



# CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE  
6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NS  
INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

Theatre Arts Guild presents

# Corker

written by Wendy Lill  
Feb. 16-Mar. 3, 2012



directed by Lorraine Cantwell

A dysfunctional family dealing  
with a dysfunctional world

For Reservations:

Ticket Atlantic at participating Atlantic Superstore outlets  
or the Ticket Atlantic Metro Centre Box Office

Charge by phone: (902) 451-1221

At the door (subject to availability)

Online at [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com) (\$4 service fee for online booking)

TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic Service Fees  
except when tickets are purchased online  
All ticket sales are final

Pond Playhouse - 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax NS, B3P 1R2  
[www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

Corker by Wendy Lill is produced by special arrangement with PLAYWRIGHTS GUILD OF CANADA  
[www.playwrightsguild.ca](http://www.playwrightsguild.ca)



## Next at TAG: Corker

TAG is pleased to present the Governor General's Award nominated play *Corker* by Wendy Lill, a thought provoking story that deals with the effects of a crumbling social safety net. In her typical writing style, Wendy Lill has managed to get to the simplicity of the story while still asking the tough questions and challenging audience members to walk a mile in each of the character's shoes. This February we invite you to enter the lives of the detached MacPhee family. Merit lives quite comfortably in the south end of Halifax. Merit's husband is a successful lawyer, her brother Gal is a headache. Merit's mother causes her both guilt and resentment but after the funeral of a family member, an unexpected guest brings a lot more than she bargained for. Very straightforward, a little shocking, and quite touching - *Corker* is sure to get people talking.

As a local MLA for the NDP from 1997-2004, Lill is well known for being a human rights advocate. As an award winning writer, she is known for tackling issues that face the public, head on. Along with her notable collection of successful plays, Wendy Lill's *Backbencher* is a highly acclaimed CBC radio drama starring local talent, Louise Renault.

## Tickets on Sale January 19th

## 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) (\$2 fee per online session)
- \* Ticket Atlantic Box Office

## TAG TICKET PRICES

**\$13 - Members/Seniors/Students**  
**\$16 - Non-members**

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online ( \$2 per online session)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Theatre Arts Guild welcomes in the new year 2012! We have been blessed with another successful year behind us a promising season ahead, with many thanks to all our fine supporters. We just wrapped up the successful pantomime *Captain Hook's Revenge*. A great undertaking by everyone involved, it was a true magical stage experience. Our next production, *Corker* by local playwright Wendy Lill, will prove to be a compelling show. Mark this one on your calendar as a must see!

We continue discussing ways to improve our little theatre here in Jollimore. As you may know, many discussions and plans have been mulled around regarding the addition of a scene (carpentry) shop behind the theatre. The new addition would also bring with it some much needed renovations to the dressing rooms, as I'm sure many who have used them would welcome gladly! Ongoing fundraising would help generate the funds needed for this project. This is still in the planning stage as an ongoing project for the theatre. A possible dream!

As we continue our 81st season, we, the Board of Directors of the Theatre Arts Guild, wish all our members and patrons a Happy New Year. We strive to continue bringing thought-provoking and exciting live theatre to HRM.

~ Angela Butler, President

Join TAG on  
Facebook/Twitter!

Want to Volunteer?  
volunteer@tagtheatre.com  
for more information

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you always wanted to volunteer at TAG but have not taken the plunge because you are not quite sure what you want to do? Are you currently a volunteer, but would like to find out more about the different areas that you can volunteer for at TAG, and what is involved in each, so that you can make an educated decision about what your next volunteer role will be and ensure that you find the role that's right for you?

TAG would like to offer a series of workshops covering the different areas where volunteers can contribute. Some of these areas are Producing, Stage Management, Front of House, Lighting, Sound, Costumes and Props, Set Design and Dressing and Publicity. **Since we cannot offer courses in all of these areas this year, we need to hear from you** – tell us what you would be interested in learning more about so we can customize the workshops accordingly!

If you have not already completed the survey, please visit the link below to complete the online questionnaire. Responses will be accepted until January 27th, 2012. Courses will be offered in the spring/summer of 2012.

