

# CONTACT

November, 2006

The Pond Playhouse (www.tagtheatre.com)

6 Parkhill Rd. off Purcells Cove Road,  
just past the Frog Pond.

email - info@tagtheatre.com

The Official Newsletter of



Canada's oldest continually operating  
community theatre. 76 years  
and growing.

Tickets: \$15 General Admission  
\$12 for members, students & seniors

Reservations are necessary  
Phone - **902-477-2663**

Deb Post

## The President's Message

To prepare for my first article as President I clicked onto the OxfordAdvancedLearner's Dictionary, CD-ROM. The computer version has a "cultural guide" tab. Under **theatre**, it tells me about *the Aldwych Theatre: a theatre in the West End of London, famous for the Aldwych farces, comedy plays by Ben Travers which were performed there in the 1920s and 1930s.*

*It was the London home of the Royal Shakespeare Company from 1960 to 1982. Under **theater**, it tells me about the Dance Theater of Harlem: a U.S. dance group with mostly African-American dancers. It was established in 1971 in Harlem in New York*

*by Arthur Mitchell (1934-), the first African-American principal artist in the New York City Ballet, and has performed many works by George Balanchine. How far we travel when we transpose the letters e and r!*

TAG's Canadian entry into the

dictionary could read *Theatre Arts Guild, Canada's longest continuously-running community theatre, operating out of the Pond Playhouse, situated beside the picturesque Frog Pond in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.* Think about the journeys we take every time we enter the Pond Playhouse. During my ten years of active involvement in community theatre, it has taught me that nothing compares to the stage for its ability to move you, shake you, and open your mind.



Our first production of the 2006/2007 season was *Skylight*, written by David Hare, ably directed by Angela Butler and produced by TAG veteran Nick Jupp. It is a bold exploration of modern society, love, and life performed with honesty, subtlety and skill by Beth VanGorder, Frank MacLean, and Dylan Aucoin. One couple who came to see it wrote: *We attended Skylight last evening and*



*"Ali Baba and the Seven Thieves"*

*Christmas Pantomime by*

*Ron Nicol*

*Directed by Rebecca Humphreys,*

*Eric Rountree and*

*Cheryl Theriault*

*Musical Direction by Bunny Shore Produced by Michele Moore*

*Nov 30 - Dec 16*



## SPECIAL THANKS TO SOBEYS

Thank you to Sobeys on the Herring Cove Road for supplying us with two big, beautiful trays of fruits and vegetables for our patrons on every members' night (the first Saturday of each play's run) If you attend the play on Members' Night, please stay afterward for refreshments and camaraderie.

TAG Box Office **477-2663**

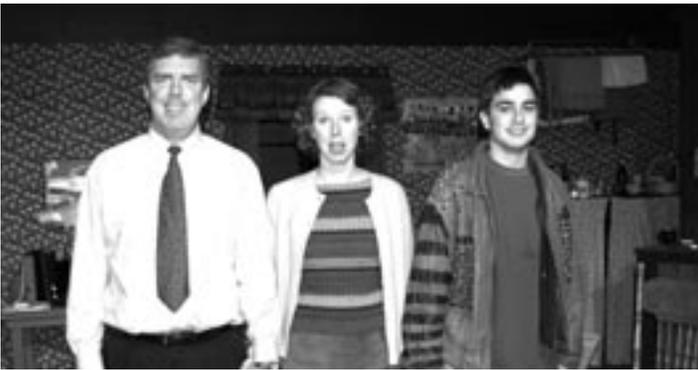


President	Deb Post
Vice-President	Elaine Casey
Past President	Esther VanGorder
Treasurer	Carolyn Boyer
Secretary	Cathy McAuley
Technical Director	Austin Reade
Props/Costumes Mistress	Judy Reade
Building Manager	J Carruth
Executive Producer	Rebecca Humphreys
Artistic Director	Nick Jupp
Publicity	Michele Moore
Volunteer Coordinator	Cheryl Theriault

BOARD 2006 -2007

Nick Jupp

## Skylight



Our opening play this season, *Skylight* by David Hare, was a terrific critical and audience success. Directed by Angela Butler, *Skylight* brought to the stage a battle of wills, idealism and love that was outstanding. *Skylight* was not a typical play for TAG to produce because it demanded a huge commitment from the actors and production crew. Pushing the envelope is a good thing for TAG because it lets us stretch and develop as a group. *Skylight* will long be remembered as a challenging and thoroughly enjoyable production.

