



Canada's Oldest
Continually Operating
Community Theatre at
The Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS
www.tagtheatre.com
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TAGHalifax.com
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CONTACT – THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD

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Auditions
for TAG's Annual Holiday
Pantomime
Alice in Wonderland

By Andrew O'Leary
Mon. August 21, 7-9pm
And
Tues. August 22, 7-9pm
At the Pond Playhouse, 6
Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS

Directors:

Angela Butler and
Kelly Doney Morrison

Musical Director:

Ralph Urquhart

Stage Manager

Esther VanGorder

Performance Dates:

November 23th to December
9th, 2017
14 performances with 5
matinees
Male and Female Roles Ages
16 to 99 for a colorful cast of
characters.

Audition Requirements:
Prior musical experience an
asset but not required.
A cold read from the script
No appointment necessary

For more information contact
Angela Butler
Langelabutler.ab@gmail.com

or

Kelly Doney Morrison
k_doney@hotmail.com

- Auditions for *Alice*
- Next: *Order in the House*
- President's Column
- Variety Show Oct 21st
- TAG's 2017 – 2018 Season
- Annual Meeting Sept 18th
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Next at TAG

You'd be madder than a Hatter if you missed the chance to
AUDITION
for
Theatre Arts Guild's
Alice in Wonderland
MONDAY AUGUST 21st 7-9pm By Andrew O'Leary
and
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22nd 7-9pm
at the Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS

Directed by Angela Butler and Kelly Doney Morrison
Musical Direction by Ralph Urquhart
Stage Managed by Esther VanGorder

Roles Available
Male and Female
Ages 16 to 99 for a colorful cast of characters
Audition Requirements
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Angela Butler
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or
Kelly Doney Morrison
k_doney@hotmail.com

ORDER
in the **HOUSE**
By: Nicholas Jupp

A Staged Reading
Directed By: Jocelyn LeBlanc
Stage Manager: Katie Allen

3 NIGHTS ONLY!

8 PM
September 28 - 30, 2017

"If you don't keep order, all hell can break loose."

THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD
www.tagtheatre.com
info@tagtheatre.com

POND PLAYHOUSE
6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS
Tickets: 902.451.1221
www.ticketatlantic.com

President's Message

Rayna Smith-Camp

The 87th year for TAG is fast approaching. Already many of our members are working hard on various projects in order to be ready for the new season.

Hopefully you were able to see the final production of the year, *Double Indemnity*. It was a cleverly staged thriller with strong cast performances and dramatic use of light and sound that was strongly suggestive of the "Film Noir" style.

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew. It is safe to say that we had an incredibly successful season filled with wonderful shows and special events. I sincerely thank every person who contributed towards the transfer of these works from script to stage. I have no doubt that another successful year awaits as we kick off the 2017/2018 season with a staged reading of *Order in the House*.



The former costume storage room is no more.

Auditions for the always enjoyable Pantomime take place in just a few weeks. Do not miss out on your chance to get involved in a family favourite, *Alice in Wonderland*. Updates on all the happenings will continue to be shared on our webpage and through social media, so stayed tuned.



We are more than excited about the major project currently underway. In case you missed the photos posted online, one side of our building is no more! The renovations to the gallery have started and soon we will have an entirely new section added to the existing lobby and stage area. It is a huge undertaking, but this expansion has been on the wish list for many years and we look forward to "showing off" the finished product in a few months' time.

The Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for Monday September 18th at 7:30pm. All members in good standing are invited to attend. The current Board will present annual reports and elections will take place for the 2017/2018 Board. A nominating committee will present a slate of officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. We hope to see you there.

Hoping you are all having a delightful summer with plenty of fun and sun.

Theatre Arts Guild's Annual VARIETY SHOW 2017

Saturday Oct. 21, 8 p.m.

Enjoy the variety of talent at TAG. An informal evening of variety entertainment by TAG members and friends. Bring a friend. Let your hair down and join the fun.

Be entertained by singers, dancers, comedians, story tellers, musicians and more.

Tickets \$10 at the door (no pre purchase tickets necessary) proceeds to the TAG Building Fund.

Cash bar.

For more information contact the producer:
billvangorder@eastlink.ca



Our 2017-2018 Season

Order in the House

September 28 - 30, 2017

By Nick Jupp

Director: Jocelyn LeBlanc

Tickets on sale September 1, 2017

For 3 nights only: A staged reading of *Order in the House* by Nick Jupp. Centering on a fictitious Nova Scotia Minister of Finance and his wife: Successful, wealthy and highly respected, they are close to perfect in every way except, shall we say, even the best of people have the occasional skeleton in the cupboard. How it gets dealt with leads us to a terrifying and unexpected conclusion.

TAG Annual Variety Show

October 21, 2017

Producer, Bill VanGorder

Alice in Wonderland

November 23- December 9, 2017

- Annual Family Pantomime

By Andrew O'Leary

Directors: Angela Butler and Kelly Doney Morrison;

Music Director: Ralph Urquhart

Tickets on sale October 20, 2017

A twisted take on a traditional story.