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/XKMKL5P](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XKMKL5P)

A BIG THANK YOU  
to our many patrons  
and volunteers

The Theatre Arts Guild  
is a registered Canadian  
charity and is operated  
entirely by volunteers.  
Support your community  
theatre today. All  
donations are tax  
deductible.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**Dartmouth Players:** Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have *The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! This recent Broadway hit is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of 7), wildly inventive stagecraft and some good old-fashioned romance!. Written by John Buchan, adapted by Patrick Barlow and directed by Nick Jupp, the show is scheduled for Feb. 1-18, 2012. Visit [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or call 465-PLAY for more information.

**Bedford Players** presents *It's Murder in the Wings* written by Pat Cook and directed by Kim Shaw. The editor and staff of the Wings Publishing Company valiantly try to pull off a critical contract-signing party in spite of the fact that the boss has just been murdered. The party, and particularly the as-yet-unsigned contract, are crucial to saving the company and cannot be derailed by a little thing like murder! The show is scheduled for April 19 to May 5. Visit [www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca](http://www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca) or call 832-3300 to make a reservation.

**Bedford Players Audition Notice :** Auditions will be held for *It's Murder In The Wings* by Pat Cook on January 15th and 16th @7:00 PM. Location: 1408 Bedford Highway (the All Saints Anglican Church Hall). For further information, please contact the director Kim Shaw at 826-1348.

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

## AUDITION CALL

### *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes*

In *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes*, author Arthur Conan Doyle is asked to solve a ghostly dilemma. In the process, a dead body turns up, and so does another ghost—this one of Sherlock Holmes. Holmes offers to help his creator - Doyle - whether or not the writer wants it! The production is set in England in the late 1800's. Created by Canadian playwright David Belke, the show runs from April 19 to May 5 and is co-directed by Renée Hartleib and Bill VanGorder.

#### Audition Dates & Times:

Sun. Feb. 19, 2012, 1-4 p.m.

Mon. Feb. 20, 2011, 7-9 p.m.

#### Location:

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

#### Cast of Characters Required:

- Arthur Conan Doyle – a famous author (male, 37)
- Desmond Westhaven – owner of haunted manor and former actor (male, 60's)
- Abigail Westhaven – Desmond's wife (female, late 30's)
- Robert Scrimshaw – their butler (male, 40's)
- Rose Westhaven – Desmond and Abigail's daughter (female, 18)
- Tomas Markoveitch – a gypsy groomsman and Rose's lover (male, 20's)
- Sherlock Holmes – a fictional detective (male, middle aged)
- Professor James Moriarty – a fictional killer (played by same person as Scrimshaw)

No appointments or prepared monologues are necessary. You will be asked to read scenes from the play. For additional information, please email Renée Hartleib at [rhartleib@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:rhartleib@ns.aliantzinc.ca).



## Mark Your Calendars!

**Corker** (Feb. 16 - March 3, 2012) A family drama by Governor General-nominated local playwright Wendy Lill, which explores how society treats those on the fringes. Directed by Lorraine Cantwell.

**The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes** (Apr. 19 - May 5, 2012) The ghost of Sherlock Holmes helps solve a mysterious death, whether or not author Arthur Conan Doyle wants his help! This comedy/

mystery is written by Canadian playwright David Belke and co-directed by Renée Hartleib and Bill VanGorder.

**The Drowsy Chaperone** (June 21 - July 7, 2012) The internationally acclaimed and award-winning Canadian musical comes to Halifax. Hold onto your hats and get your seats now! Written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar and directed by Jacqui Good.

## TAG @ the Library

Please join us on Saturday, February 18th at 2:30 p.m. as we present our fourth programme at the Keshen Goodman Library - *Relationships: pieces for the Valentine's season* consisting of two short plays – *The Angel Intrudes*, by Floyd Dell and *The Tridget of Greva* [translated from the Squinch], by Ring Lardner. Rayna Smith-Camp is our Director and one of the cast, as well as Cathy Cameron, Rick Eng, Rob McIntyre and Debora Pollock.

