



# CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



## TAG TICKETS

at Atlantic Superstore Locations  
phone (902) 451-1221 or  
visit [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com)

THE POND PLAYHOUSE - 6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

## NEXT AT TAG...

The pantomime tradition continues at TAG. This being our 80th Anniversary season we are proud to present the popular classic fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast*, by James Barry. Not to be mistaken with the Disney version, our play has something completely different. Creating a fairy tale for the stage has its challenges but the rewards are endless. There is a good fairy to cheer, a bad fairy to boo and a dame to envy. But these are only a few of the colorful characters that will delight audiences in this magical tale.

As a first time director of pantomime I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a strong creative production team and an unbelievably talented cast, some familiar faces and some new. What more could a director ask for?

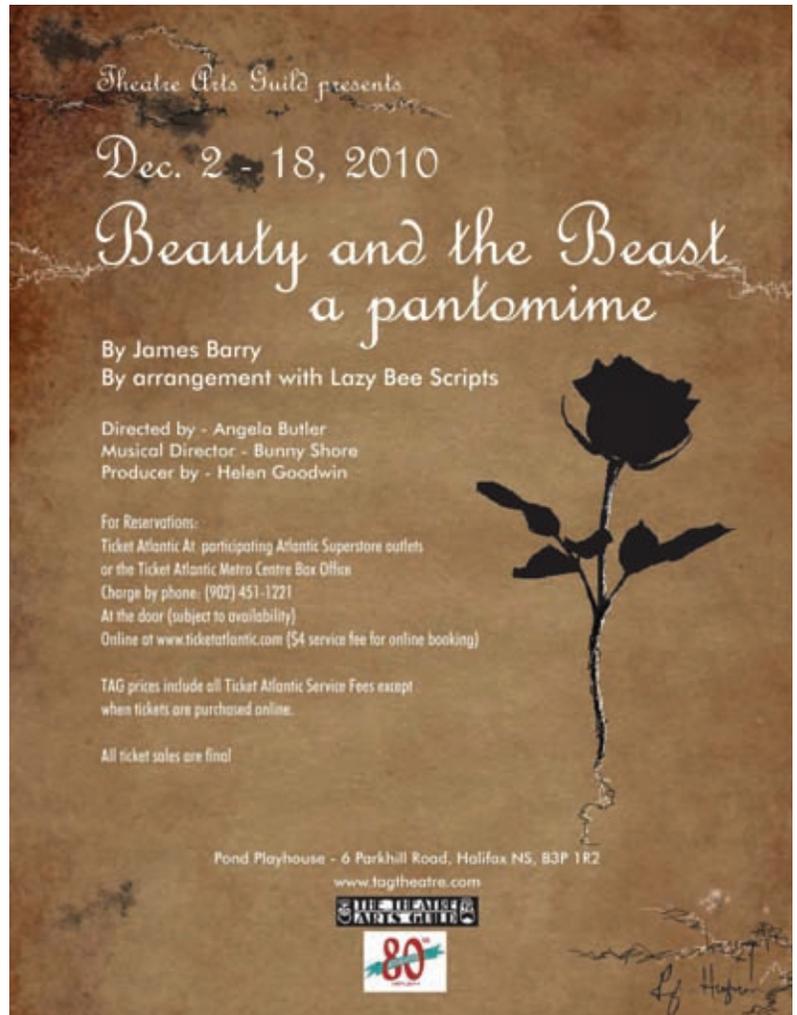
Come and be enchanted! Shows run from December 2nd to December 18th with 5 matinees. Tickets go on sale Friday, November 12, 2010 through Ticket Atlantic. Buy your tickets early to avoid the rush!!

~ Angela Butler, Director

**Tickets on Sale  
Friday, Nov. 12, 2010**

## Buy Your Tickets

- \* At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- \* Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- \* At the door (subject to availability)
- \* Online at [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com)
- \* (\$4 fee per online session)
- \* Ticket Atlantic Box Office



## TAG TICKET PRICES

**\$13 - Members/Seniors/Students**

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (online service fee - \$4 per online session)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the September equinox behind us the planet happily wobbles on toward the shortest days of the year which can only mean one thing at TAG; the Christmas Pantomime is on its way! Pantomime rehearsals started in Gratwick Hall while the 80th anniversary season opening show *The Odd Couple*, Female Version ran to joyous sell-out audiences in the theatre.

