



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



TAG BOX OFFICE
477-2663

THE POND PLAYHOUSE - 6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

TAG Presents **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**

December 4th-20th



2008-2009 Season

The Panto is back and we have a wonderful cast again this year, with some oldies and a few fresh faces.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was first performed on the TAG stage ten years ago. It was the first show I ever saw at TAG and my kids, who were 8 and 10 at the time, loved seeing seven adults scurry around on their knees.

Well, time marches on and we have a new batch of young 'uns, so TAG thought it was time to bring back the magical story of a beautiful girl who is befriended by seven little men in the forest. Proving that if you look after your knees they'll take you far, two of the 1998 "Snow" dwarfs are back. See if you can pick them out! We've added a few Panto touches and a lot of

wonderful music with Bunny Shore at the piano again this year

Reservations open November 6th and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs opens Thursday, December 4 with 14 shows - more than we've ever attempted!

Book early, sit in our fabulous rebuilt seating (that's right...the long-awaited increased knee space is here!) and watch a giggle-filled, joyful show. Oh, and don't forget to bring your "Boos!" and "Hurray's" with you. This is PANTO after all!

~Cheryl Theriault, Director



Reservations
477-2663
www.tagtheatre.com

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Dec. 4th to 20th

Oklahoma
Feb. 19th to Mar 7th
by Rogers and Hammerstein

Drinking Alone
Apr. 23rd to May 9th
By Norm Foster

Marie Antoinette:
The Colour of Flesh
Jun. 25th to Jul.11th
by Joel Gross

**Are You On Facebook?
So is the
Theatre Arts Guild!**

**Join TAG on
Facebook Today!**

Meet the TAG Board

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new season at TAG and thank you for your continued interest and support for Canada's most senior community theatre.

As you know, Canada celebrated the 250th anniversary of democratic government this year and it's exciting to note TAG has existed for nearly 80 of those years. Our longevity is clearly a sign that individuals like you have a deep appreciation for community organizations and we gratefully acknowledge this is the only reason TAG continues to thrive.

Our season will be four main productions this year due to major theatre renovations over the summer. Extra time was needed

to get all the work completed and I hope you enjoy reading about the renovation details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our season this year continues the tradition of an eclectic mix of productions designed to please our diverse audience. Beginning with a pantomime, then a popular musical, followed by a Canadian comedy and closing with a contemporary play set amidst the French Revolution, we hope everybody will find true entertainment and an opportunity to stretch their imagination and talents.

This season will be our second with the new rehearsal hall and we will continue to learn and adjust our production schedule to get the maximum use from the new space. Hopefully we will be able to hold one or two workshops this season to share theatrical knowledge, and as time goes by, develop regular educational opportunities for our membership.

We very much look forward to seeing you at TAG and we are sure you will enjoy the renovated theatre.



2008-2009 TAG Board

Nick Jupp, President
Angela Butler, Vice-President
Helen Goodwin, Past President
Phil Reid, Treasurer
Cathy McAuley, Secretary
Austin Reade, Technical Director
Judy Reade, Props/Costumes Mistress
J Carruth, Building Director
Michele Moore, Executive Producer
Rebecca Humphreys, Artistic Director
Carolyn Humphreys, Artistic Director
Mark Monk, Publicity
Cheryl Theriault, Volunteer Coordinator

2008-2009 TAG Managers

Judy Reade, Archivist
Peter McAuley, Webmaster
Cheryl Theriault, Reservations Committee
Valerie Dubois, Newsletter
Louise Renault, Front of House
Frank MacLean, Bar Stocking
Carol Towner, Bar Stocking
Phil Reid, Membership
Capital Fundraising (Vacant)
Louise Renault Voice of TAG (Phone)

November 2008 CONTACT

A BIG THANK YOU
to our many
Renovation Volunteers

Send your newsletter submissions to
valerie.dubois@ns.sympatico.ca

Director's Wrap Up The Foursome

It was a pleasure to work with four talented individuals who brought a great deal of talent to the table. Each rehearsal was a learning experience for both me and the actors. It was also great working with a talented crew who of course are vital to having a successful show.

The audience was very entertained and remarked on the professional look of the show. Several members of the audience were heard to say they might take up golfing after watching the show!

The audience seemed excited about TAG doing more Norm Foster so we are!! I'll be directing "Drinking Alone" in the spring so more Norm Foster to come!!

~ Frank MacLean

AUDITIONS OKLAHOMA!

The musical that started it all for Rogers and Hammerstein. The show runs Feb. 18-Mar 7, 2009

Dates: Nov. 2nd & 3rd

Time: 6:00pm-10:00 pm

Location: Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd. (off the Purcell's Cove Rd.).

Be prepared with a song (bring the music if you need to be accompanied). You will be asked to read a part and to involve yourself in some group movement. We are looking for 8 leads (5 men and 3 women), plus 8-10 chorus members. As the chorus is made up of townspeople we are looking for all ages. For more information, contact Catherine Coutts, Stage Manager, (476-6392) or Gisela O'Brien, Director (422-9859).

RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Many of you will know that when we undertook the addition of a new lobby and rehearsal hall, the existing theatre lost its grandfathered building code status. The renovation project this summer has brought everything in line with current code and accessibility standards. This puts TAG in an excellent position to reach our 100th anniversary in 2031 with a safe, code compliant and expanded facility.