Having Hope at Home

February 1 - 17, 2018

By David Craig

Directed by Michele Moore

Tickets on sale January 5, 2018

A Canadian comedy. On a winter night in a drafty farmhouse a baby is about to arrive. But modern medicine meets midwifery head on in a torrent of family feuding. As tensions rise between three dysfunctional generations, so does the laughter. It takes a baby to heal the rift in this funny, heartwarming story of forgiveness and hope.

The Diary of Anne Frank

April 5 - 21, 2018

By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by

Wendy Kesselman

Directed by Bill VanGorder

Tickets on sale March 9, 2017

A new adaptation of the classic script based on the book *Anne Frank - The Diary of a Young Girl*. A story that must continue to be told - it resonates as much in the early 21st century as it did in the middle of the 20th.

Death & the Maiden

June 7- 23, 2017

By Ariel Dorfman

Directed by Nick Jupp

Tickets on sale May 18, 2017

Winner of the 1992 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play. Set in an unnamed South American country post-coup, this mystery thriller tells the story of a political activist who is convinced that her guest is a man who once tortured her for the government, and who exacts her revenge.

TAG's Annual General Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2017, 7:30 PM

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax

All members in good standing are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Theatre Arts Guild. The current Board will present annual reports including the financial statements. Elections will take place for the 2017-2018 Board. A nominating committee will present a slate of officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.



Theatre Arts Guild on College Street, 1958

Next at TAG

Order in the House

by Nick Jupp

Director Jocelyn Leblanc

A Staged Reading

3 nights Only

September 28 -30, 2017, 8 PM

“What is a staged reading exactly?” is the question I’ve been getting ever since agreeing to direct one. Typically speaking, it’s where a play is brought to life through actors reading the play with minimal blocking. Not altogether different from a radio play. Without the need to memorize the script, the actors are free to really dig into the characters and explore the text in a relatively short rehearsal period.

Because of its low key technical requirements, it’s often one of the first times a new play is heard publicly. It can be an invaluable tool for the playwright, allowing them to hear finally their characters and most importantly how an audience responds to them. Bringing the audience in at the ground level gives the writer the opportunity to see what’s working and to tweak anything that is not. Then, they can move the script along through additional workshopping before it’s produced as a fully staged production.

With this play, Nick Jupp brings us a wonderful, vivid (and more than a bit risqué) look at a modern power couple. He challenges the ideas of privacy and security, and the value of a well-timed family dinner. *Order in the House* looks at power and perfection and just how far one (fictitious) Nova Scotia Finance Minister is willing to go to keep both.

Photos from our last production:

Double Indemnity

Intrigue, lust and murder!

By James M. Cain.

Adapted for the stage by David

Pichette & R. Hamilton Wright

Directed by Nick Jupp, Associate

Director Jocelyn LeBlanc

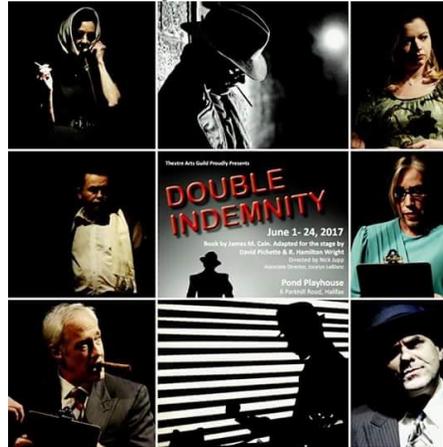
Featuring:

Terry Coolen, Ellen Oldford ,

Mike Taylor , Kathryn Paige

Reeves , Rob McIntyre and

Eileen Carey



TAG's Pond Playhouse Renovations

The Theatre Arts Guild is delighted that the Government of Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program grant will enable TAG to complete renovations and improvements which began years ago. The project will make life better for all the volunteers who operate the theatre's Pond Playhouse through performing, back stage support or other activities to produce the plays enjoyed by so many of our members and patrons.

The project includes the construction of two galleries, one along the east side of the theatre, the other along the north side. These galleries bring an enormous number of benefits to all the volunteers who make TAG work.

The east gallery will result in:

- Doubling the size of our currently tiny dressing room
- Replacement of the small, dilapidated backstage bathroom
- Improved costume and props storage
- Actors will no longer have to travel outside the theatre to get from backstage to the lobby for entrances from that area

The north gallery will result in:

- Replacement of the cramped storage space behind the existing stage
- New workshop space allowing for set construction inside, rather than outside or on the stage itself



Sid Dumaresq and George Brandys receive Recognition Plaques from TAG volunteer Rich Knowles.

Renovations Design/Planning

The planning and actual renovations are well underway with plans and design from architect Sidney P Dumaresq (FRAIC, NSAA) and engineering specifications from George Brandys (P. Eng.). Both Mr. Dumaresq and Mr. Brandys donated their professional services to TAG, saving us tens of thousands of dollars in professional fees. At a thank you ceremony on June 28, 2017, the Theatre Arts Guild presented each of them with Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their many generous contributions to the architectural and structural design and integrity of various **Progress**

Work has begun!

