

## Welcome to the OPEN BOOK CLUB!

Most theatrical productions start with a book – the script. These are literary works designed for the stage. The playwright, or author, writes the story that is the jumping off point for the production. A playwright uses many of the same tools an author of a novel uses such as character development, plot, dialogue (okay, LOTS of dialogue!), place, and mood. The playwright must trust that different artists such as actors, designers, and directors will take the written book and bring it to life. Just like a book lives differently in each reader's imagination, a script lives differently in each staged production. We invite you to delve deeper into our plays by looking at them not just as a performing art, but as a literary work. Think about and discuss the choices the playwright made... and the other artists involved. How does the story relate to your life?



Our **discussion questions** are designed for either groups that want to simply see the play and discuss it, or groups that read the play before seeing it. Scripts for all of the plays in our season – except our world premiere- are available for purchase online from Amazon, Dramatists Play Service, Samuel French and other places. Discussion questions are available to download from our website, follow the links on our “Book Club” page! We also suggest **companion books** – books that go along with the themes discussed in the play that would make for interesting “companions” to our work. The playwright for our world premiere, **Calypso’s Corner**, has written a memoir that deals with the issues of abuse covered in the play (which is fiction), and we will have discussions with her present, as well. It will certainly be interesting to get her perspective of the difference between writing a memoir and a fiction play that deals with issues so close to her own personal experience.

For each production we will offer a **talk back** after the Sunday matinee, a great time for your group to discuss the play with the artists involved. If your group is attending a different performance and would like to speak to someone involved in the show let us know by sending an e-mail to [krista@openbooktc.com](mailto:krista@openbooktc.com), we might be able to arrange a brief discussion with an artist.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors. We encourage you to take advantage of our season ticket discount (\$85/\$65). With a season ticket you make reservations for the performance that works for you for each production!

### **The Shadow Box** by Michael Cristofer, directed by Topher Alan Payne

**Sept 18 -Oct 3, 2015**

In this compelling Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play, three characters are facing death with the support (more or less) of their family and friends. A beautiful, moving and often funny look at what makes up a life.

### **Dead Man’s Cell Phone** by Sarah Ruhl, directed by Topher Alan Payne

**Nov 6-21, 2015**

An incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet café. A stranger at the next table who has had enough. And a dead man—with a lot of loose ends. Answering a dead man’s cell phone sends Jean on a comedic odyssey which forces her to confront her own assumptions about morality, redemption, and the need to connect in a technologically obsessed world.

### **Bauer** by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Krista Schafer Ewbank

**Jan 22-Feb 6, 2016**

**Michigan Premiere.** Famed painter Rudolf Bauer sketched on scraps while in a Nazi prison, was saved by his lover, Guggenheim curator Hilla Rebay, and had an NYC museum built to house his art... until an incredible act of betrayal stopped him from painting. A shocking and moving story of powerful art and powerful passion.

### **Who Am I This Time? (& Other Conundrums of Love)** by Aaron Posner, adapted from stories by Kurt

Vonnegut, directed by Topher Alan Payne

**March 4-19, 2016**

**Michigan Premiere.** The subject is love, pure and complicated. Three early comic masterpieces by Kurt Vonnegut (Long Walk to Forever, Who am I This Time? and Go Back to Your Precious Wife and Son) are sewn together in the story of a small town in this smart, delightful comedy for the whole family.

### **Calypso’s Corner** by Emily Rosenbaum, directed by Angie Kane Ferrante

**May 6-21, 2016**

**World Premiere.** Weaving together the past and present this story of two sisters’ estrangement examines the legacy of violence through multiple generations and the healing power of sharing our stories.

OPEN BOOK THEATRE [www.openbooktc.com](http://www.openbooktc.com) (734) 288-7753

All performances are held at Penelope’s Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Road in Southgate, MI