I am pleased to report the expansion and renovation has been achieved without any debt. The money has come from production profits, individual donations and government grants. We have also benefitted from professional services donations, supplier discounts, and an incredible amounts of blood, sweat and tears by volunteers.

Although the renovations are at a point it's practical to start productions, there is more work to be done. The theatre roof will not be insulated this winter, the lobby flooring will remain as plain concrete and the new office and meeting area will remain unfinished.

These are all projects that can be completed over time as ticket sales generate profits and fundraising efforts continue. A portion of each ticket price goes toward capital improvement so you are automatically helping to complete the renovations just by attending a show!

You might be wondering about the very interesting seat spacing we have all enjoyed for such a long time; Well, that has all changed too, so you can expect a wonderfully comfortable, evenly spaced seating arrangement that will allow you to stretch out and enjoy every show!

When you come to see the Holiday Pantomime please take time to look around the theatre and see the new look, new exits, wide isles, hand rails, raised lighting and much more.

~ Nick Jupp, President

PLAY SUBMISSIONS

The Artistic Committee is looking for play submissions and directors for the 2009-2010 season.

If you have seen or read a play that you would like to see on stage at TAG, or better yet that you would like to direct, please forward the name of the play and the author to Rebecca and Carolyn Humphreys at ian_reb@hotmail.com.

If submitting a play as the director, please indicate your first and second preference for time slots (Fall, Christmas, Winter, Spring, Summer). The deadline for submissions is Dec. 1, 2008.

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents *Crazy for You*, Nov.12-29th. A high energy comedy where romance, mistaken identities and show-stopping musical numbers all add up to irresistible fun. Reservations: 465-PLAY or www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

Bedford Players Presents *Sinners*, Oct. 30-Nov. 15. A sinfully wicked comedy by Norm Foster. Directed by Robin Saywood. Reservations: 832-3300 or visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca

A long time ago and B.D. (Before Disney)

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'm going to use this number of the series to reiterate an opinion expressed previously – that it is unfortunate that a visual presentation of a fairy tale somehow becomes the accepted norm and standard, against which others are compared, rather than being regarded as what it actually is – a stage in the evolution of a recounting a story sometimes centuries old. Yes, I'm talking about Walt Disney again, specifically the 1937 animated version of the tale, with the neatly-coiffed Snow White and the cute dwarfs in their baggy outfits (names courtesy of the filmmaker, by the way).

The essence of the Disney version comes from the work of two 19th century German brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, working at libraries in Kassel, helping to support their sister and younger brothers after the death of their parents. The brothers had been strongly affected by a collection of German folk poetry 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn,' by Clemens Brentano and Achim von Arnim, published in three

volumes from 1805-1808. Their admiration for this collection spurred the brothers to begin collecting folktales. Their first publication, 'Kinder-und Hausmarchen' (Children's and Household Tales) appeared in 1812. It's important to remember that the brothers were not the originators of this material; their contribution lay in the collection, codification and presentation of stories which were already centuries old. A second volume of 'Kinder – und Hausmarchen' was published in 1814 and the two added a volume of commentary in 1822. The collection (200 stories in total, plus 10 'Children's Legends'), was an enormous success and, during the lifetime of the brothers, ran to seven editions.

In the definitive 7th edition of the stories (published in Berlin in 1857), Snow White's tale is number 73. For this story, one of the sources which they acknowledge is an Italian, Giambattista Basile, (born either in 1566 or 1575 and dying in 1632). Basile was both a poet, a courtier at the palace of the Count of Avellino and a collector of fairy tales, taking his material from oral traditions of Greece and Italy, specifically the city of Venice. After his death, his sister published a collection in two volumes in 1634 and 1636. (I hope you're getting my point about

continued evolution!). Apart from the Grimm duo, other collectors used Basile's work, including a French writer we've met before – Charles Perrault, of Mother Goose fame.

With the structure of the tales well established by the 19th century, folklorists became interested in creating a more detailed classification for fairytales, as a way of identifying common and diverse elements. The Finnish folklorist, Antti Amatus Aarne (1867-1925) classified Snow White with tales containing supernatural elements (the talking mirror, for example).

With this connection, Aarne placed the tale with Gold-Tree and Silver-Tree, from Scotland, which features a queen jealous of her beautiful daughter and who hears the truth from a trout in a well (!), The Young Slave, one from Basile's collection, about a young girl harshly treated by a stepmother, and another Italian tale, Maria, the Wicked Stepmother and the Seven Robbers, in which the stepmother uses a poisoned ring to get rid of Maria.

~Judy Reade

**DO YOU HAVE
SPARE TIME AND
LOVE TO KEEP
ACTIVE IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?
VOLUNTEER(S)
NEEDED**

If you are interested in volunteering your talent as a Reservation Manager for TAG please call 492-0838 and speak to Cheryl Theriault our Volunteer Coordinator. You can take on one, two, or however many productions you feel you can manage. Computer and telephone skills are required. You will be trained to access and retrieve reservations from both TAG voice mail and website. This can be done from the comfort of your own home. Team work is wonderful and this is a position that lends itself to a couple - someone on the phone, someone

on the website. The job requires 1 - 2 hours a day once the production begins with a little less than that prior to opening week. The time line begins 3 weeks before the show opens and continues for the 3 full weeks of the run. You will speak with a lot of nice people as we confirm all reservation bookings.

As a volunteer you receive no financial benefit except the undying affection of the TAG family!