The theatre has received the necessary building permits from HRM. The former Costume Storage Room, Dressing Rooms, Wet Props Area, Washroom and Paint Storage area have been demolished (see photo page 1 and more below). A dozen TAG volunteers have been involved almost daily for the past month with these tasks. The next steps will involve pouring concrete floors and framing the new structure.

Renovations (and destruction) photos.



It used to be the Dressing Room



The stage is a storage area.



Some of the volunteer builders.



Our good neighbour *Tree Works* donated a dozer to tear down the old costume room.

Fund Raising Now Underway

The government has given us a “matching grant” which means, in order to complete the project, it is now necessary for TAG to raise a matching \$55,000. A campaign for funds from members and supporters is now underway. A committee led by President Rayna Smith-Camp and Bill VanGorder will be contacting all our members and supporters as well as local businesses with a request to support this vital project. **The Theatre Arts Guild is a Registered Charity** so receipts for income tax purposes will be issued to all donors.

TAG Board of Directors 2016-2017

Rayna Smith-Camp, President
 Nick Jupp, Vice-President
 Carolyn Boyer, Treasurer
 Elaine Casey, Secretary
 Esther VanGorder, Artistic Director
 Angela Butler, Executive Producer ,
 Past President
 Austin Reade, Technical Director
 Ryan Van Horne, Social Media
 Advisor
 Jayme Lynn Butt, Publicity Director
 Phil Reid, Building Manager
 Judy Reade, Props/Costume
 Mistress
 Chantelle Dooley, Volunteer
 Development
 Judy Reade, Archivist
 Valerie Dubois, Web Director
 Emily Jewer, Newsletter Editor
 Bill VanGorder, Fund Raising
 Manager
 Lorne Abramson, Bar Manager
 Cathy McAuley, Membership

In Plain Sight

By Judy Reade

A Minister of Finance, his wife, their daughter, the wife's much younger lover and a nasty little secret – all somewhere in a province near to you! Nick Jupp's piece, *Order in the House* is entirely fictional, but what if it was real and it was you who had uncovered the secret – what would you do? Hm....probably Facebook and Twitter postings (with a request to re-post), an e-mail to the local newspaper and the local office of the national television station – and that's just for starters! Why not spread the word further and add contact with a major American news network and an anonymous phone call to the *National Enquirer*? Our modern-day access to technology gives us many ways to communicate quickly to vast numbers of people. Our theatrical ancestors however had to rely on the basics – the spoken word and the written word, serving to entertain, to educate and bring into the light unsavoury deeds we would rather not think about.

This capacity of the spoken/written word to admonish and chastise coincides with the birth of theatre in the Ancient Greek world. Both Aristophanes (in *Lysistrata*/411 B.C.) and Euripides (in *The Trojan Women*/415 B.C.) used drama to alert the audience to the futility of war, particularly the war between the rival states of Athens and Sparta. The heroine Lysistrata has a very

novel proposal to put forward - no more 'conjugal relations' until the fighting stops and the men come home – for good!

These Greek authors were addressing a situation well-known to the audience, using real names, places, incidents. Other writers have opted to disguise a situation by changing these same elements, while still ensuring that the audience can detect what is actually being revealed. TAG patrons saw such an example in 2011, when Gisela O'Brien directed *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen. The principal character, Dr. Thomas Stockmann, knows that the water feeding the town's spa baths is being polluted by logging activity upstream. Ibsen based the play on an incident which had recently taken place in Norway. In the play, by threatening the town's tourist reputation with his revelations, Stockmann is vilified and eventually forced to leave.

Sir William Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan took a more light-hearted approach in their portrayal of the English politician William Henry Smith as Sir Joseph Porter in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Smith was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty in London in 1877, with absolutely zero naval experience. In the operetta, Sir Joseph tells us how he succeeded to this high office – by sitting on an office stool and making sure the knocker on the front door was kept bright and shiny!

Arthur Miller in *The Crucible* (1953) took a different

approach to the exposing of political injustices (in this case the rise of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his persecution of those suspected of sympathies with the Communist party), by shifting the time period to the infamous Salem witch trials of 1692/1693. The hysteria and paranoia characteristic of the trials compared well to the atmosphere of tension, suspicion and condemnation (frequently based on little or no actual evidence) which characterized the years 1950 to 1954. Miller himself, along with playwrights Lillian Hellman and Bertolt Brecht, plus many other film stars, writers and directors, was called before McCarthy's Un-American Activities Committee, to answer questions about his allegiance to the state.

Finally – and this brings us right up to the present – a performance in Central Park this summer of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* featured a title character who looked suspiciously like the 45th President of our neighbour to the south. Never forget – words as a weapon can be just as effective as any weapon of steel!

So many secrets, so many unwelcome disclosures – Join us in September to find out what consequences await the Minister and his family in *Order in the House*.

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary is the 66th in a continuing series by Judy Reade.

We are grateful to Judy for her diligence in contributing this most interesting on-going series.
 - Editor