

THEATRE ARTS GUILD

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Canada's Oldest Continuously Operating Theatre Company



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CONTACT

January
2020

The official newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

A Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

As predicted, tickets for our 20th Pantomime, *The Wizard of... Oz?* sold out and it was another successful production. Congratulations and many thanks to the cast and crew.

TAG hosted its first ever "Broadway Dance Workshop" on December 14th. The workshop was choreographed by Melanie Abramson Dumaresq, who has choreographed many of our musicals and pantomimes. This was a fundraising event for TAG, which raised hundreds of dollars for our theatre. I want to thank Melanie and all those who attended - we hope you had fun!

You should have started to receive information regarding our next production, *Dracula, The Bloody Truth*. This is a unique and hilarious comedy - one which many have already said they are anxious and curious to see. With only four actors playing over forty characters, and the incredible set currently under construction, be sure to book your seats when the tickets go on sale on February 21st.

I am currently in the process of drafting the questions for our next Trivia Night taking place next Saturday, January 18th at 7:00 pm. Form a team of 4 to 6 people or join a team on the night of the event (maximum of 30 people). There will be a cash bar and light refreshments. Please sign up by emailing me at president@tagtheatre.com no later than January 15th. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per person.

~Rayna Smith-Camp

Theatre Arts Guild Gift
Certificates are Available
Year Round!

What a great gift for a theatre lover who has everything else. Buy for one production or many. We will customize to your request. No time limit. Your recipient can choose from any of our TAG productions.

To obtain gift Certificates, order by emailing Treasurer Patrick Charron at charron.p@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar for Dracula - The Bloody Truth

Dracula - The Bloody Truth by Le Navet Bete and John Nicholson

Director: Nick Jupp

Runs March 19 - April 4, 2020

Along the lines of *The Play That Goes Wrong* that has played to huge audiences in London, New York and Toronto, *Dracula - the Bloody Truth* is a madcap comedy with improv aspects . . . the best kind of winter entertainment. It's an absolutely hilarious comedy like you have never seen before. In our production, Dracula's nemesis, Professor Van Helsing, visits the Pond Playhouse to set things right and tell the audience what actually happened and the real ending to the story that Bram Stoker got so wrong.

Warning . . . you shouldn't be surprised to learn that many *frightening* moments pop up in the production such as wooden stakes, garlic, unearthly sounds, scary lighting, the (very) odd vampire, a horse replica, a cargo sailing ship (only a pretend one, the real thing was too expensive) . . . so be well-warned and put a hold on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night during the run in your calendar now (or the Sunday matinée if you prefer. We will remind you again when tickets are about to go on sale.

Tickets go on sale at noon on February 21, 2020!



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Deadline for Script Submissions

If you have a script that you would like to direct for the 2020-2021 season, please submit it by January 15th to Esther VanGorder at: ArtisticDirector@TAGTheatre.com

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Trivia Night @ TAG

Trivia Night returns Saturday, January 18th at 7pm at the Pond Playhouse. Teams of 4-6. Email president@tagtheatre.com to register before January 15th.

Enjoy our 2nd Trivia Night @ TAG

Our participants had such a good time last fall at the first TAG Trivia Night, we were encouraged to schedule another. Rayna Smith-Camp and her intrepid team of "trivial volunteers" have planned an evening you will not want to miss.

Join us this coming Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, in the Jollimore District of Halifax. Admission is Pay What You Can (we suggest a donation of \$10.00 per person). We'll be in the lobby for an evening of trivia and friendly competition.

There will be three rounds of Trivia. Form a team of 4 to 6 people or join a team on the night of the event. (Maximum of 30 people total). There will be a cash bar and light refreshments.

Please sign up by emailing Rayna Smith-Camp at president@tagtheatre.com no later than January 15th.

Volunteer with TAG!

Volunteer Position in the Spotlight: Assistant Stage Manager

If you've ever wondered what goes on back stage and who's in charge, well the answer is: "A lot, and the ASM has it all under control!" The Assistant Stage Manager (ASM) is on a headset, communicating with the SM (Stage Manager) who is up in the lighting booth watching and calling the show. The ASM cues the actors, helps with props and costumes, and makes sure the show runs smoothly. Time Commitment: high. This is a great job for someone efficient and organized and also great for someone new to the theatre looking to get their feet wet. Some of the duties you may find yourself doing as ASM:

- Attend rehearsals
- Help SM with blocking notes
- Help set up and clean up set and props
- Take Director's notes
- Call lines as needed when actors are off book
- Work with the props person to be informed on prop preparation for each performance
- Act as liaison between cast and SM during final rehearsals and performance
- Attend every performance and be in charge of the backstage
- Double check that stage/props/actors are ready for each performance
- Remain backstage during performance to cue actors and handle props
- Complete on stage set/scene changes during performance if needed
- Communicate with SM in booth (via headset) regarding cues/actors standing by
- Clean up backstage/props/stage (with SM) after each performance to be ready for the next one
- Attend Closing Party with gusto!

