



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



TAG TICKETS
www.ticketatlantic.com
 phone (902) 451-1221 or
 at Atlantic Superstore Locations

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

Next at TAG - How it Works

Theatre Arts Guild proudly presents *How it Works* by Daniel MacIvor. Award winning playwright, director, producer, and actor. MacIvor was born and raised in Cape Breton and first workshopped this play at Festival Antigonish in 2005. In 2007, the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto produced it and since then the play has been performed around the country to rave reviews.

“As far as I can figure, the way that it works is this: everyone has something that happened to them. The thing that we each carry”. So begins the prologue by this truly gifted Cape Breton playwright.

This is the first time Theatre Arts Guild has performed a Daniel MacIvor play at the Pond Playhouse.

The play introduces us to Al and Donna—recently divorced; their drug-addicted daughter Brooke; and Al’s new girlfriend Christine. This is a wise and witty drama about the

human condition. Starring Debora Post, Connie Tremblett, Jonathan Tyson, and Beth VanGorder, the story cleverly weaves the past and the present, revealing secrets and taking you on a spiritual journey of hope. We hope it gets you talking. ~ Michele Moore
Director

...more about the playwright: Born in 1962, Daniel MacIvor is a stalwart of the Canadian theatre scene, having written and directed numerous award winning productions such as *See Bob Run*, *Wild Abandon*, *2-2-Tango*, *This Is A Play*, and *A Beautiful View*. His work has been performed in Australia, Israel, Europe, the UK, and extensively throughout Canada and the US. Also a filmmaker and actor, he wrote and starred in the Genie award-winning short film *The Fairy Who Didn't Want to be a Fairy Anymore*. For additional information and to check out his weblog, visit: danielmacivor.com

Theatre Arts Guild Proudly Presents

H₄ O₁ W₄
 I₁ T₁
 W₄ O₁ R₁ K₅ S₁

by Daniel MacIvor

April 22 - May 8, 2010
 Pond Playhouse
 6 Parkhill Road
 (Just past the Frog Pond off Purcell's Cove Road)

Directed by Michele Moore
 Produced by Renée Hartleib
 Stage Managed by Carolyn Boyer

Starring: Beth VanGorder
 Connie Tremblett
 Debora Post
 Jonathan Tyson

Established 1931
www.tagtheatre.com

... Presented by kind permission of Daniel MacIvor
 Produced by special arrangement with
 Playwrights Guild of Canada

Tickets on sale March 26th

Buy Your Tickets

- * Ticket Atlantic Box Office
- * Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- * Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$4 fee per online session)
- * At the 17 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- * At the door (subject to availability)

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood Drive Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax N.S. B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At the time of writing TAG is a hive of activity with several productions on the go. *Thirteen Hands* by Carol Shields is selling out with beautiful performances by the all female cast. Ms. Shields made a huge contribution to Canadian drama and we are pleased her work has been enjoyed by so many of our patrons.

Our next main stage show, *How it Works* by Nova Scotia author Daniel MacIvor is in rehearsal. Mr. MacIvor is an eminent Canadian playwright and film maker with such works as *Marion Bridge*, *Soldiers Dreams* etc. All of us have probably met people like the characters in *How it Works*, which is set in and around Halifax. The challenges they encounter hopefully are not as familiar to us, but you will enjoy getting to know them and seeing how a huge twist is resolved.

The Liverpool (NS) International Theatre Festival happens again this year on the long weekend in May. This is an adjudicated amateur festival with entries from all around the world plus several Nova Scotia groups. TAG's entry is an original work *Alone* that delves into the concept of what it means to be alone as life passes by. If a long weekend of international one-act plays is attractive, look at www.litf.ca for information.

We hope you are enjoying all the building modifications at TAG. In particular we are enjoying the benefits of a rehearsal hall (Gratwick Hall above the new lobby) and the ability for several productions to happily share the building together. This is a far cry from the old days, when only one production could inhabit the building at a time. Rehearsing in homes or borrowed spaces waiting for a show to close at TAG was a real challenge. We even rehearsed a show for The Studio at Neptune in someone's business offices after hours! Nowadays meetings, rehearsals and other activity can all happen concurrently at TAG making life much easier.