Angela Butler is directing the Pantomime this year, which is a change from her last directorial challenge, *Twelve Angry Men*. Angela has acted in several Pantomimes so she is well versed in the traditions of this perennial favorite. The good, the evil, the dame and of course some animals, will all make an appearance to delight of

audiences of all ages.

Under the creative guidance of Judy Reade, a special 80th anniversary musical production will happen in 2011. It will be based on songs from past TAG shows giving us a glimpse into all the fun and excitement these productions engendered. Watch for announcements and details as they become available.

Just as the world wobbles in space producing a variety of seasons, TAG's theatrical season brings you five very different productions. We do this deliberately because those of you that get involved have many different interests so it's important we provide opportunity for everybody. Some

people love comedy, some drama and others musicals so a mixture of styles lets the greatest number of people enjoy the rewards of involvement.

I have remarked in previous messages about my never ending amazement at the number of talented people who volunteer and get involved with both our theatrical productions and the upkeep of the Pond Playhouse. For 80 years TAG has been a community resource for the citizens of Halifax to enjoy the delights of theatrical performances and the upkeep and management of a performance theatre. It's good to know so many people of all ages, means and talents keep TAG going in such a wondrous and dedicated way. ~ Nick Jupp, President

## Community Notes

**Dartmouth Players** presents *The Fantasticks*, book and lyrics by Tom Jones, music by Harvey Schmidt, directed by Ian MacDermid, with musical direction by Andrew Coll. The world's longest-running musical, this is a simple but beautiful story of the quintessential celebration of love in all its gorgeous simplicity and heartbreaking complexity. The show runs Nov. 10 - 27, 2010. Visit [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or call 465-PLAY for more information.

**Bedford Players** presents *Marplot* Maria Plumb and Rob Thompson's adaptation of Susanna Centlivre's classic 17th century play. Inspired by the Elizabethan age of theatre, this popular play was in productions for over 150 years, and was updated in 2003 for new audiences to enjoy! The show runs Apr. 28 - May 14, 2011. Visit [www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca](http://www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca) or call 832-3300 for more information.

## TAG's Annual Gratwick Puzzle Night

Mark your calendars for January 8, 2011 and join TAG for its annual Gratwick Puzzle Night for members and friends. A selection of exciting and fun filled puzzles designed to titillate the imagination and confuse the intellect will challenge everybody's ability to find "creative answers".

From a selection of puzzles you may choose the ones you wish to tackle in a

noncompetitive environment. Nobody has to declare their final score, it's all for fun and the good of the capital fund. An exotic mystery hot dish will be served to bolster your energy level, and the bar will be opened so you can sharpen your mind.

Suggested donation is \$15 at the door, with all funds going towards TAG's capital fund.

**Want to Volunteer?**  
[volunteer@tagtheatre.com](mailto:volunteer@tagtheatre.com)  
for more information

## Renew Your TAG Membership Today!

\$15	Regular
\$25	Family
\$10	Senior (60+)
\$10	Student

Membership benefits include:  
\$3 discount off admission,  
newsletters and invitations  
to special members-only events.  
Visit [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)  
for more information.

**Join TAG on  
Facebook  
Today!**

## MEET THE BOARD

Meet the 2010-11 TAG Board of Directors, voted in at the September 13th Annual General Meeting:

President	Nick Jupp
Vice-President	Angela Butler
Past President	Helen Goodwin
Treasurer	Carolyn Boyer
Secretary	Joan Stirling
Artistic Director	Renée Hartleib
Executive Producer	Helen Goodwin
Technical Director	Austin Reade
Publicity Director	Bill VanGorder
Building Director	J Carruth
Props/Costume Mistress	Judy Reade
Volunteer Coordinator	Chantelle Dooley

In addition are the following TAG Managers: Judy Reade (archivist) Valerie Dubois (webmaster, newsletter, capital campaign), Darrel O'Neil, (bar manager) and Cathy McAuley (membership).

## JOIN TAG IN CELEBRATING IT'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY!!

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse  
Your seat will be identified with an engraved plaque.

- ▶ Celebrate a special occasion/event
- ▶ Cherish the memory of a loved one
- ▶ Record a milestone
- ▶ Raise your company's community profile
- ▶ Show your support for the arts

**60%+  
SOLD**

Your contribution is tax deductible.  
All proceeds to the TAG Capital Campaign.

Visit [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com) or email

[seatsale@tagtheatre.com](mailto:seatsale@tagtheatre.com)

for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!



### The Odd Couple: Female Version



In September, *The Odd Couple: Female Version* by Neil Simon played to full houses at the Pond Playhouse. Directed by Frank MacLean, the show demonstrated once again, that anything men can do ...women can do better!



