

Message From the President



This is my last Prez-zie-dential message. I write this 5 days before the Annual General Meeting (Sept 11th) at which time I will (or will have, depending on when you're reading this) have taken the figurative ride into the sunset and handed my gavel over to the new President.

It has been an interesting two-year ride in the President's chair to say the least – interesting, exhilarating, exciting, and sometimes downright frustrating, but I can honestly say that I have been extremely proud to have told people that I am/was President of the Theatre Arts Guild – Canada's oldest, continuously operating community theatre. Or, as one patron pointed out this summer at a performance of "Dial M for Murder" – is there any other theatre company, community or professional, who can claim they've operated continuously for 75 years? An interesting research project for someone who has the time.....

We've come a long way in two years – our audiences and our membership have grown, our productions have continued to get better and better, and we continue to produce perhaps the most varied program of any company around. I'm extremely proud of that.

We've grown in another – more physical way – too. One just has to look outside at the addition to see how far we've come. The new, 2-story structure is fully sided now, and we've broken through from the old space into the new. While the new space is not ready to be used yet, you will be able to see into it and imagine what it will be like when it is finally finished. There's still a long way to go.

(continued page 2 – From the President)

Next at TAG

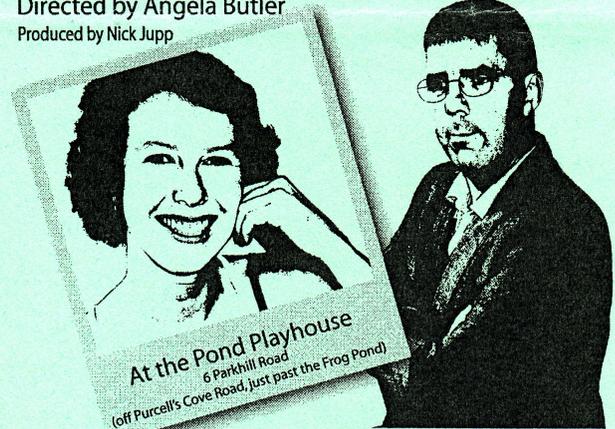
The Theatre Arts Guild proudly presents

SKYLIGHT

By DAVID HARE

September 28th to October 14th 2006
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Evenings at 8:00 P.M.
with a matinee Sunday October 8th at 2:00 P.M.

Directed by Angela Butler
Produced by Nick Jupp



For Reservations, call 477-2663
or visit www.tagtheatre.com

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Skylight opens TAG's 76th Season

A Drama by David Hare

Director: Angela Butler

Starring: Beth VanGorder, Frank MacLean and Dylan Aucoin

Producer: Nick Jupp Stage Manager: Patti Morse

Dates: Sept 28 - Oct 14

Tickets \$12 for Members, seniors and Students,
\$15 for non-members.

An intriguing glance into the relationships between Kyra, an idealistic inner-city schoolteacher, her former lover, Tom, an obstinate upscale self-made restaurateur and his bewildered teenage son Edward. Exploring issues of love, betrayal, human passion and potential. Box office opens Aug. 28th. Reserve at www.tagtheatre.com or 477 2663

(From the President, continued from page 1)

... Later in this newsletter, you'll find a list of all of the contributors to our most recent fundraising campaign. I thank every one of you from the bottom of my heart. Special recognition goes to Councilor Linda Mosher and the HRM Grants Committee for their support in the form of a one-time \$25,000 grant, and to Joe O'Brien, Fundraising Chairman for all his efforts in making the campaign successful.

To the members of my Board, all members of all committees, anyone who has performed under the lights, worked backstage in the dark or in the booth, hammered a nail, wielded a paint brush, sewn a seam, sold a drink at the bar, taken tickets at the door, sat in a seat and watched a show, or any of the other myriad little tasks that are necessary to keep TAG going, my heartfelt and sincere thanks. Without you, the Pond Playhouse is just a building. With you, the magic happens.

-Estherprezzie

Skylight by David Hare

Opens September 28th - Box Office Now Open

Rekindling friendships is one thing, but in David Hare's *Skylight* we see why some people, who leave their drivers in the Mercedes outside in mid winter, have more than a few barriers to overcome. *Skylight* pits the young and idealistic Kyra against Tom her former mentor, family friend, employer and guardian in a torrid battle of ideals, wits and passion. TAG's opening play of the 2006/2007 season is a blockbuster not to be missed.

David Hare (now Sir David) was Born June 5, 1947 in St. Leonards, Sussex, England, David was educated at Lancing College, Sussex. He then went on to earn an MA in English from Jesus College, Cambridge in 1968. His writing career began when a playwright failed to deliver a play to the Portable Theatre, a travelling theatre group Hare had co-founded with Tony Bicat. Hare sat down and composed what he now calls "a primitive satire on the unlikelihood of revolution in Britain."

Hare served as literary manager (1969-70) and resident dramatist (1970-71) for the Royal Court Theatre, London. In 1973, he became resident dramatist at the Nottingham Playhouse. Then, in 1975, he co-founded the Joint Stock Theatre Company, for whom he

adapted *Fanshen* (1975), William Hinton's book on the Chinese Revolution.

