



THEATRE ARTS GUILD

Canada's Oldest Continuously Operating Community Theatre



CONTACT

MARCH / APRIL 2018

The Pond Playhouse
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CONTACT - THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD

IN THIS ISSUE

CAST:

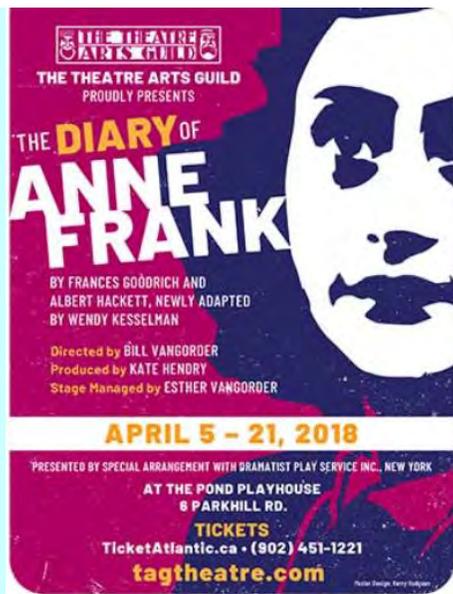
Sarah Chalmers as Anne Frank
Terry Coolen as Otto Frank
Jennifer Robbins as Edith Frank
Maddi McKay as Margot Frank
Patrick Charron as Mr. Van Daan
Rayna Smith-Camp as Mrs. Van Daan
Ben Legere as Peter Van Daan
Lowell Shore as Mr. Dussell
Jocelyn Covert as Miep Gies
Joshua Law as Mr. Kraler

With an all-star cast and crew, join us as we transport you to German-occupied Amsterdam in 1942 with a haunting set design, inspired by the star of David and a new adaptation of the classic script. Anne's story of spirit and courage is a story that must continue to be told, as it resonates as much now, as it did then.

Set Design by Roxanne Smith

Tickets available at all Ticket Atlantic Outlets, Superstores and Box Office
www.ticketatlantic.ca

- ON STAGE NEXT - *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- AUDITION CALL - *Death and the Maiden*
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- Expanding Your Vocabulary



The Diary of Anne Frank

April 5 to April 21, 2018

by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett
Newly Adapted by Wendy Kesselman

Director - Bill VanGorder

Producer - Esther VanGorder

Stage Manager - Kate Hendry

AUDITION CALL

Death and the Maiden

by Ariel Dorfman

Death and the Maiden is about the ability to survive an horrific, cruel dictatorship then face the challenge of forgiveness as democracy takes hold and a country begins to recover. Just as the light of a hopeful and recovering country shines, three individuals are brought together by circumstances, and not only memories but deep dark scars are forced out into the open. Do they survive is an important question.

Directed by Nick Jupp.

Audition Dates:

Sunday, March 11, 2018, 6 pm – 8 pm
Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 6 pm – 8 pm

Performance Dates:

June 7-23, 2018 (13 performances)

Characters:

Ages are guidelines only. They can vary depending on cast compatibility.

- Gerardo Escobar 36+
A Lawyer soon to be appointed by a new democratic government to investigate some key participants in the previous dictatorship.

- Paulina Salas (Escobar) 35+
Gerardo's wife and former imprisoned student activist.

- Roberto Miranda 45+ -
A Doctor with connections to the past dictatorship.

Audition Requirements:

Extracts from the script will be provided for cold reads. For questions please call the Director, Nick Jupp at (902) 477-8697.

The first read through will be held on Thursday March 15 at 7pm with three rehearsals per week thereafter.

FOR MEMBERS

We wish to recognize our patrons who have supported TAG for so long.

Join us for **Members Night** on **Friday April 6th, 2018.**

Following the performance, you will have the opportunity to mingle with the cast members and enjoy some light refreshments.

