

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 Emperor's New Clothes

November 26th to December 12th

I am so pleased and honoured to have the privilege of being part of this season's pantomime team.

What a time-honoured tradition is the British pantomime, delighting children of all ages as a trusted part of the annual holiday celebrations; and what a tradition it has become at Theatre Arts Guild (TAG). With the Emperor's New Clothes we have it all – panto style – royalty, romance, roguery and a wee touch of the ridiculous. All wrapped up in an enchanted kingdom filled with music and dance. Your toes will be tapping, your boos will be boeing and your noes will be knowing – with a twinkle in your eye!

Such a production does not happen without time, effort and definitely not without top-notch creative energies. Our accompanist and musical director, Bunny Shore, is an integral part of TAG's panto tradition and she has woven the golden thread through the Emperor's New Clothes. When

you layer on the choreography, the characterizations of Pantosville's inhabitants and all the many things that take place behind the scenes; well, you have a multi-tiered panto-cake –filled with a host of talented, committed, enthusiastic people, in the manner of baking that only our Dame Dolly could accomplish! But that is getting ahead of ourselves . . .

My gratitude to cast, crew and TAG for allowing me to be a part of this year's show. Please take a moment to peruse the program for all the helping hands; I wish I could name them all (but thankfully the program does!). I bid you welcome to our Emperor's Realm: Pantosville!

- Karen Waterfield, 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

October/November 2015 Contact

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first message as TAG'S new President . It is an honour to accept this position as we move forward in to our 85th season . 85 years...what an exciting anniversary! These many successful years would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers who not only offer their time but their amazing talent and expertise. New volunteers are always welcome and I look forward to

hearing from you. I would like to thank Angela Butler for her dedicated work as our President over the past four seasons. She is a tough act to follow! Welcome to both the new and returning board members for the 2015/2016 season. Our season opener, Same Time, Next Year, just closed after a successful four week run. Congratulations to the cast and crew. The next show to take the

stage is our always popular Pantomime. Get those tickets early!

The wheels are turning, the thinking caps are on, and plans are being made to recognize this milestone season. Continue to stay tuned for ticket information regarding the celebratory event scheduled for February 2016.

- Rayna Smith-Camp, President

RECENTLY @ TAG

Same Time Next Year, Directed by Michele Moore



AUDITIONS

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Director: Angela Bulter

Performance Dates: **March 31st to April 23rd 2016**

Auditions: **Sunday Dec. 13th - 1pm to 5pm & Tuesday Dec. 15th - 7pm to 9pm**

at The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

On a late summer day in the mid 1950's, the Pollitt family have gathered to celebrate aging patriarch Big Daddy's birthday. But there is more to this gathering than a family reunion. Lurking under every interaction between family members and behind every argument we find lies and deceit.

A cold read from script selections (provided). No appointment necessary.

For more information please contact the Director, Angela Butler at l.angelabutler.ab@gmail.com

Characters

Note: Ages of all characters are flexible

Brick: A former star athlete haunted by secrets and lies. Uses a "crutch" to exist.

Margaret: Sensual and vivacious wife of Brick who possesses an unyielding will to survive but a fear of abandonment and rejection.

Big Daddy Brash: powerful and successful patriarch. Speaks his mind and is unafraid of vulgarity.

Big Mama: Meddlesome and outspoken, and although governed by her emotions, she's ultimately as shrewd as anyone in her family.

Gooper: A successful corporate lawyer, eldest and least favored son of Big Daddy and Big Mama

and deeply resents their love for Brick.

Mae: A mean, agitated "monster of fertility" who schemes with her husband to secure Big Daddy's estate.

Reverend Tooker: Southern and local clergyman. Boot-licking and a bit obvious to stay in good graces to garner his church a generous portion of the Pollitt estate.

Doctor Baugh: Small-town southern doctor. A sincere and concerned friend of Big Daddy's.

Lacey (male or female): Southern servant in the Pollitt household. Has seniority in the home and understands the family politics.

Sookey (female or male): Southern servant in the Pollitt household for many years

PLAY SUBMISSIONS FOR 2016-2017 SEASON

Calling all Directors!

Do you have a script you'd be interested in directing for the 2016-2017 Season?
Please contact the Artistic Director, Esther VanGorder. You'll be asked to provide a copy of the script, the time of year you prefer and any specifics you may have in mind regarding staging, etc.
Deadline for submissions: December 31, 2015
Artistic-Director@TAGTheatre.com

CHEERS AND BOOS!

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 59th in a continuing series

Even though I am now 'advanced in years' (!), I still get excited thinking about the upcoming pantomime *The Emperor's New Clothes*. (As an historical aside, this is the first time that we have presented a piece based on the fairy tales of the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, who lived from 1805 – 1875. As a further aside, the animated Disney feature, *Frozen* - the highest grossing animated film of all time – is based on Andersen's tale *The Snow Queen*). My excitement stems partly from the fact that, growing up in England, pantomimes were an integral part of the Christmas experience. However, from my viewpoint as TAG's Archivist and the writer of short essays designed to increase your knowledge of theatre and theatre history, pantomime excites me because it's different. Pantomime disregards rules, including perhaps the most important rule of all – 'breaking the fourth wall.'

The topsy-turvyness starts right after the opening number, when we meet our 'principal boy'/hero, Taylor Tayler, who is actually played by a female. Suffice it to say that this is one of pantomime's long-standing traditions and dates certainly from Victorian times, when (I'm afraid this has to be said!), the gentlemen in the audience had possibly the only opportunity to see the legs of females, albeit encased in tights! We have an Italian phrase to learn here – en travesti, which means 'in disguise,' originally used to identify male actors in drag, but expanded to mean a player in disguise portraying a member of the

opposite sex. And en travesti is not limited to theatre. If you've seen a production of *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, Cherubino, the pesky young male servant in love with the Countess is always sung by a woman. Ballet also provides opportunities for men to switch gender, usually in overtly comic (*The Ugly Sisters* in *Cinderella*) or evil roles (Carabosse, the fairy who provides the sleeping in *Sleeping Beauty*).

It's been our practice to follow the en travesti tradition in pantomime and make the principal comic role (the 'Dame' – easily identifiable by outrageous costumes and antics) a male preserve. This year however, we welcome back Jolene Pattison, who was Queen Mavis in *Camelot* (2012). Jolene is Dolly Drippington, the Emperor's cook and let's just say she probably will never be a winner in a television cooking show!

To end with 'breaking the fourth wall' – It's a concept first put forward by the French philosopher, novelist and playwright Denis Diderot (1713-1784). You, the audience member, see a stage consisting of three sides (if there's scenery on the three sides, you're looking at a 'box set'). There's an invisible barrier between actors and audience (the fourth wall) and it's the actors' job to create a world which you can observe, but of which you are not physically a part. Breaking that fourth wall means that the actors communicate directly with audience members, thereby making them part of the world created on the stage. Having told you this, you can now forget Diderot and his concept and when the Emperor's jester asks if you can help, you say YES! And when he asks you to shout BOOOOOO!, you can shout BOOOOOO! We won't mind!

Enjoy, really enjoy *The Emperor's New Clothes*!
- Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

Company (October 28th to November 14th)
Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

Asprin and Elephants (November 5th to 21st)
Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

The Emperor's New Clothes

November 26th to Decemeber 12th

A fairy tale familiar to children and adults alike will come to life in the magic only Pantomime can provide. The Emperor decides to compete in a contest to become a top model, but who will design his winning outfit and thereby win his daughter's hand in marriage?
Full of songs, dances, and silliness!