

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre



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The Pond Playhouse
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NEXT AT TAG

Doubt: A Parable

September 18th to October 4th

TAG's 2014/2015 season opens with *Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley, a one-act play following a young priest accused of terrible deeds by an older nun.

After hearing from Sister James that Father Flynn has developed a seemingly close relationship with one of his students, Sister Aloysius takes matters into her own hands to reveal the truth she feels certain of. Thus begins a battle of wills that threatens to destroy not only reputation and faith but also the community.

The first time I saw *Doubt* was actually the 2008 film, which was adapted and directed by playwright John Patrick Shanley. I came away with a sense of awe because it made me want to talk, to argue, to discuss everything that had happened. I spent days thinking and re-thinking over the various details of all the beautiful dialogue and intricacies of the plot. I wanted an answer to all the questions Shanley had posed,

but I knew I wasn't going to get it. That is what I love in a piece of theatre, or any type of art. When the artist forces the viewer to engage with their work, to ask questions and demand answers.

In the preface of his play, Shanley writes:

"Doubt requires more courage than conviction does, and more energy because conviction is a resting place and doubt is infinite – it is a passionate exercise."

This encompasses Shanley's play perfectly. It is 'a passionate exercise', not only for the characters on the stage, but for the people in the audience, the readers of his script and most definitely for me. I am so excited give TAG audiences the same engrossing experience I had with this wonderful play.

-Emily Jewer, Director

Tickets on Sale NOW!!!

TAG Ticket Prices

\$15 Members/Seniors/Students

\$18 Non-Members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees

Buy Your Tickets

- At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- By Phone (902) 451 1221
- At the door (subject to availability)
- Online at www.ticketatlantic.com
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This was another successful year at Theatre Arts Guild. Our last production, *The Full Monty* was completely sold out with audiences leaving happy and entertained. Congratulations to the cast and crew who gave over 100% every night!!

Each season at the Pond Playhouse is made possible by volunteers. A huge thank you to all our volunteers, veteran

and new, who helped make this past season what it was. Moving into our next season we hope more people are inspired to get involved.

I am looking forward to being a part of the theatre for another season. I encourage you to visit our website www.tagtheatre.com to get continuous updates on the next season, What's Happening next, visit our archives for photos

or history and so much more.

We hope to continue providing a little piece of the arts to Jollimore and to the community of HRM. The Theatre Arts Guild is a true hidden jewel.

Be sure to attend our AGM set for September 8th, 2014 at 7:30pm

- Angela Butler, President

Recent Shows at TAG

THE FULL MONTY



THE FULL MONTY



Reserve Your Seat at TAG

The Theatre Arts Guild is switching to numbered seating for the 2014-15 season. The move will allow you to pick your seat when you purchase your ticket. We still offer several convenient ways to purchase tickets and if you want to attend with friends or a larger group, you can arrange to sit together -- even if you don't show up at the theatre at the same time. We think the decision is one that our patrons and members will enjoy as it removes all the uncertainty of the rush seating we have had in the past. We are also introducing a modest price increase this year, for the first time since we started our arrangement with Ticket Atlantic many years ago. General admission tickets are \$18 and tickets for members, seniors, and students are \$15. Lastly, we are pleased to announce that the \$2 fee previously added to online purchases made through Ticket Atlantic, no longer applies.

AUDITION CALL

Panto at the OK Corral

WANTED



ACTORS FOR AUDITIONS

Theatre Arts Guild's Annual Pantomime

PANTO AT THE OK CORRAL

By Jim Sperinck

Director Angela Butler

Musical Director Bunny Shore

Producer Bill VanGorder

Stage Manager Esther VanGorder

Now for a pantomime with something completely different! It's time to sharpen up your spurs and get ready to gallop into the world of the Wild, Wild West! Can drifter Clint Westwood defeat the bad guys or will his search for true love interrupt his plans?

Performance Dates November 27th- December 13th, 2014
(14 performances with 5 matinees)

WHEN Sunday, August 24th 1 to 5pm and Monday, August 25th 7 to 9pm

WHERE The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, just off the Purcell's Cove Road

ROLES Male and Female, Ages 15 to 99 for large cast of characters

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS Please prepare a song of your choice (a cappella)

A cold read from the script

No appointment necessary

For more information please contact

Director Angela Butler rob-angela@hotmail.com Phone 866-0612

August/September 2014 Contact

MORE TEA VICAR? - CLERGYMEN AS THEATRICAL CHARACTERS

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary The 53rd in a Continuing Series

As my starting point for these articles in the 2014/2015 season, I'm going to take my closing point from the season just ended – freedom within the theatrical form. Freedom to develop the form, by extension, allows freedom to develop characters, situations, moments in history in a positive, but also a negative way.

Our upcoming production of *Doubt* includes a Roman Catholic priest, Father Flynn. As with all of the characters in this piece, you should pay attention to what Reverend Flynn has to say. The author then allows the audience the opportunity to form their own opinion of this man, his true nature and the reality of the situation.

Unfortunately, the clergymen featured in TAG production over the years are not accorded this luxury. Harking back to the relaxing of censorship in the theatre, authority figures such as clergymen, politicians, high ranking military officers, etc., become easy targets for comedy. Even Shakespeare, centuries earlier, gets in a dig at the expense of the man wearing the clerical collar. His priest in *As You Like It* (performed at TAG in 1935) is called Sir Oliver Martext and has a perfect modern counterpart in Rowan Atkinson's role as the priest in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Oscar Wilde's Canon Chasuble from

The Importance of Being Earnest (a favourite piece at TAG, being presented in 1985 and 1990) is another figure of fun. Finicky, overly-polite, hopelessly old-fashioned in comparison with the young folk for whom he is supposedly a mentor, he at least finds a suitable life companion in the equally fastidious Miss Prism.

And what can I say about *The Bishop Misbehaves*, seen at TAG in 1937? The Bishop of Broadminster plays amateur detective and only succeeds in confusing an already confused situation. Well, at least it became a popular film later on, with Maureen O'Sullivan in the lead female role! The last senior clergyman seen in a TAG play, Arthur's uncle (the Dean of Paddington) in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* (2008) doesn't fare much better. A learned individual, who collects clocks for a hobby, Arthur tries to murder him by concealing an explosive device in a clock given as a gift. The clock fails to do any damage, except that the statue of Liberty with which it is decorated, falls off. "Liberty," says the Dean "is an invention of the French at the time of the Revolution."

We will definitely not include Father Flynn in the above list of obviously comedic, and somewhat shallow characters! John Patrick Shanley calls his play a parable – a narrative device through which one learns a lesson to be applied to one's life journey. So come prepared to listen (and learn) – to Father Flynn and all the characters in *Doubt*, opening September 18th
- Judy Reade

TAG Annual General Meeting

Sept. 8, 2014, 7:30 PM

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax

All members in good standing are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of The Theatre Arts Guild. The current Board will present annual reports including the financial statements. Elections will take place for the 2014/15 Board. A nominating committee will present a slate of officers and managers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Coming Soon