The cash bar will be open.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe the first day of Spring is only a few weeks away. We are on the home stretch...we have almost made it through this winter! Hopefully the few bad weather days we had did not stop you from getting out and enjoying some of your favourite activities and events. The happenings at TAG pushed on with busy days and nights of renovations, rehearsals and performances.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Having Hope at Home* for their successful production. Based on the laughter coming from the theatre during the performances I attended, it was obvious this heartwarming comedy was just what audiences needed this time of year. People left with big smiles on their faces and had nothing but good things to say about everything from the acting to the stunning set.

As one production comes to a close, another is in full swing. Rehearsals for *The Diary of Anne Frank* began in February and it is less than a month before Opening Night. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help build the set, which has been inspired by the star of David. It took two Saturdays to construct and bring this design to fruition, but we were fortunate to have plenty of volunteers who worked very hard. Tickets for this production will go on sale Friday March 9th, so don't delay in securing your seat so you can attend this historic and important story.

The renovation to the galleries is still a work in progress but it has been wonderful to see it come together. There will be a few events coming up in April to help reach our fundraising goal. All the information regarding our *Mama Mia* raffle tickets and our Paint Nite event can be found in the newsletter, on our website or through social media. If you have any questions regarding these events, or would like to know how to make a donation, please contact Bill VanGorder or myself at fundraising@tagtheatre.com.

We will be announcing the date for our 2018/2019 Season Launch very soon.
Stay tuned!

- Rayna Smith-Camp

UPDATE ON GALLERIES RENOVATION PROJECT

Building On Our Past for a Better Future - Fund Raising Campaign

The Theatre Arts Guild's Pond Playhouse is being renovated to make the theatre experience better for our patrons, volunteers, production crews and actors. We set out to raise \$170,000 to complete the project, through fundraising projects, including the TAG Seat Sale, surpluses from our recent productions and a \$50,000 grant from the Federal Government 150 Community Infrastructure Program. We require an additional \$40,000 to complete the project. So far we have raised \$16,500. We still require \$23,500.

The renovations are nearing completion.

Our cash flow is tight.

The need for immediate donations is urgent.

The renovations to the Pond Playhouse, home of the Theatre Arts Guild, consist of the construction of new galleries along the east and north sides of the theatre. This will:

◆ Create new space for set construction offstage so we can use the stage for more theatrical events for our members and patrons.

◆ Double the size of our tiny dressing room.

◆ Replace and make accessible the small, dilapidated backstage bathroom.

◆ Improve the costume and props organizational area

◆ And it means actors will no longer have to walk outdoors to get from backstage to the lobby for entrances from that area.

Won't you consider a donation to help us complete the project?

To donate, contact one of the campaign co-chairs: Rayna Smith Camp at rsmithcamp@gmail.com, or Bill VanGorder at billvangorder@eastlink.ca

BECOMING A MEMBER

Not only do members receive a discount on tickets, a Theatre Arts Guild membership is the ideal way to help your community theatre thrive while developing your own theatrical skills, interests, and making new friends.

As a member, you can be involved in every facet of theatre production and management, from the box office to the stage, and have an opportunity to have your voice heard at the Board level by getting involved in committees and voting at our Annual General Meeting. Become a member today!

Membership Plans:

Regular - \$15

Family - \$25

Senior (60+) - \$10

Student - \$10

Join Today!

TICKET RAFFLE !!!!

MAMMA MIA AT NEPTUNE & DINNER FOR TWO

We are raffling two (2) tickets to the **Wednesday April 18th** performance of Neptune Theatre's *Mamma Mia* with the opportunity to go backstage to meet the Director, Jeremy Webb, and a few of the available cast.

In addition the winner will receive a \$50.00 Dinner for Two voucher good at any RCR Restaurant. The total package is valued at \$222.50.

All funds raised will go to towards the TAG Building Fund.

Get your tickets today!

PAINT NITE FUNDRAISER



Please join us for a fun evening on **Friday April 27, 2018 at 7PM** with a Paint Nite Fundraiser in support of TAG's Building Fund. Get your tickets early; there are only 35 spots available. With each purchase, \$15.00 is donated to TAG.

