

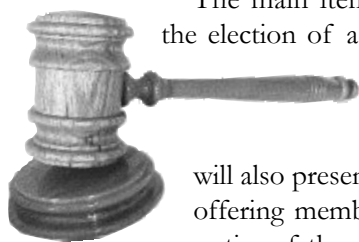


Summer Bulletin

August, 2004

Time Again for the AGM

TAG's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday September 13th at 8:00 P.M. All TAG members are entitled and strongly encouraged to attend.



The main item of business will be the election of a new slate of officers for TAG's board of directors. The current board members will also present their annual reports, offering members a summary retrospective of the season just ended. *

Building a Better TAG

There's no shortage of summer work for those die-hard TAG volunteers who love to get their hands dirty and dive into that most basic of all theatrical needs: the physical space where the show goes on. A number of improvement projects have been in the works for some time, and a few of them are now underway.

These projects are driven by a need to improve our physical infrastructure, and they are facilitated by the availability of funds from the Capital Campaign. Your donation dollars are hard at work, and these important projects would not be possible without the generous support of our patrons and friends.

One of the most exciting improvements to the Pond Playhouse is the acquisition of a new lighting control system. This has been in the planning stages for many months, and we are now delighted to announce that the equipment (control desk and dimmers) has arrived on our doorstep and awaits installation.

This new system will increase the number of dimmers from twenty-four to forty-eight, and the console will take us into a new era in terms of the control we will have over the lights. We are also taking this opportunity to change over to twistlock plugs and sockets for the lighting system. These are the industry standard in the

professional theatre world, but it means changing over more than one-hundred-and-fifty plugs and sockets.

The new dimmers will find their home in the old equipment room on the second level of the lobby. This will move them away from the technicians and sound equipment in the technical booth, which will mean more room in the booth and less audible electrical noise.

The equipment room itself is undergoing changes. Since all the set construction hardware was moved to the new storage area behind the stage, the old equipment room has been freed up for other purposes. New shelving has been constructed to allow for better props storage, and a ventilator has been installed to exhaust air from the washrooms in the lobby.

Major changes to the technical booth are also underway. Although removing the existing dimmers will free up some space, the new lighting control console is much bigger than the old one and would benefit from a bigger space. Currently, the plan is to move the back wall of the booth about three feet further back and extend it across to the west wall of the building. The back side of this wall will become an area for even more props storage. We hope to be able to remove a section of the old concrete wall which formed the entrance to the building years ago and so expand the width of the booth as well as its depth. Also in the works is the installation of a bigger soundproof window and the addition of soundproofing to the wall between the booth and the back row of the audience. All of this will necessitate relocation of miles of wiring.

The TAG volunteers, ably headed by Technical Director Austin Reade, Building Manager J Carruth, Community Relations Director Bill VanGorder, and Past President Nick Jupp, are already hard at work. As of this writing, the set from *Dead Guilty* has been struck, the walls and desk of the technical booth have been removed, and the old workroom is being prepared for the installation of the new lighting dimmers. Work is proceeding at a rapid pace, and the rest of the summer should see some dramatic (pun intended) changes to our beloved theatre. *

2004/2005 Season Gets Early Facelift

In the last issue of *Contact*, we announced TAG's upcoming (2004/2005) season. Unfortunately, things have changed a wee bit since then. We've discovered an error in one of the play synopses, and we've had to pull one play out of the roster entirely.

Our synopsis of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* lists Hercule Poirot as the sleuth summarily summoned, but it took little detective work on the part of local Christie fans to discover the blunder and inform TAG in short order. As first published, Christie's novel *The Hollow* was, in fact, a Poirot mystery, but she removed him from her stage adaptation and replaced him with the character of inspector Colquhoun.

In the "Best Laid Plans" department, we have had to remove *Enchanted April* from the 2004/2005 roster, as we have been informed that the rights to that play are not available. TAG's artistic committee is working to find a suitably upbeat replacement to lift us out of the February blahs.

Here is an updated season summary:

September 30th to October 16th, 2004

Halo, a dramatic comedy/comedic drama by Josh McDonald, directed by Frank MacLean.

When an image of Jesus appears on the side of a Tim Horton's restaurant in Nately, Nova Scotia, life is forever changed. The town's inhabitants are challenged to ask difficult questions about faith, life, and love with sometimes moving, sometimes hilarious results.

At the centre of this wickedly entertaining play resides the existential and personal question of what has happened to meaning and ethics in this strip-mall culture that has replaced our more pastoral and organic heritage. Has religion lost the ability to mediate these two conditions, or did it ever really have that power?

December 2nd to 18th, 2004

Red Riding Hood, a Christmas Pantomime adapted and directed by Lorne Abramson and Cheryl Theriault.

This classic tale gets a local twist that brings a cast of forest favourites in a very pleasant park together for a fun adventure that includes wolves, songs, and among other things... cheesecake!

February 24th to March 12th, 2005

Comedy, TBA

A mid-winter comedy to help you laugh away the cold and snow.

April 28-May 14, 2005

Dancing at Lughnasa, a drama by Brian Friel, directed by Louise Renault.

The story is told through the memory of the illegitimate son as he remembers the five women who raised him: his mother and four maiden aunts. He is only seven in 1936, the year his elderly uncle, a priest, returns from twenty-five years as a missionary in Uganda. For the young boy, two other disturbances occur that summer: The sisters acquire their first radio, whose music transforms them from correct Catholic women into shrieking banshees, and he meets his father for the first time, a charming Welsh drifter who strolls up the lane and sweeps his mother off her feet. This haunting play is Friel's tribute to the spirit and valor of the past and its people.

July 7th to 23rd, 2005

The Hollow, a mystery by Agatha Christie, directed by Iris Paterson.

Lady Angkatell has invited an interesting group of people to her estate for a weekend house party. As the play opens, we are met with an elaborate tableau: A doctor lies in a puddle of red paint, his timid wife stands over his body with a gun, and the other guests look suitably shocked. But this is no charade. The paint is blood and the corpse real, turning a pleasant country weekend into one of Christie's most baffling plots. *

Audition Notice

Auditions for TAG's 2004 Christmas Pantomime, entitled *Red Riding Hood*, will be held at St. Augustine's Church, Purcell's Cove Road, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 8th and 9th, from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

The cast will consist of fifteen to seventeen performers of both genders ranging in age from 16 years on up. The show runs December 2nd through 18th for fourteen shows. Rehearsals will start around September 16th and run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. and Sundays from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Please be prepared to sing unaccompanied during your audition, as good (not brilliant) singing voices are needed for this production.

For more information call 477-2663. *