*The Angel Intrudes* (1921) fits our theme to a tee - Jimmy and Annabelle have arranged to elope, but Annabelle is having second thoughts. Coinciding with her indecision is the unexpected arrival of Jimmy's Guardian Angel. The

Angel discovers for himself that the Earth has many attractive aspects - and Annabelle – well, she's attractive too!

*The Tridget of Greva* (1932) is one of a series of nonsense plays by Ring Lardner. Mr. Barhooter, Mr. Corby and Mr. Laffler are spending a lazy afternoon on the river as the world drifts by and the fish elude them. They discuss relationships, ask questions and solve problems in their own inimitable way. And before you ask, we don't know what a tridget is either!

There is no admission charge, everyone is welcome and our programme will last about 45 minutes. The Library is at 330 Lacewood Drive, in Clayton Park. ~ Judy Reade, Producer

## Captain Hook's Revenge

The curtain is down but the memories of *Captain Hook's Revenge* (photo left) will go on. The magic of Neverland was the setting for Theatre Arts Guild's annual pantomime. The play was

enjoyed by all that came to see and all that took part in the production. A huge thank you for supporting our pantomime! ~ Angela Butler and Lorne Abramson, co-directors

# THE THEATRE HAS A THOUSAND FACES

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 40th in a continuing series...

I'm sure if you had posed the question to me, prior to my joining TAG, "Is it hard to draw up a theatre season?" my answer would probably have been "Not particularly. It's just a matter of picking plays." Posing that same question to me now, after a number of years as a member of TAG's Artistic Planning Committee, assisting several of the Board's Artistic Directors, would elicit a very different response! Not only is the Board's Artistic Director and her/his supporters faced with hundreds – no, thousands of plays, by living authors, by deceased authors, in English, translated into English, from our own culture, from other cultures, but there is the over-reaching concern to achieve a balance, to put together a suite of five pieces which will appeal to adults and children, actors and technicians, make the best use of our resources, attract an audience and – mustn't forget this – make money for Theatre Arts Guild!

It really is an impossible task! Theatre, as an art form, is so expansive, has so many faces, can mean so many things, can convey so many messages that it is limited only by the physical restrictions of the playing space in which it is presented. These restrictions, while

at times annoying, are necessary. Theatre is not reality – it is a construct, a representation of reality, a means of compressing reality and reflecting it back to an audience.

Since our experience of reality is not always beneficial, we can expect to find this mirrored in the theatrical experience, something which the founders of the art (the Ancient Greeks – I hope you've remembered their contribution from my earlier scribbling!) knew only too well, taking the opportunity to include discussion of political and social ideals in their dramas. In Shakespeare's time, it was open season on the London stage for the criticism of Queen Elizabeth's enemies, though, when the tables were turned on the monarch, Her Majesty was reportedly not amused!

Coupled with the exposure in theatrical pieces of political foibles, playwrights have also used the occasion to exposure social inequalities and injustices. Perhaps some of you were able to see Opera Nova Scotia's

presentation this year of one of the best known examples of this – *The Threepenny Opera*, words by Bertolt Brecht and music by Kurt Weill, a portrayal of characters from the London working and criminal classes which serves as a dismal condemnation of the capitalist system from a Marxist standpoint. (Even if you don't know the musical, you probably know its most famous song – "Mac the Knife").

The characters of this work live on the fringes of a society which regards them as nuisances and reprobates – they exist within a structure which does not accommodate them. This is Corker's experience in Wendy Lill's piece, the story of a developmentally challenged young man who desperately needs to belong – which brings the theatre of social relevance up to our own day. Referring back to my comments on the difficulty of drawing up a season, I hope you approve and can respond to this particular choice of the Artistic Director and Planning Committee

~ Judy Reade

## Renew Your TAG Membership!

\$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.

## TAKE YOUR SEAT!

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

Your contribution is tax deductible. Visit [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com) or email [seatsale@tagtheatre.com](mailto:seatsale@tagtheatre.com) for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!