

# CONTACT



Canada's Oldest Continually  
Operating Community Theatre

The Pond Playhouse

6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS

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## CONTACT - THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD

## IN THIS ISSUE

### CAST

Grampa Bingham ~Phil Reid

Bill Bingham ~Michael Taylor

Jane Bingham ~Debora Pollock

Carolyn Bingham ~Catherine Torraville

Michel Charbonneau ~Jacob Wilson

Dawn Shaw, Midwife ~Nicole Figueira

Sure to be a recipe that will warm your hearts - this delightful romantic comedy is perfect for any February "blues".

Sit down to dinner with an estranged three generational family, serve up an undercooked turkey to your overheated relations, mix in a midwife, and serve it up by an obstetrician father - et voila!

***Let the feathers fly!***

Tickets available at all Ticket Atlantic Outlets, Superstores and Box Office

[www.ticketatlantic.ca](http://www.ticketatlantic.ca)

- ◆ ON STAGE NEXT- *Having Hope at Home*
- ◆ IN REHEARSAL- *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Update on Galleries and *Building On Our Past for a Better Future*
- ◆ *Becoming a Member*
- ◆ *Alice in Wonderland -Photo Gallery*
- ◆ *Expanding Your Vocabulary*

### *For Members*

We wish to recognize our patrons who have supported TAG for so long. Join us, **February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8 pm** and following the show, you will have the opportunity to mingle with cast members while enjoying light refreshments. For those of you who enjoy a glass of wine with your cheese and crackers, or another kind of beverage to go with the sweets we will be serving, the cash bar will be open and staffed by our dedicated volunteers. Get your tickets now for an evening of laughter and companionship.



## Having Hope at Home

February 1 to February 17, 2018

Romantic Comedy

by Canadian Playwright

**David S. Craig**

Director - Michele Moore

Producer - Shannon Nudds

Stage Manager- Carolyn Boyer

## THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman

Directed by Bill VanGorder  
Stage Managed by  
Esther VanGorder  
Producer Kate Hendry

**April 5 to 21, 2018**  
**13 performances including**  
**three weekend matinees.**  
**Group prices for Schools and other**  
**groups of 10 or more**  
**Tickets on sale March 9, 2018**  
**at all Ticket Atlantic outlets,**  
**Superstores by phone and on line**

A new adaptation of the classic script based on the book *Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl*. A story that must continue to be told – it resonates as much in the early 21st century as it did in the middle of the 20th.

Watch our TAG website and Facebook for the announcement of the excellent cast and crew. Some crew and construction staff still required.

Contact the producer, Kate Hendry, for details and to volunteer.



When I was in 7th grade, our teacher put on a video and told us to take notes. Ten minutes in, she threw the lights on and shouted at Steven Webb Sladki, telling him he wasn't taking notes and he should have been. But the thing was, Steve was taking notes. I saw it. We all saw it. The teacher asked if anyone wanted to stand up for Steve. A few of us choked out some words of defense but were immediately squashed. Quickly, we were all very silent. Steve was sent to the principal's office. The teacher came back in the room and said something like "See how easy that was?" We were reading "Anne Frank." I started to understand. I just thought now was a good time to share this story. Don't ever let anyone tell you that what you see with your own eyes isn't happening.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season with family and friends. It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of January but as time goes on, so must rehearsals and renovations.

Another successful Pantomime came to a close in December and I would like to once again offer my 'Congratulations' to the cast of crew of *Alice in Wonderland*. Almost every performance was sold out and TAG received many positive comments. From the set, to the costumes, to the original music, it was certainly one of our more unique pantomimes.

The cast and crew of *Having Hope at Hope* are currently rehearsing but their Opening Night is not far away. February 1<sup>st</sup> to be exact, and tickets are on sale now. What better way to shake off the winter blahs by attending one of the performances of this Canadian comedy.

If you are a member of TAG, please join us for "Members Night" on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 8pm. Following the performance of *Having Hope at Home*, we invite you to stay and mingle with the cast while enjoying some light refreshments and the cash bar. If you are not yet a member but would like to become one, the membership form and online payment option is conveniently located on our website.

I am sure most of you are aware of the major renovation which has been underway at TAG since last summer. Many of our volunteers have put in hours, days, and weeks of their personal time working on this addition, or have made a contribution in other ways, and TAG is incredibly lucky and grateful to have all this support and expertise. There is still some work to be done before we can close the curtain on this project. If you are able to offer your support, you may do so via our website, or feel free to contact myself via email at [president@tagtheatre.com](mailto:president@tagtheatre.com) or Bill VanGorder at [fundraising@tagtheatre.com](mailto:fundraising@tagtheatre.com). No contribution is too small. Thank you!

Rayna Smith Camp

## UPDATE GALLERIES RENOVATION PROJECT

### Building On Our Past for a Better Future - Fund Raising Campaign

The Theatre Arts Guild's Pond Playhouse is being renovated to make life better for our patrons, volunteers, production crews and actors. We set out to raise \$170,000 to fulfill the project through fund raising projects including the TAG Seat Sale, surpluses from our recent productions and a \$50,000 grant from the Federal Government 150 Community Infrastructure Program. We required an additional \$40,000 to complete the project of which we have now raised \$15,000. We still require \$25,000.

