

JC's THEATRE SPOTLIGHT: The Frog Prince: A Webbed Pantomime ... ribbit!

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One of Halifax's most fun-filled family traditions for the holidays is the annual pantomime at Theatre Arts Guild (TAG). And they're back at it with *The Frog Prince: A Webbed Pantomime*, now playing through December 10th.

For the uninitiated, a "pantomime" has nothing to do with those guys who paint their faces white and pretend to pull themselves along by a rope, or walk through a windstorm. Classic Pantomime is a British theatre tradition usually performed around Christmastime with music and comedy for the whole family ... well, voila!

If you're a regular at TAG, you'll recognize many of the talented faces who elevate local community theatre to a whole new level - people like Kelly Doney-Morrison and her husband, Brad, who as "Handful & Fretful" (okay, you're getting the feel for it) kickstart the evening and make the simple "cell phone check" as energetic and fun-filled as I've ever experienced at the theatre. Kelly, Brad, Rob McIntyre, Geraldine MacDonald, and Jennifer Robbins (in her dual role as Prince Maximillian/Remington Steed - see the accompanying photo, it'll make more sense ... that's me on the back of the Steed) are all standouts among the TAG regulars here - plus, we're all Full Monty alumni from TAG 2014 - so I can imagine how much fun these weirdos had putting this year's "panto" romp together.

Director, Cheryl Theriault, wrote this, her third effort, over pots of tea with her friend and set designer, Brenda Tyedmers. They had previously combined on *Jack And The Beans Talk*, and Cheryl co-wrote *Red Riding's In Da Hood* with Lorne Abramson. (NOW you got it!! It's a subverted world of fairy tales for Christmas at TAG.)

You can see *The Frog Prince: A Webbed Pantomime* at the wonderful Pond Playhouse, just off Purcells Cove Road, the theatre still featuring seats rescued from the old Hyland Theatre at the Armdale Rotary when it burned down several years back. Gotta love your Halifax historical trivia!