



CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild



Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre



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President's Message



It seems like so much has happened since I last wrote a note for the newsletter, and yet not much seems to have changed as we continue to stumble our way through this pandemic.

Our Annual General Meeting in September was hosted online and was well attended by many TAG members. I wish we could have met in person...next year! The 2021/2022 Board of Directors has altered slightly from previous years, with some members changing their roles, but you will recognize most of us. Please welcome our new Secretary, Stephanie Demedeiros Ouedraogo, our new Bar Manager, David Williams, and welcome back to Angela Butler, our new Newsletter Editor. The latest recipient of the Grey Squirrel Award was Esther VanGorder, who has been volunteering with TAG for over 25 years. Thank you, Esther, and Congratulations!

In October, we were finally able to welcome an audience back to the theatre for the first time since March 2020. Rehearsals for Mrs. Walford: A Month in Halsey Street started in the spring of 2021 but the cast and crew were only able to meet a few times in person before another lockdown occurred. After months of online rehearsals and an entire summer passing by, this one act show was presented over three nights to very enthusiastic and supportive audiences. Everyone seemed genuinely excited to be back. If you were unable to attend one of the performances, the production is being streamed online now until December 10th. It was a pleasure to be part of this wonderful story.

I feel confident that we will soon be able to announce the final shows for the remainder of our 90th season. On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday season. See you in the new year!

Rayna Smith Camp
President



Newsletter Highlights

- *President's Message*
- *The Covertons ~ Live*
- *Mrs. Walford: A Month on Halsey Street ~ Online*
- *Coming Soon- 2 Stories from Christmas*
- *Spryfield Santa Claus Parade*
- *From the Poetry Nebula*
- *TAG Executive Board*
- *Membership*
- *The History of TAG- 90 Years and Counting*

**Theatre Arts Guild Presents:
The New Covertons
Nov 26th and 27th**

On November 26th and 27th, The Pond Playhouse welcomes The New Covertons for some great live music. The New Covertons play... well... you guessed it: fun covers of favourite music by artists such as Van Morrison, Bonnie Raitt, The Rolling Stones, Roseanne Cash, Queen, Rickie Lee Jones, Santana..., and features the talents of:

**Louise Renault
John Thompson
Steve Roberts
Steve Brown
Tom Loane
Peter Gravel
And Greg Doucette**

TICKETS SOLD FAST! HOPE YOU GOT YOURS!

CASH BAR

The Theatre Arts Guild is following the Nova Scotia Public Health Mandate and we are obligated to provide our patrons, members and volunteers with the safest possible environment.

Please be prepared to show your proof of vaccination and government issued ID, or proof of exemption.

Masks must be worn at all times.

We thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding.



NOW ONLINE

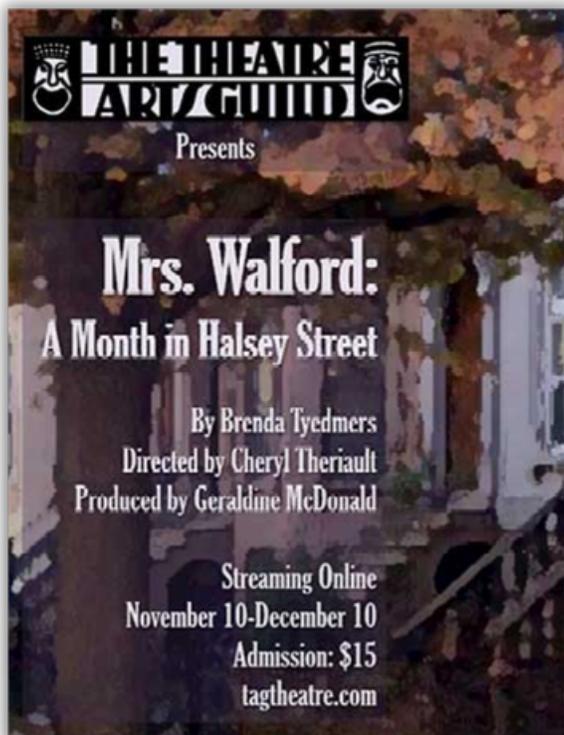
Missed the live shows in October? Not comfortable attending live theatre?

Mrs. Walford: A Month in Halsey Street
is now streaming online.

In July 1887, after her Halifax friends thwart a desperate plan, Mrs. Walford returns to Brooklyn and the healing practice of Dr. Hubbard. So near and yet so far from home, with Dr. Hubbard's help, will she come to terms with the past, and prepare for the future?