**The renovations are nearing completion.**  
**Our cash flow is tight. The need for immediate donations is urgent.**

The renovations to the Pond Playhouse, home of the Theatre Arts Guild, consist of the construction of new galleries along the east and north sides of the theatre. This will:

- ◆ Create new space for set construction off of the stage so we can use the stage for more theatrical events for our members and patrons.
- ◆ Double the size of our currently tiny dressing room.
- ◆ Replace and make accessible, the small, dilapidated backstage bathroom.
- ◆ Improve costume and props organizational area
- ◆ And it means actors will no longer have to walk outdoors to get from backstage to the lobby for entrances from that area.

**Won't you consider a donation to help us complete the project?**

To donate contact one the campaign co-chair Rayna Smith Camp [rsmithcamp@gmail.com](mailto:rsmithcamp@gmail.com) or Bill VanGorder [billvangorder@eastlink.ca](mailto:billvangorder@eastlink.ca)

## BECOMING A MEMBER

Not only do members receive a discount on tickets, a Theatre Arts Guild membership is the ideal way to help your community theatre thrive while developing your own theatrical skills, interests, and making new friends. As a member, you can be involved in every facet of theatre production and management, from the box office to the stage, and have an opportunity to have your voice heard at the Board level by getting involved in committees and voting at our Annual General Meeting. Become a member today!

### Membership Plans

**Regular - \$15**

**Family - \$25**

**Senior (60+) - \$10**

**Student - \$10**

***Join Today***

**Alice in Wonderland  
IN PHOTOS  
by Bruce Goodick**



**Alice, Cheshire Cat  
and Caterpillar**



**The Red Queen**



**Harry Hopper and Jack of Spades**



**Cookie the Dame and Cheshire Cat**



**Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum**



**Caterpillar**



**Brandy aka Ace of Hearts**



**Dormouse aka Stella**



**Mad Hatter**



**Marsh Hare, Alice and Mad Hatter**



**2 and 9 of Hearts**



**Cast and Crew**

~ **EXPANDING YOUR  
THEATRE VOCABULARY** ~  
*The 68th in a continuing series*

## Just One Big Happy Family!

I'm not a betting person normally (!), but I'm willing to guess that if I asked you to name some of your favourite TV comedies, the titles you give me would be about families – *The Brady Bunch*, *Family Ties*, *Full House*, *Married – With Children*, etc. We take it for granted now that a comedy set within a family home, with a cast consisting of one or more generations is an ideal situation for producing a constant stream of laughs.

Our theatrical ancestors, the Ancient Greeks would be confused and puzzled by this attitude. The family or the family home or discussions within a family were not represented in their tragedies and comedies. Families were so, well, ordinary and dull and lacking imagination. Theatre, for the Ancients, was meant to inspire, to leave behind the ordinary and look to the Gods and heroes whose myths formed the bedrock of their culture. And always, always, there was a lesson to be learned, from those who gained the protection of the Gods for their benevolence and sacrifice

and those who were punished for their avarice, cowardice and murderous deeds. If the audience hadn't got the message by the end of the play, then there was always the Chorus to repeat the main points before everyone packed up and went home!

The family comedy of the type that we are now familiar with was slow to develop in the overall history of the genre. There are examples in the list I hold of all of the Guild's productions, but these tend to use the family setting only as a basis for focusing most of the attention on one character. *George and Margaret*, performed in 1939 (and later made into a successful film) produces laughs by having a maid who has to contend with the family upsets. *The White Sheep of the Family* (1954, and TAG's entry that year in the Dominion Drama Festival) gets its laughs from the family being a gang of crooks with the White Sheep as the son who decides – horror – to forsake a life of crime!

Other comedy playwrights of the 20th century take a different tack, with the family consisting of bizarre, contrasted individuals who bring mayhem to whatever they do. *You Can't Take It With You* by George S. Kaufman has been enjoyed by audiences twice on the TAG stage,

with John Gratwick portraying a memorable Mr. De Pina in the 1996 production. Our rehearsal space, Gratwick Hall, is named after John and his wife, Lyn. Noel Coward takes a similar approach – *Hay Fever* (at TAG in 1986) contrasts an over-the-top theatrical family with some very ordinary (and normal) house guests. The guests, needless to say, have to sneak out before their official stay is over!

*Belles* by Mark Dunn (2007) was an interesting piece, featuring a family of sisters who communicate in the play only by telephone. Placing the sisters apart (in our production, each of the actresses sat in their own small area) meant that the family dynamics were gathered from each individual in turn – definitely a novel approach.

Finally to a real family – the Bingham's, with real opinions and decided views, with a real possibility of ----- lots of laughs! Persuade yourself that, although there's snow on the ground, spring is just around the corner and there's heartwarming comedy waiting at Theatre Arts Guild!

Judy Reade