We'll be taking a break from major modifications or expansions for a while now while the financial coffers recover. However, hopefully one day we will begin the process again with plans for a carpentry shop. At the moment the stage serves as our construction area although we try to do most of the dust making work outdoors, weather permitting. It will be wonderful to have a carpentry shop one day, it will bring a great deal of enjoyment to the volunteer set makers and we are quite certain it will prove to be very popular in the community at large. ~ Nick Jupp, President

PREVIEW & FUND RAISER

Here is your chance to support the Theatre Arts Guild Building Fund and see a production that will appear at the 10th Anniversary Liverpool International Theatre Festival May 19th to 23rd.

Alone is a play about just that, being alone. All though life we wrestle with the feeling of being alone, sometimes even when we are surrounded by family

and friends. At times we crave not be left alone and at other times wish most strongly the world would disappear and leave us with our thoughts.

Alone stars Angela Butler and Rob MacIntyre and features Carolyn Boyer, Jaime Boyer, Patti Morse and Chris Morse.

Tickets go on sale Monday March 15th through Ticket Atlantic.

AUDITION CALL Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose

Twelve Angry Men written by Reginald Rose and directed by Angela Butler, the show will run June 17 - July 03, 2010

Originally written for television, *Twelve Angry Men* has stood the test of time; a true classic thriller. A gripping and compelling examination of a diverse group of jurors brought together to deliberate and decide the fate of a young man, on trial for his life. Can 12 men put aside their own personal prejudices and opinions to bring forth a verdict beyond a reasonable doubt?

Audition Dates & Times:

Sunday March 21st, 7pm-9pm

Monday March 22nd, 7pm-9pm.

Location: Pond Playhouse

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

There are 13 men in the cast: 1 guard, a Foreman and 11 jury members. All ages are welcome. Selected pieces will be made available for a cold reading. No prepared pieces necessary. So, if you are male and you always wanted to act now is the time to audition. There are roles for experienced actors and for first timers.

For additional information you can contact the director Angela Butler at angrob@eastlink.ca or Stage Manager Barbara Hart at barbarahart@eastlink.ca

Want to Volunteer?

volunteer@tagtheatre.com
for more information

TAG TICKET PRICES

\$16 - General Admission

\$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)

Send your newsletter
submissions to
newsletter@tagtheatre.com

Valentine's at the Library

TAG made a return visit to the Keshen Goodman Library on February 6th with the presentation: *Various Views on Love and Marriage in celebration of Valentine's Day*.

Comprised of three pieces, (*A Marriage Has Been Arranged* by Alfred Sutro; *A Matter of Husbands* by Ferenc Molnar and *The Ugly Duckling* by A.A. Milne.) the performance was enjoyed by all in attendance.



Lorraine Cantwell and Jonathan Tyson in "A Marriage Has Been Arranged" (Photo by Angela Butler)

Thirteen Hands - Wrap Up

TAG's first show of 2010 was huge success, playing to sold out audiences for most of the run.. The story of *Thirteen Hands* spanned several generations bringing to the stage a celebration of women and friendship.

To quote Kate Watson of The Coast: "Kudos for the great acting and clever staging!"



The cast of "Thirteen Hands"

ANNUAL VARIETY NIGHT May 15th

Feeling like you need a little levity in your life? How about a night of entertainment to put a "Spring" in your step? It is that time again - TAG's Annual Variety Night! Join host Frank MacLean on Saturday, **May 15**, 2010 at 8:00pm for a night of music, laughter and fun at the Pond Playhouse.