Congratulations to the three outstanding actors, Beth VanGorder, Dylan Aucoin and Frank MacLean who together with the production team took on, and succeeded with the most challenging play at TAG for very long time.

**Contact** November 2006

## President's Message cont.

*enjoyed a stimulating evening of theatre. What a challenging play for a community company! Everyone involved did a good job. It was well worth our drive from Blandford. Good luck with the rest of the run!*

Our selection of plays satisfies a wide range of tastes—drama, pantomime, comedy, mystery, romance—not only to entertain, but to challenge and stimulate our patrons. Our next production is *Ali Baba and the Seven Thieves*, continuing our highly anticipated and successful Christmas pantomime tradition. Our volunteers are in the enviable position of doing enjoyable work surrounded by pleasant company. I welcome you to enjoy each of our performances, to open your hearts and minds to new ideas or ways of thinking, or simply to have a laugh and sing a song. We always welcome your comments and suggestions. I look forward to this season and to seeing you in person at the Pond Playhouse.

Debora Post, President

Cheryl Theriault

## Pantomime...Yes! It Really Does Have Words!

This is the season and there are many creative and enthusiastic hands working away to bring TAG's Annual Traditional English Pantomime (NOT mime! That's the thing without words!) to life. This year "*Ali Baba and the Seven Thieves*" will open November 30th and run til December 16th, with our regular Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. evening shows as well as four, 2 p.m. matinees, Sunday, December 3rd, Saturday, December 9th, Sunday, December 10th, and Saturday, December 16th.

TAG's history with these crazy, family extravaganzas goes back to 1998 when "*Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*" was produced and many women thrilled to the spectacle of seven men crawling around on their knees! Well, this year, our show features one of those dwarves, Dr. Lowell Shore, playing a very evil (and a little bit stupid) Chief Thief, who is struggling to put together a band of thieves "worthy of his supremely inspiring leadership!" (his words...we have our doubts..) The cast also features many wonderful newcomers to TAG and a lot of fresh young faces all eager to amp up the "silly factor" and present a fabulous show to entertain the family. So if you drive by the Pond Playhouse some evening and hear laughter and song...that's just us getting ready to bring you your annual slice of Holiday Pantomime Pie!

Reservations open to TAG members on October 26th and to the general public on November 2nd. Book early...really early! See you at the Pond! (Oh no you won't!...Oh yes I will!...Oh ..!!)

Nick Jupp

## Play Selection for the 2007-2008 Season



It's time to start planning ahead for our 2007/08 season! If you would like to participate on the play selection committee, please contact the Artistic Director, Nick Jupp at [njupp@dymaxion.ca](mailto:njupp@dymaxion.ca) or 477-8697. The committee meets frequently over the winter months to first decide on the style of the season, musical, comedy etc., then select plays for each of the five productions. The committee's recommendations are forwarded to the TAG Board for approval.

You don't need to be on the committee to suggest a play, Any TAG member can send in play suggestions. If you aspire to direct a show, you can either send in a general indication of interest, or submit a specific script you would like to direct.

If you enjoy reading plays and sharing your ideas with others, give some thought to joining the play selection committee.

Nick Jupp *Artistic Director*

Nick Jupp

## Production Costs - A Background

Each production at TAG has a number of cash costs that you might not imagine. Firstly we must pay royalty rights through the appropriate agent, usually in Toronto or New York. Occasionally the payments are made directly to the playwright, or in the case of scripts developed by a TAG member, there are no royalty fees at all. Sometimes rights are not available if a play is still in professional production, and once in a while rights can be withdrawn, after they have been granted, because a professional group has applied. This does not happen very often, but on occasion a professional production in New York is enough for us to have rights withdrawn. For amateur rights we need to provide the number of seats, number of performances and other information. As a rule, about \$100 for the first night and about \$70 for each following night is a good benchmark. Musical productions, however, can be two to three times as expensive. Our December Pantomime will have rights from the Scottish agent of about \$1,100 which is a little on the high side.

Usually the next largest expense is either the set or costumes depending on the production. If the set can be largely built from stock flats and recycled material, the cost can be as low as \$300 - normally for paint and trim material. For a more custom set, costs can rise to the \$1,400 to \$1,500 dollar

mark. Costumes are equally variable, a modern setting when actors personal clothing supplemented by Frenchies and Value Village shopping is adequate, can cost as low as \$50. Period costumes, on the other hand, can push costs up to several hundred dollars. TAG maintains an eclectic range of costumes managed by Judy Reade that truly helps keep costume costs in line.