### AUDITION CALL Deathtrap by Ira Levin

*Deathtrap* is a murderous thriller that will confound and shock audiences with its twists and turns!

#### Audition Dates & Times:

Sunday Nov. 7, 7-9 p.m.

Monday Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m.

#### Location:

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.  
(off the Purcell's Cove Rd.)

The roles are:

1. Sidney Bruhl, middle aged
2. Myra Bruhl, Sidney's wife
3. Clifford Anderson, a younger man
4. Helga ten Dorp, a famous clairvoyant
5. Porter Milgrim, Sidney's attorney

Cold reads from the script will be provided and appointments are not necessary. For additional information please call the Director, Nick Jupp at 448-5877

**November 2010 CONTACT**

# FE, FI, FO, FUM...The Monsters to My Panto Come!

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 34th in a continuing series...

We tend to forget amid the chaotic fun of pantomime rehearsals and performances that there are serious lessons embedded in what we are witnessing. The fairy tales and folk legends on which most of our pantomimes are based include always one or more instructional components. The children who, centuries ago, first heard these stories, and subsequently, were able to read them for themselves, needed to be made conscious of behaviours to be avoided and behaviours to be commended, both within the family circle and the wider world.

The early story tellers used various devices, some natural, some unnatural, to portray these messages, with a favourite one being the inclusion of a monster. Often (as in the upcoming "Beauty and the Beast"), the monster takes the form of an animal. (We need to remember here that wild animals were much more abundant in the countries where these stories were first told and that children were familiar with the hunting of animals and their

use as food). The wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood" is a typical example; the Three Little Pigs are menaced by a wolf; Goldilocks' trauma results from meeting three bears; one of the Brothers Grimm tales – "Snow White and Rose Red," has these two sisters frightened by a bear who comes to their cottage, demanding food and a place by the fire. And, although not actually menacing, frogs and toads are included in the group, due to their (perceived) physically repulsive appearance. Frequently the monster has begun life as a human being, but (and here's the instructional element), due to some selfish or dishonest action, has been condemned to exist in the lower form of a creature. He - I'm afraid to say that it's usually a 'he!' – must then drag out a miserable existence, until redeemed by the true love and unselfish actions of other humans. This miserable existence is meant to underline the struggle which wages between the base characteristics of the animal and the finer traits of the human being. This concept of the half-animal/half-human creation was established well

before most fairy stories were collected however. Greek mythology provides numerous examples – the centaur (horse/human), satyr (goat/human) and the infamous Minotaur (bull/human), slain by Theseus on the island of Crete.

Those of you who saw "Jack and the Beans Talk" (Christmas 2007), have been introduced to another type of fairy tale monster – in human form, but with some exaggerated characteristics to inspire fear – usually immense size and again, Greek mythology had provided examples of this, which were transposed to later forms of literature – think Cerberus, the guardian of the Greek Underworld – a decent enough canine, but with three heads! And what about Medusa, with snakes instead of hair.

But that's enough of the negative examples! Suffice to say that, in our pantomime, redemption is assured to the Beast, through the application of unbiased love and the victim is able to resume his human form. Lesson learned? Good! Now on to the fun that is 'pantomime!' ~ Judy Reade

## CALL FOR PLAY SUBMISSIONS

The Artistic Committee is looking for play submissions and directors for the 2011-2012 TAG season. TAG presents five plays each season, running from September to July.

If there is a play that you would like TAG to consider, please send us the title and author. If you have lots of time on your hands (and want to be really helpful!), you can also send us the type of play it is (comedy, drama, thriller, mystery, classic, musical), a brief synopsis of the story line, and any information you have about cast size.

we would also love to hear from you if you are a director hankering to direct, with or without a play in mind,...

Play submissions can be made online at [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com) or email your submission to [Renée Hartleib](mailto:Renée.Hartleib@tagtheatre.com) at [artistic-director@tagtheatre.com](mailto:artistic-director@tagtheatre.com).

The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2010.

Email your newsletter submissions to:  
[newsletter@tagtheatre.com](mailto:newsletter@tagtheatre.com)

## Upcoming Shows Mark your calendars!

**Deathtrap** - A murderous thriller written by Ira Levin (Feb. 17 - Mar. 5, 2011)

**An Enemy of the People** - A powerful drama written by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Arthur Miller (Apr. 21 - May 7, 2011)

**Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star** - Two funny one-act companion plays written by James McLure (June 23 - July 9, 2011)