 1985. In addition to acting, Patrick has also worked back stage at the Guthrie Theatre, Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Theater in the Round and performed with CLIMB, all in the Twin Cities area. He is a co-founder and current President of the Medford Area Community Theatre. Patrick lives with his wife Lisa and five boys, Sam, Ben, Sean, Ian and Colin, just outside Medford.

Samuel Porten (Smitty) is a junior at UW-Stevens Point, majoring in vocal music. Sam has appeared on stage as Joseph in *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and as a sailor in *Anything Goes* with the Medford Area Community Theatre. Plus many appearances on stage at the Medford Area Senior High School including Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, *The Fantasticks* and *The Boys Next Door*. A highlight of Sam's young music career was a performance in April of 2007 with the Medford Senior High School Concert Choir at Carnegie Hall in New York.

David Peterson, the composer for the show's music and lyricist for many of the songs, has been involved since the 1960s with research, writing and music preparation for musical stage productions based on Wisconsin History, Folklore, and traditional music. He was the Director of Production for the Wisconsin Idea Theater from 1962-72, and he was the Founder/Director of the Heritage Ensemble from 1970-1990. He has entertained audiences with some 40 productions, which had over 4,000 performances state-wide. His Wisconsin Indian Story Theater production, *Dibajimo* which was performed in 1993 and '94 for an estimated 35,000 school children, was supported in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. A side note: Rogers Keene was Gene Shepard in David's musical *Hodag*, and he is happy that he could work with Rogers again on this project.