

# Theatre Arts Guild Launches New Season

## Five Productions and Directors Revealed for 2012 – 2013 Season at the Pond Playhouse

Ending weeks of speculation, Theatre Arts Guild (TAG) officially launched their 2012 – 2013 Season on Monday, June 4 at The Pond Playhouse, Halifax.

Announced by Renée Hartleib, Artistic Director, TAG's 2012 – 2013 season features:

September: *God of Carnage\**

December: *Camelot, the Panto*

February: *The Death of Me and My Narrator* – two one act comedies

April: *A Man for All Seasons*

June: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Renée Hartleib provided more details on each production:

*God of Carnage\** (by Yasmina Reza) is a tight, one-act popular Broadway play that's been turned into a movie. With wonderful dialogue and compelling characters, this adult drama also contains very funny, true-to-life moments. \*Pending Rights Approval

*Camelot, the Panto* (by Ben Crocker) continues our immensely popular pantomime tradition, with lots of audience participation and recognizable characters. Our December pantomime holiday treat almost always sells out.

*The Death of Me and My Narrator*, are two one acts plays by Norm Foster, the King of Canadian Comedy. The laughter from Foster's two one act plays will lighten and brighten any evening, especially in the dead of winter.

*A Man for All Seasons* (by Robert Bolt) is a rich costume drama, set in the time of King Henry VIII. This well-loved, well-known classic, explores moral issues of silence and consent, still relevant today.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (by Rebecca Feldman; music & lyrics by William Fine) is an innovative musical, fresh from Broadway, has played all over the world. This audience favourite consistently enjoys great reviews. Spelling Bee is a fun and modern musical with audience participation, and a cast of nine, – a delightful coda to the upcoming season.

"The season line-up is the result of carefully reading dozens upon dozens of scripts and reviewing suggestions made by our volunteers, members and audience," explains Hartleib, who together with Judy Reade, Jonathan Tyson, Elaine Casey, Austin Reade and Rayna Smith-Camp comprise Theatre Arts Guild's Artistic Committee. "Many suggestions for plays are submitted on our website ([www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)). We are always open to feedback, and online play suggestions help make this process easily accessible. All play suggestions are carefully reviewed and considered," says Hartleib.

The directors for Theatre Arts Guild's 2012 – 2013 season include: Michele Moore (*God of Carnage\**)

Angela Butler (*Camelot, the Panto*)  
Frank MacLean (*The Death of Me and My Narrator* – two one act comedies)  
Gisela O'Brien (*A Man for All Seasons*)  
Jolene Pattison (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*)

These directors have been involved with Theatre Arts Guild in every capacity from directing, acting, stage managing and lighting design, to set construction and props. Individual director profiles appear on a separate background.

Individual productions launch approximately 10 to 14 weeks ahead of show opening, beginning with recruitment of crew and cast. Audition notices are circulated within the theatre community and to the media.

The Theatre Arts Guild has the distinction of being the oldest, continually-operating community theatre company in Canada! Home base is Pond Playhouse, located at 6 Parkhill Road in Halifax, just past the Frog Pond, off

Purcell's Cove Road. The Theatre Arts Guild's annual December pantomime is a much-anticipated and cherished holiday tradition. Engaged in community outreach, Theatre Arts Guild stages plays in libraries and schools around HRM, as well as connecting with service clubs. Recently, Theatre Arts Guild launched a monthly series of free workshops, open to everyone, facilitated by volunteer Rebecca Humphreys, on various aspects of theatre (producing, stage management, lighting and publicity), to provide sought-after training for volunteers and potential volunteers.

"Each production is produced and performed entirely by volunteers. We welcome anyone from the community who would like to get involved" says Angela Butler, Chairperson of the Theatre Arts Guild's board. "No theatre experience is necessary; just a love of theatre.

Visit [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com) for more information on Theatre Arts Guild and Pond Playhouse.

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