

ENTERTAINMENT

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Tragic tale set in French Revolution closes TAG's season

Halifax News Net

By Suzy Teubner – The Weekly News

Mix war, lust, royalty and a love triangle and what do you get?

The romantic tragedy Marie Antoinette: The Colour of Flesh being presented by the Theatre Arts Guild as its last show of the 2008-09 season.

"Like most romantic tragedies you get lost in the history, but it's not a chick flick," said Nick Jupp, TAG president and director of the show. "It's a romantic tale with strong historical facts. Some of the things are still current issues. People will see what has changed and not changed throughout history."

The show runs from June 25 to July 11.

The Theatre Arts Guild was founded in 1931 and is the country's oldest continually running community theatre. The group called several places home over the years, including the Capitol Theatre and the former College Street School, before settling down in a former church hall on Parkhill Road in 1966 and renaming the property The Pond Playhouse.

"We are 100 per cent a community theatre. There are no paid employees, and we don't get any grants or government funding. If people didn't volunteer, we wouldn't exist," said Jupp.

"Volunteers fix the roof, act on stage, sell tickets. It's a true community theatre. Anyone from a teenager to a 90-year-old has the opportunity to do something."

There are about 350 members and a core group of 30 to 40 people involved at any one time, depending on the theatre's needs. The group produces five shows during the season, which runs from October to July. It also welcomes visiting productions and holds workshops, poetry readings and an annual members' Variety Night. Membership costs \$10 a year, and people don't need theatrical or theatre production experience to become involved.

"People with zero acting or production, lighting or sound experience can learn from their peers and get involved," said Jupp who acted before gravitating towards directing. "There are a whole lot of people in the community involved."

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Marie Antoinette: The Colour of Flesh runs from June 25 to July 11. For information, or to reserve tickets, call 477-2663 or go to www.tagtheatre.com.

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Stuart Hiseler (left) and Vanessa Walton-Bone rehearse for the Theatre Arts Guild's production of Marie Antoinette: The Colour of Flesh, now running at the Pond Playhouse on Parkhill Road.

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