There are many opportunities to volunteer with TAG! Come out to an audition or contact Maddi at tagvolunteer@gmail.com



JAN

Auditions for Sherlock by Wireless

Come on out the evening of January 26th or 27th to audition for this classic radio mystery. No appointment is necessary. For more information, contact the director at: billvangorder@eastlink.ca

26-27



FEB

Tickets Go on Sale for Dracula - The Bloody Truth!

Mark your calendars for noon on February 21st when tickets go on sale for Dracula - The Bloody Truth. They will be available at all Ticket Atlantic outlets and online.

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Volunteer Spotlight on Eileen Woolley

I never knew how life changing a simple Google search would be until I found TAG. I filled out that volunteer form at *lightning* speed. I wanted to do *anything* and *everything*. It wasn't long before I was invited for a tour of the Pond Playhouse, where I was told the best way to get involved was to volunteer at the bar. Sign me up!

The bar was a great way to meet people such as Josh, Bill, Esther, Terri, Jen, Patrick, and many more who were incredibly encouraging to a newcomer. Everyone I spoke to was genuinely interested in getting to know me. *The Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* was the first show I worked at the bar and within a couple of weeks, I joined the production team for *Rope* as ASM. I got to help Angela and Lorne wrangle the actors and made life-long friendships (shout out to Skylar Sullivan)!

Being an ASM does take dedication, patience, and commitment, but it is so fulfilling. It's also a great position that is a bit of both worlds - production and cast. You have to make sure everyone is ready and goes on when they should, but can still have fun with some of the backstage shenanigans. After *Rope*, I went right into being the ASM for *The Ladies Foursome* and was invited to sit in during auditions. Now, I am getting ready to Stage Manage *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at the end of this season.

TAG is my second home. I love working with everyone that volunteers and the fact that it is a real community of artists supporting one another. It might seem scary for someone new, but for this newcomer, my fears quickly went away. The great thing about being an ASM is that you're always surrounded by people who are there to help. Esther, Angela, and Carolyn, for example, are great experienced stage managers I have had the pleasure to work with, and they were always there to help me whenever I needed. The job of an ASM is one that I have always loved and volunteering at TAG has made me fall in love with it all over again. ~ Eileen Woolley





Auditions for Sherlock by Wireless

Have you wanted to be in a Theatre Arts Guild production, but always found the 9 to 10 week commitment too much for your schedule? This play may be your opportunity! We are seeking 8 actors to take part in the play *Sherlock by Wireless: A Classic Radio Mystery*. Performers will recreate a radio studio with live sound effects for 3 classic Sherlock Holmes broadcasts from 1945 (originally starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce): *Death of an Adventuress*, *Murder in the Casbah*, and *A Scandal in Bohemia*.

Director is Bill VanGorder and the stage manager is Esther VanGorder. Live sound effects are led by Josh Law. The rehearsal period and run will be less intensive than our usual plays since most of the script is read by performers and there are only three performances over one weekend in TAG's Gratwick Hall from April 30 through May 2nd.

We will be casting 8 actors: 3 female and 5 male, ages 21 to 80+. Auditions will be held at the Theatre Arts Guild's Pond Playhouse on Sunday January 26th from 6 to 8 pm and Monday, January 27th from 7 to 9 pm. No appointment necessary, just arrive during at one of the above times for a cold read from our selected script segments.

For more information, contact director Bill VanGorder at billvangorder@eastlink.ca.

Seeking Script and Book Donations

We have put together a library in the Gratwick Rehearsal Hall and are seeking script books and books on theatre arts. Please sign the cover and leave them at the theatre for Lorne Abramson.

Check out TAG's New Events Calendar

We've set up a new TAG events calendar so you don't miss a thing. Check it out here: <https://tagtheatre.com/eventsCalendar.html>

Limited Pond Playhouse Seats Available for Dedication

For the past few years, the Theatre Arts Guild has invited patrons to get involved and leave a permanent mark at the Pond Playhouse by sponsoring a seat. This fundraiser has been successful at helping to raise money to complete our expansion, extensive renovation, and parking lot renewal. Our next project is installing sound absorbing baffles in the lobby to make conversation easier before and after performances.

There are less than 10 seats remaining. Dedicate a seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in Pond Playhouse history:

- Your chosen seat will be identified with an engraved plaque
- Acknowledgment of your support will be placed on the plaque permanently mounted in the theatre lobby
- Acknowledgment of your support will be included on the TAG official website in perpetuity
- Receive a free membership for the current season (this bonus effective December 4, 2017)
- Your gift is tax deductible!

Take this opportunity to:

- celebrate a special occasion or event
- cherish the memory of a loved one who shared your passion for the theatre
- make a gift to record a milestone
- raise your company's community profile
- show your support for the arts

All proceeds from the Take Your Seat campaign will go towards the TAG Capital Campaign. Please contact Bill VanGorder at 902-454-2267 or email Bill at billvangorder@eastlink.ca