After 1975, Hare began to write for the National Theatre which produced *Plenty* (1978), *A Map of the World* (1983), and *Pravda* (1985). Hare continued his satire in a trilogy of plays which set their sights on one of Hare's favourite targets--institutions. *Racing Demon* (1990) examines the Church of England, *Murmuring Judges* (1991) questions the British legal system, and *Absence of War* (1993) takes a harsh look at Britain's Labour Party. Some of Hare's more recent plays, however, are less overtly political. *Amy's View* (1997) is a wry and witty exploration of the relationship between a mother and daughter, and *The Judas Kiss* (1998) speculates on what might have happened behind closed doors between playwright Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas, the man he loved and who betrayed him.

In 1982, Hare founded a film company, Greenpoint Films. He has written several screenplays including *Plenty* (1985), *Weatherby* (1985), *Strapless* (1989), *Paris By Night* (1989), and *Damage* (1992). He has also written several teleplays for the BBC including *Licking Hitler* (1978) and *Saigon: The Year of the Cat* (1983). Hare's awards include the BAFTA Award (1979), the New York Drama Critics Circle Award (1983), the Berlin Film Festival Golden Bear (1985), the Olivier Award (1990), and the London Theatre Critics' Award (1990).

Skylight at TAG is being produced by a cadre of TAG veterans including Beth VanGorder as Kyra, Frank MacLean as Tom and newcomer Dylan Aucoin as the eighteen-year-old Edward. Director Angela Butler is joined by Stage Manager Patti Morse and a supporting cast of production volunteers. *Skylight* will grab you from the opening lines and keep you on the edge of your seat as the battle of the sexes unfolds. Guess, if you will, how this one turns out!

Caution: Skylight has an adult theme and language. Not suitable for young audiences.

Comments and suggestions to: Interim Editor,
Bill VanGorder bill.vangorder@ns.sympatico.ca

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary

Placing David Hare

(The sixteenth in a continuing series)

by *Judy Reade,*
Props/Wardrobe Mistress

We end our 2006/2007 with works by that doyen of English drama – Harold Pinter, author of over twenty-five plays and the 2005 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. We begin the season with a slightly younger representative (Hare is 59, Pinter is 76) of the rich and continuing British tradition of writing for the stage. I'm afraid it's a mark of my own advancing age(!) that those authors whom I consider the pillars of the English theatre are now pensioners (though still writing plays, novels and film scripts!). Alan Bennett (the writer of *The Madness of George III*) is now 72; Michael Frayn, whose comedy *Noises Off* was presented at the Atlantic Theatre Festival this summer is 73. (Like David Hare, Frayn's work covers the dramatic spectrum - some of you may have seen his drama *Copenhagen* recently at Neptune, a play recording the meeting of the Danish physicist Niels Bohr with his German protégé Werner Heisenberg). Tom Stoppard (his *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* has been produced at Neptune) is 69 and Caryl Churchill is 68 (the latter's *Top Girls* has been given several amateur performances in our area).

Closer in age to Hare are David Edgar, whose adaptation from Dickens, *Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* has been seen on television in Canada and Timberlake Wertenbaker, whose play *Our Country's Good* [1988] has received many performances in North America. Wertenbaker, like Hare, was a writer-in-residence at the Royal Court Theatre in London, a nurturing

ground for works regarded as developmental or avant-garde.

Age notwithstanding, a hallmark of most of these writers has been their dedication to the examination of current issues and institutions through the medium of drama. Hare devoted a trilogy *Racing Demon* (1990), *Murmuring Judges* (1991) and *The Absence of War* (1993) to the Anglican Church, the legal system and the British Labour [Socialist] party. His latest work, *Stuff Happens* [2005] deals with the invasion of Iraq.

Membership Renewal Time at TAG

September is renewal month for TAG. Unless you have renewed over the summer months, your membership is now due.

Please fill in the enclosed form and return it today or go to www.tagtheatre.com

TAG Membership is only \$10. You will receive a minimum of 6 newsletters, a \$3 discount on each performance, booking privileges prior to the general public and opportunities to take part in member-only special events.



TAG Receives \$25,000 from HRM



Councilor Linda Mosher presents \$25,000 donation from HRM. (left to right) John Gratwick, Esther VanGorder, TAG President, Councilor Linda Mosher, Fund Raising Chairman Joe O'Brien and Vice-President, Debora Post.

Thank Your To Our Donors

When the Halifax Regional Council approved a contribution of \$25,000 for TAG on June 27, two considerations loomed large in their decision: the fact that TAG had never received Government assistance, and the very significant community support which TAG is privileged to have. That support has ensured TAG has remained Canada's longest continuously operating theatre. And now, in our 2006 Capital campaign, TAG's members have shown their extraordinary generosity and love for theatre by contributing \$30,000, bringing us within \$25,000 of our goal of \$160,000 for the completion of our new Lobby/Rehearsal Hall extension. What a membership! To all those listed below, our warmest thanks.

- Joe O'Brien, Fund Raising Chairman

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Robert and Marion Anderson

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