

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

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The Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS
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NEXT AT TAG

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
June 20th to July 7th

TAG's next production, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, is a delightful musical journey back to the days of acne and anxiety. Come and meet the six spellers trying to win it all and advance to the National Spelling Bee, the adults trying to keep order, and the one felon doing Community Service who isn't quite sure why he is at the Bee. Audience volunteers can be part of the show if they sign up to be spellers....so every show will be just a little bit different.

The cast has TAG veterans and new faces. Karen Myatt, Margaret Champion, and Brian Hart were in last year's *Drowsy Chaperone*. Karla Bruce, Kyle Gillis, and Rayna Smith-Camp were in productions such as *Oklahoma* and *Red, Hot, and Cole*. The rest of our cast may be new to TAG but may be familiar names from productions by TheatreSpeak, *Vile Passeist*, and *Neptune*.

- Jolene Pattison, Director


Theatre Arts Guild presents
The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE
June 20 - July 7, 2013

Music and Lyrics by William Finn
Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Road
Halifax, NS

Tickets on sale May 24th
Ticket Atlantic outlets
www.ticketatlantic.com
or 451-1221
\$13 - \$16

Some sensitive language and adult themes



Additional material by Jay Reiss.
Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine. Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catallo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre.

25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 635 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212-543-4844, Fax: 212-547-4844, www.MTIshow.com.

Tickets on Sale
May 24th

TAG Ticket Prices

\$13 Members/Seniors/Students
\$16 Non-Members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (\$2 per online session)

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 (\$2 per online session)
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

May/June 2013 Contact

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood Dr. Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax NS B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah!! Springtime, a wondrous season where we see the days getting longer and warmer and signs of new life appear. Also it is a sign that, at the Theatre Arts Guild, we are preparing for our closing production of the season, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Don't be disappointed, get your tickets

early. On sale soon!

A *Man for All Seasons* just closed with many sold out performances. What an excellent theatre experience! From all levels this show was vastly received. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this production. Thank you to everyone involved who made the

play a success.

I am looking forward to our next Season's Launch Party. Come out, not only to hear what we have in store for our next season but to be entertained. Always a good time at Theatre Arts Guild!

- Angela Butler, President

Recent Shows at TAG

TAG's most recent production was *A Man for All Seasons*. Directed by Gisela O'Brien and produced by Bill VanGorder. The cast featured many well-known TAG performers. The show was well received with special praise going toward the design elements, such as lighting and

costumes. Below you'll find some photos from the production. Congratulations to the cast and crew!



AGM Notice

Members of the Theatre Arts Guild are invited to attend TAG's Annual General Meeting

Monday, September 9th
7:30pm
Gratwick Hall

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road,
Halifax, NS.

Take Your Seat

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse. Your contribution is tax deductible!

Visit tagtheatre.com or email seatsale@tagtheatre.com for more information about this exciting fundraiser!

AUDITION CALL

Steel Magnolias

Character List

Truvy Jones
Beauty shop owner

Annelle Dupuy-Desoto
Young shop assistant

Clairee Belcher
Grande dame, widow of former Mayor

Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie
Young lady of note

M'Lynn Eatenton
Shelby's socially prominent mother

Ouiser Boudreaux
Wealthy, loveable curmudgeon

Auditions for the production of *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Hartling will be held at Theatre Arts Guild, 6 Parkhill Road, 6pm to 9pm on **Sunday June 23rd and Monday June 24th**. No preparation is required, extracts from the script will be provided. No appointments necessary. There are six female roles.

There will be two rehearsals per week in August and four per week in September. The exact schedule will be settled after casting with input from the actors. For further information please contact the director Nick Jupp ncjupp@gmail.com or 477-8697



Six years after surviving brain surgery, I decided it was time to celebrate and thank, musically, family and friends who had supported me. On August 14th, 2010, *Once Upon a Dream: A Celebration of Life*, was the evening my dream came true. I had finally gained enough use of my right hand and arm to give a piano recital on TAG's stage, a place that has brought me so much joy over the years. Family and friends were personally invited. Along with the recital, Lowell & I hoped we could get enough donations to purchase a permanent keyboard for the theatre. This, too, became a reality, and "Dmitra" now proudly resides at The Pond Playhouse. She's a lovely girl and we hope she has a long and healthy life, bringing beautiful music to all who come to hear her.

- Bunny Shore

New
at
TAG

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary The 47th in a Continuing Series

It seems at times these days that we are bombarded on small and large screens with images of the exuberance of a group of young people, dancing and singing their way through an idyllic existence, hardly pausing to draw breath. This celebration of youth, at least within the context of theatrical history, is a recent phenomenon, to be linked to the evolution of various musical styles, fashions, social trends, an increasing dependence on technology and all those aspects of life which now focus the spotlight on adolescents. In centuries past, young people were not categorized and slotted into little boxes and given labels, but were regarded as younger versions of adults and expected to behave as such.

In recent years, singing and dancing high schoolers obviously lead to moneybags. (I always make a point in these pieces of searching the TAG archives to find illustrations to support my musings, but this time could find no comparable example. The closest would have to be *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, performed in 1989, (except that this focuses on a teacher, and the girls in her charge do not dance!).

Think *High School U.S.A.* (1983), with a young Michael Fox; the iconic *Grease* (1978) - now a year-end musical rite of passage for any high school with a choir and a band. *Glee* arrived on our television screens in 2009 and the format evolved into a franchise with *High School Musical* and extended through television to films, albums, concert tours and a stage version.

So, what is the attraction here and how does it mesh with your memories of the teen years? Did you savour your time in class; savour each hour spent with friends; experience the range of every possible emotion to the fullest, whether good or bad? Or were your school years a time to be endured, to be uncomfortably tolerated until you emerged into the real world?

The teenage gamut of emotions is laid out for viewing in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The contestants approach the competition with confidence, with trepidation, with arrogance, with confusion, with clarity, all bound up in song and dance.

Come relive your youth (well-spent or misspent) with us at the "Spelling Bee". Oh, and one final point - no one will be asked to spell 'supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!'

- Judy Reade

2013/2014 Season

On Wednesday May 22nd TAG announced their 2013/2014 season! We are very excited to present this exceptional list of plays and directors for the upcoming season. We hope to see all TAG members at auditions, behind the scenes, or in the audience!

Steel Magnolias: Sept. 19th - Oct. 5th

Puss in Boots: Nov. 28th - Dec. 15th

The Noble Pursuit: Feb. 13th - Mar. 1

The Stillborn Lover: Apr. 24th - May 10th

The Full Monty: June 26th - July 13th