

JC'S THEATRE SPOTLIGHT – Order In The House

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JC Douglas

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This week, an unusual offering. Not a complete stage performance, but a “staged reading” of Nick Jupp’s *Order In The House*. This week, three nights only at Theatre Arts Guild (TAG), September 28 – 30.

As the TAG website reveals, the show centres on a fictitious Nova Scotia Minister of Finance and his wife: successful, wealthy, and highly respected, they are close to perfect in every way. “However, even the best of people have the occasional skeleton in the closet.”

If you’ve never attended a staged reading, you’re in for an intriguing evening. It’s somewhere between the workshopping of a script, a radio drama, and a fully realized production. There will be one light for each of the five actors, each of whom incorporate some movement and facial expressions and interaction into their acting, and some essential sound effects are added.

Director, Jocelyn LeBlanc, points out that one of the joys of a staged reading is getting in on the ground floor, “when the playwright is still making some choices and is still seeing how characters can play out.” Says LeBlanc, “It’s also an opportunity to see actors who may not otherwise be able to commit to a full run but can do three shows.”

LeBlanc worked alongside playwright, Nick Jupp, just a few months ago at TAG, as Associate Director for the production of *Double Indemnity*. And she speaks glowingly of learning “tricks and tips” from Jupp.

Nick Jupp is a great example of why community theatre is so wonderful. Nick moved into a home on Parkhill Road in Halifax in 1980. Not long afterward, he discovered the lovely Pond Playhouse on his street, and started attending TAG performances there. In 1992, he noticed an audition call for a teenaged actor, and encouraged his son to get involved. He said he’d only do it if Nick auditioned as well ... and, as fate would have it, only Nick got a part! Soon he would be a TAG board member ... then a director ... set designer ... and now the writer of four plays staged at various festivals including Halifax Fringe. All from exposure to this one community theatre on one random, beautifully treed Halifax street.

Pond Playhouse is just off Purcells Cove Road where it intersects with Williams Lake Road. If you’ve never been, this is a good time to start.

<http://www.tagtheatre.com/>

ORDER
in the **HOUSE**
By: Nicholas Jupp

A Staged Reading
Directed By: *Jocelyn LeBlanc*
Stage Manager: *Katie Allen*

3 NIGHTS ONLY!
September 28 - 30, 2017
8 PM

"If you don't keep order, all hell can break loose."

THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD
www.tagtheatre.com
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POND PLAYHOUSE
6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS
Tickets: 902.451.1221
www.ticketatlantic.com