**Starring Rayna Smith-Camp and Terri Coolen
with Carolyn Boyer**

Note: This work deals with the treatment of addiction



Coming Soon 2 Stories Before Christmas



In our last digital production of the year, we invite you to join us for two festive fables.

Join Jolene Pattison as she reads Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Set in a small village in Wales, Jolene regails us with childhood stories involving firemen, snowballs, carols, and presents; the useful and the useless.

Then, join Tony Marshall as he presents *A Visit From St. Nicholas* by Clement Clark Moore, with sugar plums dancing and a glimpse of the jolly ol' elf himself.

Directed by Joshua Law

Produced by Jennifer Robbins

This is one online event to get the cockles warm.

Premiering on YouTube and TAGTheatre.com this December.



Here Comes Santa



Sunday, November 28, 2021

Start Time 2pm

Starting at Punch Bowl
Down Herring Cove Road
to Spryfield Mall



From The Poetry Nebula

After the Cabaret

*I see the early morning sun
At five a.m. I homeward stroll.
The lights still burn in my hotel.
The cabaret is finally done.
In shadows children hunker down.
The farmers bring their goods to town.
You go to church, silent and old
grave sound of church-bells in the air,
and then a girl with untamed hair
wanders up all bleak and cold:
"Love me, free of every sin.
Look, I've kept watch many nights."*

Emmy Hennings, dadaist



**Doctor: Don't be ridiculous, Clara.
This isn't some sort of pantomime!**



TAG Executive Board 2021-2022

Rayna Smith Camp- President
**Shannon Nudds- Vice-President and
Volunteer Development**
Patrick Charron- Treasurer
Stephanie Demedeiros Ouedraogo- Secretary
Jennifer Robbins- Artistic Director
Joshua Law- Executive Producer
**Bill VanGorder- Publicity, Marketing and
Fundraising Director**
Lorne Abramson- Building Manager
**Valerie Dubois- Web Director and
Membership**
Angela Butler- Newsletter Editor
David Williams- Bar Manager
TAG Technical Team
TAG Costume and Props Team
TAG Archives
Michele Moore- TAG Phone Line

TAG Memberships - Join Online!

**A TAG membership is the ideal way to
help your community theatre thrive
while developing your own theatrical
skills, interests, and making new friends.**

**Now you can join online at
tagtheatre.com/membership.html**



Episode 6 - The Lobby Photograph – Then and Now

Those of you who are familiar with the layout of the Pond Playhouse will know that, in the entrance, to the left of the bar is a noticeboard which we call the 'Lobby Display'. It's the place where, for every production, the audience can view photographs of cast members and those who work behind the scenes. It's one way of acknowledging the combined efforts of many people to provide you, the audience, with an enjoyable evening's entertainment. Bruce Goodick, for several years now, has provided sterling service in preparing these photographs, not only the usual headshots which you see in the Lobby, but the more informal shots taken at rehearsals (which can be viewed on the TAG website - from the menu on the homepage, select On Stage, and then Photo Galleries).

This is the display practice now, but recently I was able to see an example of a Halifax 'lobby photograph' from the 1920s, before Theatre Arts Guild came into existence. I've mentioned this before I know, but for new readers, TAG dates only from 1931, but the two organizations which merged in 1931 to create the Guild were active in the previous decade. My thanks go to Steve Lane, who shared details of a photograph which belonged to his grandmother and features a member of the Halifax Dramatic and Musical Club (one of our founding groups). This 'lobby photograph' from 1924 or 1925 shows an actor from the Club's presentation of *A Country Girl*, a popular operetta by a very popular composer of the time, Lionel Monckton, now almost forgotten. The actor's name was Wilfred Marshall and his lobby photograph shows him in full costume and makeup as Granfer Mummery, posed in the studio of Climo's branch in Halifax. The Climo photography business was founded in Saint John at the end of the 19th century and continued in operation until 1969. This formal portraiture was the custom of the time and the pictures of the cast and Director would appear in the local newspapers, which could be counted on to provide extensive coverage of the Club's productions. I have not been able yet to find the year in which this Club was formed, but the theatre archives section of the Dalhousie University Archives holds programmes from *The Quaker Girl* (music again by Monckton and performed in 1926) and *The Fortune Teller* (performed in 1929, with music by Victor Herbert, who was achieving in America the same kind of success Monckton enjoyed in England). The presentation of Mr. Marshall might be different and more formal than we know today, but the purpose is the same – we celebrate our actors and are willing to suspend reality for a time in the theatre, whilst we marvel at their ability to create new characters for us.

Take a look at the display board next time you attend a production – it takes teamwork to produce a play, so let's hear it for the TAG teams of the 2021-2022 season!



Judy Reade
TAG's Archivist