Come for the laughter, the entertainment, the wonderful company, and a glass of wine or two!! All proceeds go to the capital campaign. We are now seeking volunteer acts. For more information please contact the producers Angela Butler at angrob@eastlink.ca or Bill VanGorder billvangorder@eastlink.ca

Community Notes

Bedford Players presents *Bedroom Farce* by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn. The comedy concerns four married couples who are at different stages in their relationships and whose lives intersect over the course of one very chaotic evening. The show runs April 22nd to May 8th. Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more information.

Dartmouth Players presents Oscar Wilde's timeless classic, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Enjoy the confusion of wedding proposals, christenings and surprise guests when two men use the same false identity. The show runs April 7-24h. Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY or for more information.

The **Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia** present *HMCS Pinafore* Sailing this May to mark the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy, the ever-popular *HMS Pinafore* is being set in 1910 Halifax. It will be as if Canadian sailors of the era are presenting the comic tale of the lass who loved a sailor, with Symphony Nova Scotia along for the ride. The show runs May 5-6th at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Call 492-3820 or visit www.artscentre.dal.ca for more information.

Support TAG - Make a Donation Today

Ladies and Gentlemen, Please Take Your Seats!

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.

All proceeds to the TAG Capital Campaign.

Visit www.tagtheatre.com or email seatsale@tagtheatre.com for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!

55%+
SOLD!

The Old and the New

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary – the 31st in a continuing series...

Sometimes the stars align in their courses and I find the ‘hook’ I need for my next contribution to the TAG Newsletter! For this issue, when I was contemplating what to write about our next presentation, it was seeing a production of *Medea*, in the Dunn Theatre, performed by students from the Dalhousie Theatre Department. And yes, I can sense the question formulating in your mind...”What does a modern Canadian piece (it was written here in Nova Scotia in 2005) have to do with a Greek tragedy from 431 BCE, about a woman who will never win the title of Mom-of-the-Year?!” And my answer is that this juxtaposition gives me an opportunity to discuss a topic which I have mentioned before in this series – the theatre of Ancient Greece.

It is to this ancient culture that we must look for the foundations of the dramatic art which, centuries later, produces what McIvor himself describes as ‘the reinvention of family’ among Al, his former wife Donna, their daughter Brooke and Al’s new girlfriend, Christine. But, like any other art form, it develops over time, and although we call both

Medea and *How It Works* plays, Euripides would need to make many mental adjustments to make sense of what you are about to see on the TAG stage.

In Ancient Greece, theatre grew from the celebrations which accompanied religious festivals – particularly those honouring Dionysus, the God of Wine, Fertility and Rebirth. Playwrights whose work was presented at these gatherings were actually in competition with each other, since prizes were awarded (this being the reason for the establishment of a long list of conditions for the action, the setting and the players – all now abandoned of course!). *How It Works* contains elements both tragic and comic - an absolute no-no for Euripides. For the Ancients, tragedy and comedy were two very distinct genres. *Medea*’s story is composed of tragic happenings from beginning – her husband Jason’s plan to marry a local princess – to end – the death of her two sons by her own hand.

How It Works also moves from past to present and back again – yes, another old rule broken. For the Greeks, it was thought best that

the action be continuous. Not only that, but the action should occur in a single place. Any violent or disturbing incidents, and certainly any deaths, were not to be shown - they must happen offstage and the audience must be informed in some other way, usually by having a messenger rush in and provide all the details. And did I mention the Chorus? No, there won’t be a singing trio hanging around Al, Donna, Brooke and Christine, but the Greeks could not have done without this group (all men, with anywhere from 3 to 50 taking part), an extension of the singing group whose hymns were a part of the religious feasts. The Chorus chimes in at various points in the action, asks questions, gives advice and comments on how the intentions of the characters are to be viewed and whether or not they meet accepted standards.

Euripides’ audience was left in no doubt about the consequences of *Medea*’s actions, but McIvor’s players must find their own way in the world – No Gods looking over their shoulders and no Chorus either! ~ Judy Reade

Renew Your TAG Membership Today!

visit tagtheatre.com/membership.htm for more information

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

Membership benefits include: \$3 discount off admission, newsletters and invitations to special members-only events

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