

### About the Pickering/Colbeck Award

Established in 1984, the presentation of Love...or Best offer by Phil Olson marks the 40<sup>th</sup> production to win this prestigious award. The award is international and enjoys an outstanding reputation with several winning scripts going on to be published. Below is a list of winners from 2000 forward.

- Hey Dick Phil Kline (2000)  
Grand Forks Detour Burton Bumgarner(2001)  
Fole' Ole' William Allen(2002)  
Companion Pieces Rich Orloff(2003)  
Drinking Habits Tom Smith(2004)  
Interruptions Burton Bumgarner(2005)  
Authors Anonymous Carl Williams(2006)  
To Whom God Speaks Martha Humphreys(2007)  
Keeping Faith Mark Scharf(2008)  
No Body Like Jimmy Burton Bumgarner(2009)  
Connoisseurs E.C. Strum(2010)  
Daddy's Girls Norma Mortimer(2011)  
The Calibration of Bliss Bob Wilson(2011)  
What Would Dickens Do? M.W. Estes(2012)  
On Bended Knee Nicole L.V. Mullis(2013)  
Golden Age Thomas J. Misuraca(2014)  
Night Comes Early Burton Bumgarner(2015)  
The Bridge Angie Ransdell(2016)  
Me 3 Mark Jay Rosen(2017)  
Final Appearance Larry Rosler(2018)  
In Like Flint Mara Dresner(2019)  
ABC's of LGBT at the Rainbow Valley B'n'B Phil Darg(2020)  
The Sin Eater Daniel Borengasser(2021)  
The Marriage Pickle: Untying the Not Shelley Chester(2022)  
Love...or Best Offer Phil Olson(2023)

## Branch County Community Theatre presents

*Love...*

## or Best Offer By Phil Olson

Tibbits Opera House  
March 9, 10, 11 2023  
7:30PM

BranchCCT.org

*Love...or Best Offer*

By Phil Olson

**Director**.....Laurie Ludlow  
**Stage Manager**.....Gina Foley Wright  
**Producer**.....Jennifer Colbeck  
**Sound/Lights**.....Dave Brown  
**Spot light**.....Thomas Wright & Tim Kingsbury  
**Props**.....Gina Foley Wright & Laurie Ludlow  
**Set Crew**.....Mark & Laurie  
Ludlow, Thomas Wright, Jennifer Colbeck, Tim  
Kingsbury, Jesse Manson, Shaun Briscoe

**Cast list**

**Cheryl**.....Amy Abrey  
**Lori**.....Nedra Kingsbury  
**Stan**.....Shaun Briscoe  
**Dave**.....Jesse Manson

**Setting**

Present day set over a course of several months  
Cheryl's living room, Stan's office

**There will be one 15 minute intermission**

**From the Director**

**Good Evening!**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the historic Tibbits Opera House and this premiere performance by Branch County Community Theatre. This play is the winner of our 2023 Robert J Pickering/JR Colbeck Playwriting competition. This award has been given annually starting in 1985 with Cooperative Living by Donna Sorbello. This is our 39<sup>th</sup> production. This year we had over 100 submissions, from as far away as France, Australia and Canada!

We would like to take a moment to thank the families of the cast and crew for their support during the last couple of months of rehearsals. The cast will be downstairs after the performance, please feel free to stop down and say hello!  
Thank you for supporting the Performing Arts in Branch County and enjoy the performance!

J.R This one's for you!!

**About the Author**

**Phil Olson** grew up in Edina, Minnesota, was All-Ivy in football and track at Dartmouth college where he majored in math, tried out for the Chicago Bears, went on to get an MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and pursued a business career. At 40 years old he wrote his first play and since then Phil has written 18 published plays that have had 450 productions in seven countries. Twelve of his plays are published by Samuel French/Concord Theatricals. His plays have won over 40 playwriting and theatre awards. Two of his plays have been adapted and optioned to be made into feature films. Movie actor, Burt Reynolds, saw his play, A Nice Family Gathering and had it optioned. After his death, the director renewed the option, and has attached Mary Steenburgen to the film. He currently lives in Los Angeles. For more info, visit [PhilOlson.com](http://PhilOlson.com)

**Special Thanks**

Eby Youth Center and Searing Mobile Safety LLC

**BCCT productions are made possible because of membership support to the Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, Inc.**

**About Branch County Community Theatre**

BCCT is an organization that focuses on bringing theater to our community. We are made up of individuals who have a passion for theater. Our season consists of four shows performed at the historic Tibbits Opera House. We also produce a free Shakespeare in the Park show every June (Look for us at the Quincy Pavilion for 2023). One of our shows each year is the Robert J. Pickering-JR Colbeck Award for Playwriting Excellence, an award given for original plays not previously produced. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and [www.branchcct.org](http://www.branchcct.org). Or write to us at 14 S. Hanchett St. Coldwater, MI 49036

Join us May 4, 5, 6 2023 at Tibbits Opera House for our production of **Rumors** by Neil Simon

Join us in late June for our free Shakespeare in the Park, **Midsummer Night's Dream** to be held in Quincy this year at the downtown pavilion. Watch for more information for auditions and production dates on our website or Facebook.