Having Hope at Home in photos by Bruce Goodick

Having Hope at Home brought a lot of smiles, laughter and a few nods of agreement as our audiences saw a bit of their own families reflected in this warm comedy. "Best show I've seen at TAG". "It would have been fun seeing Gramps on stage at Neptune with Jonas and Barry in the Home". "I was a midwife in the 50's and it brought back so many memories, very realistic". As Director, I was delighted to showcase our first production of a David S. Craig play. He really is a Canadian worthy of our high praise.

-Michele Moore, Director



Catherine Torrance as Carolyn Bingham and Jacob Wilson as Michel Charbonneau



Catherine Torrance as Carolyn Bingham and Phil Reid as Grampa Bingham



Nicole Figueira as Dawn Shaw



Debra Pollock as Jane Bingham, Nicole Figueira as Dawn Shaw, Jacob Wilson as Michel Charbonneau, Catherine Torrville as Carolyn Bingham, Phil Reid as Grampa Bingham, Mike Taylor as Bill Bingham



Jacob Wilson as Michel Charbonneau, Mike Taylor as Bill Bingham, Phil Reid as Grampa Bingham, Debra Pollock as Jane Bingham, Catherine Torrville as Carolyn Bingham

~ EXPANDING YOUR
THEATRE VOCABULARY ~
The 68th in a continuing series

A Glimpse into the Mouth of Hell

In the middle of the journey of our life, I came to myself in a dark wood, where the straightway was lost.
- Dante Alighieri,
The Inferno, Canto I

The word instant (as an adjective) is much in use in our 21st century. The technology which permeates our lives allows us to have instant connection, instant access, instant messaging - a gateway to both heaven and hell. We can occupy a front-row seat at situations which can inspire, encourage and humble us, or horrify us with unfolding scenes of death and destruction. Recent examples are plentiful - The bombing of the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, the 2004 tsunami in the

Indian Ocean, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the shelling of rebel-held areas in Syria by government troops. (Ironically, I've recently been reading about the siege of Aleppo, not in 2018, but in 1260, during the Crusades, when the conquerors slaughtered everyone they could identify as Muslim or Jewish).

We take for granted our digital window on the world, but for our ancestors, news travelled slowly and citizens remained largely ignorant of events outside their own area. Information had to be gleaned from travellers, pilgrims, merchants or the servants of authority who were wealthy enough to own a horse or some form of transport.

As the centuries passed and our 'base standard' of communication - the newspaper - appeared (the *Times of London* began daily publication in 1785), the public was able to read about disturbances at home and abroad and gradually, the concept of the war correspondent develops.

But words can only convey so much. It was the introduction of photographs to accompany reporting that brought the true horrors of war to the man and woman in the street. The English newspaper *The Telegraph* sent both a journalist, W.H. Russell and a photographer, Roger Fenton, to cover the Crimean War (1853-1856). Fenton's images concentrated on the miserable conditions endured by those on the battlefield and, significantly, by the medical staff tending to casualties. During the American Civil War, Alexander Gardner arrived at Antietam two days after the Battle and took images of corpse-strewn fields, as those who survived began the task of digging trenches for mass graves. Correspondents of The Great War shocked nations with scenes of

young men killed, not by enemy fire, but by being drowned in the mud of the battlefields. And so the wheel turns, reaching up to our own day - to the journalists and camera crews embedded with troops during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. (It's amazing to think, seeing the equipment and armour that war correspondents wear today that their brethren of World War I set out for the Front in overcoats and bowler hats!).

War and the persecution it so often brings (what a long list I could provide of contemporary examples - Myanmar, South Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, Chad, etc., etc.) is always a vast sea of horrors, which take many forms. In our century however, we cannot remain ignorant of the misery it causes to combatants and civilians alike.

For Anne and her family, hardship already endured was to be multiplied in the days ahead. Thankfully, we have her diary, through which her spirit shines. I hope you can catch some of that spirit by joining us for *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

- Judy Reade