21st annual Arts Weekend

The MSU College of Arts and Letters hosted its 21st annual Arts Weekend at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel June 26-28, 2015. Guests, including faculty, alumni, students, friends and family of the College, celebrated the home of art, theatre, language, literature, innovation and creativity at MSU as they convened for a weekend celebration of the arts and enjoyed the splendor of Grand Hotel and Mackinac Island.

Along with the superb accommodations, guests enjoyed pre-dinner receptions, exquisite meals, and an MSU Department of Theatre performance of *The Book of Liz*. Events and activities also included a guided tour of Mackinac Island's Manoogian Art Collection led by MSU alumna Tatum Walker ('13), currently interpretive digital media specialist with the Detroit Institute of Arts; and an energetic evening performance by State of Fifths—a co-ed MSU student a cappella performance group—that had everyone clapping along!

2013 ArtPrize winner

Guests also enjoyed a daytime presentation from MSU alumna and 2013 Art Prize grand prize winner Ann Loveless ('82). Ann is a unique quilt artist based in Frankfort, Michigan, who captures the beauty of Northern Michigan in her work.

The aforementioned special presentation of *The Book of Liz* by the MSU Department of Theatre was truly a highlight of the weekend. Written by the brother-sister team of David and Amy Sedaris, *The Book of Liz* is one of the sweetest and most oddball comedies ever written about an archetypical dramatic theme: the journey of self-discovery. Heartwarming and silly, poignant and absurd, and sometimes both at once, the play proved to be perfect summer fare.

*The Book of Liz* synopsis

*The Book of Liz* follows Elizabeth Dunderstock, a member of the isolated Squeamish religious community, on her adventure to discover the world and her place in it. Along her way, Elizabeth meets a cast of kooky characters that show her great kindness and help her see her own value.

With four actors playing 15 characters—from an Ukrainian immigrant couple to recovering alcoholic patrons of the Plymouth Crock restaurant to the faithful Squeamish—the Arts Weekend audience was treated to virtuosic character switches, as well as the delights of ridiculous costume changes and scene flips.

The 2015 College of Arts and Letters Arts Weekend proved to be the perfect opportunity to bring out everyone’s passion for the arts as well as pay it forward. A portion of each guest’s reservation fee went to help support The Grand Hotel Endowed Scholarship for Arts and Letters that was created by the Musser family, owner/operators of Grand Hotel. The endowment supports students wishing to pursue creative endeavors inside and/or outside the classroom.