Set props can be a negligible, or significant if items are absolutely required. Fake blood, for example, is very expensive since it must be non toxic and non staining, a tall order for a red liquid! Many items are borrowed from TAG members' homes and it's not unusual for a spouse to come to a play and recognize something on a set from his home!

Other costs can be the production of advertising material, programs, cleaning of the theatre, rental of special items and a myriad of miscellaneous items. Along with all this are some recurring costs such as expensive bulbs for the stage lighting, coloured gels for the lights, computer discs, photocopying as examples. All in all, each TAG production can have a cash cost between \$1,500 and \$2,500 - or expressed in terms of ticket sales, the revenue from the first two to four nights of each production are required to pay the cash costs. After the costs are recovered, the next \$4,200 of revenue from each production goes into the operating fund to pay for heating, insurance, building maintenance and other fundamental recurring costs. If, when this is covered, additional revenue comes in, it is directed into our capital fund currently focused on a new lobby, washrooms and a rehearsal hall.

As you can imagine, when we select the five plays for each season, it's important to consider all these factors so we don't slide toward the expensive side of the equation. Fortunately there is so much material to choose from we don't have any difficulty finding the right financial and artistic balance. Sometimes a production is sponsored by an individual, group or corporation. For a \$1,500 donation a sponsor will be named in all promotional material and the program. It has happened that a show sponsor wishes to remain anonymous which of course can be arranged.

So there are the inner budget workings of a TAG production, if you would like to learn more, please contact the TAG President who will be pleased to provide additional information.

## FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

My name is Karen Murphy and I am an Interior Design Consultant with Oakleaf Interiors Inc. of Dartmouth as well as a Certified Interior Decorator. I am originally from Alberta and have lived in the Annapolis Valley for most of my life. For the past 15 years I have lived and worked in Halifax. I am currently the Sponsorship Co-chair and Food Chair for Titz 'n Glitz which is an organization that raises funds for people diagnosed with breast cancer. As well, I am a freelance writer and have a Home Decor article published every month on an online web-magazine produced here in Halifax.

Deb Post

## TAG'S Lobby Extension:

Anyone who has visited the theatre recently has seen the progress we have made on our lobby extension. Our Building Committee consists of several members who meet at the crack of 7 am, every Thursday morning and review a task list, assigning items to individuals according to their expertise and availability.

Really, it's a miracle of volunteerism. We owe thanks to Syd Dumeresq for the design of the structure as well as the expert advice of several stalwart members of the building trades who have patiently stood with us and answered volleys of questions over the past weeks and months. Phase One, getting the structure up and weather tight on the outside, is completed.



Our new lobby has a second floor rehearsal hall which will allow rehearsals to begin before the current play has finished and save us rental costs and time. It will give us space to provide workshops and other educational functions for the community.

We at TAG can't wait to be able to use this space. We are, however, committed to finishing each construction task only when we have the money in our coffers. The planning for each task leading to the interior completion (and our occupancy permit) continues steadily. The tasks themselves are completed largely with volunteer effort and with supplies purchased as soon as we have saved enough money.

Deb Post

## COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWS



**All Saints Bedford Players Presents**

### A Separate Peace & The Real Inspector Hound

Two one-act plays

**by Tom Stoppard**

Directed By Janet Godsell

One spoofs the British whodunit while the other probes the riddle of a healthy man who checks himself into a private hospital.

**Oct. 26 to Nov. 11**

**Dartmouth Players Presents**

### NUNSENSE

A musical comedy, book, music, and lyrics

**by Dan Goggin**

Directed by Geoff Ball

"Nunsense," a musical comedy, won 4 Critics' Circle Awards, including Best Off-Broadway Musical. **November 8 to 25, 2006**

### THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD

Mailing Address:

287 Lacewood Drive

Unit 103, Suite 412

Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7

Telephone: (902) 477-2663

[www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

[info@tagtheatre.com](mailto:info@tagtheatre.com)

The pamphlet published by Theatre Nova Scotia 'Community Theatre 2006-2007 Season', which describes the line-up of plays for the metro community theatres and is SO handy to keep by your phone, is now available! Pick up your copy at the Pond Playhouse when you next come to see a play.

## Auditions

Scotland Road a mystery by Jeffrey Hatcher will be holding auditions once the Pantomime is underway. Watch for dates and times in your e-mail, and at [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com) or call the Director, Nick Jupp, if you have any questions at 477-8697.

